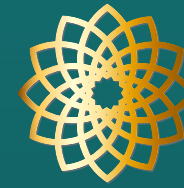


Islam



Who?

The prophet was a personification of the wisdom formulated in the Qur'an. He was also the only point of contact for the correct interpretation of the verses.

Through a pacifist attitude, he conquered the hearts of friend and foe and united them into one Islamic community. However, after the Prophet's death, certain verses were decontextualized to accommodate the political and ideological views of particular people or groups.



How?

Principles of interpretation

The society

- Studying both the political and social context in which the Qur'an has been revealed is a prerequisite for understanding the Qur'an.
- Arab society at the time was a tribal society in which different tribes were in constant war.

Structure of the Quran

Meccan verses

- Revealed before the emigration to Medina.
- Strong emphasis placed on universal values and norms such as justice, fairness, equality.

Medinan verses

- Revealed after emigration to Medina
- More detailed and different context than Meccan verses

Medinan verses should be understood in the light of Meccan verses

Practical example

“O you who have believed, do not take the Jews and the Christians as allies. They are [in fact] allies of one another. And whoever is an ally to them among you – then indeed, he is [one] of them. Indeed, Allah guides not the wrongdoing people.” (Quran 5:51)

- Verse is revealed in Medina which at that time was inhabited by several Jewish tribes who were constantly at war with each other. Some of those tribes had made a treaty with the prophet to provide mutual defense.
- After certain Jewish tribes broke their treaty with the prophet to defend the city of Medina from Meccan attacks, this created tensions with the Muslims.
- Incidentally, some Muslims took refuge in Jewish tribes because they feared defeat.
- This was forbidden by the Quran because such defectors would weaken the Islamic community, which was already weak, even more.

Challenges within Islam

Women

Certain patriarchal exegesis have pushed the woman into an inferior position

“The Prophet Muhammad said: “The best among you (men) are those who behave best towards your women.” (Tirmidhi)

Violence

Jihadists believe they are defending the interests of Islam through jihad

The prophet Muhammad said: “The best jihad (struggle) one can do is the jihad against oneself and against one's desires.” (Tirmidhi)

Political Islam

Islam is often instrumentalized for political purposes through which verses and prophetic statements are deliberately twisted



Funded by the European Union

This factsheet was funded by the European Union's Internal Security Fund – Police. The content of this fact sheet represents the views of the authors only and is their sole responsibility. The European Commission does not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains. Copyright © EDUC8 2021. All rights reserved.

