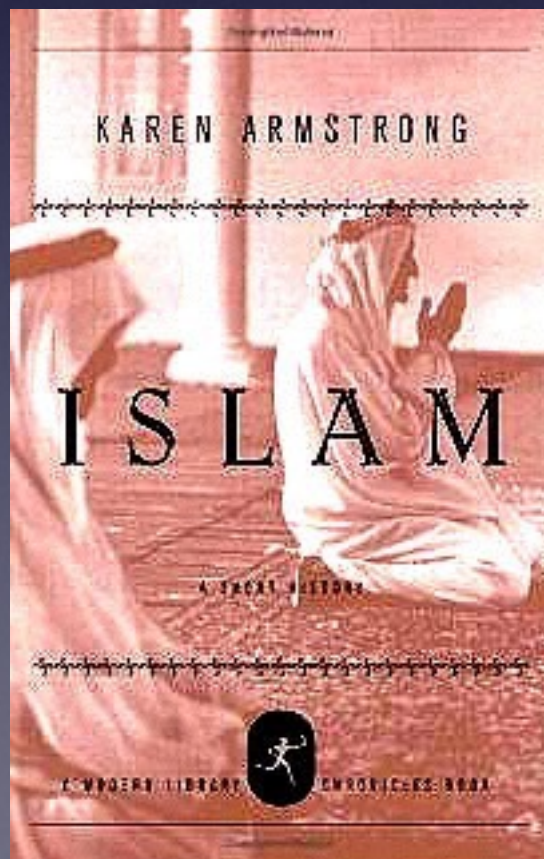


# Israel - Palestine 2 studies

ACTS  
Winter 2016

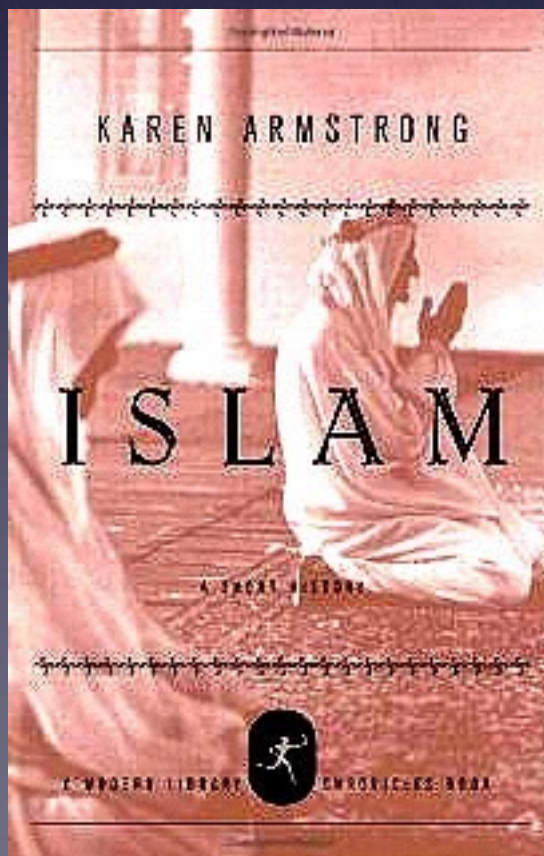
St David's United Church  
Calgary



# Islam: A Short History

## Session # 9

- Opening
- Introductions
- Chapter Summaries
- Media
- Discussions
- Closing





# Opening

lyrics

links to open close  
charts

more on gulag

# Ch 4 Islam Triumphant

As we near the end of "Islam: A Short History" we need to develop a long-term perspective on Islamic history and faith. Trends developed over the centuries continue to influence the Islamic world today.



# Ch 4 Islam Triumphant

**Here are some key points about the book so far:**

- Islam has always sought to experience God in politics
- Sometimes that has resulted in Islamic governments that sought to be just, compassionate and honourable to all citizens, including minorities.
- Sometimes that has resulted in Islamic governments that sought power for power's sake; engaged in internecine conflict and persecuted minorities within their borders.



# Ch 4 Islam Triumphant

## **Armstrong's points so far (continued):**

- Armstrong has consistently focused on the positive and not the negative history and faith tradition.
- We need to learn from her but to see her point of view from a critical perspective.

