

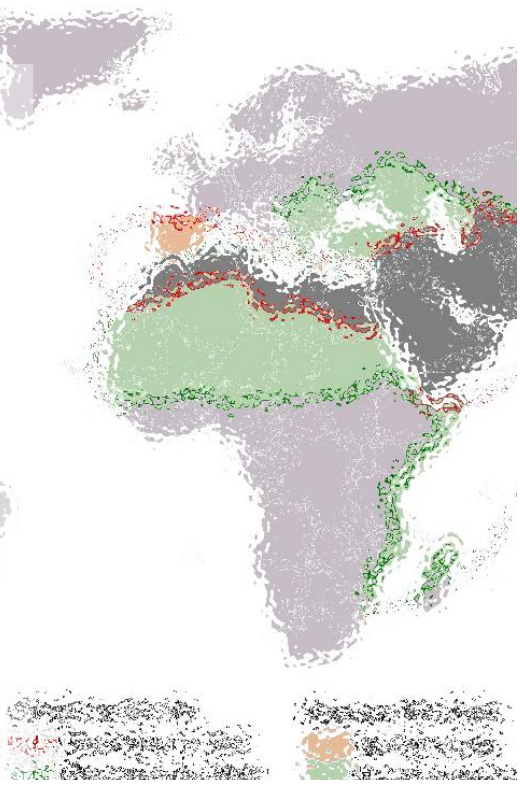
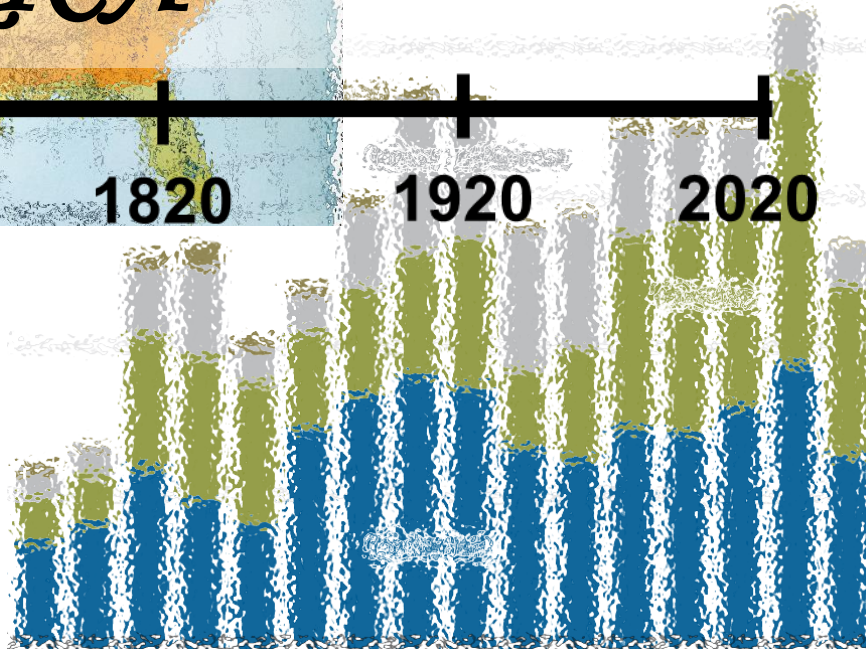
# 500-YEARS

OF

ISLAM

IN

AMERICA



# **500 Years of Islam in America**

## **All of the Americas; mostly USA**

History, Geopolitics, Domestic Politics, Architecture, Economics  
NOT (much) religion

### **Quranic Perspective**

**Earliest Immigrants (1100s – 1500s)**

**Founding Fathers (1600s – 1700s)**

**Enslaved Immigrants (1700s – 1860)**

**Middle years – Organic Growth (1860 – 1960)**

**Recent Immigrants (late 1900s – today)**

**Muslims in Society (21<sup>st</sup> Century)**

# **500 Years of Islam in America**

## **Quranic Perspective**

### **Quran Chapter 30, Al Rum (The Byzantines), Verse 30**

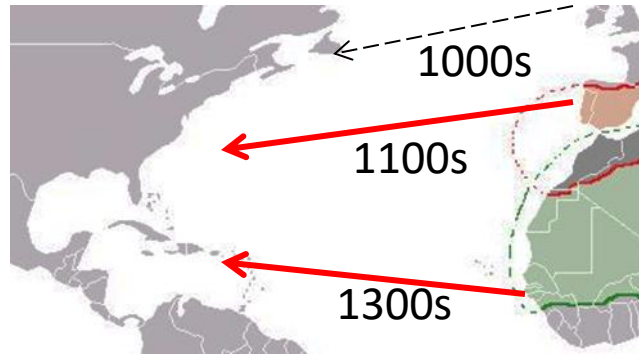
“Set thy face to religion as a monotheist, in the primordial nature from God upon which He originated mankind...that is the upright religion.”  
*(The Study Quran)*

### **Recitation**

**So... the very first human inhabitants of  
America could be considered Muslims!**

# 500 Years of Islam in America

## Unheralded Earliest of Early Explorers



Did Portuguese Muslims navigate their way to the New World in the 12th century?

Columbus took with him a book written by these earlier explorers.

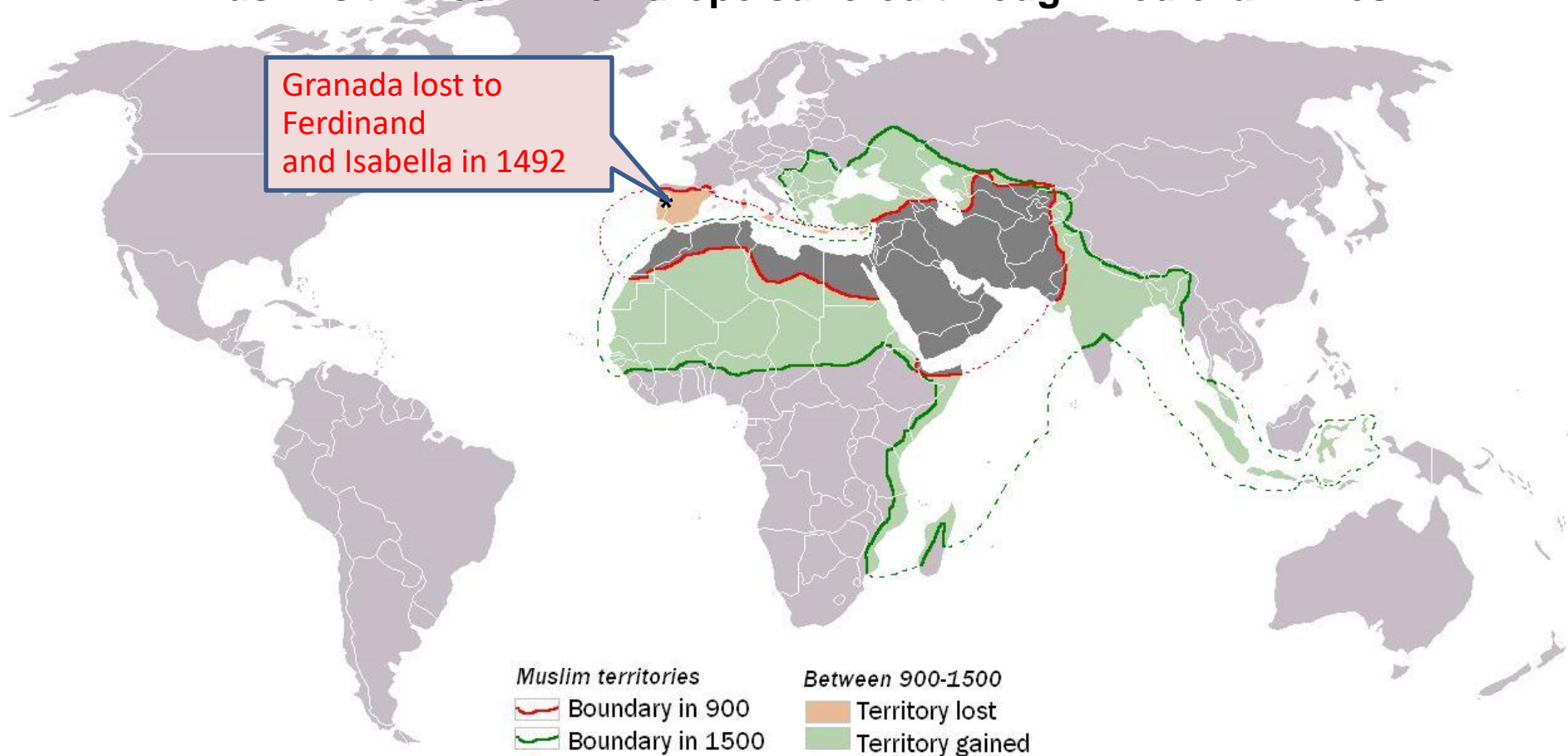
Did Muslims from the Senegambian region of Africa in the early 14th century?

