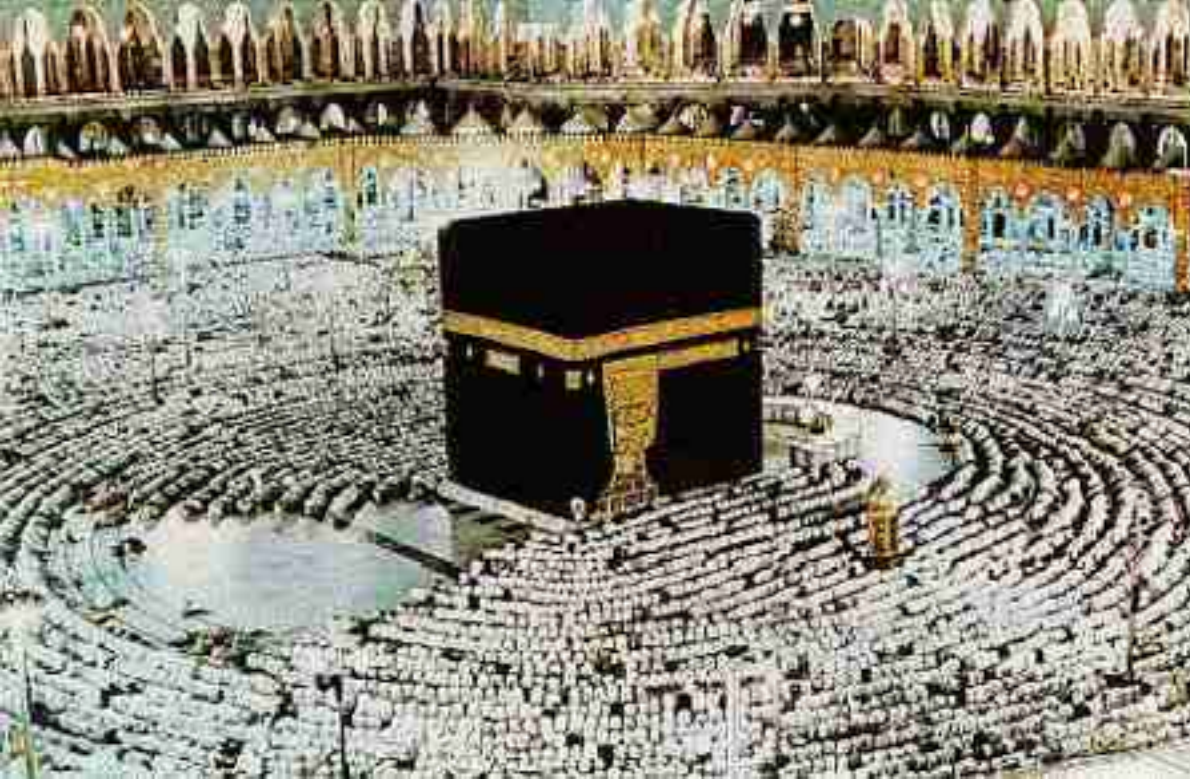


As-salaamu alaykum!
(Peace be with you!)

Wa alaykum as-salaam!
(And to you, also, peace!)

Bismallah ar-Rahman, ar-Rahim
(In the Name of God,
the Compassionate, the Merciful)



On 'Not Bearing False Witness' about Our Muslim Neighbors

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9/11: Barriers in Understanding
our Muslim Neighbors

9/18: Encountering the Qur'an
as Word of God

9/25: Shari'a: Living God's Values

10/2: NO CLASS

10/9: Violence in the Name of God?

10/16: Jesus in Muslim Understanding

10/23: Muslim & Christian Theologies
in Conversation



Shari'a - God's values;
how God wants humans to live;
exists only in "mind of God";
ETERNAL.

Includes all morality, all concerns
for justice, all worship activities
Shari'a CANNOT
be reduced to "laws."

Fiqh - "Islamic law," formulated
by a particular legal school;
"jurisprudence"; an attempt to
"approximate" God's values,
put them into legal form;
applies only to Muslims,
NOT non-Muslims;
Fiqh is not the same as national law.
HUMANLY FORMED.