# Ch 4 Islam Triumphant

## **One constant:**

Muhammad's revelations as reflected in the Quran have continued to powerfully influence Muslim believers all through its history, and into modern times.

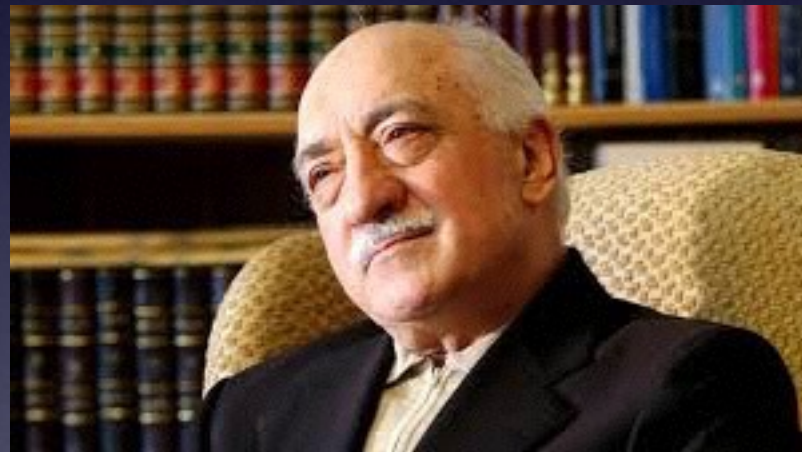




# Fethullah Gulen

## Turkish Leader in Exile

An important modern Muslim spiritual leader who models Islam at its best is the Turk, Fethullah Gulen.





# Fethullah Gulen

## Turkish Leader in Exile

### **An Introduction**

Time Magazine listed Fethullah Gulen on its list of the World's 100 most Influential People in 2013

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_NlibvlsMM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_NlibvlsMM)



**TURKISH AIRLINES**

**117 AIRBUS CARRIERS ADDED TO FLEET**



# Gulen Condemnation of ISIS - 2m14s



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ez82ViZoEjg>

# Fethullah Gulen

## Turkish Leader in Exile

“Hizmet” (The Service) is the world wide organization he founded in the ‘60s to address “ignorance, poverty and disunity”. It is generally known as the “Gulen Movement”.

It's primary activity is charter schools preparing children for university. These total over 1000 in the world (390 in Texas). It is also involved in media and with dialogue societies. In Canada, it has developed from earlier “interfaith” organizations 9 new “Intercultural Dialogue Institutes”.



# Fethullah Gulen

## Turkish Leader in Exile

As an excellent example of his inter-cultural influence, here is Maher Zain, an Islamic pop singer, and his performance of a poem by Gulen “This Worldly Life”.  
3m55s.

Links will be posted to more of the english songs of Maher Zain, which again are an excellent example of the singers inter-cultural work.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZDKPdbilo28>

# Rise Up



## COLORS OF PEACE

The Good Morning Diary • Maher Zain • Faudel • Cristelo Duo feat. Bruno Gouvêa  
Ryan Shaw • Natacha Atlas • Bon Bon • KK & Reet • Mazachigno feat. Ely Bruna  
Bahroma • Carmen Paris • Kobi Farhi & Ruba Shamshour



# Intercultural Dialogue Institute, Calgary

St. David's has had 2 exchange events with the Intercultural Dialogue Institute here in Calgary. It is a Gulen related society. The people active in it are largely also folks from Turkey.

The invited us to an Eid al-Fitr Feast (that completes the month of Ramadan), and also came to St. David's to share an event they call "Noah's Pudding".

Noah's Pudding is a symbol for different cultures living together in harmony while each preserves their original identities. As the delectable elements of the dessert are.