Moors, expelled from Spain sailed to Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico.

# 500 Years of Islam in America

## Muslim dominated lands in 1500s

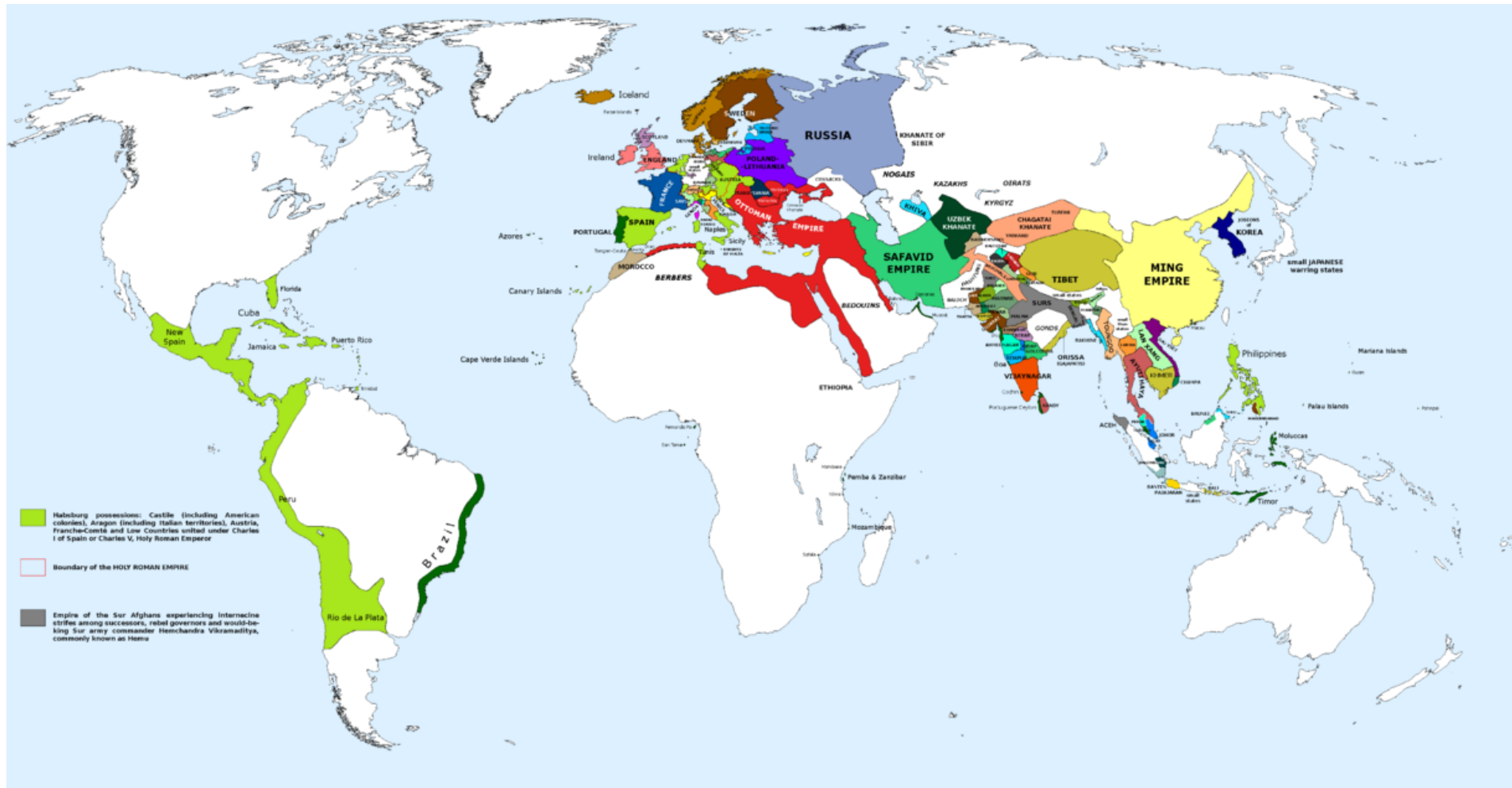
Muslims thrived while Europe suffered through Medieval Times



“We grant to you...full and free permission to invade, search out, capture and subjugate the **Saracens** and pagans and any other unbelievers ...[and]...to reduce their persons into perpetual slavery.” Pope Nicholas V, 1452

