* + Introduction
    - Dave & me in France
    - Obviously, the question of Islam has been in the news of late,
      * On one hand, with the attack of Hamas on Israel last month and the intense controversy that has erupted in the world about how to view this. Huge protests against Israel’s campaign in many European and, to a lesser extent, American cities.
      * On other hand, since Vatican II, there has been effort to promote ecumenism not only between Catholics and heretics, but between the “three great monotheistic religions”.
        + The Church has also a high regard for the Muslims. They worship God, who is one, living and subsistent, merciful and almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth (Cf. St. Gregory VII, Letter III, 21 to Anazir [Al-Nasir], King of Mauretania PL, 148.451A.), who has spoken to men. They strive to submit themselves without reserve to the hidden decrees of God, just as Abraham submitted himself to God’s plan, to whose faith Muslims eagerly link their own. Although not acknowledging him as God, they venerate Jesus as a prophet, his Virgin Mother they also honor, and even at times devoutly invoke. Further, they await the day of judgment and the reward of God following the resurrection of the dead. For this reason they highly esteem an upright life and worship God, especially by way of prayer, alms-deeds and fasting.
        + Pope Francis’s continued effort at ecumenism with the Abu Dhabi declaration, and the opening of the “Abrahamic House” in 2019 in the UAE.
    - Reality:
      * Islam is spreading and probably already the largest single religion in the world.
        + Statistics on growth of Islam

2017: 1.8 billion Muslims

Where are they mainly?

Asia

Africa

* + - * + Statistics from France

Birth rates in Ile de France

* + - * It is intrisincally incompatible and inimical to the Christian Faith, inasmuch as it denies the Trinity, the Incarnation, Redemption, etc.
  + History
    - Origins
      * Among Arabian tribesmen
      * Mohammed begins preaching in Mecca in 613
        + By way or reference, St Gregory the Great is pope from 590-604. He sends St Augustine to preach to the Angles in Britain at this time.
      * He then begins to preach in Medina in 622. This migration is the origin of the Hajj
      * He returns to Mecca in 629, where he dies in 632
    - Spread
      * Under Mohommed’s successors, known as Caliphs, Islam conquered Syria first in 630s
      * Spread through Egypt and North Africa through remainder of 600s. Also spread east through Iraq and Iran at this same time.
        + Important to remember that these were all thoroughly Christian lands. Alexandria a center of Christian learning, and St Augustine’s city of Hippo near modern day Tunis. St Augustine died a mere 200 years before Mohammed. Same distance as us and
      * Passed into Spain in 711, spread north until stopped at the battle of Poitiers in 732
      * Continued existence Assured in part due to influx of Mongols and Turks
      * Could potentially have been broken by Crusades, but these failed due to failure of long term strategic vision.
  + Durability
    - Lasted 1400 years now, and has seen ebbs and flows. Late 19th century and early 20th saw apparent demise of Islam as a political force. Hillaire Belloc one of few who saw the likelihood of a real resurgence. What kind? Not a unified political power that can project strength in the form of invading armies. However, growing influence over young and spread of immigrants.
    - Schism of Sunni vs Shia
      * Most of Muslims are Sunni, though some significant numbers are Shia (apparently around 15%, mainly centered in and around Iran). Initially a schism in the sense of competing claims of assuming Mohammed’s mantle. Who was a legitimate “caliph”
* Appeal
  + Simple Beliefs
    - One God who must be obeyed in all things and without question and who promises sensual rewards
  + Simple practices
    - **Five pillars**
      * **Shahada**: to declare one’s faith in God and belief in Muhammad
      * **Salat**: to pray five times a day (at dawn, noon, afternoon, sunset, and evening)on a ca
      * **Zakat**: to give to those in need
      * **Sawm**: to fast during [Ramadan](http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/ramadan)
      * **Hajj**: to make a pilgrimage to Mecca at least once during a person’s lifetime if the person is able
  + Basic Premises
  + Islam is an eclectic collection of beliefs. Quote JQA
    - In the seventh century of the Christian era, a wandering Arab of the lineage of Hagar, the Egyptian, combining the powers of transcendent genius, with the preternatural energy of a fanatic, and the fraudulent spirit of an impostor, proclaimed himself as a messenger from Heaven, and spread desolation and delusion over an extensive portion of the earth. Adopting from the sublime conception of the Mosaic law, the doctrine of one omnipotent God; he connected indissolubly with it, the audacious falsehood, that he was himself his prophet and apostle. Adopting from the new Revelation of Jesus, the faith and hope of immortal life, and of future retribution, he humbled it to the dust, by adapting all the rewards and sanctions of his religion to the gratification of the sexual passion. He poisoned the sources of human felicity at the fountain, by degrading the condition of the female sex, and the allowance of polygamy; and he declared undistinguishing and exterminating war, as a part of his religion, against all the rest of mankind. THE ESSENCE OF HIS DOCTRINE WAS VIOLENCE AND LUST: TO EXALT THE BRUTAL OVER THE SPIRITUAL PART OF HUMAN NATURE.
    - Contains elements of Judaism (insistence on one God & denial of Christ’s divinity),
    - Christianity (universality, accepting Jesus as being sent by God as a prophet), and even. Fraternity is not caused primarily by blood, but by belief.
    - paganism (pagan practices surrounding Mecca)
    - Strauss:
      * Islam fundamentally a law, not an attempt to provide an account of the nature of God. Islam = submission; i.e., obey the will of God.
        + Philosophy is not valued.