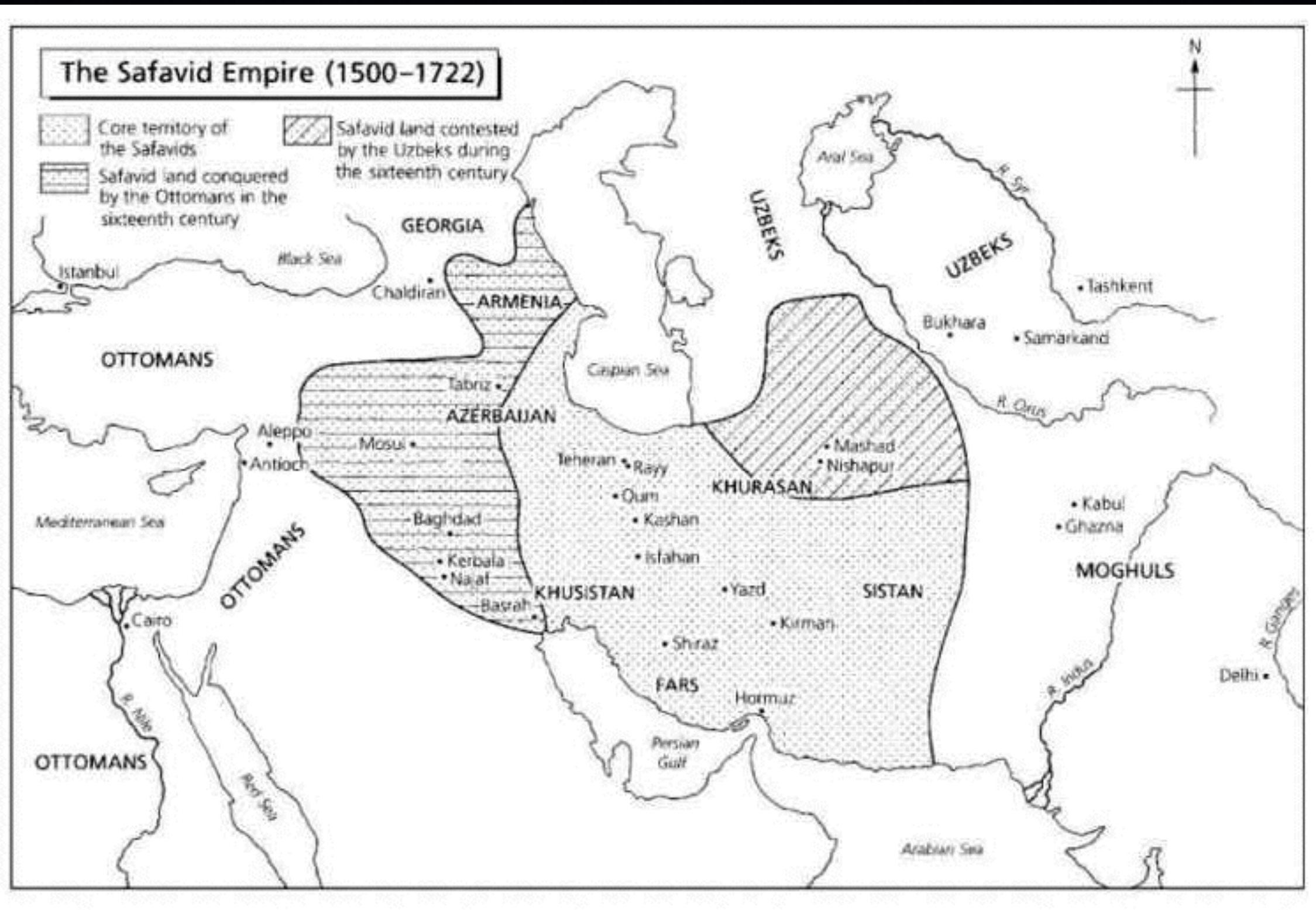
# Ch 4 Islam Triumphant

## **Islam at its Most Powerful 1,500 - 1,700 CE**

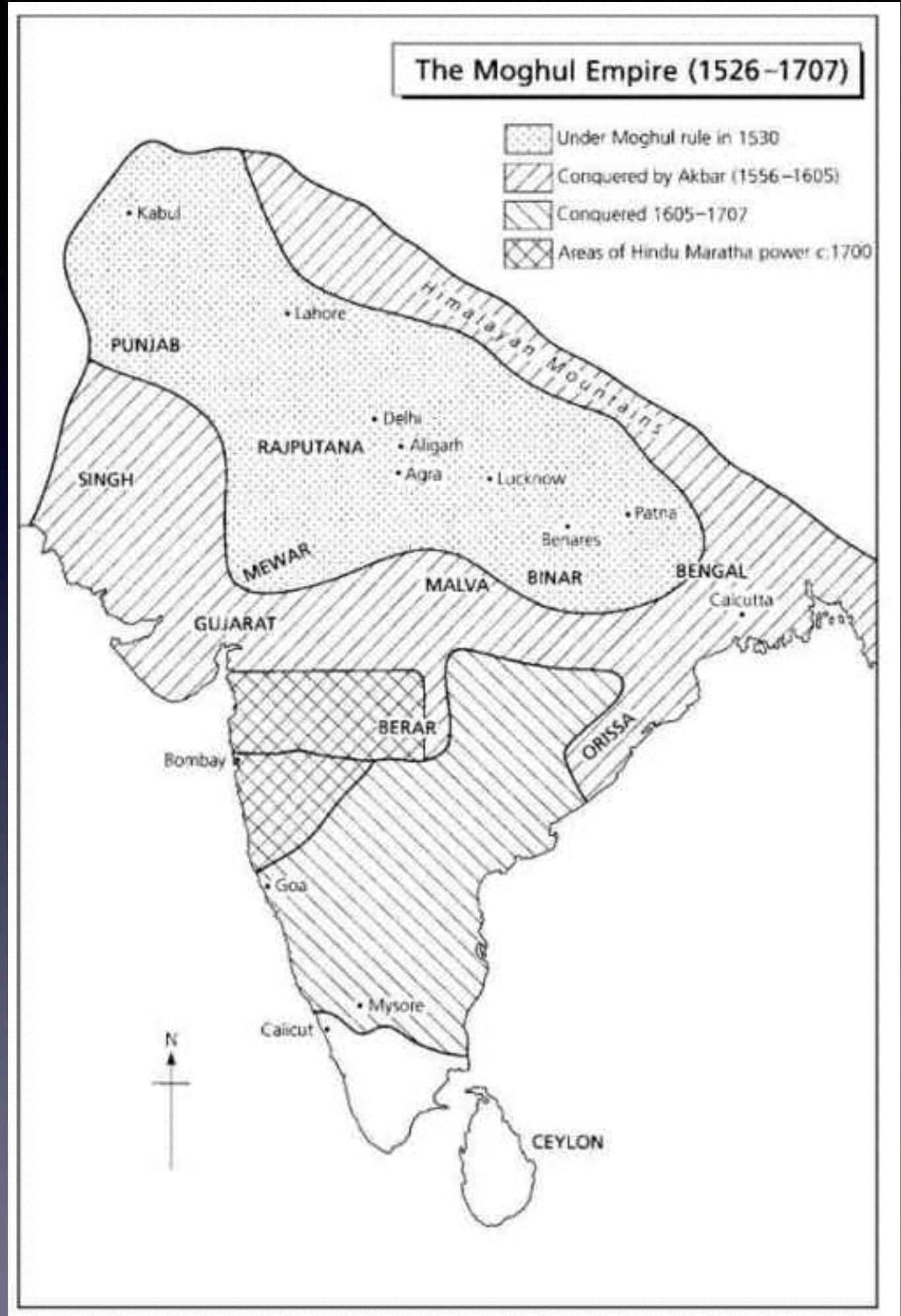
Larger world empires (described in chapter three) evolved into three regional powers that have demonstrated much internecine conflict.:



