

The Rise of Eurabia?



by a CMM affiliate

Not since the fall of Granada in 1492 and the subsequent Battle of Vienna in 1683 has the presence of Islam been felt so deeply in Western Europe. The rapid growth of Muslim communities has become the preminent sociopolitical and religious issue confronting all of Europe. The resulting conflict not only reverberates among European political and religious leaders, but is keenly felt by ordinary European citizens.

Nature of Growth

Muslim presence in Europe was minimal prior to 1945. The first wave of Muslims who came to Europe shortly after World War II were either those who emigrated from former European colonies as a consequence of decolonization or were “guest workers” recruited for industrial development in Europe. The first wave of Muslims coming to Europe breaks down roughly in 3 groups: (1) Muslims coming



Until All Have Heard

How then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? –Romans 10:14

Jim Bennett, Director
Center for
Ministry to Muslims



The Muslim population of Europe has doubled in the last ten years to approximately 20 million. Muslim expansionists have historically viewed Europe as a choice target, and Western Europe, in particular, as the crown jewel.

The Umayyad dynasty had carried Islam across North Africa by 711. In that year the Muslim general Tariq invaded and dominated Spain. Gibraltar was named after him. In 732, Muslim forces crossed the Pyrenees Mountains into France. At the Battle of Tours in France, Charles Martel led Christian armies against Muslim forces and defeated them. The Islamic advance into the heartland of Europe was stopped. In 1683, the Ottoman thrust from Constantinople eastward was also finally halted at the gates of Vienna.

Though two major Islamic military thrusts did not fully succeed, Muslim expansionists have never given up the dream of an Islamic Europe. Muslim radicals have a lot of patience. If the prize cannot be won through force, they are content to look to other means. The author of our lead article points out the delicate and growing problem of European immigration and the changing landscape of European demography.

“Demography,” said Auguste Comte, a 19th century French philosopher, “is destiny.” Note these examples of Europe’s demographic conundrum:

- If Germany ceased to accept immigration, then its current population of 80 million would shrink one quarter by 2050; in the same years the working population would fall from 41 to 26 million. Who will do the work?
- The new German leader, Angela Merkel, has expressed concern that if Muslim Turkey is given EU membership, “It would confer on Turks the right to move freely across Europe. About 75 percent of the Turks in the world who live outside Turkey are already in Germany.” Simply put, if Turkey is allowed membership, it will be the second most populous country in the entire EU.
- The French government argues that 75 million immigrants are needed over the next half century with the admission that Europe would be a hybrid society. This admission came just months before the recent car-burnings and street-rioting throughout France—done almost exclusively by unassimilated Muslim youths.

A “huge decision” confronts Europe, writes Jonathan Steele of the *Guardian*. If living standards are not to fall, EU countries

may have to allow a 60-fold increase in immigration, feeding rightwing protests and causing additional damage to the region’s fragile race relations.

Millions of Muslims are pouring into Europe, many bringing a brand of Islam that recreates their Islamic culture, traditions, loyalties and faith, and creates religious replicas of their homelands in the heartland of Europe. Will they assimilate, or will they endure as indigestible parts of their Islamic past in the base camp of what was once Christendom?

Philip Jenkins in his book *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity*, provides more light:

- In Frankfurt, immigrants make up some 30 percent of the population, and about 1 person in 8 is of Turkish Muslim origin. Frankfurt is home to 27 mosques.
- In Vienna, Muslims comprise about one-fifth of the population, a figure that has doubled since the 1980s.

And in the capital of the EU—Brussels, Belgium—the newly elected mayor is a Muslim. The most common name for a new baby in Brussels in 2005 was Muhammad.

In Europe, for the most part Christian congregations are dying, churches are emptying out, and mosques are filling up. There are five million Muslims in France, and nearly 20 million in the European Union. There are 1500 mosques in Germany alone. Islam has replaced Judaism as the second religion of Europe. As the Christian tide goes out in Europe, an Islamic tide comes in.

In responding to the Islamic tide in Europe and the inevitable growth of the Muslim population, I suggest two things:

- Let us pray for a true revival in the European Church.
- Led by European Christians, let us take a closer look at Acts 17:26. Speaking to a multicultural Athenian audience, the Apostle Paul says, “From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.”

Isn’t it important that we be discerners of God’s word and ways? What is the mass movement of Muslim people (especially to Europe) saying to the Church? Isn’t this an unprecedented opportunity for these millions of Muslims to hear the gospel, most for the very first time?



