

American Muslims – History & Contributions

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History

- More than 700 years
- 1312 – Mali Muslims by boat
- 1492 – Columbus discovered America
- 1527 – land crossing by Moroccan Muslims
- 1700 & 1800s – slaves from West Africa
- Roots, Alex Haley, Kenta Kenta

History

- 1776 – 400,000 slaves, 25-30% Muslims
- Union Army – 5-6 Muslim soldiers
- 1800-1900 dealt with Ottoman Empire
- 1830 Friendship Treaty with Ottoman Empire
- Thomas Jefferson – Studies Holy Qur'an, Library of Congress
- 1893 – Alexander Russell Webb, US Ambassador to Philippines accepts Islam. Mosque & Mission in New York City, NY

History

- Nation of Islam – African American Muslims
- New York State, Missouri & Illinois with large Muslim Population
- Malcom X, Waris Deen Mohammad
- Immigration & Nationality Act 1965 – more highly skilled professionals from Arab & SE Asia like India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, etc.

History

Population	10-15M
African-American	35%
South East Asia	35%
Arabs	25%
Others	5%

Islam

- Stands for peace, justice, moderation, tolerance, peaceful co-existence within community
- Against racism, bigotry, discrimination based on color, creed, ethnicity or national origin
- Condemns all form of terrorism
- Terrorism has no religion

Islam

- Islam means peace – peace of mind, heart, consciousness, family & society
- Common belief with other religions
- Oneness of God, Prophets & Scripture
- Concept of heaven & hell, hereafter & accountability
- 5 Pillars of Islam:
 - Shahadah – Testimony of Faith
 - Salat – 5 daily prayers
 - Saum – Fasting during the month of Ramadan
 - Zakat – Charity for the needy
 - Hajj – Pilgrimage to Mecca, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Contributions

- Approximately 20,000 American-Muslim doctors
- 10% of all doctors in United States
- Clinton, IA has 16 of them
- Quad Cities Area has approximately 50
- Approximately 100 free medical clinics serving poor & underprivileged
- Major contributor at times of disasters
 - Los Angeles, CA – Ummah Clinic
 - Chicago, IL – Inner City Muslim Action Network (IMAN)
 - Dearborn, MI – ACCESS Clinic
 - Helping Hand for Relief and Development – one of the top 10 charities in US

Contributions

- Dr. Fazlur Rahman Khan, Bangladeshi-American
- Einstein of Structural Engineering
- Pioneered a new structural system of frame tubes that revolutionized construction of skyscrapers
- Some of his work includes:
 - John Hancock Tower, Chicago, IL
 - Willis Tower (formerly Sears Tower), Chicago, IL
 - US Bank Center, Milwaukee, WI
 - Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome, Minneapolis, MI
- For 25 years, Willis Tower held the title of tallest building in the world

Contributions

- In 1963, Dr. Ayub Ommaya, Pakistani-American Neurosurgeon invented an intraventricular catheter system of brain to remove CSF fluid or deliver medications like chemotherapy directly to the site of tumor
- Saved number of lives, reduced pain & suffering
- Developed first coma score for classification of traumatic brain injury for prevention & control

Contributions

- First edible cone invented
- Ice-cream vendors ran short of serving dishes
- In 1904 at the St. Louis Worlds Fair held in St. Louis, MI, a Syrian Immigrant Earnest Hamwi rolled Zalabia, a waffle into conical shape to contain ice-cream
- First edible cone invented

Contributions

- In 1999, Ahmed Zewail, Egyptian-American won the Noble prize for Chemistry
- He was known as “Father of Femtochemistry” who pioneered reasearch in the observation of rapid molecular transformations
- Professor of Chemsitry & Physics at Caltech Institue of Technology, Pasadena, CA and Directory of Physical Biology Center
- In 2011, he served as an Advisor to President Obama on Science, Technology & Innovation

Contributions

- Mark Humayun, Pakistani-American
 - Director of USC Roski Eye Institute, Los Angeles, CA
 - Director of USC Institute of Biomedical Therapeutics, Los Angeles, CA
- In May 2016, received the highest award in Biomedical Engineering for achievement in Technology by President Obama
- Helped create bionic eye that has restored vision to blind patients for upto 50years
- Holds more than 100 patent in this field

Contributions

- Salman Hamadani (1977 – 2001)
 - First responder on 9/11
 - Died while saving lives
- Kareem Rashad Sultan Khan (1987 – 2007)
 - Recipient of Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart
 - Died while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom
- Several hundreds American-Muslims died in the twin-tower attack

Contribution in Clinton, IA

- Writing article in newspaper
- Medical articles for education of local community and abroad
- Participate in annual awareness walk for Stop the Hate
- Cooperation with Sisters of St. Francis and Clinton Ministerial Association
- Contributions to Victorty Center and MLK Celebrations, Food Pantry, etc.

Similarities

- American-Muslims are similar to the rest of American population in terms of:
 - Importance of religion in life
 - Condemning acts of terrorism
 - Visiting places of worship
 - Watching sports

American-Muslims Leaders

- Sports
 - Mohammad Ali – Heavyweight professional boxer
 - Kareem Abdul Jabbar – Professional basketball player in NBA
- Community
 - Imam Siraj – Leader of Muslim Alliance of North America
 - Malcolm X – Human Rights Activist
- Journalists
 - Fareed Zakaria – Journalist & Author
- Politics
 - Keith Ellison(D-MN)
 - Andre Carson(D-IN)
- Military – approximately 6000
- Lawyers, Doctors, Mayors, Judges, CEOs, Actors, Rappers, Comedians, etc.

Islamophobia

- August 2011 Center Report, fear link documented based on IRS information
- \$42.6M flowed from 7 foundations over 10 years to support Islamophobia authors and website
- According to Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) report in 2013, “Legislating Fear: Islamophobia and its impact in the United States”
- Between 2008-11, \$119M spent on Islamophobia

Conclusion

- Islam has a lot in common with Christianity & Judaism
- Rich history and immense contribution
- Highly professionals, want to live in peace & harmony within the community
- Must share common ideas and activities, remove misunderstanding to fight Islamophobia

American Muslims

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