

The history and basics of Islam II.

Islamic Political Thought (BSS474)



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Sources of Islamic Belief

■ The Six Articles of Faith

- Belief in Allah, The Only God
- Belief in the Angels
- Belief in Holy Books
- Belief in the Prophets
- Belief in the Day of Judgement and Resurrection
- Belief in God's predestination

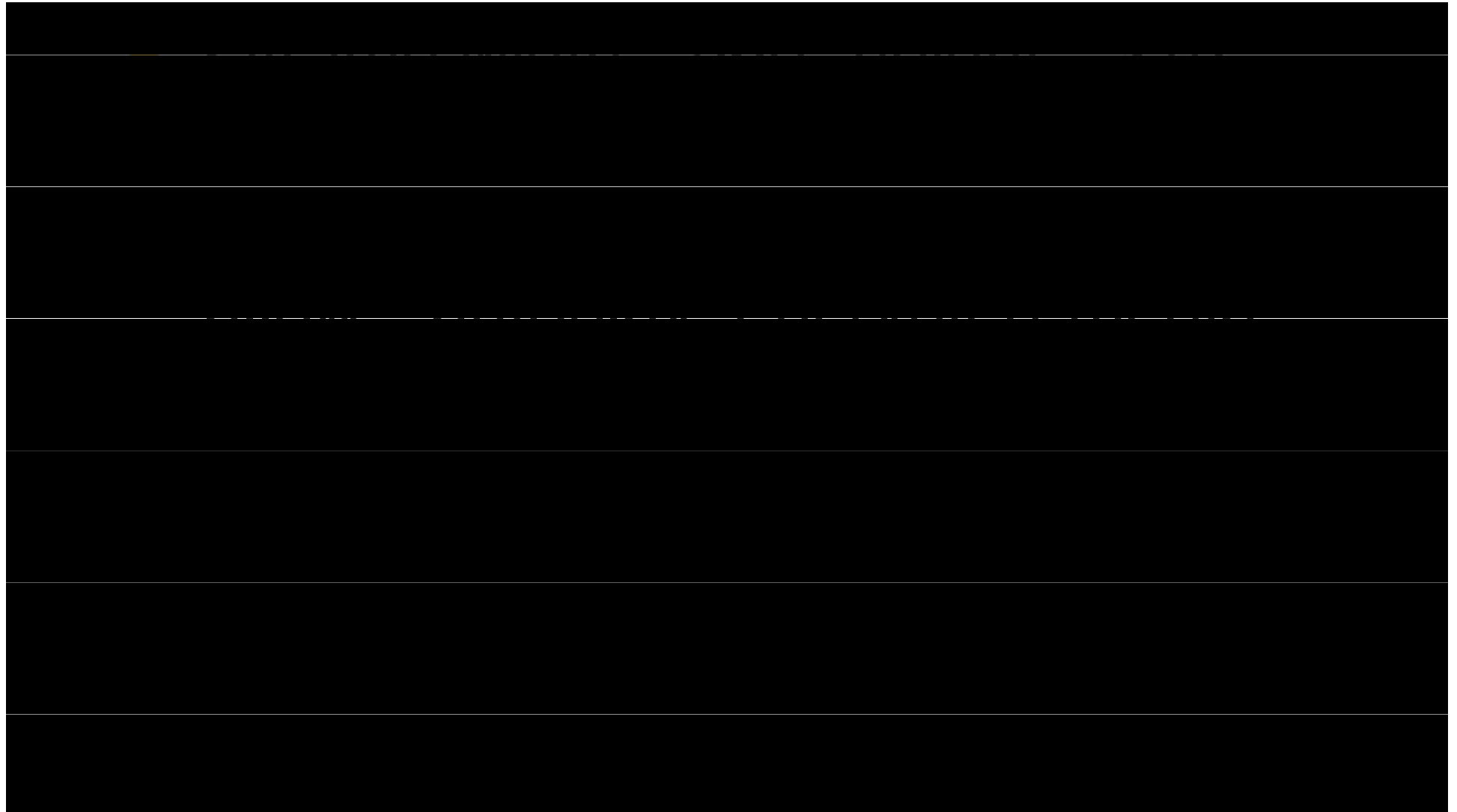


[Sources of Islamic Belief



- **Tawhid** - oneness of God
- God is considered Unitarian (not Trinity)
- Opposite is *shirk* – sin of practicing idolatry or polytheism
 - *Allah may forgive any sin if one dies in that state except for committing shirk.*
- Ibrahim, Musa, Isa, Muhammad – only men (no saint)
- Sunnis consider Shias' worship of Imams an idolatry
- Radicals want to destroy anything related to pre-Islamic period, idolatry, heresy... violating God's unity

[Buddhas of Bamiyan destruction – 2001, Afghanistan]



[Sources of Islamic Belief]

- **Angels** (*mala'ikah, malak*)
- Often mentioned in Quran and Sunnah
- No biological needs, no animal
-> pure emotion
- Obey God's commands
- Jibril, Mikail, Israfil, Azrael...
based on Judeo-Christian traditions



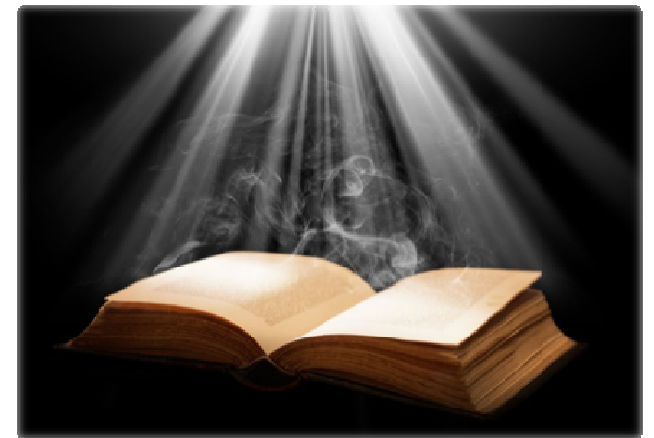
[Sources of Islamic Belief]

■ Islamic holy books

- Tawrat or Torah – revealed to Musa
- Zabur or the Book of Psalms – revealed to King David
- Sahifah or Scrolls – revealed to Ibrahim
- Injil or Gospel – revealed to Isa
- Quran – revealed to Muhammad

■ People of the book – *alh al Kitab (ahl-e Ketab)*

- Jews
- Christians
- Zoroastrians
(mainly from Shia perspective)



[Sources of Islamic Belief]

- **Belief in Prophets**