PROBLEM! →

Sometimes people use the word "Shari'a,"
when they really are referring to Fiqh

Sample Islamic Law Issues

- Inheritance
 - Qur'an says women receive half what men receive, BUT....
- Polygamy
 - Up to four wives permitted, BUT...
 - Wife can stipulate no other wives in marriage contract
- Divorce
 - Disapproved, not forbidden
 - Legal regulation
- No charging or paying interest (riba)
 - How does business get done?
- Hudud punishments (theft, adultery, drunkenness, treason)

Violence in the Name of God?

¹⁷ The city and all that is in it shall be devoted to [God] for destruction. ... ²¹ Then they devoted to destruction by the edge of the sword all in the city, both men and women, young and old, oxen, sheep, and donkeys.

(Joshua 10)

²⁰ For it was [God's] doing ..., in order that they might be utterly destroyed, and might receive no mercy, but be exterminated, just as [God] had commanded....

(Joshua 11)

³ Now go and attack ..., and utterly destroy all that they have; do not spare them, but kill both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey."

(1 Samuel 15)

Violence in the Name of God?

⁶ For it is indeed just of God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, ⁷ and to give relief to the afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels ⁸ in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ These will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, separated from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, ¹⁰ when he comes to be glorified by his saints and to be marveled at on that day among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.

(2 Thessalonians 1)

Cain & Abel in the Qur'an

- [Prophet], tell them the truth about the story of Adam's two sons: each of them offered a sacrifice, and it was accepted from one and not the other. One said, 'I will kill you,' but the other said, 'God only accepts the sacrifice of those who are mindful of Him. If you raise your hand to kill me, I will not raise mine to kill you. I fear God, the Lord of all worlds, and I would rather you were burdened with my sins as well as yours and become an inhabitant of the Fire: such is the evildoers' reward.' But his soul prompted him to kill his brother: he killed him and became one of the losers. God sent a raven to scratch up the ground and show him how to cover his brother's corpse and he said, 'Woe is me! Could I not have been like this raven and covered up my brother's body?' He became remorseful. On account of [his deed], We [i.e., God!] decreed to the Children of Israel that **if anyone kills a person - unless in retribution for murder or spreading corruption in the land - it is as if he kills all mankind, while if any saves a life it is as if he saves the lives of all mankind.** (Qur'an 5:27-32b)

Fighting in the Qur'an

- "Fight in God's cause against those who fight you, but do not overstep the limits: God does not love those who overstep the limits. Kill them wherever you encounter them, and drive them out from where they drove you out, for persecution is more serious than killing...."

- "Do not fight them at the Holy Mosque unless they fight you there. If they do fight you, kill them - that is what such disbelievers deserve -- but if they stop, God is most forgiving and merciful. Fight them until there is no more persecution, and worship is devoted to God. If they cease hostilities, there can be no [further] hostility, except toward the aggressors. ... So if anyone commits aggression against you, attack him as he attacked you, but be mindful of God, and know that He is with those who are mindful of him. Spend in God's cause, and do not seek destruction at your own hands, but do good, for God loves those who do good."

(2:190-195 Abdel Haleem trans.)

- The **disbelievers** should not think that they think they have won; they cannot escape. Prepare whatever forces you [believers] can muster, including warhorses, to frighten off God's enemies and yours, and warn others unknown to you, but known to God. Whatever you give in God's cause will be repaid to you in full, and you will not be wronged....

