The Role of Faiths in Our Society

(and how you can shape it)
Weekend

1. hear
2. consider
3. decide
4. plan
Weekend ➤ my hope

talk together as people of faith

▪ not easy
  • lots to talk about
  • doesn’t happen much
  • tendency to get side-tracked
    ▪ issues
    ▪ emotions

▪ attempt
  • disciplined
  • gentle
Weekend

1. hear
2. consider
3. decide
4. plan
Weekend

2. consider

- the role of faiths in society
- our society’s ideas of leadership
- Islamic ideas of leadership
- how Canadians see Canada
- how Canadians see Islam
- how marginal groups become central in Canada
Weekend

3. decide
   - the role of faiths in society
     • the role of your faith in your society

4. plan
   - how marginal groups become central in Canada
     • how you choose to be part of leading this process for Islam
1. Hear
Weekend

2. consider
   a. the role of faiths in society
   b. our society’s ideas of leadership
   c. Islamic ideas of leadership
   d. how Canadians see Canada
   e. how Canadians see Islam
   f. how marginal groups become central in Canada
a. The Role of Faiths in Society

mosque $\Leftrightarrow$ state
church $\Leftrightarrow$ state
faith $\Leftrightarrow$ society
faiths $\Leftrightarrow$ society

What is it?
- here
- now
a. The Role of Faiths in Society

- no faiths allowed
- only private faiths allowed
- only personal faiths accepted
- faiths public but powerless
- faiths can propel citizen’s actions
- faiths can propel groups’ actions
- faiths have rights
- one faith dominates
- one faith rules

public

equal

private

unequal
a. The Role of Faiths in Society

Does our society have a consensus?

- maybe
- possible source:
  - reaction to European Wars of Religion
    - ~ 1524 - 1648
a. The Role of Faiths in Society

Does our society have a consensus?

- **Enlightenment**
  ~ 1650 - 1800
  - society’s primary values are
    - democracy
      » individual is supreme
    - freedom
      » free association
      » social relationships are rights-based
    - reason
      » logic + evidence > belief + authority
a. The Role of Faiths in Society

Does our society have a consensus?

- Enlightenment
  - religious “tolerance”
  - religion must be
    - marginal
    - private
  - “secularism”
a. The Role of Faiths in Society

Does our society have a consensus?

- What can people of faith say & do?
  - all have rights to
    - believe
    - practise (some constraints)
    - advocate | witness
    - convert
  - not all rights are uncontested
a. The Role of Faiths in Society

Does our society have a consensus?

- faith can be
  - celebrated
  - useful
  - “nice”
  - distraction
  - dangerous

- view depends on
  - its role in society
  - what leaders advocate
  - “proximity” to violence
a. The Role of Faiths in Society

Islamic Neo-Modernism

- Indonesia
  - Nurcholish Majid

- Egypt
  - Hasan Hanafi

- US
  - Fazlur Rahman
  - Khaled Abou El-Fadl

- Morocco
  - Fatima Mernissi

- England
  - Tariq Ramadan
a. The Role of Faiths in Society

Bangladesh
- Bangladesh Institute of Islamic Thought

Canada
- Canadian Council on American-Islamic Relations

US
- Center for Islamic Pluralism
- International Institute of Islamic Thought
- Progressive Muslim Union

Indonesia
- International Center for Islam and Pluralism
Weekend

2. consider
   a. the role of faiths in society
   b. our society’s ideas of leadership
   c. Islamic ideas of leadership
   d. how Canadians see Canada
   e. how Canadians see Islam
   f. how marginal groups become central in Canada
b. Our Society’s Ideas of Leadership

fads
b. Our Society’s Ideas of Leadership

fads
bios
b. Our Society’s Ideas of Leadership

fads
bios
heroes
b. Our Society’s Ideas of Leadership

fads
bios
heroes
b. Our Society’s Ideas of Leadership

fads
bios
heroes
b. Our Society’s Ideas of Leadership

other ideas possible

A leader is best when people barely know he exists. When his work is done and his aim fulfilled, people will say, “We did it ourselves.”