- God appointed individuals to communicate with mankind
 - Nabi (prophet)
 - Rasul (messenger – only Nooh, Ibrahim, Musa, Isa, Muhammad)
- **Sunni X Shia differences**
 - Sunni – only humans with the only special skill – receiving message
 - Shia – three conditions for being prophet (almost saint), and worshiped
 - The most perfect person in his time, no sins
 - Free from all social stigmas (no illegitimate child, no bad profession...)
 - Ability to make miracles
- From Adam, over Yusuf, Yahya... to Muhammad (last one)

[Sources of Islamic Belief]

- **Belief in the Day of Judgement and Resurrection (Ma'ad)**
 - Resurrection after death
 - Judgement of deeds and reward or punishment after that
 - Paradise or hell
- Different legends according to Quran and *hadiths*
- Set of signs (more than 50)
- Shias put bigger accent on *mahdism* (messianism)
 - Shia – Mahdi the twelfth hidden imam
 - Sunni - successor of Mohammad, expected to arrive to rule the world and reestablish righteousness
- Return of prophet Isa

[Sources of Islamic Belief]

- **Belief in God's predestination (Qadar)**
 - Allah has knowledge of everything and every time
 - Everything that is preordained is written in preserved tablet
 - Nothing can exist / happen except by the will and permission of Allah
 - Allah created all the creation and creatures and all their actions, characteristics and movements
- **Disputations about determination**
 - Hafez – I'm going to drink wine, because God knows I will
- **Shias don't believe in predestination**
 - God has not set a definite course for human history
 - God knows and has power, but can change as he wishes

