

the European example of importing a full 50 percent of its immigrants from Muslim lands. Canadian politicians hope to increase the tax base and population levels of the country, but they will succeed only in tearing apart the fabric of their own society as non-Western ideals and domineering Islamic demands become ascendant. Europe's woes with Islam will shortly visit Canada.

As Western nations import more Muslims to shore up their own declining populations and birthrates, the political and cultural structure of the domestic polity will inevitably change. Now existent across the Western world are Muslim demands for sharia law; the Millet system (where Arabs who constitute a majority in a certain area of a Western city would, by law, own the land); and separate, publicly funded Muslim education systems will only grow in strength. This says nothing of the dangers of Islamic cells and terrorist groups infiltrating and damaging Western society and attacking it from within.

The "clash of civilizations" between the West and Islam is not, however, a monolithic struggle. Muslim, Arab, or Islamic nations have different political systems, cultures, beliefs, and histories and are not united into a monolithic Islam. In that sense Islam cannot be considered as a bloc. Iran, which funds international terror and calls for a worldwide caliphate, cannot be considered the same as Morocco, a kingdom openly allied with the West and pro-American. However, militant Islam is a worldwide threat and a phenomenon based on Islamic and pagan cultist belief. While most Muslims are peaceful and want to live undisturbed, the ideology and pagan nature of the Islamic religion have inspired political fascism and terror in the name of an ideology. What then promotes such intolerance and the jihadic spirit within Islam? The total constructs of the Koran and the sharia (which is vague and differs by locality but which nonetheless allows complete societal control) provide the stimulation for Islamic violence and hate.

At the core of Islam is the Qur'an, or Koran, believed to be the final revelation by a transcendent Allah (a pagan moon deity) to Mohammed, the "prophet" of Islam. Remarkably, the "divine word" was somehow revealed only in Arabic. Due to this, Muslims must practice their religion only in the Arabic tongue. Muslims believe in a final reward and punishment and the unity of the umma, or community of Islam, sometimes called the nation of Islam (which is the name of a far left black Islamic group in the USA dedicated to establishing an American caliphate). Obviously, the Islamic idea transcends borders and national identities. Muslims submit to Allah through *arkan ad-din*, the five basic requirements or so-called pillars of the Islamic faith, namely: *shahadah*, the affirmation that "there is no god but God, and Mohammed is the messenger of God"; *salah*, the five daily ritual prayers; *zakat*, the giving of alms, also known as a religious tax; *sawm*, the dawn-to-sunset fast during the lunar month of Ramadan; and *hajj*, the pilgrimage to Mecca. A sixth pillar, *jihad*, mandating war against nonbelievers was added after Mohammed's death. Though there is some disagreement as to what exactly *jihad*

means (with Muslims and apologists stating that it means enlightenment), it is clear that jihad is a duty to either convert or destroy non-Muslims.<sup>76</sup>

The two main branches of Islam, regardless of bloody infighting over money and power, have more in common and more to unify them than to divide them, especially in light of Western superiority. Sunni, meaning tradition, is the largest division of Islam. Sunni Islam is the heir to the early Islamic state, since it supports the order of succession of the first four caliphs in contrast to the Shiite rejection of the first three as usurpers. Sunni Islam comprises close to 90 percent of the approximately 1.3 billion Muslims and covers the Muslim ideological spectrum from Sufism to the extremist Wahhabism and Salafism and through to secularism. Sunni scholars (*ulama*), together with mystic leaders (*shaykhs*) and popular saints (*awliya*), enjoy varying degrees of authority. The prime Sunni center of scholasticism and intellectual leadership is the mosque-university of al-Azhar, in Cairo.

The second largest branch of Islam is the Shia, which accounts for 10-15 percent of all Muslims. Iran is the only Shia-dominated state, with Iraq also containing a large number of Shias (about 50 percent of the twenty-four million). Shiite Islam originated as a political movement supporting Ali (a cousin and son-in-law of Mohammed) as the rightful leader of the worldwide Islamic state. The legitimacy of this claim is based on Mohammed's alleged designation of Ali as his successor. Ali's right to rule was passed on, after his death in AD 661, to his son Hasan (who chose not to claim it), and after Hasan's death, to Husayn, Ali's younger son. The evolution into a religious doctrine opposed to "traditional" Sunnism started with the martyrdom of Husayn in AD 680 at Karbala, Iraq, a traumatic event still observed with bloody fervor in today's Shiite world.<sup>77</sup>

Though Islam has these two major sects and multiple subsects and is riven by nationalism and by nation-state differences, at the most common and basic level, there is undoubtedly an Islamic and Arab-Turkic spirit within the Muslim world.<sup>78</sup> Both Shias and Sunnis have been, and are now, engaged in mass jihad and terror against both "moderate" Muslims and non-Islamic targets. Both sects

<sup>76</sup> Islam views the message of Mohammed as the continuation and the fulfillment of a lineage of prophecy that includes figures from the Hebrew scriptures and the New Testament, notably Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, and Jesus. The chief angels of Mohammed's cult are Gabriel and Michael, and the devil is actually represented by little demons named jinn. Besides submission, other Islamic obligations include the duty to "commend good and reprimand evil"; injunctions against usury and gambling; and prohibitions of alcohol and pork. Meat is permitted if the animal was ritually slaughtered; it is then called halal.

<sup>77</sup> See M. Momen, *An Introduction to Shii Islam* (1985); G. E. Fuller and R. R. Francke, *The Arab Shi'a* (2000).

<sup>78</sup> For more details on the "sameness" of the two sects and the Shia observance of the twelve imams, see [http://islam.about.com/cs/divisions/f/shia\\_sunni.htm](http://islam.about.com/cs/divisions/f/shia_sunni.htm).