

How Can *Moderate Muslims* Practice Islam?

The simple answer to this question is: **They can't**. In fact, as we explain in this essay, Islam presents *very few options* for those who would present themselves as "Moderate Muslims".

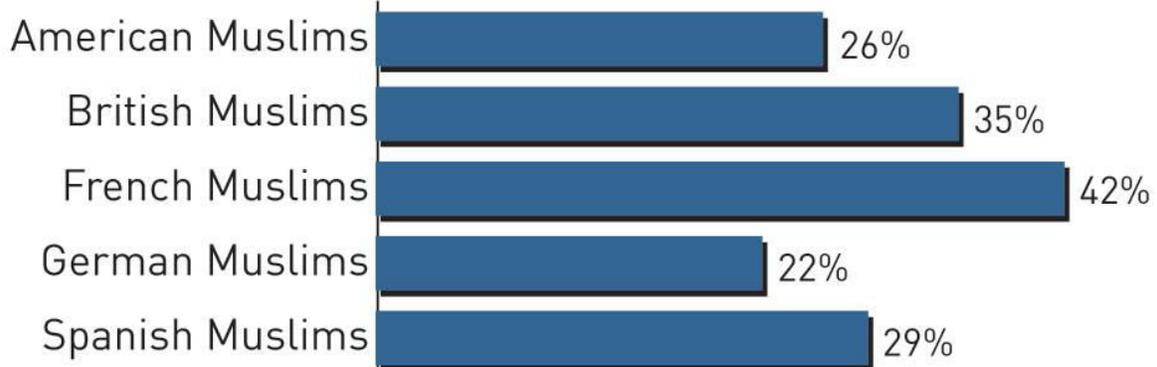
What is a "Moderate Muslim"? Based on the kind of society they desire for America and the West, there are **two kinds of Muslims**:

1. Those who **promote or support the imposition of Sharia law on Western society**, and who, according to credible polls, represent an alarmingly high percentage of Muslims world-wide.¹
2. Those who **do not wish to see Sharia law imposed** and who prefer to assimilate into Western society.

Assimilated?

Relatively high levels of support for suicide bombing among younger American Muslims resemble patterns found among European Muslims

Muslims, 18-29, who believe suicide bombings against non-Muslims "can be justified":



Source: Pew Research Center

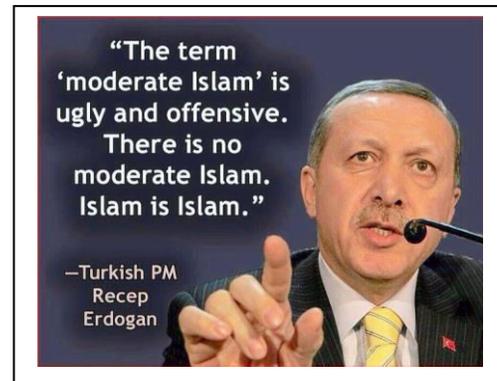
The first group are often called "**Islamist**." They can also be called "**Radical**" Muslims (in the sense that "radical" means returning to Islam's roots, i.e., the Koran and Muhammad's example). **It is also perfectly fitting to call them "orthodox" Muslims** as they subscribe to Islam in its purest form. Their support for the imposition of Sharia law can be silent (tacit), which may make it impossible for others to identify them. **It is into the second group that those who identify themselves as "Moderate Muslims" fall.**

The issue of How to Approach Islam is easy as pie for radical/orthodox Muslims - they have the Islamic scriptures and derived Sharia law as their recipe books. *For the "Moderate" Muslims, the problem is a far harder one to confront:*

¹ <http://www.thereligionofpeace.com/pages/opinion-polls.htm>

As **there is no "moderate" version of Islam**, "Moderate Muslims" are forced to confront Islam, pure and unadulterated. Which prompts the question:

Can Islam's scriptures be re-interpreted to make them compatible with Judeo-Christian/Western ethical and moral norms? As much as "Moderate Muslims" would like to do so, **this is impossible** - the meaning and intent of these writings are all-too-clear and have been reinforced by the greatest Islamic thinkers throughout the 14 centuries of Islam's existence. The message, shouted at the reader from almost every page of the Koran, is *Jihad, Jihad, and more Jihad*. (*"And fight them until there is no more Fitnah (disbelief and polytheism: i.e. worshipping others besides Allah) and the religion (worship) will all be for Allah Alone [in the whole of the world ."] Qur'an 8:39*). Both Christians and Jews (among others) are railed against throughout the Koran, 64% of which has been found to be devoted to the management of infidels (unbelievers)!² In fact, the Koran is laced throughout with the most vile Jew-hatred, even more than in Hitler's *Mein Kampf*! And, in Italy, Islam is not even recognized as an official religion! In addition, steps have been taken in Russia, India, and the Netherlands to have the Koran banned as "hate speech!"^{3,4,5}



Any re-interpretation of the scriptures that departs from orthodox Muslim thinking would be blasphemy. So, if "Moderate Muslims" want to be intellectually honest, they are left with essentially **only two choices**: (a) **Tamper with the Islamic scriptures** to make them more palatable, or (b) **Leave Islam altogether and, in doing so, be declared an apostate, subject to the death penalty under Sharia law.**

(a) **Tampering with the scriptures** would mean having to acknowledge that the Koran is not the sacred, timeless word of Allah. If actually attempted, this gargantuan task would mean having to

- Correct the blatant corruption of the Jewish and Christian scriptures found in the Koran
- Acknowledge Muhammad's profound character and moral defects⁶
- Revoke the Doctrine of Abrogation⁷
- Revoke the Islamic Doctrines of Deception⁸
- Eliminate all references to infidels and the fate that awaits them
- Revise the Sharia law based on the above
- Proclaim and teach the "revised" Islam to their fellow Muslims

Are any or all of these "reforms" even remotely possible? Can you picture the bizarre and tiny amount of text that would emerge as the "new" Islamic scriptures after such an exercise has run its course?

² http://www.cspipublishing.com/statistical/pdf/Statistical_Islam.pdf

³ <http://www.theguardian.com/books/booksblog/2013/oct/08/russian-court-bans-quran-translation>

⁴ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Calcutta_Quran_Petition

⁵ <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/1559877/Ban-Koran-like-Mein-Kampf-says-Dutch-MP.html>

⁶ <http://www.thereligionofpeace.com/Muhammad/myths-mu-home.htm>

⁷ Islam's Doctrine of Abrogation is the supercession of "peaceful" verses in the earlier, Meccan, portions of the Koran by the aggressive or violent verses found in the later, Medinan, portion.

⁸ <http://www.meforum.org/2095/islams-doctrines-of-deception>

One of the few prominent Muslims who have advocated this approach is **M. Zuhdi Jasser, M.D.** This affable physician, who once served as a Lieutenant Commander in the US Navy, is regularly presented in the media as *the* finest example of a "Moderate Muslim." Dr. Jasser is Founder and President of the *American Islamic Forum for Democracy* (AIFD), an organization that, despite having been founded shortly after 9/11, boasts only around 100 members. Jasser draws ire from all parts of the spectrum: Islamists refer to him as an "Islamic Uncle Tom," and true scholars of Islam are quick to criticize him for what they correctly perceive as his dishonest approach to Islam. His *magnum opus*⁹ contains vanishingly few concrete proposals along the lines of those suggested above, and are not worthy of serious consideration *as even a starting point* for reforming Islam.