- "But if they incline towards peace, you [Prophet] must also incline towards it, and put your trust in God: He is the All Hearing, the All Knowing. If they intend to deceive you, God is enough for you: it was He who strengthened you with His help, and with the believers, and brought their hearts together. Even if you had given away everything in the earth, you could not have done this; but God brought them together: God is mighty and wise. Prophet, God is enough for you, and for the believers who follow you." (8:59-64)

- "Who speaks better than someone who calls people to God, does what is right, and says, "I am one of those who submit"? Good and evil cannot be equal. [Prophet], repel evil with what is better and your enemy will become like a old and valued friend." (41:33-34)
- "Shall I inform you of a better act than fasting, alms, and prayers? Making peace between one another! Enmity and malice tear up heavenly rewards by the roots." (Hadith)

- "God may still bring about affection between you and your present enemies - God is all powerful, and God is most forgiving and merciful - and he does not forbid you to deal kindly and justly toward anyone who has not fought you for your faith or driven you out of your homes: God loves the just.
- "But God forbids you to take as allies those who fought against you for your faith, driven you out of your homes, and helped others to drive you out: any of you who take them as allies will truly be wrongdoers." (60:7-9)

- So-called "Sword Verse":

When the [four] forbidden months are over, **wherever you encounter the idolaters, kill them, besiege them, wait for them at every lookout post;**

- but if they turn [to God], maintain the prayer, and pay the prescribed alms, let them go on their way, for God is most forgiving and merciful. If any one of the idolaters should seek your protection [Prophet], grant it to him so he may hear the word of God, then take him to a place safe for him, for they are a people with no knowledge [of it]. (9:5-6a)

- This was NOT something that included Christians & Jews - who were "People of the Book" (a special, protected category)

- SOME extremist groups today treat this as ALL-inclusive of non-Muslims; that is NOT the view of Islam as a whole
 - Non-Muslim minorities have existed for centuries under Muslim control; they could EASILY have been exterminated, but they were NOT!

Jihad

- "Jihad" = "struggle, exertion in the way of God"
 - **NOT "holy war"** (this term was used by Christians to justify the Crusades)
 - Sometimes termed the "Sixth Pillar of Islam"
- **Three basic usages** (ALL legitimate):
 - **Spiritual and moral discipline** (Christians call this "discipleship")
(Called the "**greater jihad**" by Muhammad)
 - **The life of submission to God IS jihad !**
 - **Spreading the message of Islam** by education, travel, establishing institutions, good example, etc. (Christians call this "**evangelism**")
 - **Defensive war** against attackers of Islam / Muslims
(Called the "**lesser jihad**" by Muhammad)
(Christians call this "**just war theory**")

"Lesser Jihad"

VERY specific; all wars are NOT jihad!

- Must be carried out for the truth alone
- MUST be defensive; NO pre-emptive strikes!
- Can ONLY be called by the rightful head of an Islamic state, with a consensus of religious scholars
- Cannot be based on anger or hatred
- Enemy must be treated with justice & kindness
- Cannot be carried out against the innocent
 - No attacks on women, children, animals, trees

The "ideal" prescribed by the Qur'an has NOT always been the "actual"; ditto for the Bible!