Muslim World News



Nigeria

Church leaders in Sokoto said Catholic priest Matthew Gajere and 50 other Christians were killed on February 18, when Muslim extremists enraged by caricatures of the prophet Muhammad published in Europe, burned 31 churches in Maiduguri, Borno state, and in Katsina, the capital of Borno state. The Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria (CSN) said the Rev. Fr. Gajere of St. Rita's Catholic Church in Maiduguri was murdered and burned in his apartment. The CSN also confirmed that Muslim rioters torched the residence of the bishop of Maiduguri diocese. Police said only 17 persons were killed in the attacks. Christian leaders, however, insisted that Muslim extremists killed 51 believers.—*Compass*

Pakistan

Protesting caricatures of the prophet Muhammad first published in Danish media, thousands of demonstrators in northern Pakistan and Lahore destroyed private and public property, at times targeting Christians. In Kasur, a mob of several thousand Muslims attacked a United Presbyterian girl's school following weekly prayers on Friday. The mob also tried to attack the city's Catholic church but was broken up by police, Father Yaqoob Barkat told *Compass* from Kasur. Christians "were the only target here, they didn't harm anybody else," the

priest said. According to Fr. Barkat, tense calm has returned to the city, with police and paramilitary forces breaking up demonstrations yesterday and this evening, but Christians are living in fear. "Whenever there is something [to make them angry], then they attack all the Christians and all of the churches."—*Compass*

Eritrea

Eritrean military authorities jailed 75 Protestant Christians at the Sawa Military Training Camp for "reading Bibles and praying during their free time," local sources in the small East African nation confirmed. Most of the newly arrested evangelicals, 37 of them women, are student youths doing their compulsory national military service at Sawa, a remote center near Eritrea's mountainous western border with Sudan. The 75 young conscripts put under "military detention and punishment" had not attempted to conduct any Christian meeting at Sawa or committed any other transgression of military law. "In Sawa, to possess your own Bible and keep your personal devotion and loyalty to Christ is not allowed," an Eritrean Christian told *Compass*. "This is considered an act of Christian extremism."—*Compass*

Turkey

A 16-year-old assailant shot and killed an Italian Catholic priest in the

Turkish city of Trabzon on Sunday, shouting the opening phrase of the Muslim call to prayer before he fled the scene. Father Andrea Santoro, 60, was shot twice in the back on February 5, as he knelt praying after Sunday afternoon mass. Turkish authorities launched a major manhunt to capture the juvenile suspect, found early this morning hiding in a relative's home near the city center. Authorities said the high school student, identified only by his initials, O.A., remained under police interrogation. According to a report by the private NTV television station, "during his first interrogation the youth confessed that he committed the murder as a reaction against the caricatures of the prophet Muhammad."—*Compass*

Iran

Facing the death penalty in their home country for converting to Christianity, an Iranian refugee family left Turkey for the United States, where they have been accepted for resettlement. Zivar Khademian and her three adult children boarded a flight to New York after traveling all night by bus to Istanbul from their temporary home in the central northern Turkish city of Kastamonu. The family will resettle in Lincoln, Nebraska, with the assistance of a local refugee aid organization. Uncertainty over details of their status had hindered the Khadmenians up until their departure.—*Compass*

from the Indian subcontinent to the United Kingdom, (2) Muslims coming from North Africa to France, and (3) Muslims coming from Turkey to Germany.

The second wave during the 1970s and 1980s was comprised mostly of Muslim students who came to study at European universities. This wave also included families who were reunited with those who came during the first wave, and refugees from the Iran/Iraq War and the civil war raging in Lebanon.

The third wave of Muslim immigrants to Europe occurred after the fall of the Soviet Union in 1989—and was encouraged by new liberal immigration policies. The Muslim immigrants of this era were mostly refugees and asylum seekers from Afghanistan and Somalia. In addition, Europe's economic and political stability attracted Muslim immigrants from the hinterlands of Eurasia and the continent of Africa.

Growth of Islam in Western Europe

The prevailing thought in most Western European countries was that the Muslim presence would be temporary. Western European leaders assumed that like the Southern European migrant workers who came and eventually returned to their homelands, the Muslim migrant workers in their countries would follow the same pattern. Many of the migrant workers (particularly Turks) did adopt such a mentality, even refusing to allow their children to learn the local language. However, the majority of Muslims preferred to remain in their new countries. Liberal welfare programs and attractive job opportunities convinced them to stay in the land of the infidels.

