

<h1>Islam</h1>	
Origins	Arabia (570-632 A.D.) Prophet Muhammad
Sacred Texts	Qur'an (English: Quran or Koran) Shari' a ("the way") contains the laws and regulations for Muslim life and conduct
Organization	Community structure – once an Empire headed by a Caliph. Now some entire countries are Islamic States e.g. Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. In other countries there are local communities in separate mosques
Beliefs	Monotheistic Commitment in faith, obedience, and trust to the one and only God – Allah. <u>The Five Pillars of Islam</u> Shahada – profession of faith in God Salat – ritual prayer performed five times a day facing the Holy City of Mecca (Saudi Arabia) Zakat – alms giving Sawm – fasting Hajj – pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in your life Sometimes Jihad which translated means “striving in the way of God” but this word varies from sacred war to striving to fulfill the ethical principles of the Qur'an
Practices	The Shari' a is the creed and worship of the community (umma) as well as the code of ethics, a culture, a system of laws, an understanding of the function of the state. The main festivals are Id al-Fitr which is the breaking of the fast at the end of Ramadan – the Holy Month and Id al-Adha which is the self sacrifice and devotion to uphold the religion.
Divisions	Sunnis – the majority of the Muslims They follow the Rightly Guided Caliphs – this is similar to a “mandate of heaven” authority Shi'ite – the minority of Muslims They believe that their leadership flows from the descendants of Ali (the son-in-law of the Prophet Muhammad).