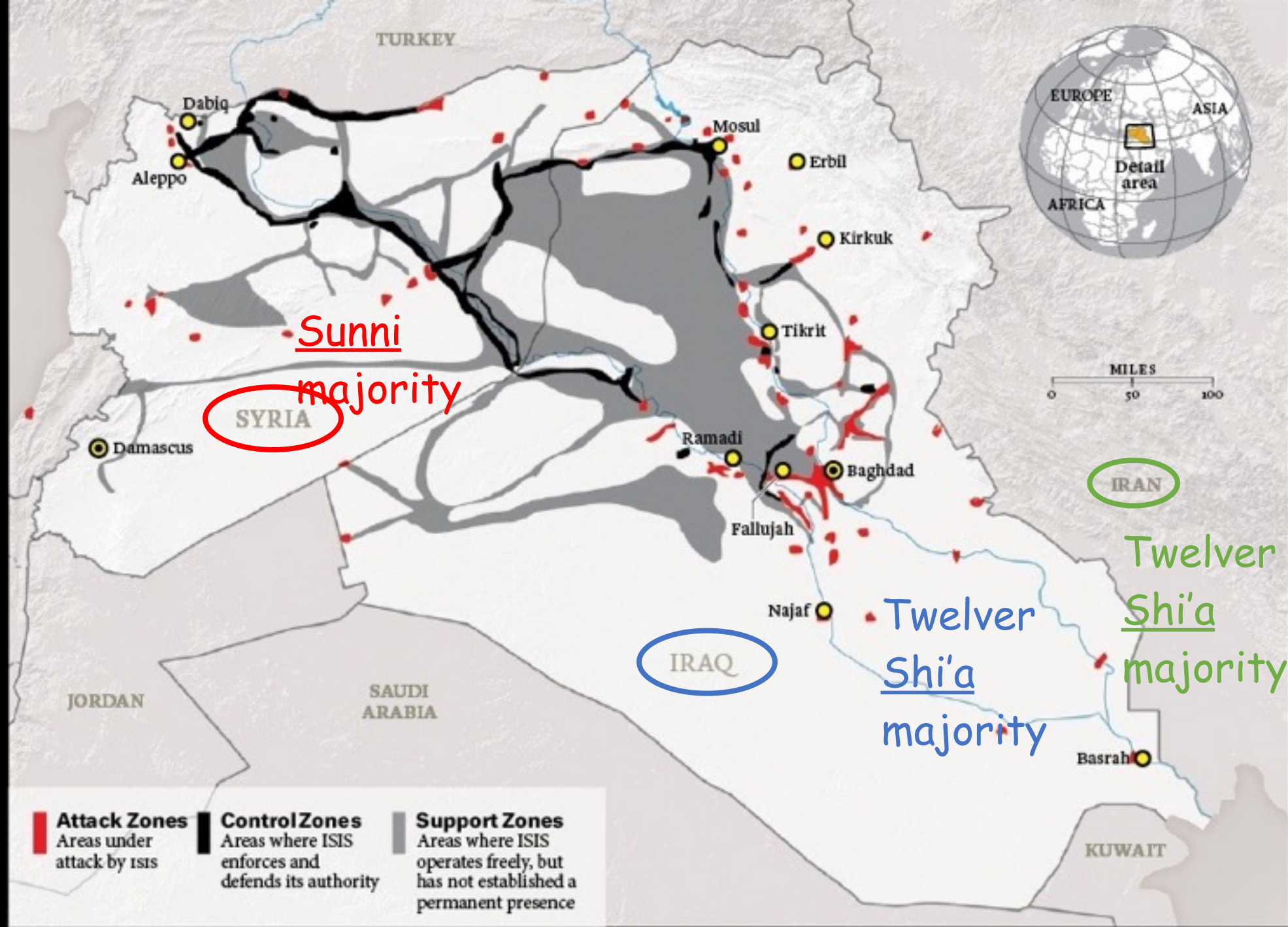
- Extremists' misuse the sacred term "jihad"
 - Their justification:
They see Islam/Muslims under attack!!!
 - BUT they ignore traditional "constraints"
 - Both Sunni & Shi'a legal / religious scholars condemn this as illegitimate and reprehensible!
 - Far less than 1% of Muslims involved in "extremist jihadi" activity

Justice

- Islam **PASSIONATELY** opposes injustice!
- To live and act justly **INCLUDES** combating oppression, evildoing and injustice
 - To accept oppression without acting to establish justice is viewed as worse than the original oppression and injustice
 - "O you who believe! Be steadfast for God, bearing witness to justice, and do not let hatred of a people lead you away from justice, but adhere to justice, for that is closer to awareness of God. Be mindful of God. God is well aware of all that you do." (5:8)

Sunni / Shi'a Conflict

- NOT primarily a "religious" conflict: **INJUSTICE**
 - Similar to past Catholic / Protestant conflict in **Northern Ireland**
 - Similar to Christian / Muslim conflict in **former Yugoslavia** (Christian Serbia / Muslim Bosnia)
 - Europe & U.S. intervened to stop genocide **BY CHRISTIANS**
- **Religious 'labels' as 'markers' of deeper issues**
 - Iraq: **Twelver Shi'a majority, Sunni minority**
 - Saddam Hussein:
Sunni minority had political, military and economic control
 - Syria: **Sunni majority, Alawite Shi'a minority**
 - Bashar al-Assad:
Alawite Shi'a minority has political, military and economic control



ISIS:

Islamic State in Iraq and Syria

ISIL:

Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant

IS:

Islamic State

Daish:

(Arabic acronym equivalent to ISIS, BUT sounds similar to words meaning "or")



- Extreme brutality, viciously anti-Shi'a, targeted Christians & Yazidis

- Opportunistic, image-conscious

- Sophisticated recruiting, marketing, use of social media

- Calls for individual attacks elsewhere

- Declared itself the Caliphate (Caliph Ibrahim al-Baghdadi)



Condemned by ALL Muslim nations



Government, ruling 7-8 million

Harsh interpretation of Shari'a

'Open Letter to al-Baghdadi'

- Signed by THE most prominent Muslim scholars from around the world
- Point-by-point refutation and condemnation of ISIS's views & actions

See handout for excerpts!

- **Gallup survey:**

- "bombing & other attacks aimed at civilians"

- Among Muslim-majority countries:

"never justified":

Indonesia: 74%

Pakistan: 86%

Bangladesh: 81%

Iran: 80%

"completely justified"

Lebanon & Iraq: 2%

Saudi Arabia: 4%

- American public: 46% "never justified"

24% "often or sometimes justified"

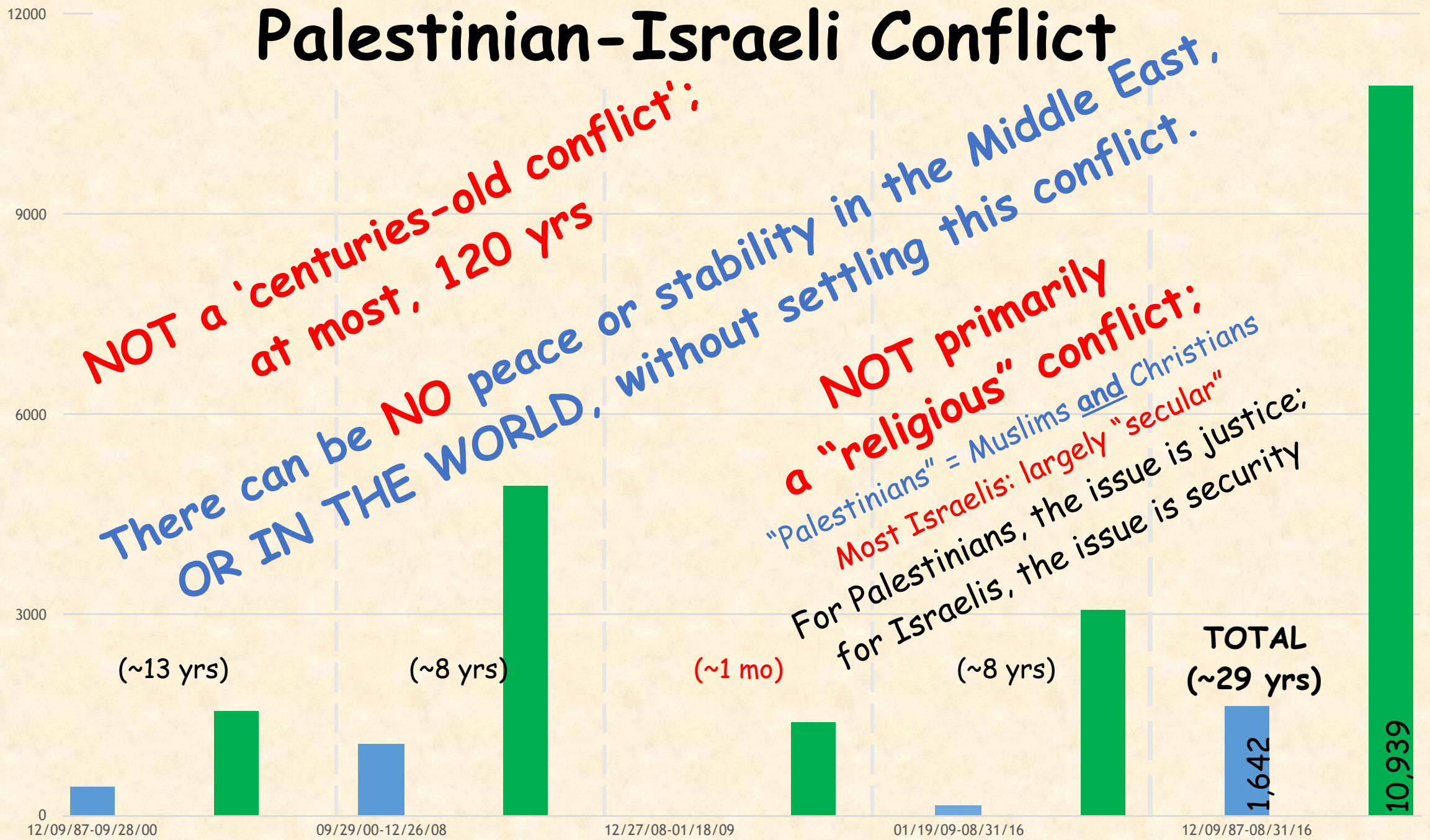
6% "completely justified"