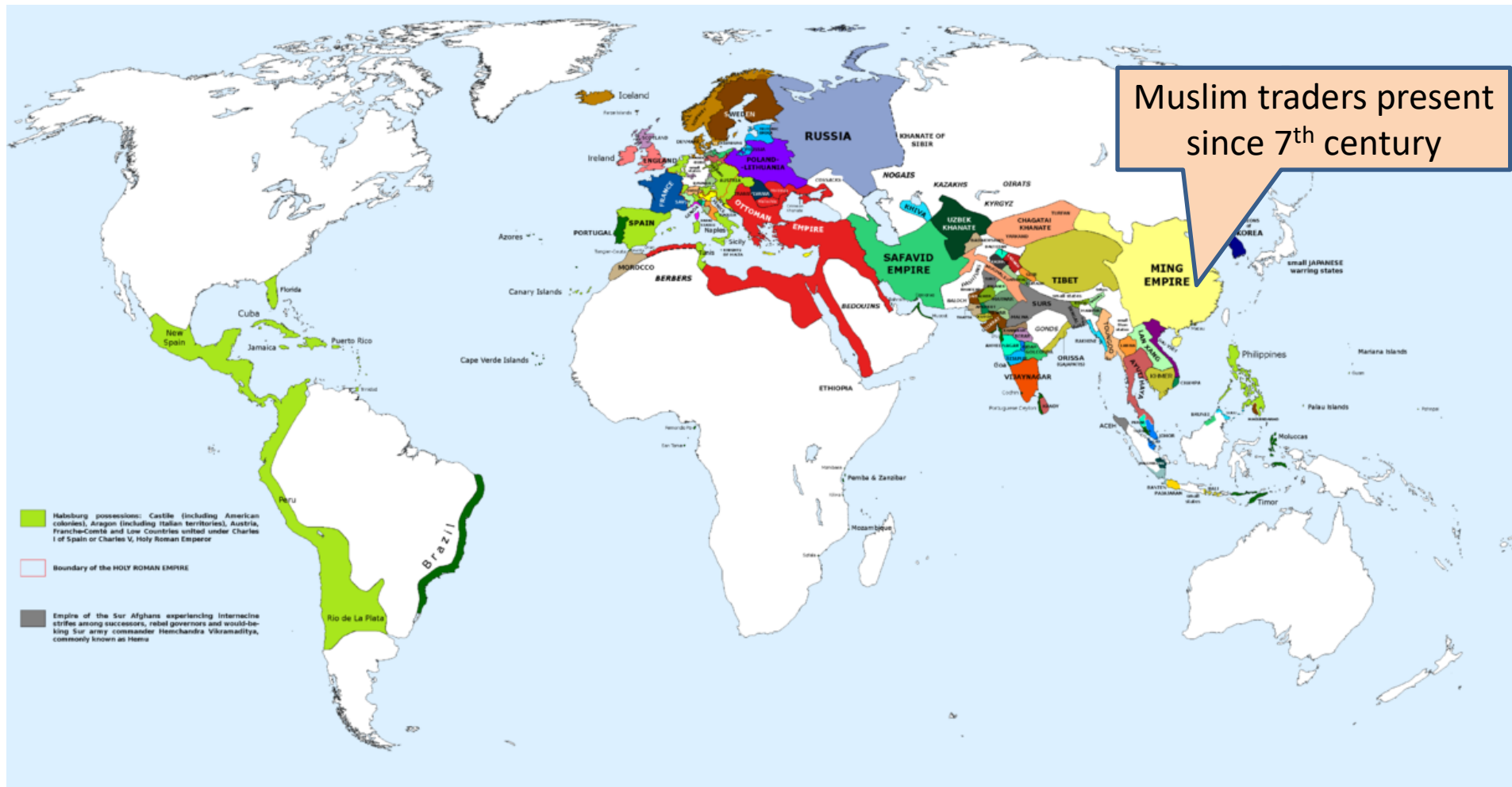
# 500 Years of Islam in America

## The World in 1500



# 500 Years of Islam in America

## The World in 1500



# Early Immigrants – Pre-USA

## Sailed with explorers from Europe (especially Spain)

1492 – Columbus sailed from Spain; Moors/”Turks” as interpreters, etc. ;  
Encountered Americas; Colonized Hispaniola

1503 – Hispaniola’s governor requested Queen Isabella to curtail importation  
of Muslims who “repeatedly fled their owners.”

1522 – America’s first slave rebellion – Hispaniola slaves, mostly Muslim Senegalese

----- 1517 – Martin Luther 95 Theses -----

1528 – Estevanico (Esteban the Moor); enslaved Berber; forcibly “converted”(?);  
sailed to America on Spanish vessel; shipwrecked off Texas; Travelled in SW United  
States and Mexico (“*Relación*” Cabeza de Vaca 1542)

Ref: [aeon.co](http://aeon.co) Search for “*Muslims of Early America*”



# Founding Fathers – 1700s

## Recognition of Muslims/Islam in USA's Foundation

1682 – Virginia (British colony) statute on slavery: “... all servants, except **Turkes** and **Moores**, ... whether Negroes, **Moors**, Mollattoes, or Indians ... shall be converted to the christian faith.” (*sic*)

1786 – Thomas Jefferson (in preparing Virginia Bill of Religious Liberty): “they meant to [protect] the Jew and the Gentile, the Christian and **Mahometan**, the Hindoo, and Infidel of every denomination.” Cited in his autobiography, Lib. Of Congress

1787 – Treaty of Friendship and Amity (Treaty of Marrakech) with Morocco

1790 – George Washington invited “**Mahometans**, Jews, or Christians of any Sect, or Atheists” (as slaves) to his Mount Vernon home

1790 – South Carolina law: “Special Legal Status of **Moroccans**” (due to education, beliefs, morals, skin color, etc., no longer slaves)

1805 – President T. Jefferson hosted Iftar Dinner for first Muslim diplomat in Washington – ambassador from Tunisia

# US Constitution – First Amendment – 1791

**“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”**

*“...a wall of separation between church and state.”* T. Jefferson 1802

“Lemon Test” US Supreme Court 1970:

Statutes must have a secular purpose

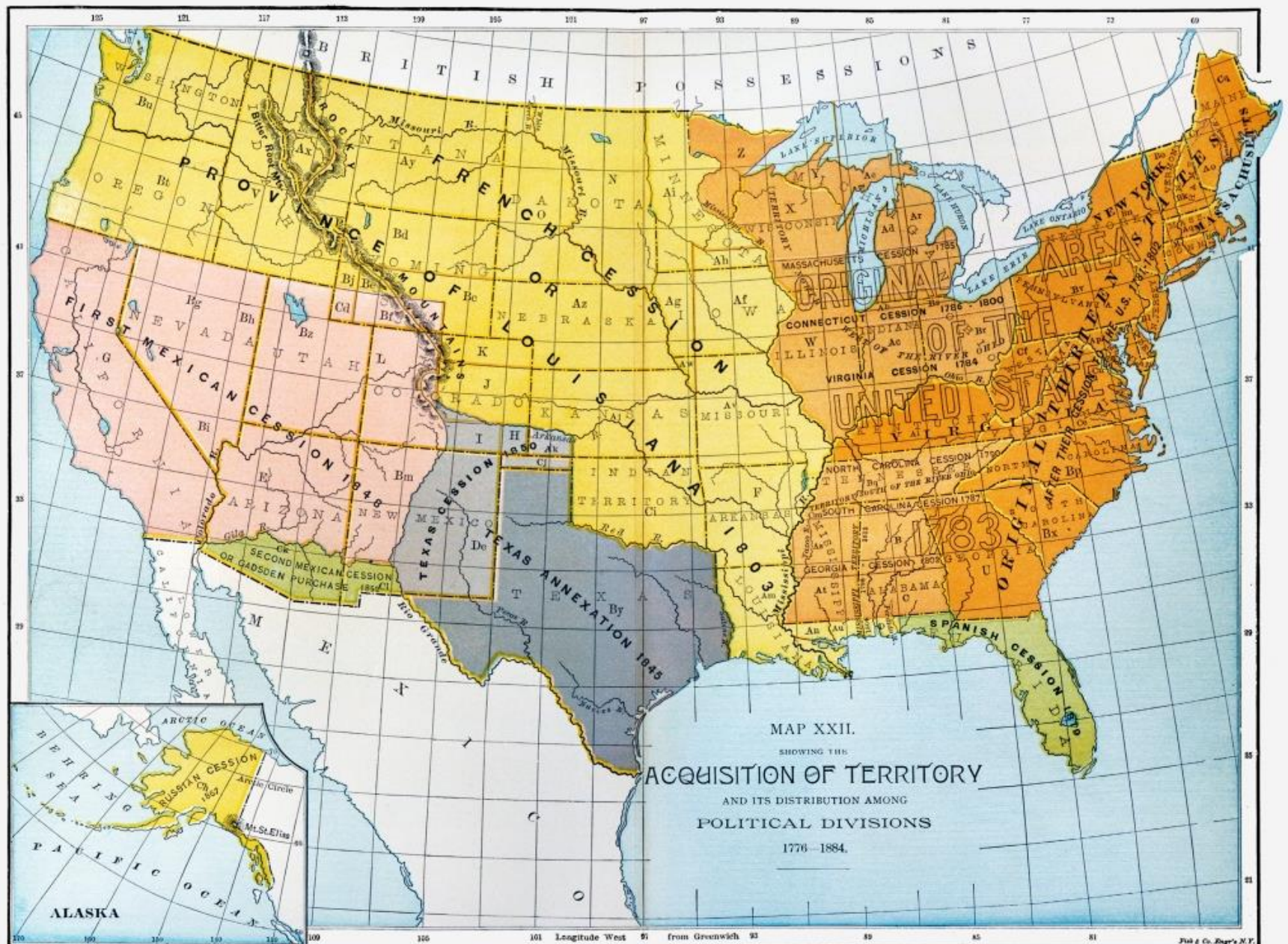
Primary effect must neither advance nor inhibit religion