[Five Pillars of Muslim Faith]

- **Shahada** – Testimony of Faith
- **Salat** – Prayer
- **Sawm** – Fasting in holy month of Ramadhan
- **Zakat** – Islamic charity
- **Hajj** – Pilgrimage to Mecca



[Five Pillars of Muslim Faith]

اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ

- **Shahadah**
- *Lā ʾilāha ʾillā-llāh, Muḥammadur-rasūlu-llāh*
- There is no god but God. Muhammad is the messenger of God.
 - prefaced by the phrase (wa) ashhadu ʾan - (and) I testify, that...
- First step for being Muslim (from childbirth to death)
- Everyone whispering *Shahadah* before death is *shahid*
 - In daily usage – *shahid* = martyr

[Five Pillars of Muslim Faith]

- **Salah**
- Praying duty – believers called by *adhan*
- *Adhan* is called out by a muezzin from the mosque five times a day
 - Sunni should pray five times a day, Shia three times is enough
 - Sunrise, noon, after noon, sunset, night
- Salah consists of the repetition of a unit called a *rak'ah* (<http://youtu.be/hbnyHNyAEtg>)
- Cleanliness of body and clothes is necessary
 - Minor ablution
 - Major ablution
- Collective praying is more valuable
- Friday, the most important with a preachment

[Five Pillars of Muslim Faith]

- **Sawm** - fasting
- Abstain from eating, drinking, smoking, sexual activity during daylight hours in the holy month of Ramadhan
- The personal effort of being better Muslim
 - Good deeds
 - Kindness
 - Jihad
- Exclusions – children, ill people, pregnant or menstruating women, travelers, warriors etc.
 - Opportunity for hypocrisy
- Tightening of social and family connections



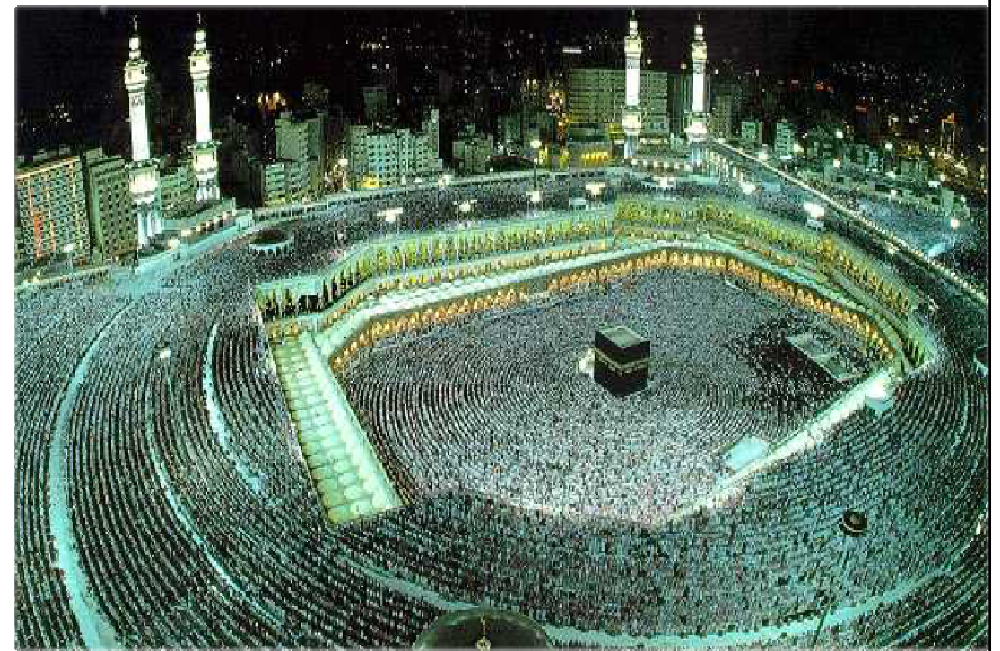
[Five Pillars of Muslim Faith]