ONE-HOUR VIDEO: Inside Islam: What a Billion Muslims Really Think

<https://www.upf.tv/films/inside-islam/>

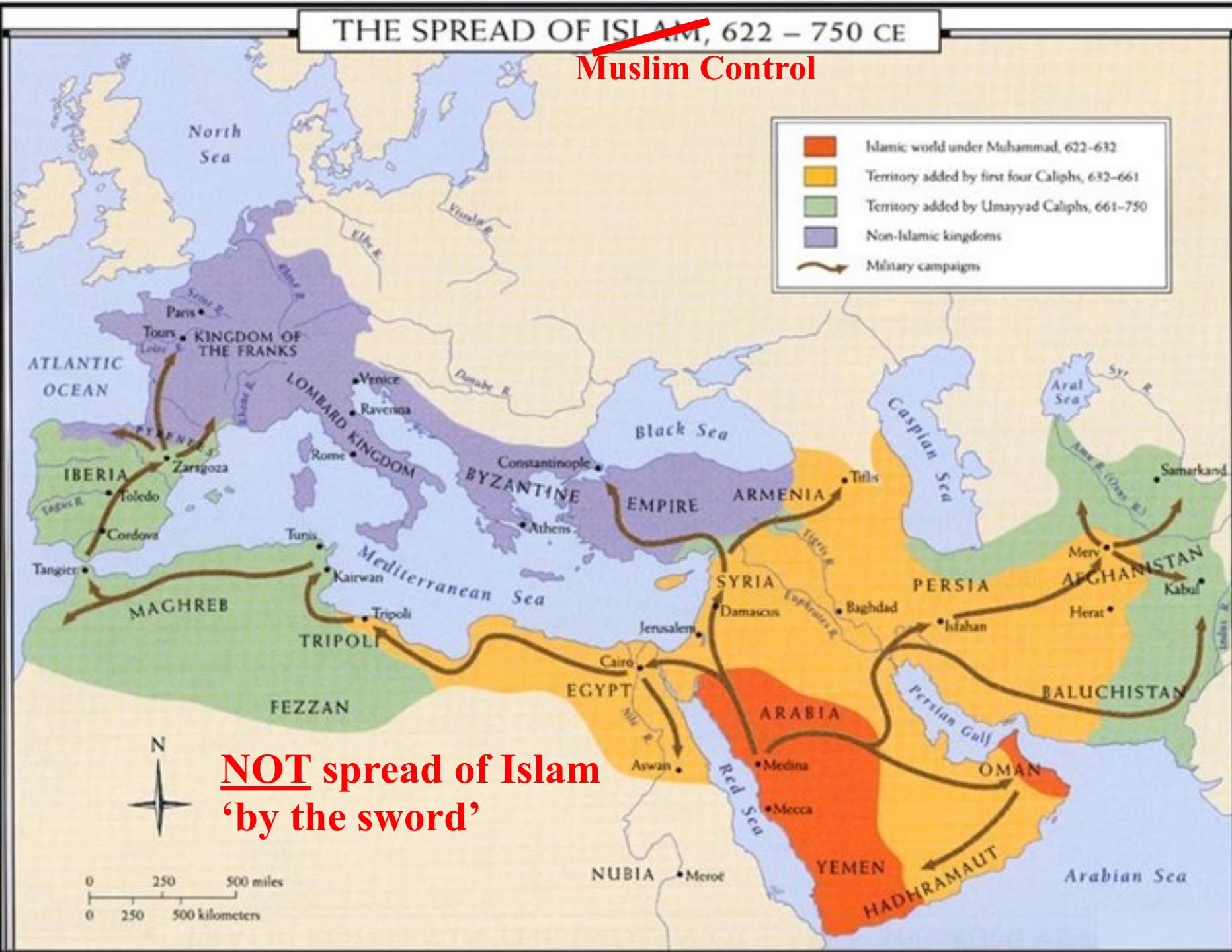
Palestinian-Israeli Conflict

Stats are from B'Tselem, a Jewish-Israeli human rights organization

