

Labor, Trade Unions and the Muslim World

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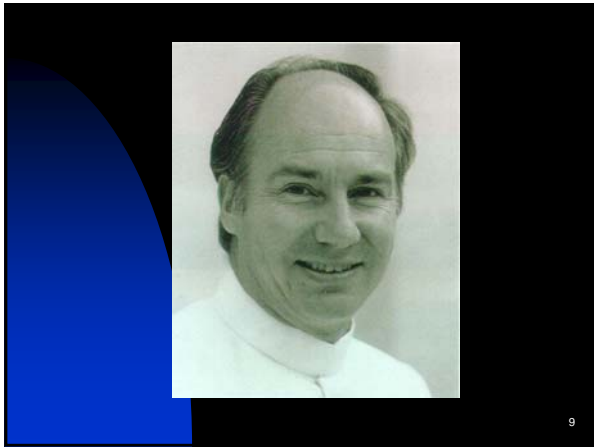
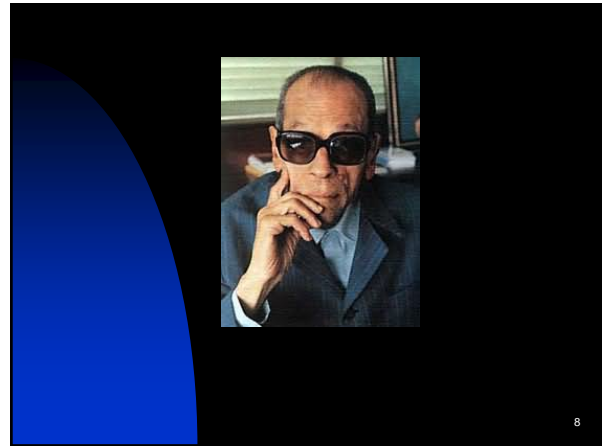
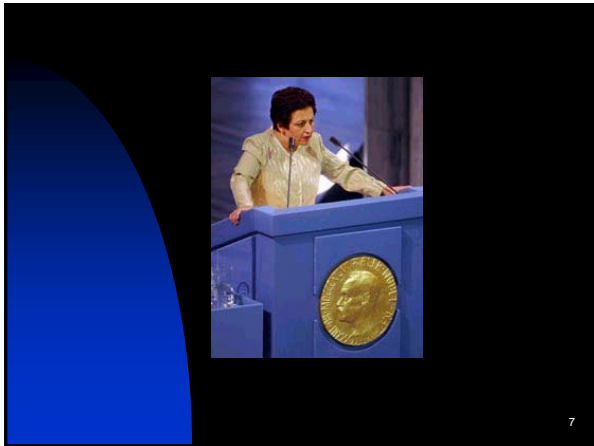
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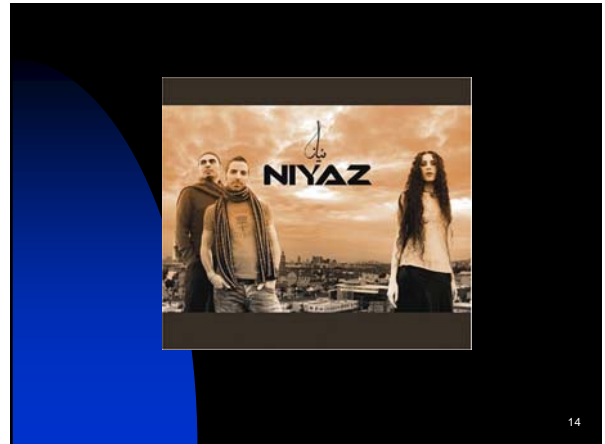


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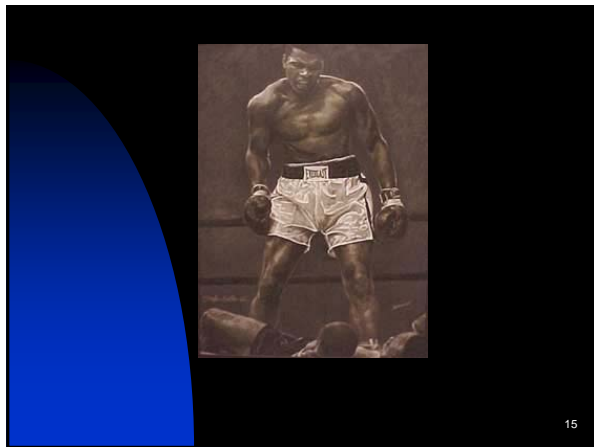




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Aim/Objectives

- Provide an understanding of:
 - ◆ Basic beliefs of Islam
 - ◆ Contemporary Muslim societies
 - ◆ Be able to interact and work with Muslims

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Islam the religion

- Islam means *submission* to God
- as-Salamu Alaikum (May Peace Be Upon You)
- Etymologically, derived from the same root, Salam, meaning "Peace," which is the same as Shalom, from Hebrew
- Muslims, are followers of Islam
- Qur'an is the record of revelation
- The will of God, was revealed to Muhammad, and earlier Prophets
- Abrahamic tradition

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Quiz Question for You, Yes You!