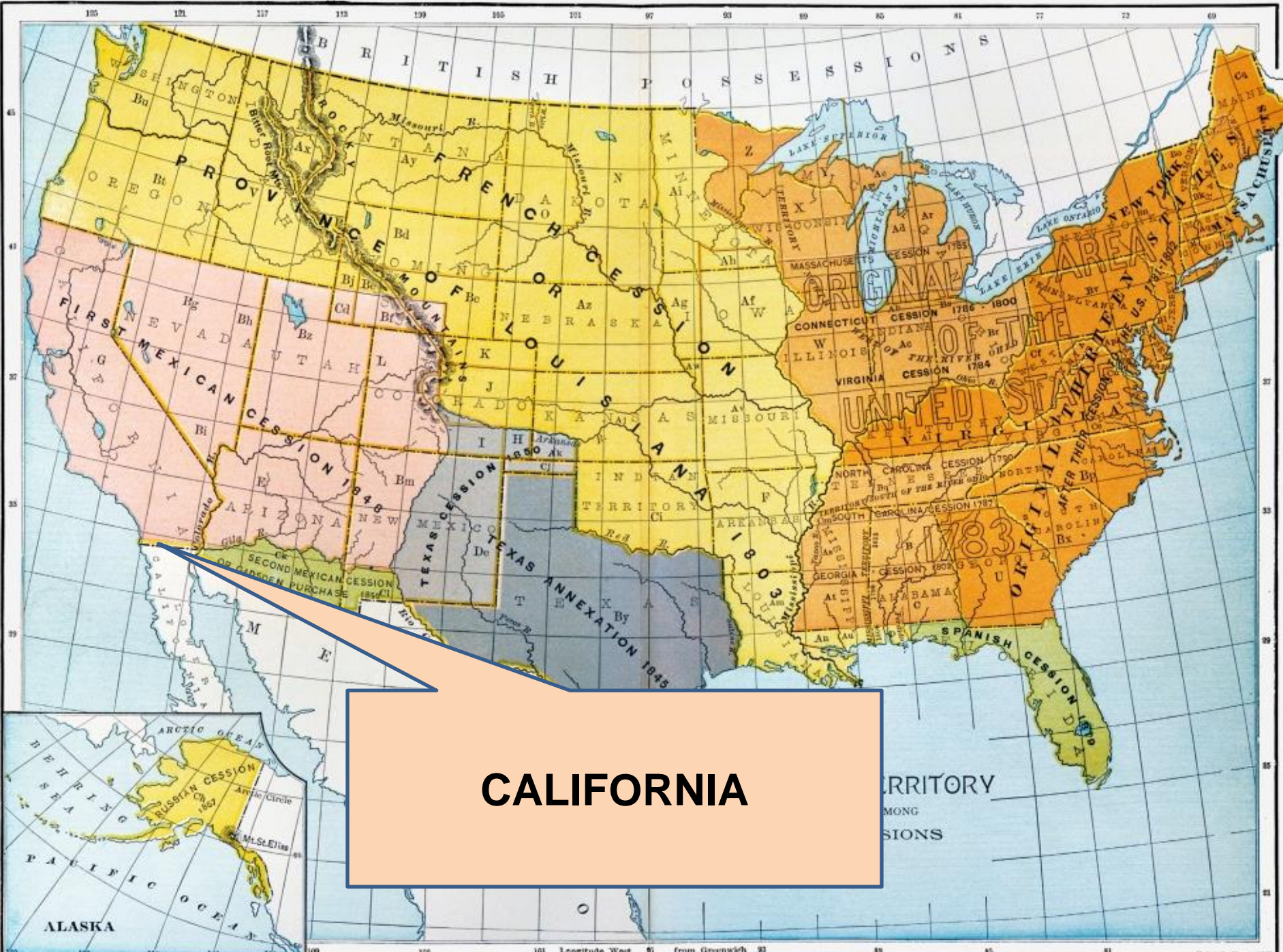
Must not foster excessive government entanglement with religion

**No particular religion is favored; No religion is disfavored**

**No religion is more favored than Islam; Islam faces no restriction**  
(except “neutral laws of general applicability”)