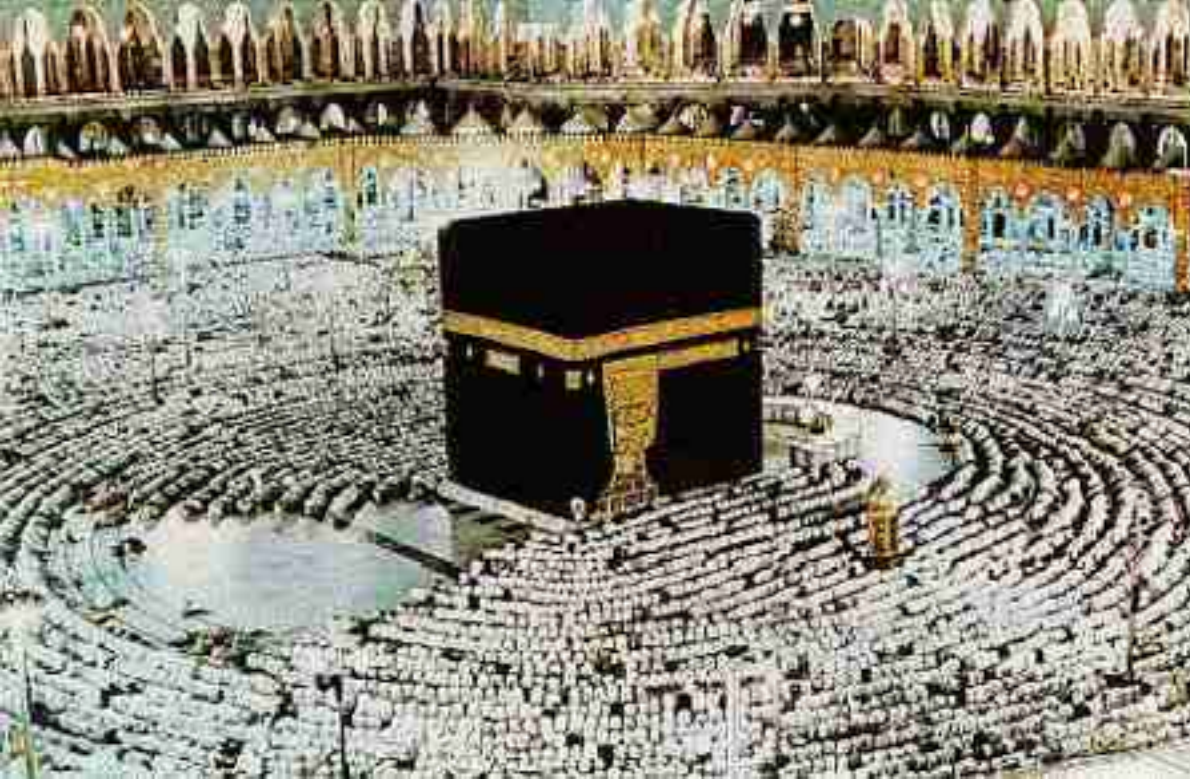


THE SPREAD OF ISLAM, 622 – 750 CE

Muslim Control



**NOT spread of Islam
'by the sword'**



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