Netherlands

In the Netherlands, since 1945, the Muslim population has grown to about one million. Muslims now comprise 6% of the Dutch population of 16 million. The breakdown is as follows: 300,000 Turks, 252,000 Moroccans, 35,000 Surinamese and 5,000 Pakistanis. In lesser numbers there are several thousand Moluccans, former Yugoslav Muslims, Somalis, Iranians, Afghans and Iraqis. There are 18 mosques in Amsterdam proper, and the largest mosque in Western Europe is just outside the city.

Germany

In Germany, there are 4 million Muslims, half from Turkey. 379,093 Turkish adolescents attend school in Germany. German Muslims, despite past competition and division, have turned to cooperation with the government with the stated goal of establishing Islam as a legally recognized religion. Legal status would place Islamic religious instruction into the German public school curriculum, facilitate mosque building and provide other special Islamic rights in public and private life. The Muslim lobby in Germany is also seeking representation on elected foreign advisory councils.

France

In France, Islam has become the second largest religion after Christianity. The National Federation of French Muslims (NFFM) was founded in 1985 and rivals the Mosque de Paris in promoting a French-styled Islam. NFFM serves as the umbrella organization for more than 500 Islamic associations. France has recently experienced unparalleled car-burning and rioting, instigated primarily by unassimilated Muslim youths. The issue of Muslim girls wearing headscarves in school has also created

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a tremendous amount of social upheaval and discontent in France.

United Kingdom

In the United Kingdom, the first known mosque was established in Woking in 1889. By 1963 there were 13 registered mosques; by 1985 the number had increased to 338. A recent survey estimates 849 mosques and 950 British Muslim organizations. The 1991 census reflected that 44% of the 1.5 million South Asians in Britain are Muslims. In 1997, Islamic efforts to unify diverse Muslim groups and institutions in the United Kingdom resulted in the formation of the Muslim Council of Britain (MCB), which is the umbrella organization for more than 250 local, regional and national Muslim institutions.

Switzerland

In Switzerland, Muslims have grown from less than 20,000 in the 1970s to roughly 250,000 today, forming over 3% of the total population. In French-speaking Switzerland, Muslims originate from North African countries—while Turks are predominant in the German-speaking region.

Sweden

In Sweden's 1930 census, only 15 citizens indicated they were Muslim. Turkish speaking Tatars established the first Islamic congregation in 1948. The first wave of Muslim labor immigrants came to Sweden from Pakistan, Turkey, Albania and the former Yugoslavia. These were later followed by a steady stream of refugees from the Iran/Iraq War. A third wave of Somalis, Bosnians and Albanians followed in the 1990s. Today, there are 400,000 Muslims in Sweden; over 20% of the city of Malmö is Muslim.

Norway


Muslims comprise 1.5% of the 4.3 million Norwegians. The highest concentration of Muslims in Norway is in the capital city, Oslo. Oslo is home to the first mosque built in a Scandinavian capital. By 1995, in the eastern section of Oslo, 80% of primary schoolchildren were Muslim immigrants. The Muslim population of Norway has increased to 66,000, becoming the second largest faith community in Norway after the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Denmark

In Denmark, home to the “cartoon riots” seen in the first months of 2006, Muslims now number 150,000. Islam is firmly rooted in Denmark—to the extent that the Qu'ran is required reading in upper-secondary schools. Denmark is now host to more than 60 mosques, 17 private Islamic schools and a large number of Muslim organizations.

Conclusion

The statistics mentioned above are merely illustrative of the quantitative growth of Islam in Europe. Islam's qualitative growth has not been covered here. The influence and impact of the plethora of radical, moderate and liberal leaders, imams, councils, organizations and schools is enormous—and bodes increasing tension and change for Europe. Yet, in no other continent or place in the world is there more and greater freedom for Christians to present a clear witness of the Christian gospel to Muslims. If they truly desire, Muslims have the opportunity in Europe to embrace the love of God through Jesus Christ, and many are doing just that!

May God help us to lift our eyes to see this potential harvest—the Muslims of Europe. 

TAJIKISTAN

Population: 7 million
Religions: Muslim 89%, Non-religious 9%, Christian 1%
Official Language: Tajik
Peoples: Tajik 59%, Northern Uzbek 23.5%,
 Russian 7.6%, Tatar 1.4%, Kyrgyz 1.2%

Tajikistan is a former Soviet republic in Central Asia located on the far western border of China. The Pamir and Tien-Shan Mountains cover 93% of the nation. Tajikistan is rich in minerals, coal, oil and hydro-electric power, but years of communist mismanagement were economically and ecologically devastating.