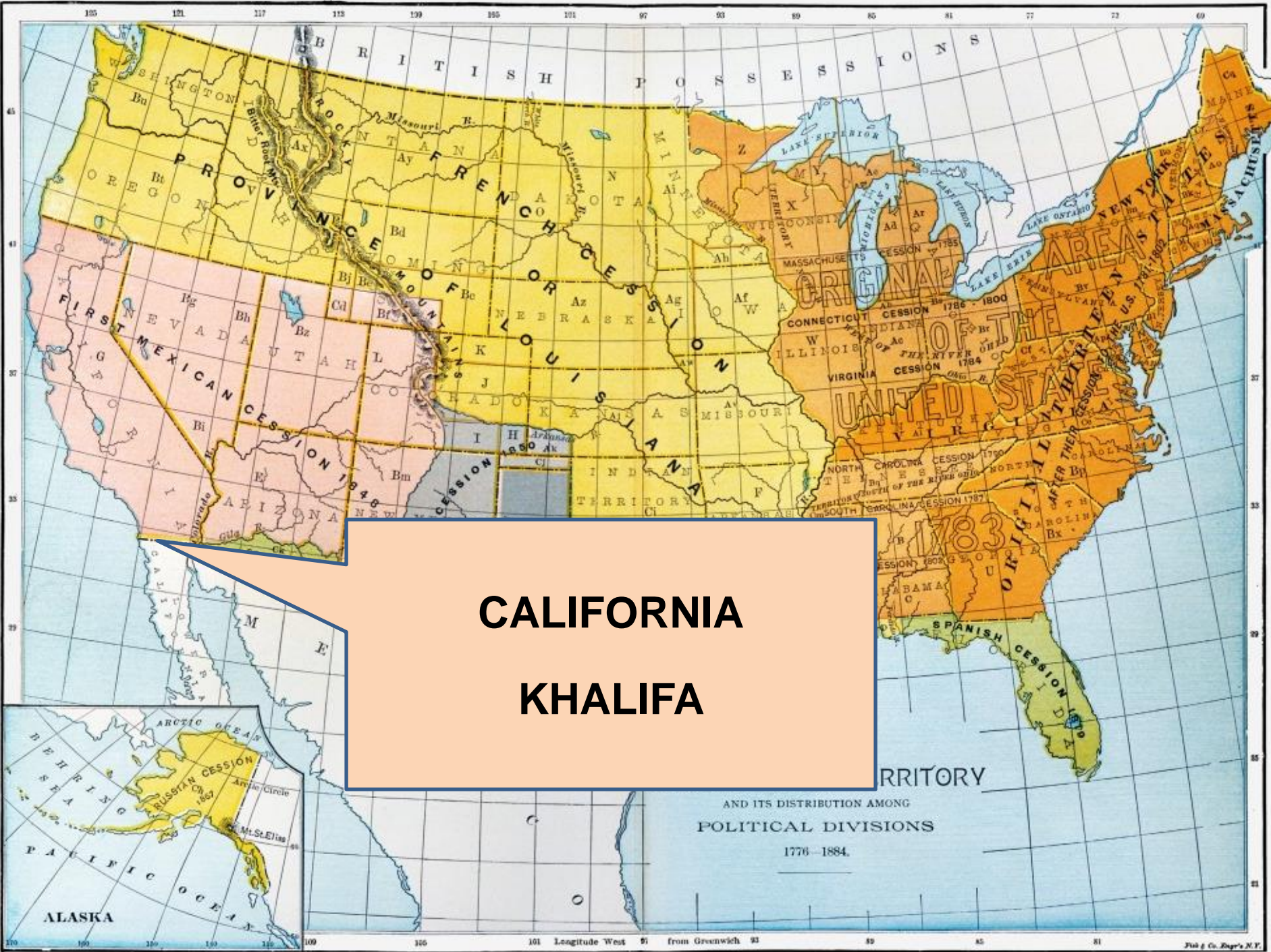
# Geographic History of USA





**CALIFORNIA**

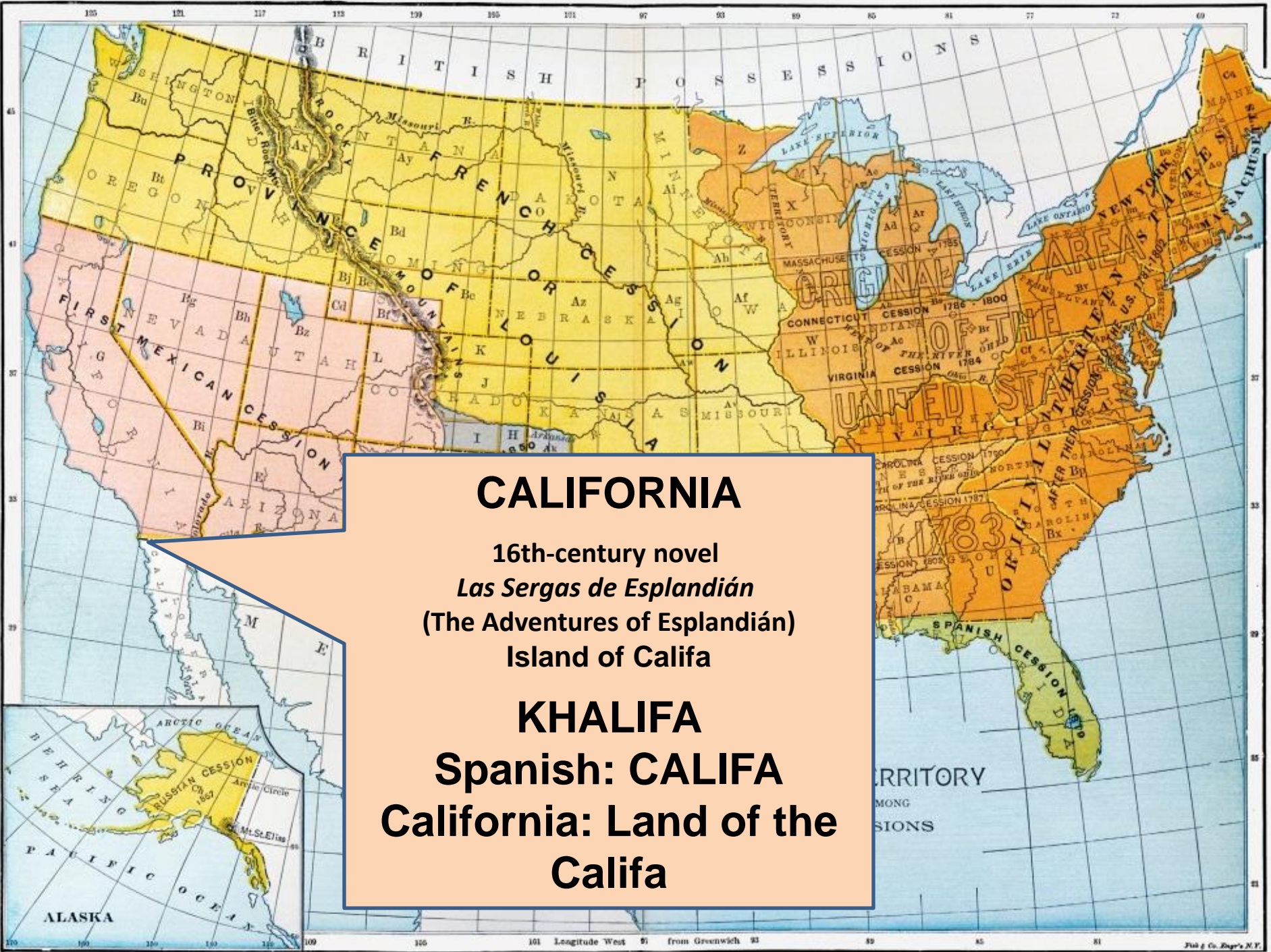




**CALIFORNIA**  
**KHALIFA**

AND ITS DISTRIBUTION AMONG  
POLITICAL DIVISIONS  
1776-1884.

**ALASKA**



# CALIFORNIA

16th-century novel  
*Las Sergas de Esplandián*  
(The Adventures of Esplandián)  
Island of Califa

# KHALIFA

Spanish: CALIFA  
California: Land of the  
Califa



# **Enslaved Immigrants – 1700s – 1860s**

**Mostly slaves – Up to 10 - 30% Muslim**

**Anglicized names; most not allowed to practice Islam openly**

1650s to 1808 – Active, legal indentured servant/slave trade; 100s of thousands;

1808 – “Importing” slaves to USA declared illegal

1808 to 1860s – African slaves to Florida & Louisiana, etc.; Some smuggled to US

Total African slaves to Americas: 10 - 13 M (1.5 M died in transport)

Most to South America and Caribbean rubber/sugar plantations

Total slaves to USA: ~1 M.

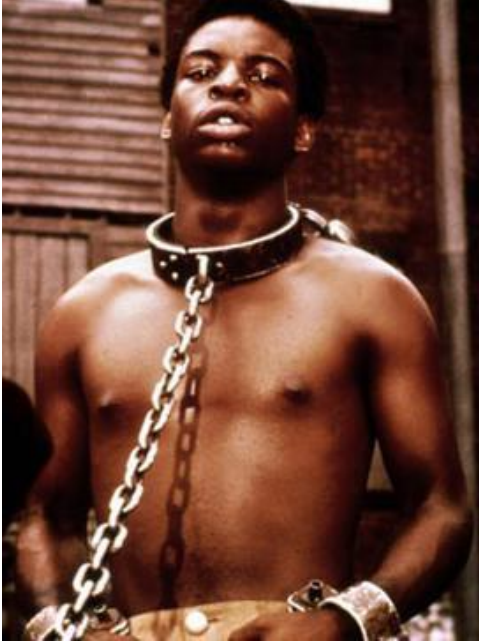
Peak USA slave population mid-1800s: 4 M (includes descendants)

**Likely, ~ 1 Million Muslims/Descendants resident in USA in mid-1800s**

50 M Europeans to Americas in 19<sup>th</sup> century

# Kunta Kinte 1750 – 1822

## African Muslim Enslaved 1767



“The thin blue smoke went curling up pungent and pleasant over the small and dusty village of round mud huts as the nasal wailing of Kajaladenba the village *almamou* began calling men to the first of five daily prayers that had been offered up to Allah for as long as anyone living could remember.”