- Adam, Abraham, Jacob, Isaac, Moses, Jesus are:
 - ◆ 1. Revered Jewish Prophets
 - ◆ 2. Revered Christian Prophets
 - ◆ 3. Revered Islamic Prophets
 - ◆ 4. Despised by Muslims as infidels

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Abrahamic Tradition

- The answer is 3, revered Islamic prophets
- Abraham revered as a Muslim prophet
- Christians and Jews are "People of the Book"
- Inclusive/Exclusive readings

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A verse from the Qur'an

"We believe in God and the revelation given to us and to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, The Tribes, to Moses, Jesus, and that given to all prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction between them and bow to God in submission" (Sura 2:136)

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The 5 "Pillars" of Islam

- *Shahada*: confession of faith (recited upon conversion to Islam, birth, death, daily call to prayer, etc.)
- *Salat*: five daily prayers
- *Zakat*: (donating to charity)
- *Fasting*: during the month of Ramadan
- *The Hajj*: pilgrimage to Mecca

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Quiz Question on Islamic Culture

Madonna, Demi Moore, Goldie Hawn, Martin Sheen, and Rosa Parks have proclaimed their fondness for this figure in Islamic culture....?
And rumor has it that Oliver Stone wishes to make a movie about his life....?

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Quiz: Answer

The poet Rumi: The Best-selling poet in America today (500,000 copies of his books have been sold over 10 years)



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Rumi poetics

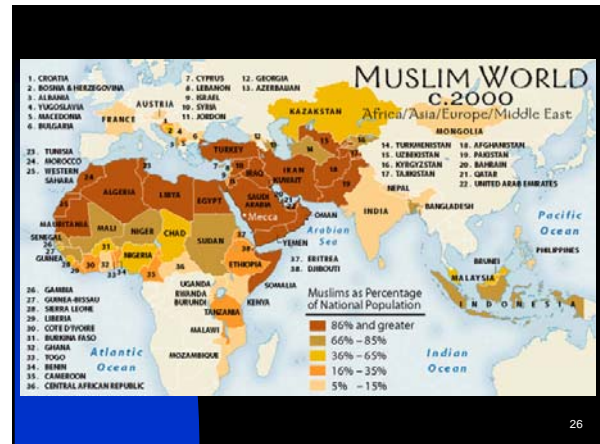
Oh God
Let all lovers be content
Give them happy endings
Let their lives be celebrations
Let their hearts dance in the fire of your love.
-Rumi (Expression of Sufi mysticism)

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Islam in the Modern World (20th Century)

- World-wide population – approximately 1.2 Billion Muslims
- 20% of humanity
 - ◆ Indonesia (173 million)
 - ◆ Pakistan (136 million)
 - ◆ India (103 million)
 - ◆ China (37 million)
 - ◆ USA (between 3-6 million)
 - ◆ Europe/EU: (13-15 million) [Native European Muslims in the Balkans have been there for six hundred years, which is longer than there have been Protestants in Europe]
- Only 20% of the Muslims in the world are Arabs

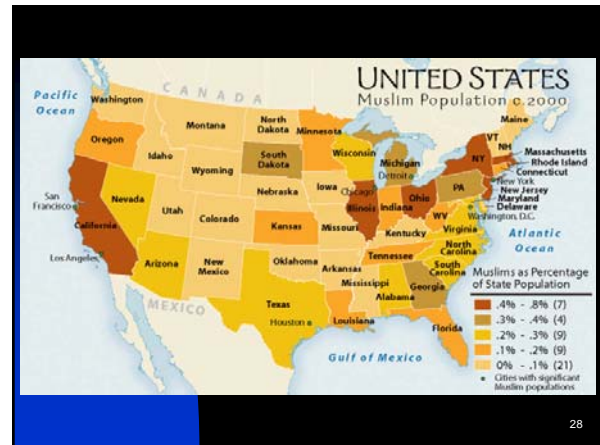
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Islam in America

- Estimated 3-6 million American Muslims
- Longstanding Muslim presence in America (African Muslim slaves)
- *Omar Ibn Said*, African American Muslim slave narrative, (written in Arabic, 1831)