(b) **Openly leave Islam altogether**, and perhaps convert to another religion. A few brave souls (such as Ibn Warraq and Walid Shoebat) have done so. Such individuals require body-guards, are forced to keep knowledge of their whereabouts secret, and are sometimes driven to assume a new identity. *Any takers?*

So, what options are *actually* available to "Moderate Muslims"? **Very few indeed.** In practice, these are the most commonly adopted ones:

- They remain silent about their Muslim identity and beliefs (or lack of them).
- They feign ignorance when confronted by others about their faith, or attempt to change the subject when so confronted.
- When possessed of incomplete, inaccurate, or a white-washed knowledge of their faith, they speak glowingly about subjects such as The Five Pillars of Islam.
- They attempt, out of guilt, to represent Islam as somehow compatible with other religions by engaging in "interfaith dialogue" with Jewish or Christian groups. This class of "dialogue" invariably falls into the "schmoozing" category of "dialogue" described by us elsewhere.¹⁰

In conclusion: It is clear that **there are essentially no good options available that allow a "Moderate Muslim" to proclaim his Islamic identity with pride and integrity.** The "Moderate Muslim" thus finds himself in a position akin to that of a *mouse driven into a corner by a cat*. As there are no credible ways for him to express himself religiously as a true Muslim, he is obliged to either shiver in silence or make a complete fool of himself spouting nonsense in the company of those who know better. *He is a pale ghost - barely a caricature - of what Muhammad meant a true Muslim to look like.* **He is simply a non-practicing, or secular, Muslim.**

⁹ M. Zuhdi Jasser: A Battle for the Soul of Islam: An American Muslim Patriot's Fight to Save His Faith. New York, NY: Threshold Edition, 2012.

¹⁰ America's Interfaith Dialogue with Muslims - A Guide in Due-diligence for Non-Muslims. www.SneakyIslam.com (link on home page).

"Moderate Muslims" are, indeed, a pathetic breed. Dr. Zuhdi Jasser, himself, is forced to admit that "Moderate Muslims have no platform." They are living a lie. Like Dr. Jasser, they are ostracized by mainstream Islam and **in the final analysis, like Jasser, they are irrelevant.**¹¹

Brigitte Gabriel, founder of ACT! for America, on the irrelevance of "Peaceful Muslims"

There are 1.2 billion Muslims in the world today. Of course, not all of them are radicals. The majority of them are peaceful people. The radicals are estimated to be between 15% to 25% according to all intelligence services around the world. That leaves 75% of them peaceful people. But when you look at 15% to 25% of the world's Muslim population, you're looking at 180-million to 300-million people dedicated to the destruction of Western civilization. That is as big as the United States. So why should we worry about their radical 15% to 25%? Because it is the radicals that kill, because it is the radicals that behead and massacre.

When you look throughout history, when you look at all the lessons of history: Most Germans were peaceful, yet the Nazis drove the agenda and as a result 60-million people died, almost 14-million in concentration camps, 6-million were Jews. The peaceful majority were irrelevant.

When you look at Russia, most Russians were peaceful as well, yet the Russians were able to kill 20-million people. The peaceful majority were irrelevant. When you look at China for example, most Chinese were peaceful as well, yet the Chinese were able to kill 70-million people. The peaceful majority were irrelevant.

When you look at Japan, prior to World War II most Japanese were peaceful as well, yet Japan was able to butcher its way across Southeast Asia killing 12-million people, most killed with bayonet and shovels. The peaceful majority were irrelevant.

On September 11th, we had 2.3-million Arab Muslims living in the United States. It took 19 hijackers - 19 radicals to bring America down to its knees, destroy the World Trade Center, attack the Pentagon and kill almost 3,000 Americans that day.

THE PEACEFUL MAJORITY WERE IRRELEVANT.

NOTE: Look for our other unique and original writings on Islam on our web site, *SneakyIslam.com*. These works include our comprehensive Guides to the **Holidays of Islam**, to the contentious issue of **Interfaith Dialogue with Muslims**, and to the thorny subject of **Workplace Accommodations for Muslims in America**. All are available on our home page for downloading free of charge.

¹¹ Watch this video showing Brigitte Gabriel conveying the message in the text box to a young Muslim woman:
<https://www.youtube.com/v/gq1BC95-VnQ&hd=1&autoplay=1>