## ***Roots, the Saga of an American Family*; Alex Haley 1976**

TV miniseries 1977, 2016

Fact & Fiction (Overall story/culture accurate; details in dispute)

**Were there really Muslim slaves?**



# 500 Years of Islam in America

## How do we know?

1770s – War records: Muslims fought for colonies:

Yusuf Ben Ali, “Turks of South Carolina” community

Peter Salem (2<sup>nd</sup> generation slave), freed to fight in Massachusetts

1803 – *Practical Rules for the Management and Medical Treatment of Negro Slaves in the Sugar Colonies* – advised that Muslims “are excellent for the care of cattle and horses, and for domestic service but little qualified for the ruder labours of the field, to which they never ought to be applied.”

1853 – Charles Ball, freed slave, autobiography – Had never heard of Islam, but “*saw several Mohammadan slaves praying five-times a day*”

Ref: *African Muslims in Antebellum America*,” Allan D. Austin; Also, [aeon.co](http://aeon.co)

# Ayub Suleiman Diallo

1734 – *Some Memoirs of the Life of Job Ben Solomon*, T. Bluett

(oldest text of African American literature)

Muslim nobleman, enslaved 1730 -- 1733

Argued for freedom and returned to England, then Gambia

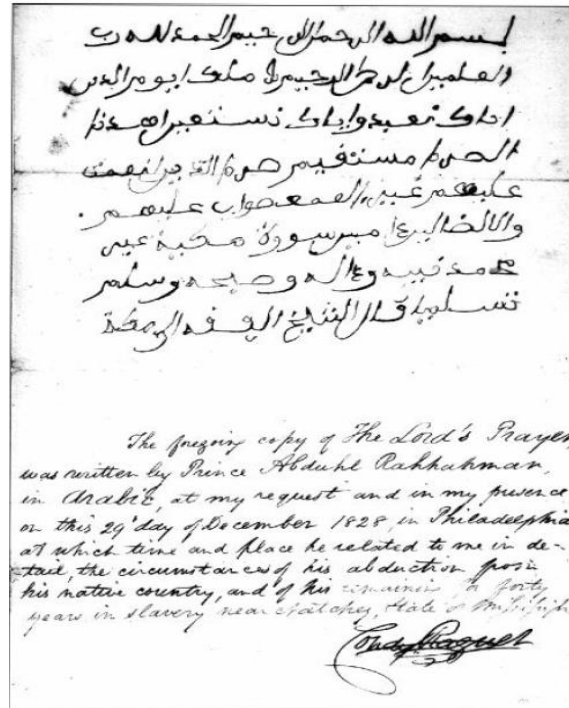
Painted Portrait  
William Hoare  
England 1733



# Abdul Rahman Ibrahima – “Prince Among Slaves”

Muslim Nobleman; enslaved 1788 – freed 1828

Intriguing series of events – Dr/Businessman; Sultan of Morocco, US Secretary of State; US President; US clergy



Unity Productions Foundation  
2013

**Statement with Regard to the Moorish Prince, Abduhl Rahhahman, 1828, Rev. Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet - Fundraiser**

**Prince Among Slaves, 2007, Terry Alford**

# Omar Ibn Said (1770 – 1864)

Muslim scholar in Senegal for 25-years – arithmetic to religion

1807 -- Enslaved and sold in North Carolina -- 37-years old!

Fourteen Arabic manuscripts – mostly Islamic texts, e.g., Quran

1831 – Autobiographical essay: *The Life of Omar Ibn Said*

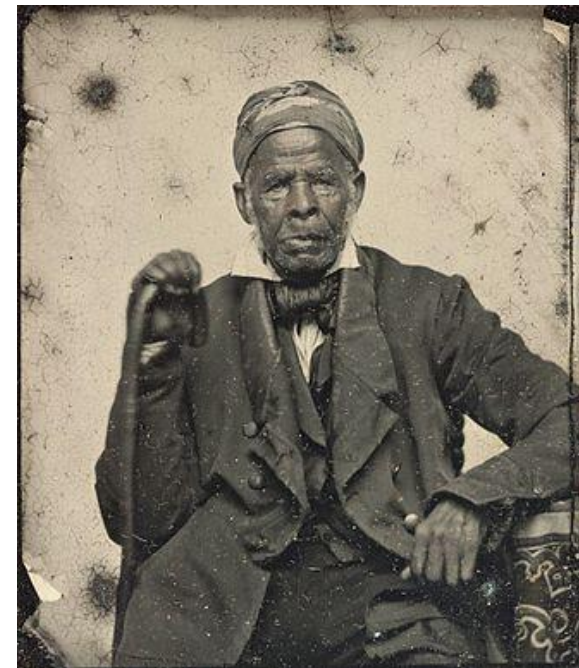
*Original at Library of Congress, available on-line*

Steadfast adherence to Islam,  
Openness towards other "God-fearing" people,  
Kindness of his owner/family in later years  
Mix of Islam and Christianity

Begins with *Al Mulk*:

*Blessed is He [God] in whose hand lies  
sovereignty, and He is powerful over all  
things....*

*i.e., slave-masters have no  
sovereignty over slaves*



c. 1850

# Bilali Muhammad Almamy – Sapelo Island, Georgia

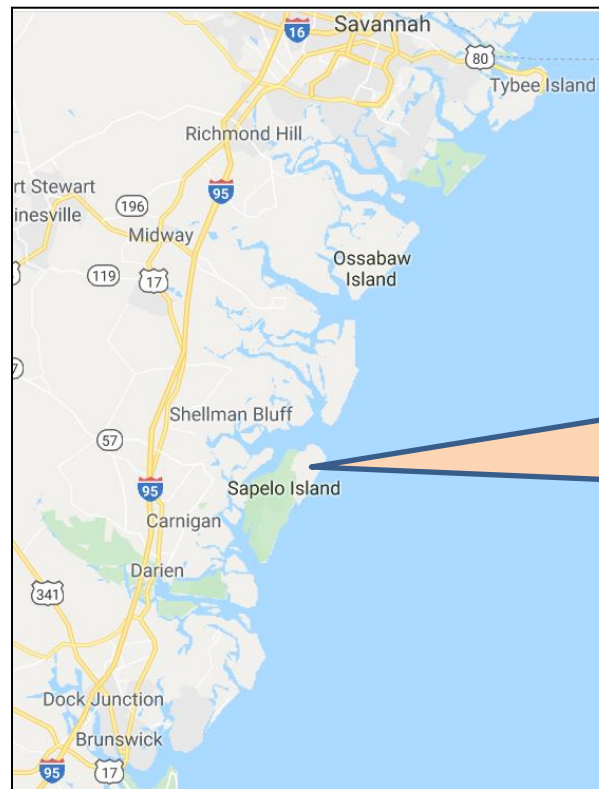
1770-1857

Overseer of 500 slaves (all of Sapelo Island)

Rice and cotton plantations

Maintained a “Mosque”

Wrote 13-page book of (recalled) Islamic law/practice



**SAPELO ISLAND**

**“Geechee”  
(Gullah)**

Original book at  
Rare Book Library  
University of Georgia

# **Muslim Contributions to Early Americas**

**Largely indistinguishable from those of other slaves**

**Plantation labor – Foundation of the Southern Economy**

**Construction of the White House**

**Midwifery for blacks and whites**

**Slave-overseers (Muslims preferred)**

**Communications with native tribes (Muslims preferred)**

## **How did slavery end?**

1808 – “Importing” slaves to USA declared illegal

1842 – US/British blockade of African coast; Slave trade largely stopped

1863 – last African slave ship unloaded in Alabama

1860 -1865 – Civil War >> Emancipation of all slaves in US

Sharecropping and inmate forced labor followed.....

