

## Vocabulary List: Religious Texts--Societal Implications

**Commentary** Comments or explanations of scripture. Usually scholars of the texts provide detailed analysis and application in their explanations.

**Dar al-Islam** (DAHR ul-is-lam) Abode of Islam. Social justice, solidarity of purpose, political stability are enjoyed by those living under the umbrella of Islamic law.

**Divine Decree** All is decided by God and in some sense comes from Him.

**Greater Jihad** (ji-HAD) The Greater Jihad (al-jihad al-akbar) refers to the personal struggle of the heart, where the believer strives to overcome personal temptations and the carnal self. This inner struggle is Jihad's highest form. During this Jihad, Muslims strive to internalize the Islamic message through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

**Hadith** (hah-DEETH) The report of the Prophet's utterances in his role as guide. They serve to assist the faithful.

**Lesser Jihad** The Lesser Jihad (al-jihad al-asghar) is the outward struggle of Muslims against those attacking the faith and requires using the tongue, hands, or sword. Only in the last instance, however, do Muslims engage in mortal combat by taking up arms against Islam's enemies.

**Martyrs** Those who die for their faith

**Nominal** In name only. Having the label of a religion but being very lax in practice of that religion

**Paradise** Heaven

**Religious terrorism** Violence done in the name of strongly held belief or violence which uses religion as a pretext for its justification

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**Reminders** Qur'an quotes in architecture and on household objects, calls to prayer, beautiful mosques and minarets, designed to instill right practice within Muslims.

**Sharia** (sha-REE-ah) Divine law in its totality...maps the road men and women are to follow in this life

**Sura** (SOO-ruh) Chapter of the Qur'an

**Umma** (OOM-muh) Peoplehood--the majesty and mystique of being a part of the Muslim community

**Usury** (YOO zhuh-ree) Lending money at excessively high interest

**Verses of the sword** Two verses of the Qur'an which describe the obligatory nature of fighting (under certain conditions) within Islam

## Review Quiz: Islamic Texts--Societal Implications



**Part 1--Multiple Choice** Place the letter of the most correct response in the blank provided.

1. \_\_\_\_ Of the five foundational pillars of Islam, \_\_\_\_\_ concern practice--acts, deed, endeavors--adherents must fulfill.
  - A. two
  - B. one
  - C. four
2. \_\_\_\_ Sources of Islamic ethical practice include the Qur'an, Hadith and
  - A. Sharia.
  - B. Caliphate.
  - C. Bedu Code.
3. \_\_\_\_ Concerning motivation, \_\_\_\_\_ is critical in Islamic ethical practice.
  - A. outward activity alone
  - B. internal, heartfelt intention
4. \_\_\_\_ What is not a purpose of "reminders" in Islamic practice?
  - A. Call faithful back to original, foundational belief
  - B. Combat hostile, negligent, inattentive attitudes of humankind
  - C. Direct newly converted populations into the correct way
  - D. Antagonize the faithful with constant repetition

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5. \_\_\_\_\_ The binding age at which Islamic adherents become responsible for ethical practice is
- A. 21.
  - B. adulthood.
  - C. infancy.
  - D. puberty.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Some see the sense of brotherhood, compassion, love, and courtesy exhibited by Islamic teaching as grounds for
- A. extremist fundamentalist action.
  - B. terrorism.
  - C. pacifism.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ divine law is held in extremely high regard by Muslims.
- A. Memorization of
  - B. Reformulation of
  - C. Obedience to
8. \_\_\_\_\_ What words begin every Sura of the Qur'an?
- A. Praise be to Allah
  - B. In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful
  - C. There is no god but God and Muhammad is His messenger
9. \_\_\_\_\_ The most important concrete reality in the life of a Muslim after God, the prophet, and spiritual/religious figures is
- A. the state.
  - B. the family.
  - C. lesser jihad.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ The \_\_\_\_\_ family--cousins, aunts, uncles--is the focus of Middle East Muslim culture.
- A. immediate
  - B. extended
  - C. father's
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**Part 2--True/False:** Place a T or an F in the blank provided.



1. \_\_\_\_\_ Islamic ethics has little to say concerning economics.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Islam values practice over belief.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Just as in other religions, there are nominal--in name only--Muslims.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ For some, Islam can be a source of pacifist belief and action.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Muslim banks charge high percentages of interest on money lent.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ The hadith promotes ideas similar to "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you."
7. \_\_\_\_\_ The Muslim emphasis on creation supports an ethical concern with environmental affairs.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Assurance of paradise inspires a Muslim to engage in good works.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ The Qur'an assures martyrs who die in battle (lesser jihad) that instant paradise is their reward.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ According to Ft. Leavenworth's George Gawrych, using the sword is but one aspect of lesser jihad.



**"Cheers"**

## Sources Used: Islamic Texts-- Societal Implications



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## Resources for Further Study

Grunter, Lawrence, Realities of Revolutionary Violence in Southeast Asia--Challenges and Responses, (Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama: Air University Press, 1990).

Compares Indonesian, Philippine and Cambodian origins of internal revolutionary violence in the area.

Weatherbee, Donald and others, The Political Impact of Islam in Southeast Asia, (Institute of International Studies, Univ. of South Carolina, prepared for U.S. Department of State, 1985, Defense Technical Information Center, # AD-A161 765).



"People come into this world with varying degrees of talent, but few achieve much without a great deal of diligent effort. It is an old truism that you cannot get something for nothing. This is especially true in trying to develop a versatile intellect. It doesn't "just happen." The first step in becoming a leader in any walk of life is easy to say but not easy to do--become an expert. In professional life, knowledge is power..."

(General Gordon R. Sullivan)