Lao Tzu

to lead

- not a noun
- a verb

to lead is to serve
to serve is to lead
b. Our Society’s Ideas of Leadership

other ideas possible

- this program’s ideas of leadership
  - collaborator
  - ambassador
  - collaborator
  - facilitator
  - teacher
### c. Islamic Ideas of Leadership

#### Australia
- **Saeed**
  - University of Melbourne
  - *Trends in Islam: A Preliminary Attempt at Classification*

#### Bangladesh
- **Anisuzzaman & Majumder**
  - Leadership: Western and Islamic – A Conceptual and Explorative Study
- **Ather & Sobhani**
  - International Islamic University Chittagong, Bangladesh
  - Managerial Leadership: An Islamic Perspective

#### Malaysia
- **Khan**
  - Mina Management Institute
  - Islamic Leadership Principles

#### Canada
- **Karim**
  - Carleton University
  - Institute for Research on Public Policy
  - Changing Perceptions of Islamic Authority among Muslims in Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom

#### Indonesia
- **Saleh**
  - Institut Agama Islam Negeri, Indonesia
  - Modern Trends in Islamic Theological Discourse in 20th Century Indonesia

#### US
- **Aabed**
  - Brigham Young University
  - A Study of Islamic Leadership Theory and Practice in K-12 Islamic Schools in Michigan
- **Beekun**
  - University of Nevada
  - Leadership, an Islamic Perspective
- **Sachedina**
  - University of Virginia
  - The Islamic Roots of Democratic Pluralism
c. Islamic Ideas of Leadership
Weekend

2. consider

a. the role of faiths in society
b. our society’s ideas of leadership
c. Islamic ideas of leadership
d. how Canadians see Canada
e. how Canadians see Islam
f. how marginal groups become central in Canada
d. How Canadians see Canada

How Americans see America

conflicting ↔ consistent
contested ↔ uncontested
positive ↔ negative
powerful ↔ weak
true ↔ false
constructive ↔ destructive
How non-Christians see Christianity

conflicting ⇔ consistent
contested ⇔ uncontested
positive ⇔ negative
powerful ⇔ weak
true ⇔ false
constructive ⇔ destructive
d. How Canadians see Canada

- The Greatest Canadian
  - Tommy Douglas

- What Canadians Think (About Almost Everything)
  - Ipsos Canada
d. How Canadians see Canada

- How Canadians See Themselves
  - similar to United States
    - but superior
  - respectful
  - orderly
  - caring
    - active state
  - moderate
  - beloved around the world
  - tolerant, multi-cultural society
    - promotes ethnic, cultural, and linguistic diversity
    - does not demand its immigrants assimilate

d. How Canadians see Canada

- respectful
- orderly
- caring
- moderate
- beloved
- tolerant
- multi-cultural

conflicting ⇔ consistent
contested ⇔ uncontested
positive ⇔ negative
true ⇔ false
constructive ⇔ destructive
powerful ⇔ weak
e. How Canadians See Islam

Canadian views on various religions

- MacLeans/Angus Reid poll

  - 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>Generally Favourable View</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christianity</td>
<td>72%</td>
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<td>Buddhism</td>
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<td>Sikhism</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Islam</td>
<td>28%</td>
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</table>
e. How Canadians See Islam compared to global

» 2005 [pewglobal.org](http://pewglobal.org)

» 2010 [gallup.com](http://gallup.com)
How Canadians See Islam

Canadian views on various religions

- MacLeans/Angus Reid poll
  » 2009

**Why?**

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e. How Canadians See Islam

Canadian views on various religions

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- 2009

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<th>Believe encourages violence</th>
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<td>72%</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buddhism</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Judaism</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
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<td>Hinduism</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sikhism</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islam</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>45%</td>
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Why?
e. How Canadians See Islam