After independence from the USSR in 1991, Tajikistan became embroiled in civil war between the reformed communists and the more democratically minded. The civil war brought suffering to Tajikistan, with thousands killed and thousands of refugees.

Political turmoil makes the status of religious freedom uncertain, but the rapidly growing Muslim majority persecutes Christianity. Since the advent of Islam over 1,000 years ago, Tajikistan has had little opportunity to be exposed to the gospel.

Unreached People Group...

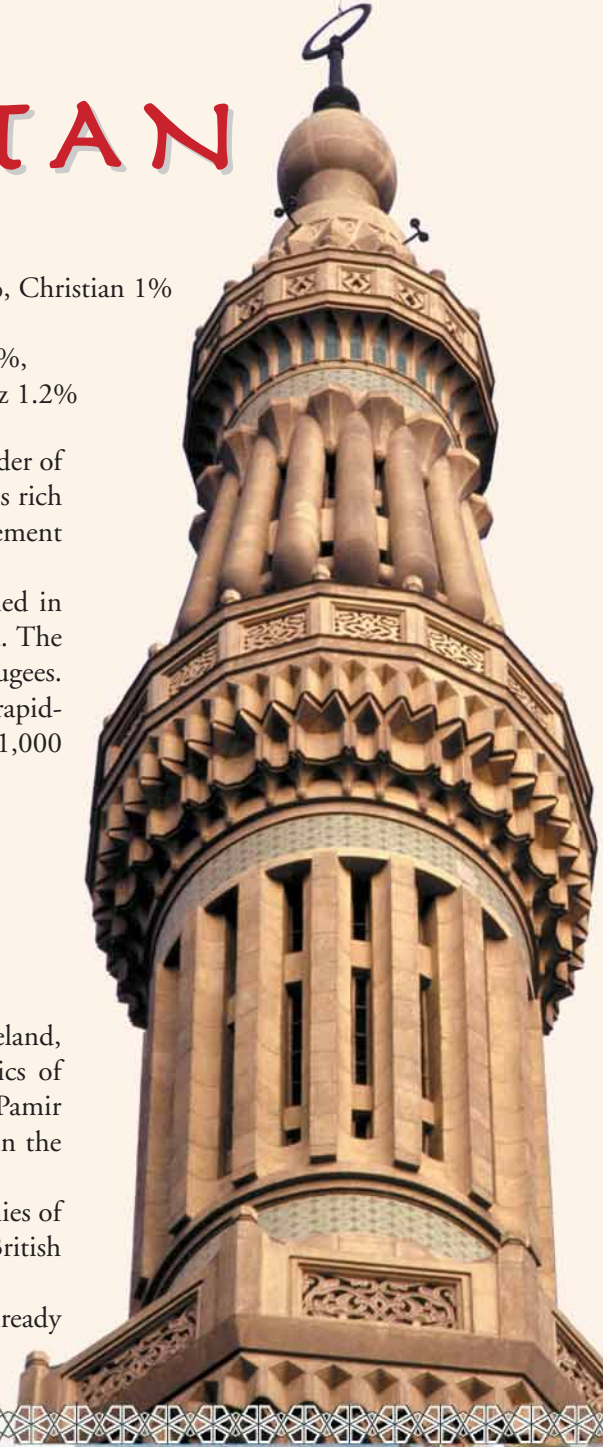
TAJIK

Location: Tajikistan
Population: 5 million in Tajikistan
Religion: Muslim (Hanafite) 80%
Language: Tajiki (Galcha)

The ten million Tajik are one of the major groups of Central Asia. Their homeland, Tajikistan, is the mountainous center of Asia, surrounded by the Asian republics of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan. Tajikistan includes the Pamir Mountains, which reach altitudes of nearly 25,000 feet. Most of the people live in the parallel valleys below.

The Tajik have repeatedly been invaded throughout their history. The armies of Alexander the Great, the Arabs in the 7th century, Genghis Khan, the Turks, the British and the Russian empire have all had a profound impact on these people.

Some evangelistic materials, such as the Jesus film and the Bible, are already available in Tajiki, but the people have remained closed to the gospel.



**PRAY
THAT...**

...God will raise up long-term missionaries who will go to Tajikistan and share Christ.
 ...God will open the hearts of Tajikistan's governmental leaders to the gospel.
 ...the Lord will reveal himself to these precious people through dreams and visions.



