

PRINCIPLES AND CONCEPTS FOR UNDERSTANDING ISLAM

1. BY "ISLAM" WE MEAN THE BELIEF SYSTEM, THE DOCTRINES.

2. **NOT ALL MOSLEMS! MOSLEMS COME IN ALL DEGREES OF PIETY AND ADHERENCE TO ISLAMIC DOCTRINES.** All Muslims agree that: *"There is no god, but Allah and Mohammed is His messenger."* "...most of the Muslims don't follow Islamic teachings..."(MV 3/13). *"Fighting is ordained for you, even though it be hateful to you..."* (Koran 2:216; also 9:38-39) Opinion surveys. Sharia. **There is Islam, and there are Moslems.**

3. WHERE TO FIND THE TRUTH ABOUT ISLAM?

- THE KORAN
- THE SAYINGS OF MUHAMMAD (HADITHS); MUHAMMAD AS SUPREME AUTHORITY IN ISLAM *"If anyone wants to know about Islam, one should judge Islam by Prophet's life and his teachings."* (MV3/13)
- THE MOST RESPECTED ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS AUTHORITIES (**NOT MOSLEM SPOKESMEN!**)

4. FUNDAMENTAL PREMISE OF ISLAM: (see p.3)

- THE KORAN IS ALLAH'S LITERAL WORD -- PERFECT, COMPLETE, IMMUTABLE AND VALID FOR ALL OF ETERNITY.

5. DOCTRINE OF ABROGATION

- THE KORAN WAS "REVEALED" OVER A PERIOD OF 23 YEARS. In case of contradiction, the later verses supersede (abrogate) the earlier verses. *"Whatever communications We abrogate or cause to be forgotten, We bring one better than it or like it. Do you not know that Allah has power over all things?"* 2:106

6. THE ISLAMIC WORLD VIEW: TWO UNEQUAL DIVISIONS OF THE WORLD.

- MOSLEM UMMAH = NATION ("Nation of Islam"); APOSTASY = TREASON
- NON-MOSLEMS AND WOMEN. EXAMPLE OF MARRIAGE;
- HUMAN RIGHTS; "CAIRO DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN ISLAM"

7. ISLAM IS NOT A RELIGION LIKE OTHER RELIGIONS.

- ISLAM IS A COMPLETE WAY OF LIFE / COMPLETE CODE OF LIFE. (see p. 4)
- ISLAM IS AN IDEOLOGY: TOTALITARIAN AND IMPERIALIST. (see p.5)
- MOSQUE = CENTER FOR PROPAGATION OF IDEOLOGY (see p.6)
- IRRECONCILABLE CONFLICT OF LOYALTY (see THE ROLE OF THE MOSQUE)

8. **SAME WORDS, DIFFERENT MEANINGS**

ISLAMIC CONCEPT OF "**FREEDOM**", "**TOLERANCE**", "**EQUALITY**", "**JUSTICE**", "**PEACE**". *“Islam has always been a part of America’s story. The truth is that America and Islam are not exclusive. Instead, they overlap, and share common principles – principles of justice and progress; tolerance and the dignity of all human beings.”* – Barack Obama, Cairo, 2