# **500 Years of Islam in America**

## **Middle Years – Organic Growth 1865 -- 1965**

### **Relatively little Muslim immigration**

**Late 1800s – 1920s: US mostly Europeans and Christians from Ottoman Empire, along with some Asians, and few from MENA**

**1924 – Johnson – Reed Act prevented immigration from Asia, set country-by-country quotas on immigrants from the Eastern Hemisphere – virtually none from Asia/MENA**

### **Migration within USA**

**1862 – Homestead Act encouraged Western migration**

**Small filing fee and five-years continuous residence**

**Given 160 acres of public land**

**Jobs: Cities, including Detroit – Ford Motor Company**

**Muslims migrated west, along with others**

**Former slaves/descendants migrated north (6 M) – labor for industries...**

**Communities multiplied; mosques were built...**

# Earliest Mosques in USA

**~1800(?) Sapelo Island, GA**

**1893 – New York, NY –**

**1915 – Biddleford, MA – Albanian Muslims (first immigrated 1880)**

**1921 – Detroit/Highland Park, MI – Ford Motor Company employees**



**1922 Al Sadiq Mosque, Chicago, IL**



# Earliest Purpose-Built Mosques Still Standing in USA



1929 Ross, ND\*



1934  
Cedar Rapids, IA



**Mosque implies cohesive community with strong family ties and moral values; focus on education**

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\* Homestead Act

# Mosque History in USA

1800s – Few, isolated “mosques”

1930 – A few mosques

1970 – 100 to 1000+ mosques(?)

2000 – 1209 mosques

2010 – 2106 mosques

2011 – 266 mosques in Texas;

2018 – 338 mosques in Texas



Lanham, MD



Irving, TX



Dearborn, MI

# 500 Years of Islam in America

## Black Muslim Variations

**1913 – Moorish Science Temple (Noble Drew Ali – Prophet?)**  
... Love, Truth, Peace, Freedom, and Justice in your relations with mankind in general; 35,000 people, 17 Temples;



**1929 – Nation of Islam; W.D. Fard Muhammad, Founder**  
Goal: “...teach the downtrodden and defenseless Black people a thorough Knowledge of God and of themselves, and to put them on the road to Self-Independence:

Basic beliefs generally consistent with Islam;

Some not consistent with Islam

(e.g.; WDF Muhammad is God incarnate; Black Supremacy)

**1964 – NOI Leader Malcolm X converted to mainstream Islam;**  
**Many followed – strong presence in Muslim communities** ←

**Today, 25% (1 - 2 M) mainstream US Muslims are Black**

# 500 Years of Islam in America

## Recent Immigration – late 1900s – Today

### South Asia, Middle East/North Africa, and Asia-Pacific

#### 1965 US Immigration and Naturalization Act

Focused on re-uniting families and skilled labor vs. national quotas

Lowered barriers for Asians and Africans (non-Europeans)

Selected nationalities – Population of immigrants (foreign-born) in US; 2016

Afghan – 73,000

Nigerian – 282,000

Bangladeshi – 219,000

Pakistani – 370,000

Egyptian – 185,000

Palestinian – 40,000

Indonesian – 103,000

Saudi Arabian – 86,000

Iranian – 403,000

Somalian – 92,000

Iraqi – 210,000

Syrian – 84,000

Kenyan – 123,000

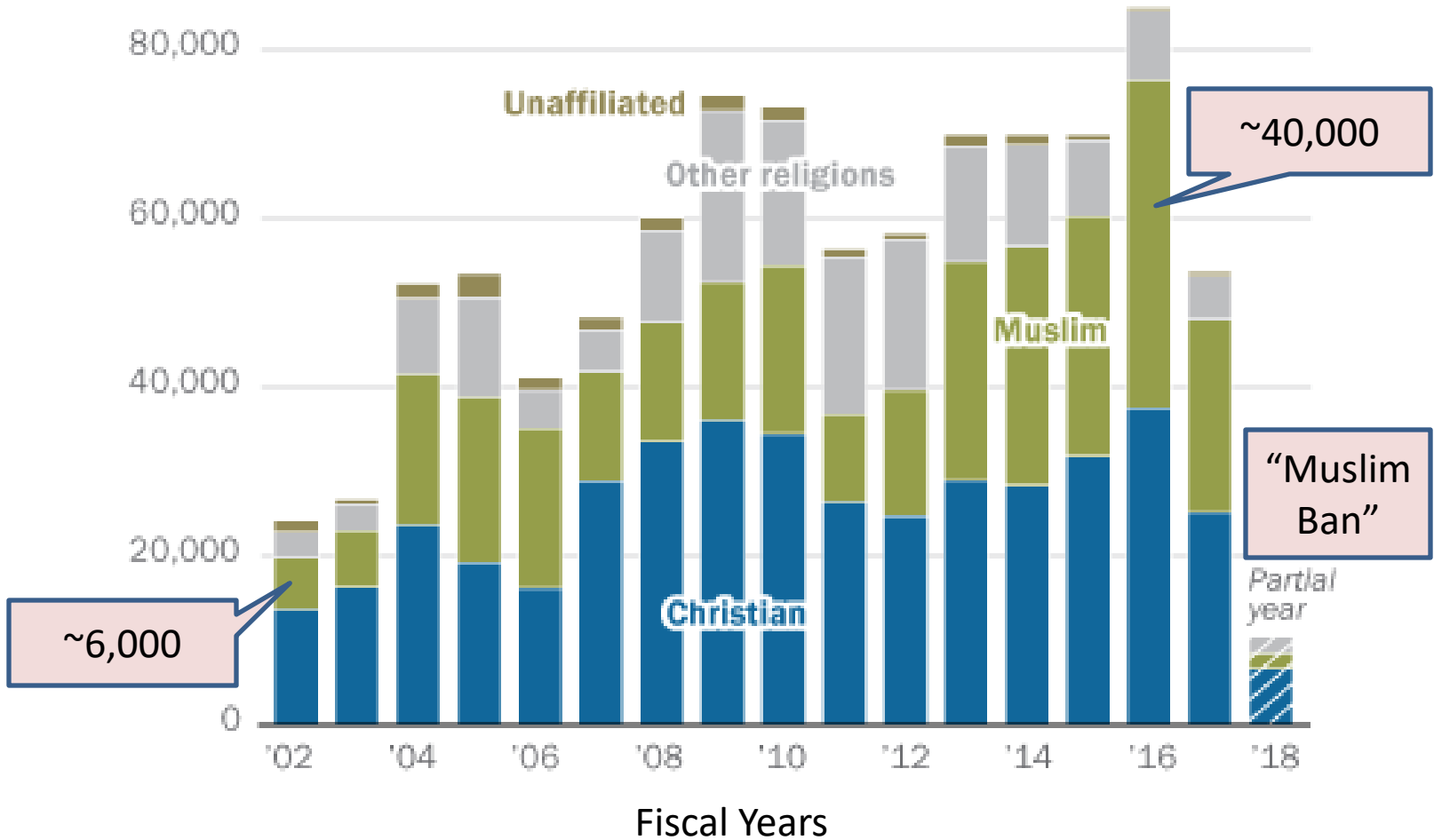
Turkish – 373,000

Indian – 2.3 M (15% >> 300,000 Muslims?)