- **Zakat** - Islamic charity
- About 2,5 % of financial income (or more)
- Originally recommended, during IS obligatory
 - Collected by state authority in (Libya, Malaysia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and Yemen)
- Only religious purposes



[Five Pillars of Muslim Faith]

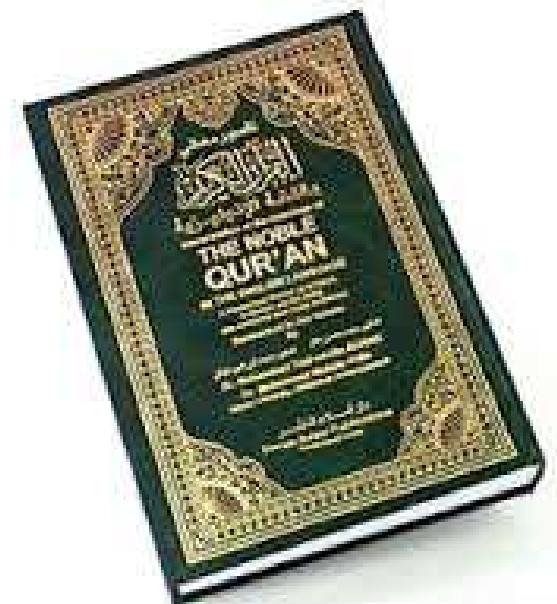
- **Hajj** – „to intend a journey“ to Mecca
- Greater (obligatory) and lesser (*umrah* - recommended)
 - Walking counter-clockwise 7t around the Ka'aba
 - Drinks from the Zamzam well
 - Plains of Mount Arafat
 - Symbolic stoning of the devil
 - Shave head, animal sacrifice
- So many Muslims
-> quota system
- SA use it for politic purposes



Sources of Islamic law and thought

■ Quran

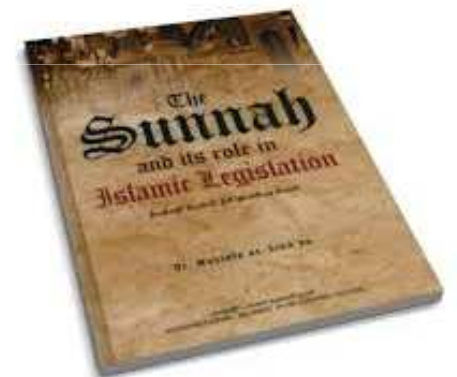
- The word of God
- Untouchable, unchangeable, codified
- Structured to chapters (surah - 114), verses (6 236), sorted from longest to shortest chapters
- Problems with translations (not codified), the effort of chronological sorting
- Absence of firm structure or continuous story
- *Tafsir* – exegesis of Quran (interpretation)