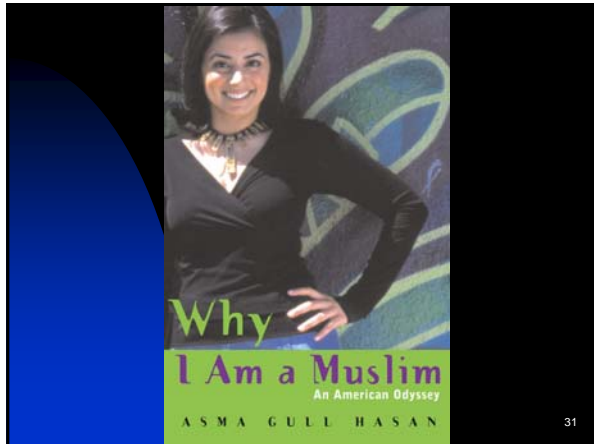
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Ethnicity of American Muslims

African American	24%
Arab Americans	26%
South Asian	26%
All Other	24%
Total:	100

- Zogby International Poll, 2000

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Islam in the 20th Century

- 19th/20th century, Muslim lands colonized by the European powers
- Muslim intellectual response (embrace or expel ideas from the West)
 - ◆ Liberal, modernist, democratic, feminist, and progressive.
 - ◆ Revivalist/Salafist, fundamentalist
 - Islamist political parties
 - Jihadi

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Islamic fundamentalism: in theory and practice

- Salafism a fundamentalist interpretation of Islam
- Salafism: at war with Islamic tradition
- Islamism: Turning of Islam-a-religion into a political ideology
- God should be "sovereign," and Sharia (Islamic law) enforced
- Political Legitimacy? Who has it?
 - ◆ Representing the will of God?
 - ◆ Representing the people?

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Liberal/Modernist Islam

- 19th20th century
- Embrace ideas from the West
 - ◆ Democracy (called "constitutionalism") (Iran, Egypt, India/Pakistan, etc.)
 - ◆ Gender Equality (Egypt, Turkey)*
 - ◆ Educational reform (India)
 - ◆ Powerful liberal reformist movements (See "Liberal Islam" by Charles Kurzman)

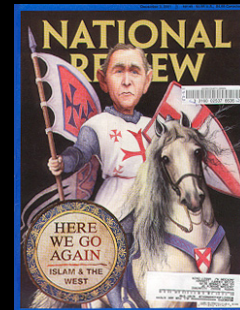
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Jihad

- Its primary meaning is "exertion" or "struggle" (Ruthven, Islam, p. 117)
- Religious doctrine used to sanction violence/warfare
- in the modern world popularized by Egyptian Islamists, war in Afghanistan, and al-Qaeda
- anti-Soviet Jihad in Afghanistan in Afghanistan is where al-Qaeda has its roots
- "Greater and lesser Jihad"; more pacific reading

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Islam and the West



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Islam/West Relations

- 9/11
- Osama Bin Laden had/has the following goals:
 - ◆ attack the West
 - ◆ hope that the West will attack the Muslim world and bring about a polarization between Islam/West
 - ◆ bring about the collapse of 'apostate' regimes in the Islamic world
- Iraq viewed by Muslims as a war against "Islam"
- Abu Ghraib
- European Union and Turkey
- Global Public Opinion Surveys (March 2004)
 - ◆ Results: dangerously polarized world
 - ◆ anti-Muslim sentiment
 - ◆ anti-American sentiment

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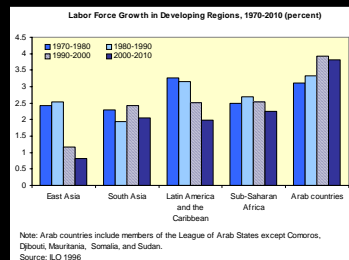
Labor & Trade Unions in the Muslim World

Trade unions in the Muslim world:

- date back to the late 19th century in some Muslim countries (Morocco, pre-partition India, and Indonesia)
- involved in national independence
 - Trade union leaders involved in progressive politics (Tahar Haddad – focused on women's rights in the 1920s)
- changing face of labor; more women entering the workforce
- suppressed by state/civil society and democracy
 - No dissent is tolerated and trade unions suppressed

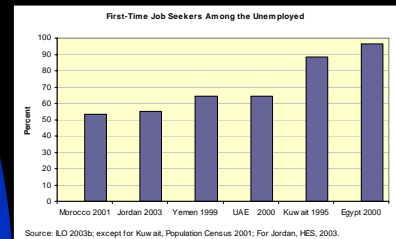
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Labor Statistics/Metrics