- faith can be

- view depends on
  - its role in society
  - what leaders advocate
  - “proximity” to violence
Aligning

d. How Canadians see Canada
   - respectful
   - orderly
   - caring
   - moderate
   - tolerant
   - embracing all cultures
   - promoting diversity
     - ethnicity
     - language
     - culture
c. Islamic ideas of leading
Weekend

2. consider

a. the role of faiths in society
b. our society’s ideas of leadership
c. Islamic ideas of leadership
d. how Canadians see Canada
e. how Canadians see Islam
f. how marginal groups become central in Canada
f. Marginal → Central

1850 → 1900 → 1950 → 2000

www.uccla.ca

Ukrainian-Canadian
f. Marginal → Central

1850  1900  1950  2000

http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/mb_history/32/manitobaantisemitism.shtml

Jewish-Canadian
f. Marginal → Central

1850  1900  1950  2000

Chinese-Canadian
f. Marginal → Central

1850  1900  1950  2000

collectionscanada.gc.ca

Japanese-Canadian
f. Marginal → Central

How did this change happen?

- confrontation
  - rare
  - rarely effective

- grievance, redress & reconciliation
  - newer
  - uncertain
f. Marginal → Central

How did this change happen?

- “workable” methods of ethnic pluralism
  - far from perfect
    - First Nations
    - African
    - Caribbean
How did this change happen?

- **education**
  - university
  - professions
    - law
    - medicine
    - dentistry
    - accounting

- **involvement**
  - organizations
    - membership
    - leadership
  - both
    - internal
    - external
    » civil society
    » political parties
f. Marginal → Central

Canadian society now

- **cultural pluralism**
  - language
    - fluent
  - actions
    - mixed

- **religious pluralism**
  - language
    - awkward
  - actions
    - minimal
Weekend

1. hear
2. consider
3. decide
   - what you want the role of your faith in your society to be
4. plan
   - marginal $\rightarrow$ central
   - how you choose to be part of leading this process for Islam
3. Your Faith in Your Society

Consensus now?

- all have rights to
  - believe
  - practise (some constraints)
  - advocate | witness
  - convert

- not all rights are uncontested

What do you want the consensus to be?
3. Your Faith in Your Society

What are you aiming for?

- no faiths allowed
- only private faiths allowed
- only personal faiths accepted
- faiths public but powerless
- faiths may propel citizen’s actions
- faiths may propel groups’ actions
- faiths have rights
- one faith dominates
- one faith rules
3. Your Faith in Your Society

remember:

- public
- representative
- contested

not easy
consider carefully
3. Your Faith in Your Society

What is my goal?

- For my faith to take its rightful place in a society of ideas
  - What words and actions will best meet this goal?
3. Your Faith in Your Society

What should people of faith say & do?

- guaranteed failure
  - isolation
  - criticizing other faiths
    - “disproving”
    - ranking
  - “sermonizing”
  - assuming credibility
3. Your Faith in Your Society

What should people of faith say & do?

- almost certainly a trap
  - victimhood
3. Your Faith in Your Society

What should people of faith say & do?

- likely to lead to success
  - self
  - words
    - few
    - agreed
      - within my faith
    - resonant
      - with other faiths
      - with our society’s deepest values
  - partnerships
  - actions
    - excellence
    - diligence
    - from faith → to benefit society
Weekend

1. hear
2. consider
3. decide
   - what you want the role of your faith in your society to be
4. plan your role
   - marginal → central
     - how you choose to be part of leading this process for Islam
4. Your Role

marginal → central

- education
  - university
  - professions
    - law
    - medicine
    - dentistry
    - accounting

- involvement
  - organizations
    - membership
    - leadership
  - both
    - internal
    - external
    » civil society
    » political parties
4. Your Role

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>things you care about</th>
<th>orgs with that focus</th>
<th>your current or potential role</th>
<th>measures of success</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>within your community</td>
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<tr>
<td>bridging your community to others</td>
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<tr>
<td>civil society outside your community</td>
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