Cf. Strauss’s comparison of St TA’s defense of revelation in front of philosophy and Maimonides. Same is true of Islam (cf Averroes in the Decisive Treatise, stating that the Law commands those able to philosophize, and to read the works of pagan philosophers)

Not the same importance of metaphysics. (page 106 Schall) There is no real place for philosophy as we understand it in Islam. The great thinkers of the Middle Ages on the outskirts of the Muslim world

Averroes was from Spain (1130-1198)

Aflarabi was likely from eastern steppes, though he appears to have lived in Baghdad (Iraq) (870-950)

Furthermore, it is claimed he studied with Nestorian clerics

Avicenna was from Persia (980-1037) (closer to modern day Turkmenistan/Uzbekistan)

* + - * + *(Google Translate – 42:00)* In his response to Father Anawati, Sheikh Baraka categorically assures that Islam has never believed that Allah “would have allowed man to use his reason to organize society in accordance with a natural law , which would correspond to a universal nature of man as founded on reason. According to him, this is opposed to sharia and tends to dissolve the articles of Islamic belief. These are therefore, he asserts, bad bases for interreligious dialogue, because such bases are an obstacle to rapprochement.Who/what is God? Cf Gaud. Merely the great unknown.
      * We know of God through world, which manifests his power and will.
      * God is first and foremost will, not wisdom. If He is all powerful, he cannot be limited by anything,
        + Cf Schall page 235
    - Specifically denies
      * Trinity; for Muslims, this is an expression of polytheism
      * Christ Jesus the son of Mary Was (no more than) An apostle of God, And His Word, Which He bestowed on Mary, And a Spirit proceeding From Him: so believe In God and His apostles. Say not "Trinity": desist: It will be better for you: For God is One God: Glory be to Him: (Far Exalted is He) above Having a son, To Him Belong all things in the heavens And on earth. And enough Is God as a Disposer of affairs.
      * Incarnation
        + They indeed have disbelieved who say: Lo! ***Allah is the Messiah, son of Mary***. Say: Who then can do aught against Allah, if He had willed ***to destroy the Messiah son of Mary, and his mother*** and everyone on earth? Allah's is the Sovereignty of the heavens and the earth and all that is between them. He createth what He will. And Allah is Able to do all things. S. 5:17
      * Redemption & sacrifice
    - Priority of tribe & one’s own.
      * Deference towards parents (cf. Anastaplo’s comments about children)
        + Cf. Price to Pay
      * Protection of one’s women
        + Cf. Anastaplo’s comment about American GI’s being warned not to mess with women in Egypt & Arabia, but not in western or Asian countries.
    - What is testimony of Mohammed as prophet?
      * Not miracles, per se
        + At least one scholar (Sunni scholar Muhammad Asad) states that Muhammad performed no miracles other than to bring the Quran to humanity,[[40]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_view_of_miracles#cite_note-40) and other scholars, such as Cyril Glasse and [Marcia Hermansen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marcia_Hermansen), downplay the miracles of Muhammad, stating "they play no role in Islamic theology",[[41]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_view_of_miracles#cite_note-Glasse-Miracles-41) or "play less of an evidentiary role than in some other religions".[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_view_of_miracles#cite_note-Hermansen-2)
      * Partly, beauty of Koran’s poetry
        + [Q11:13](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Q11:13)[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_view_of_miracles#cite_note-15) "Will they say, he hath forged the Quran? Answer, bring therefore ten chapters like unto it, forged by yourselves; and call on whomsoever ye may to assist you, except God, if ye speak truth",[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_view_of_miracles#cite_note-16) was revealed in response to polytheists accusation that Muhammad's revelation was invented by Muhammad or came from other men.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_view_of_miracles#cite_note-AD23Y1994:40-13)
        + [Q17:88](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Q17:88)[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_view_of_miracles#cite_note-17) "Say: 'If the mankind and the [jinns](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jinns" \o "Jinns) were together to produce the like of this Qur'an, they could not produce the like thereof, even if they helped one another.'" was issued in reply to an accusation found in [8:31](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Q8:31):[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_view_of_miracles#cite_note-18) "We have already heard (such things). If we wished, we could say (things) like this. These are only fables of the ancients"[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_view_of_miracles#cite_note-AD23Y1994:40-13)
      * Partly, chronological: he was last of prophets, sent to correct errors of original revelation. (page 234-5)
        + *Quote missing*
  + Method of conversion
  + They are difficult to convert. Page 23 of Schall
    - Cf. St Francis of Assisi on Crusade
    - Charles de Foucauld
    - Fr Matthew’s convert who took 9 years to decide. In part because he was an acquaintance with a prominent jihadist.
    - Lower rank of apologetics. I.e., since Muslims do not generally admit the importance of logic and philosophy, there is no systematic study of the natural order. Consequently, not easily possible to appeal to this. Furthermore, inasmuch is God is will, He cannot be understood by man. Even approaches blasphemy to do so.
      * +Lefebvre on presence of Muslims in Senegal.
        + Cf Dave’s attempt
    - More a matter of assertion and confidence.
      * Individual level: Source of this confidence = lively Faith and understanding of what we believe.
        + At best, this can produce some measure of respect.
      * Societal level
        + Willingness to defend one’s own at home.

Cf. Pakistani grooming gangs in Rotherdam. Preying on significant portion of English girls. Why? Because they can, effectively. Not mere question of pleasure, but of asserting dominance over the future by taking the women of one’s enemies. Possible solution: public executions and massive deportations

* + - * + Humanly speaking, need for fairly stern and intense empire. I.e., will to conquer and submit Islamic territory and to stay indefinitely.
        + Need to break down transmission

Break power of Imams

* Conclusion
  + Islam is simply opposed to Catholicism. There is no “peace” with it in the sense of mutual respect, comprehension, and acceptance.
    - Schall page 236