JUMAA PRAYER FELLOWSHIP

*PRAYING FOR MUSLIMS
AROUND THE WORLD!*



For the Glory of the Impossible: Missions, Muslims, and the Heart of God

Would you like to attend the largest Arabic festival in the US?

Most missions' conferences are very challenging but provide little or no opportunity to interact with the people whom the missionaries represent. For this reason we have timed this conference to coincide with the annual "Arab International Festival" in Dearborn, Michigan. Participants will attend the conference AND the festival. It is a unique opportunity to visit the "mission field" in our nation's backyard.

If you or someone that you know would like more information about this special missions conference in Dearborn, please email us at: detroitventure@aol.com, subject line: Conference. Registration deadline is May 31. We cannot accept "walk-on" registrations.

Date: June 15-18, 2006 **Cost:** \$50 for students, \$85 for nonstudents (cost of conference does not include lodging)
Main speaker: Don McCurry, veteran missionary to Pakistan

Friday, May 5, 2006. Please pray

...for new followers of Jesus in Syria. Pray they will stand strong despite family pressure and danger.

...for the Emirate of Dubai following the death of its ruler. Pray that the new leader, Sheikh Maktoum, will rule wisely and deal justly with Christian expatriates in Dubai.

...for the participants of the Institute of Islamic Studies being held in the Philippines.

Friday, May 12, 2006. Please pray

...for the country of Tajikistan. Pray that God will open the hearts of Tajikistan's leaders to the gospel.

...for former Muslims in Yemen. Pray that those who choose to follow Jesus would find fellowship and be disciplined.

...for Muslims in Djibouti. Nearly 150,000 people are facing severe food shortages resulting from drought.

Friday, May 19 2006. Please pray

...for 75 Eritrean students. They were arrested for possessing Bibles and professing faith in Jesus Christ.

...for the safety of Christian families who are threatened daily by growing violence in northern Nigeria.

...for the CMM team member who is teaching a course on Islamics in Nigeria through next week.

Friday, May 26, 2006. Please pray

...for Muslim background believers in Bangladesh. Pray for protection for the precious families of these new believers.

...for Muslim militants in Thailand. Pray for miracles in the hearts of fundamentalists in southern Thailand.

...for Christians in Indonesia as they face the challenge of Muslim leaders who are pushing for the adoption of *sharia* (Islamic law). Pray that God will give the Christians the courage and wisdom to know how to successfully oppose these leaders.

***I URGE, THEN, FIRST OF ALL THAT REQUESTS, PRAYERS, INTERCESSION AND
THANKSGIVING BE MADE FOR EVERYONE. -1 TIMOTHY 2:1, NIV***



JUMAA PRAYER FELLOWSHIP

*PRAYING FOR MUSLIMS
AROUND THE WORLD!*



Friday, June 2, 2006. Please pray

...that the wave of persecution in Iran following the death of lay leader Ghorban Tourani will end. Tourani, a house-church pastor, was assassinated in November 2005.

...for Pakistani Christian Yousaf Masih. Pray for his safety as he has been released on bail after blasphemy charges.

...for the Muslims of Europe. Pray for the few European pastors witnessing to approximately 20 million Muslims.

Friday, June 9, 2006. Please pray

...that vibrant churches will thrive in the Middle East.

...for the safety of Chechen believers and for the Holy Spirit to empower them.

...that the Jesus film and other types of media will be available to reach many more Kashmiris in Pakistan.

Friday, June 16, 2006. Please pray

...that Tunisian Arabs will recognize their spiritual hunger and turn to Christ.

...for a spiritual revival in Niger that will turn the hearts of Muslims; including the Bellahs (Niger's slave caste) to Christ.

...that Christian television programs will have a powerful impact in Afghanistan.

Friday, June 23, 2006. Please pray

...for Kabiru Lawal, a former Muslim who has just received Christ.

...for Muslims in North Africa blinded by folk Islam.

...for the Kosova region of Albania. Radical Islamic groups abound and mosque construction is widespread.

Friday, June 30, 2006. Please pray

...for Muslim background believers in Uzbekistan. These embattled believers face threats from an increasingly harsh regime.

...for Fatima, a Muslim background believer in the Philippines. Pray for her as she resists pressure from family and neighbors to return to her old life.

...for Noviana Malewa of Indonesia. She alone survived an attack as she walked to school with three of her classmates. All three of her classmates were beheaded by Muslim radicals, and Noviana suffered serious head wounds. Pray for her recovery and for the families of the other three victims.