**NOT all  
Muslims!**

**Most are  
Muslims**

*Refugee arrivals by religious affiliation, fiscal year*



Pew Research Center  
US State Dept Data 2018

# **500 Years of Islam in America**

## **Hispanic/Latino Muslims**

**Most Latinos – Catholic Christians (Inquisition; disaffection for Moors)**

**1970s onward – Many Conversions to Islam**

**In Latin America**

**In US – larger cities: Black-majority mosques  
Prisons**

**} Disenfranchised;  
Shared experience**

**Seeking sense of social justice for minorities/poor**

**200,000 – 500,000 Latino Muslims in the US today; growing rapidly**

**New York, New Jersey, Illinois, Florida, Michigan,  
Massachusetts, Texas (Houston), Arizona, California**

# **500 Years of Islam in America**

## **Muslims in USA Today**

### **2018 Pew Research Study**

**58% ( 2 to 4 M) of Muslims are immigrants (42% born here)**

**56% (1 to 2 M) of these arrived since 2000**

**From 75 countries (57 countries are Muslim-majority; 20% Arab)**

**Top three areas: South Asia; ME/North Africa; Asia Pacific**

**No single racial or ethnic majority (Self-identified)**

**White 45%; Asian 41%; Hispanic 8% Other 6%**

**Total US Muslims 3.5 Million (other estimates as high as 8 M)**

**Black 25%; White 24%; Asian 18%; Arab 18%;**

**Mixed Race 7%; Hispanic 5%; and Other 3%**

**Highly diverse; no dominant majority**

# US Muslim Population 1950 -- Present

1965 Immigration & Naturalization Act

Increases due to:  
Immigration  
Conversions  
Births > Deaths  
-----  
Data collection(?)

YEAR	USA
1950	205,000
1960	240,000
1970	1.0 M
1980	2.9 M
1990	4.0 M
2000	5.0 M
2010	7.0 M
2020	8.0 M (?)

+35,000

+2,000,000

"Muslim Ban," etc.?

International Journal of Environmental Science & Development, June 2010  
-- uses government census data when available.

▪  
(Pew 2017)



# “Other” American (non-US) Muslims

Today – 5 Million (41 countries and dependencies)

Argentina 1 M (2%)

Brazil 1.5 M (1% -- 150 mosques; schools, libraries)

Canada 1 M (3%; up from 1% in 1990)

Panama 24,000 (<1%)

**Surname (Formerly British Dutch)**

Indian (S. Asia) 25%

Muslim 50,000\* (7%)

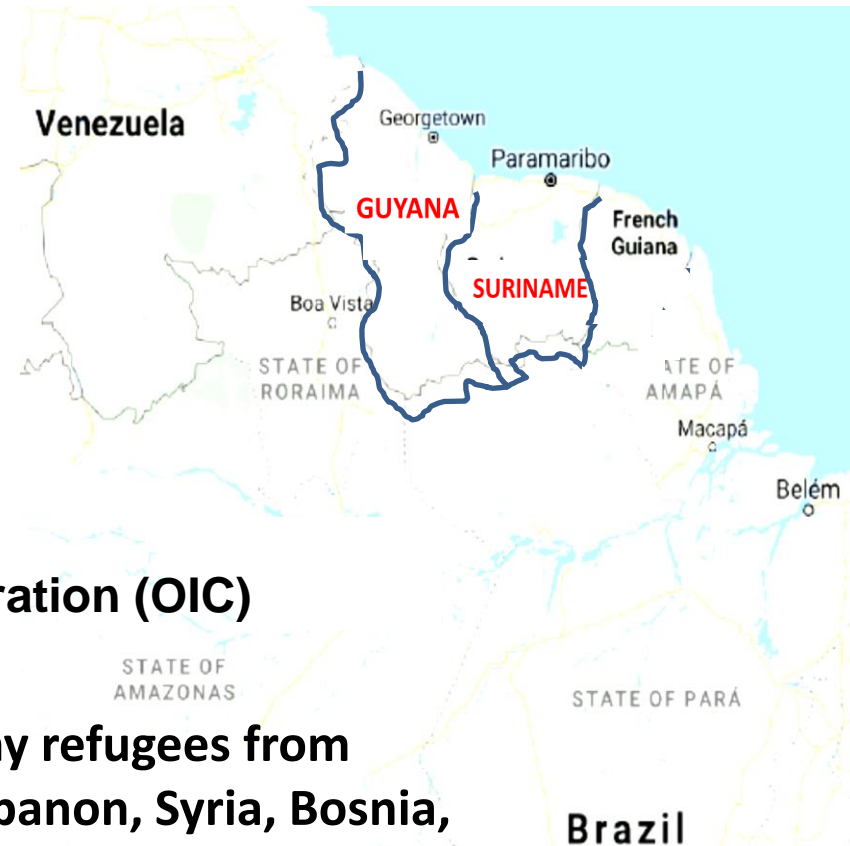
**Guyana (Formerly Dutch British)**

Indian (S. Asia) 25+%

Muslim 50,000\* (7%)

Eids – National holidays

Organization for Islamic Cooperation (OIC)



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\*Many origins; including recently, many refugees from violence – WWI, Ottoman collapse, Lebanon, Syria, Bosnia, Yemen, Palestine, S. Asia, Indonesia, Turkey, Afghanistan

# Muslims Have Assimilated

Pew and Gallop research; UPF Film\*

(Percent)	US Muslims	US Population
Watch entertainment TV	58	62
Recycle household materials	75	76
Follow college/prof sports	48	47
Attend house of worship regularly	47	45
Believe religion is important	69	70
Believe adherents of other religions may have a pathway to salvation	56	52
Believe that killing civilians is never justified	89	71

*\*American Muslims: Fact vs. Fiction, 2015*

# Muslims Make Growing Contributions

Skilled labor of all types

Skilled professionals – Doctors, nurses, engineers, technicians

70% of physicians in Las Vegas

100+ free medical clinics

Business owners (24% vs. 17% national average)

Local, state, and federal government officials (26 elected 11/05/2019)

Armed forces (currently ~9000 active)

First responders

Athletes

Support charities – 3000 communities

Support for attacked churches and synagogues

400 blood drives per year

Homeless support

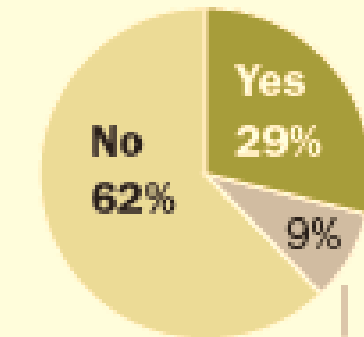
**Many, but not all, are 1<sup>st</sup>  
generation immigrants**

# Muslims' Place in US Society

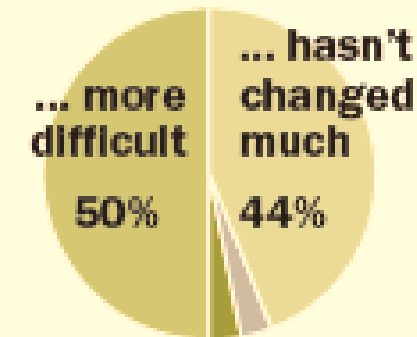
Pew Research 2017

Portion of	<u>Immigrant Muslims</u>	<u>US-born Muslims</u>	<u>Total US Population</u>
Proud to be American	93%	90%	91%
Satisfied with Life in USA	81%	78%	76%

Do American people see Islam as part of mainstream society?



Other/depends/DK



... easier 3%  
DK/ref. 3%

In recent years, being Muslim in the US has gotten...

# **500-Years of Islam in America**

## **Overall View**

**Muslims have been in the Americas continuously since 1400s**

**The number of Muslims in America has grown steadily from a few to a few million**

**Muslims are present all around the US and many other American countries**

**American Muslims are a highly diverse group with no majority race or ethnicity**

**Muslims are assimilating into the fabric of American society**

**American Muslims made and continue to make significant contributions  
to their communities, their states, and the nation**

**American Muslims continue to struggle to receive the recognition and acceptance  
that they have earned**

# **QUESTIONS?**

**Next session of this series:**

**“The Miraculous Birth”  
December 5, 2019**