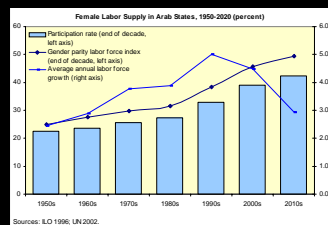
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Labor Statistics: Middle East



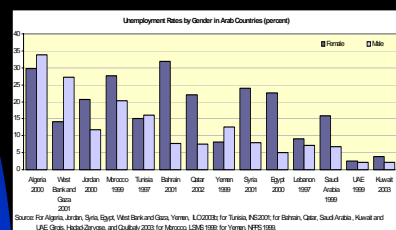
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Labor Stats: Middle East



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Labor Stats: Middle East



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Morocco

- Independence 1957
- Constitutional monarchy;
- Agriculture employs 40-50% of the workforce
- Light manufacturing; tourism
- Trade Unions
 - ◆ The largest independent social force in Morocco
 - ◆ Major force for national independence
 - ◆ Hundreds of trade unionists "disappeared" in the 1960s (some in jail for approximately 20 years)
 - ◆ Trade Unions historically associated with Leftist politics
 - ◆ Former prime minister (Yousseufi/ 1998-2002) from a working class socialist background.
 - ◆ Party associated with the union CDT- Confederation Democratique du Travail)

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Former Moroccan PM Yousseufi



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Egypt

- Independence 1952
- Between 1980-2000; Egypt's population has grown by 55%
- Massive migration to the cities
- Mubarak; his National Democratic Party has won every election since 1978
- Islamist Muslim Brotherhood opposition
- Industry nationalized in the 1950s/1960s
- IMF policies on "structural adjustment" in 1977 precipitated bread riots
 - ◆ almost lead to a revolution
- Privatization in the 1990s

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Egypt (continued)

- **TRADE UNIONS IN EGYPT**
 - ◆ First trade union in 1899.
 - ◆ development of trade unions associated with political parties
 - ◆ Egyptian Trade Union Federation established in 1957.
 - ◆ Largest trade union in the Arab world;
 - ◆ all trade unions must belong to it and strikes are banned
 - ◆ Private sector; unions weak
 - ◆ Public sector; union presence large
 - ◆ Largest employer in the country
 - ◆ female trade unionist now Minister of Labor: Aisha Abdel Hadi

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Egypt: Trade unionist now Minister of Labor: Aisha Abdel Hadi



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Turkey

- Modern Turkey formed in 1923 after the collapse of the Ottoman Empire.
- Run by a successive series of military dictatorships punctuated by civilian rule
- Poor record on human rights
- Islamist party (Refah, Islamist Virtue, Justice and Development Party) in power

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Turkey (continued)

- **Economy:**
 - industrial sector
 - agricultural sector (1/2 of the workforce)
 - Financial crisis/IMF "reforms"/ Curb on public sector employment
 - EU customs union/ 1995/European Union
- **Turkish trade unions**
 - Trade union membership on the decline from 2.5m to 1.2m (1980-2000)
 - Large informal work sector
 - Turk-Is is the largest union has about 73% of all trade unions (ICFTU-affiliated)
 - unions not allowed until 1988 to make political statements

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Pakistan

- Independence :1947
- Military dictatorships alternating with democratic rule
- First female head of a Muslim country: Benazir Bhutto
- Military dictator: Zia ul-Haq (1977):
- **Economy**
 - Primarily agricultural
 - 2/3 of the population directly/indirectly relying upon this sector: cotton and rice
 - huge problem of child labor; some estimates 3.8 million children working (6-15)
 - textile production and manufacture of clothes accounts for 2/3 of exports
 - trade liberalization
 - massive American economic support since 9/11

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Indonesia

- Independence 1949
- Most populace Muslim country in the world
- Rapid economic growth for a quarter of a century
- Suharto military dictatorship from 1966-1988
- 1997 Asian economic meltdown
- 1998 rioting claims 1200 people

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Indonesia (continued)

- First union formed in 1897 (Dutch colonial teachers union)
- First Indonesia unions – railway workers
- 1950s; major expansion of the unions
- Crushed brutally by Suharto; communists and trade union activists jailed and murdered
- Gradually more freedoms after Suharto's fall in 1998
- Many more trade unions formed; splintered from existing established unions
- Greater trade union freedoms
- Union memberships very large: KSBSI: 2 million; KSPI 2.9 million; KSPSI: 4.5 million –oldest trade union

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Concluding Remarks

- Islam has a very rich and plural tradition
- Mutual stereotyping is poisoning Islam/West relations
- Trade unions have deep roots in Muslim-majority countries
 - ◆ Contributed to democratization
 - ◆ Labor facing enormous challenges

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