Sources of Islamic law and thought

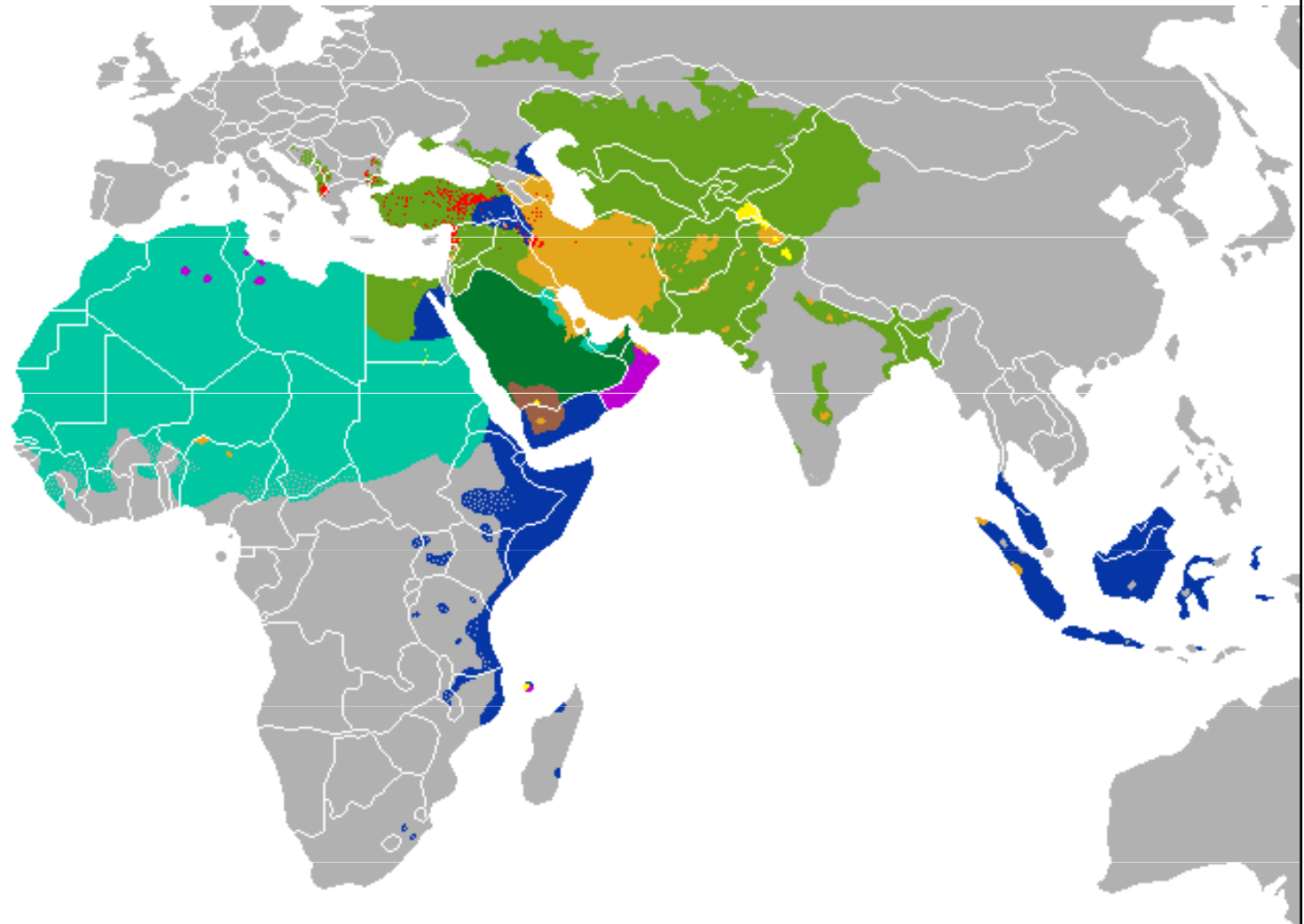
Sunnah

- The collection of Prophet's deeds and speeches
- He was the chosen one, his behavior was according to God's rule
- Originally only oral tradition
- Collected, recorded and codified during 200 – 300 after M. death (forbidden by Umar – Quran is enough)
- Narrations verified by the methods of *ilm al-Hadith*
 - Complete chain of narrators, their credibility etc.
 - Many frauds and mystifications
 - Classification of hadiths
 - *sahih* (right) / *mardud* (wrong) ...



Main Schools of Islam

SUNNI	
	HANAFI
	HANBALI
	MALIKI
	SHAFI'I
SHIA	
	ISMAILI
	JAFARI
	ZAIDI
	OTHER
OTHER	
	IBADI



Differences among Schools

■ Hanafi X Maliki X Shafi'i X Hanbali

Men wearing red:

repulsively X legal X illegal X repulsively

Men wearing yellow:

illegal X legal X illegal X illegal

Yawn during praying nullify it:

yes X no X yes X yes

Can woman participate in hajj without man's accompany?:

no X yes X yes X no

[Human Deeds Classification]

Islamic law and its effort to classify deeds

Obligatory	Recommended	Neutral	Disliked	Sinful forbidden
+2	+1	0	-1	-2

- Legality - lawfulness (state enforced) – public affairs
- Morality (society enforced) – public affairs
- Conscience (depends on individual) – personal affairs

[Islamic law – shari‘ah]



- **Time for Q&A**