# Safavid Empire Centred in Iran

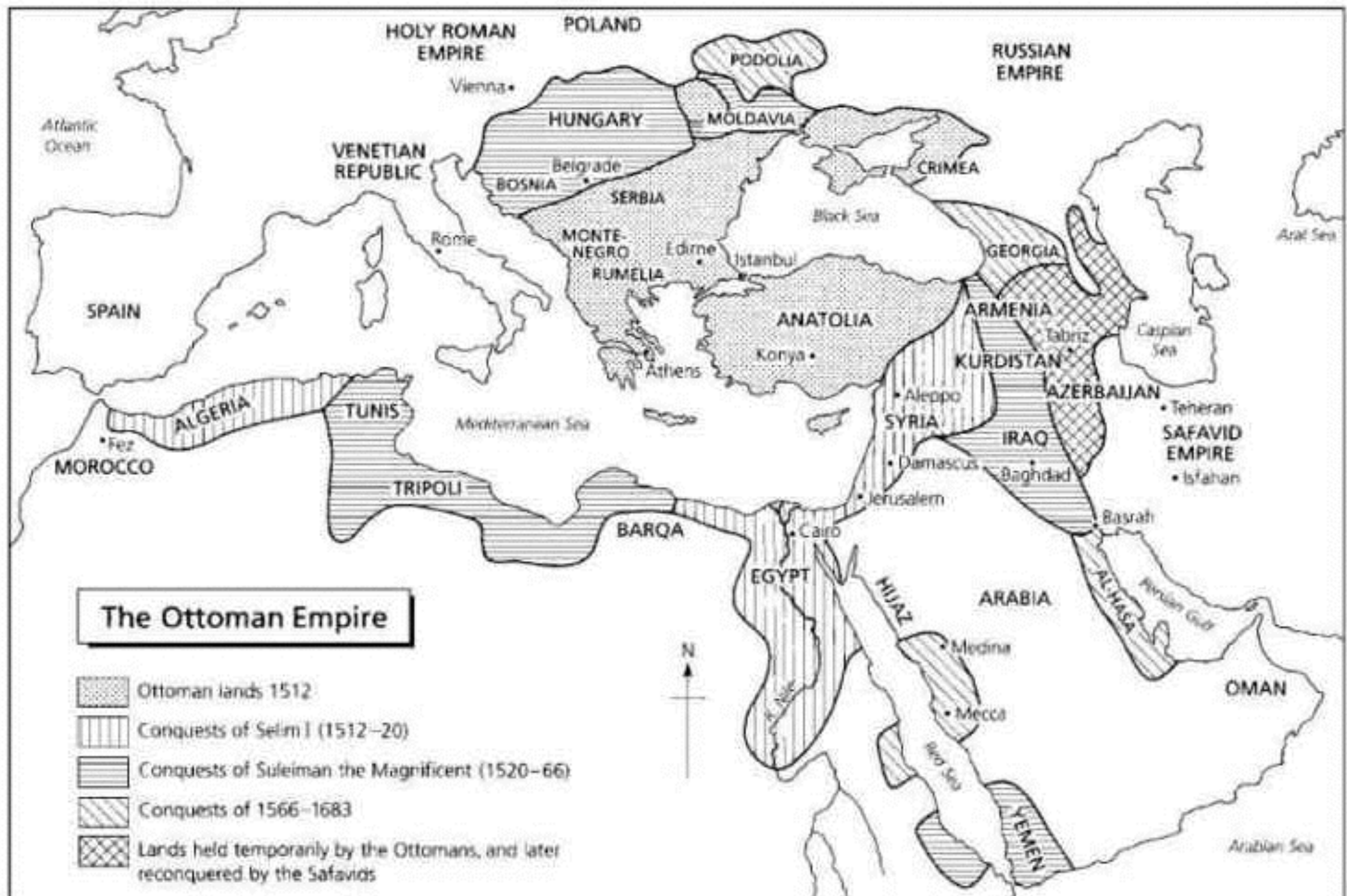


# Mogul Empire Centred in India





# Ottoman Empire Centred in Turkey



# Ch 4 Islam Triumphant

## **Islam at its Most Powerful 1,500 - 1,700 CE**

We will focus briefly on the Safavid and Moghul Empires and more extensively on the Ottoman Empire because of its stronger impact on Europe.

For important dates and historical interactions see Chronology pp. xiii-xxxiv.



# Ch 4 Islam Triumphant

Internal conflict has characterised Islam from its beginnings, but it became a dominant reality of Muslim life during the period 1500-1700 CE and at the time of its greatest global power

# Ch 4 Islam Triumphant

This is also true about Christianity in Europe during the same period - as Protestants and Catholics warred against each other and these divisions divided Western Christians globally

