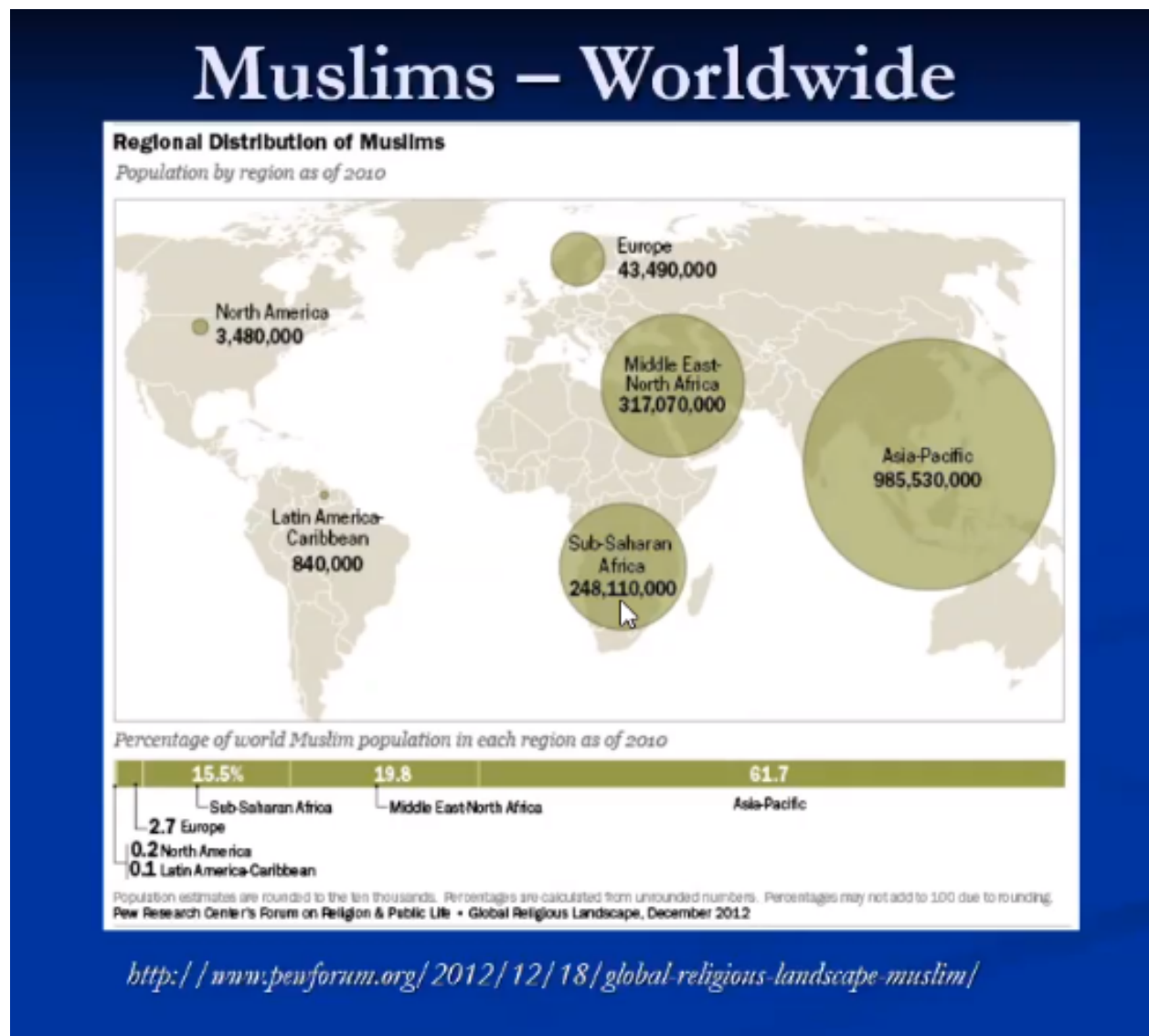


Information for May 23rd Service: Islam 101

As you prepare for our May 23rd service, our guest speaker, Mr. Mohammad Al-Bedaiwi, thought we would appreciate knowing some statistics about Muslims worldwide and in America. Being aware of such facts may better equip us at SGUUF to counter negative biases about Muslims. *See what you can learn from the graphic interpretations provided!*

Muslims are located all over the world. As a result, there are many cultural differences among Muslims and we cannot assume that all Muslims are the “same”.

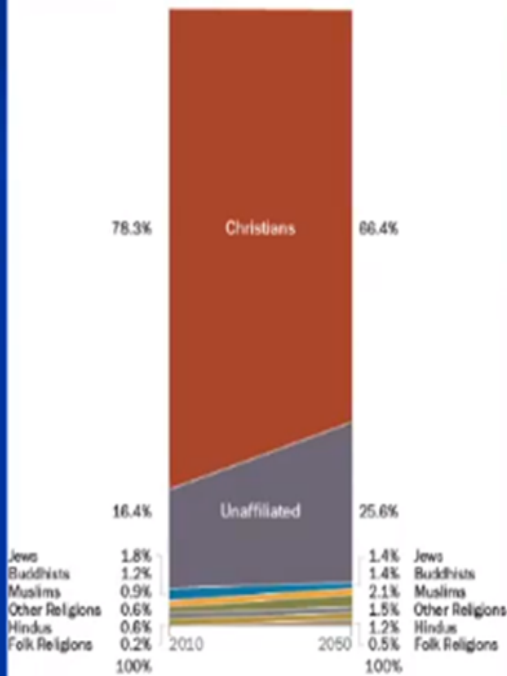
According to the Pew Research Center, you will notice that about 25% of the population worldwide in 2010 was Muslim. Were you aware that the greatest number are located in the Asia-Pacific region? What is the percentage for the United States?



What does the following graphic tell you about the projected growth in America of Muslims versus other world religions between 2010-2050? Do you think that some people “fear” this projection of an increase from .09% to 2.1%? If so, and even though the Muslim population in the United States is quite small, then how do you think Americans might respond to such growth and what might be some challenges for American Muslims?

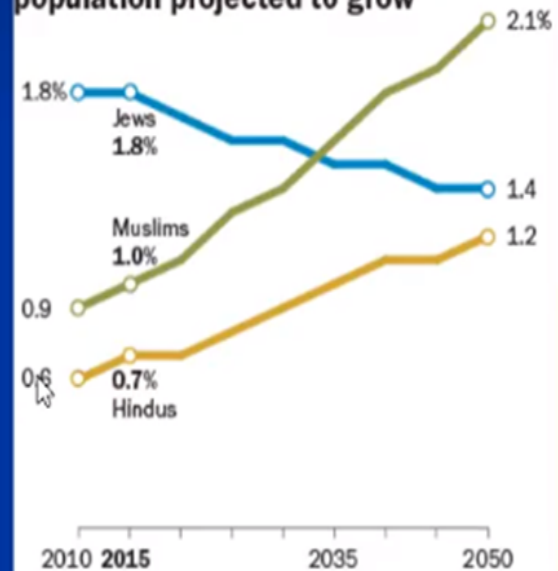
Muslims in America

Religious Composition of the United States, 2010-2050



Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.
 Source: The Future of World Religions: Population Growth Projections, 2010-2050
 PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Although small, American Muslim population projected to grow



Note: Projections include both adults and children.
 Source: The Future of World Religions: Population Growth Projections, 2010-2050

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What's the difference between Sunni and Shia?

All Muslims are guided by the Sunnah, but **Sunnis** stress its primacy. **Shia** are also guided by the wisdom of Muhammad's descendants through his son-in-law and cousin, Ali. **Sunni** life is guided by four schools of legal thought, each of which strives to develop practical applications of the Sunnah.

Shia Muslims believe that, just as a prophet is appointed by God alone, only God has the prerogative to appoint the successor to his prophet. They believe God chose Ali to be Muhammad's successor, infallible, the first caliph (**khalifah**, head of state) of Islam. Shia caliphs would be the equivalent of the infallible Christian Pope and follow the bloodline after Ali. One of the most crucial differences between Shia and Sunni Muslims is the importance that the Shiites give to Ali, whom the Sunni do not recognize as being the prophet Mohammad's rightful successor.

Another primary difference in practice comes in that Sunni Muslims mainly rely on the Sunnah, a record of the teachings and sayings of the Prophet Muhammad to guide their actions while the Shiites more heavily on their ayatollahs, whom they see as a sign of God on earth.

The term **Sunni** comes from "Ahl-as-Sunnah" meaning people of the tradition. This refers to the group that believe Abu Bakr, the first Caliph — ruler, a king — at the time, should succeed Prophet Mohammad. The Caliphs are elected.

You can see by this graphic, that the majority are Sunni, even in the United States (*not visible in the graphic*). Knowing this, how does one substantiate the claims in America that Shia law will take over?



When did the first Mosque appear in America? Does it surprise you that it was in 1934 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa? It is referred to as “The Mother Mosque of America”. ([https:// Mothermosque.org](https://Mothermosque.org))



Our speaker’s presentations will provide a basic understanding of Islam, along with current day misconceptions of Islam and some of the challenges Muslim face in America. Our challenge will be to consider how we can be in allyship with our Muslim neighbors.

We are welcome to attend any one of the daily prayer times at local mosques. Look for one in your area! (Note: when inside a mosque, females must wear a head covering/scarf and all must remove their shoes.)

Muslim Population

Size and Projected Growth of Major Religious Groups

	2010 POPULATION	% OF WORLD POPULATION IN 2010	PROJECTED 2050 POPULATION	% OF WORLD POPULATION IN 2050	POPULATION GROWTH 2010-2050
Christians	2,168,330,000	31.4%	2,918,070,000	31.4%	749,740,000
Muslims	1,599,700,000	23.2	2,761,480,000	29.7	1,161,780,000
Unaffiliated	1,131,150,000	16.4	1,230,340,000	13.2	99,190,000
Hindus	1,032,210,000	15.0	1,384,360,000	14.9	352,140,000
Buddhists	487,760,000	7.1	486,270,000	5.2	-1,490,000
Folk Religions	404,690,000	5.9	449,140,000	4.8	44,450,000
Other Religions	58,150,000	0.8	61,450,000	0.7	3,300,000
Jews	13,860,000	0.2	16,090,000	0.2	2,230,000
World total	6,895,850,000	100.0	9,307,190,000	100.0	2,411,340,000

Source: The Future of World Religions: Population Growth Projections, 2010-2050
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