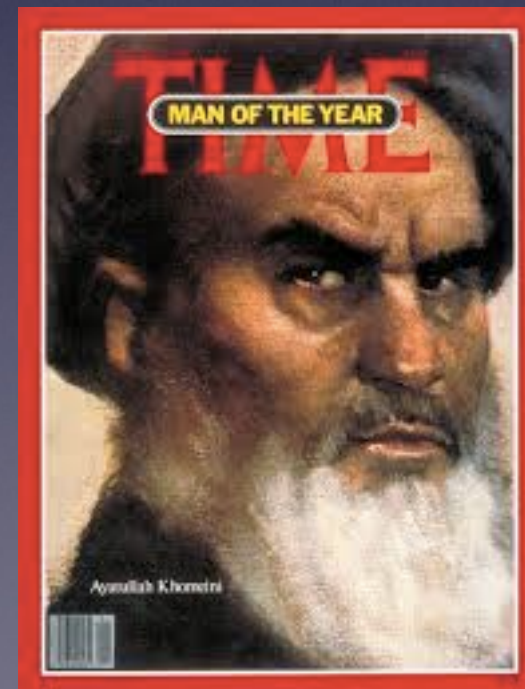
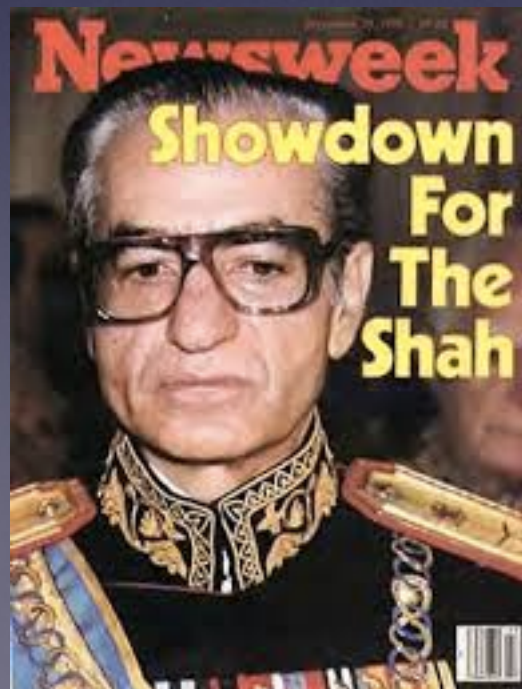


# Ch 4 Islam Triumphant

## Iran

Ismail turned the Safavid Empire centered in Iran into a Shiite State. It has remained so to this day.

The most famous personality of modern Iran was the Ayatollah Khomeini (1902-89) a Shiite spiritual leader, exiled to France by the secular government of Shah Pallavi.



# Ch 4 Islam Triumphant

India - Moghul Empire

Islam has never been fully at home on Indian soil, even though it was largely ruled by Islamic potentates during the imperial era

Two important symbols of that era and its resulting effects: the Taj Mahal and the Golden Temple



Taj Mahal - Shah Jahan (d. 1658) sought to blend Muslim and Hindu Architecture)





Golden Temple of Amritsar (Punjab) - the Sikh sacred centre. Sikhs (Guru Nanuk, founder, died 1469) attempted to create a faith that blended Muslim and Hindu values.



# Ch 4 Islam Triumphant

## **Turkey - Ottoman Empire**

The Ottomans conquered Constantinople in 1453.

The Ottomans waged jihad or holy war against infidels in Europe (Christians) and Iran (Shiite Muslims) as well as in other places where it had regional authority.

Syria, Egypt, North Africa and Arabia came under Ottoman rule. Europe, however, was never re-captured although "The Turks" got to the gates of Vienna in the 1530's. They were eventually driven back.



# Ch 4 Islam Triumphant

At first, religious minorities (like Christians) in the Ottoman empire were tolerated because of a policy of respect for different cultures and religions.

However, as the empire declined, persecution of minorities grew more destructive.

The Arabian peninsula rebelled against Ottoman rule (1803-13) and developed Wahhabism, a puritan form of Islam based on strict Quranic interpretation and respect for early Muslim tradition. It is still practiced in Saudi Arabia today.

# Ch 4 Islam Triumphant

From the seventeenth century on, the West was in the ascendancy and the entire mid-to-far east (formerly Islamic states) was carved up by Western colonial powers (mainly France and England).

European trade and culture was actually welcomed by many Muslims as their three empires declined. Muslims continued to be open to other cultures and trade.

A whole new world was opening to Islam, but the West was clearly dominant. European political colonialism would be replaced by American economic colonialism in the twentieth century.

# Discussion Questions

1. Armstrong has tended to shine a positive light on Islam. Is avoiding the negative a good or a bad thing?
2. Why do we not hear more about Fethullah Gulen today?
3. Discuss: In what ways is the Islamic world to blame for many of its own problems over the years. Is Islam currently taking responsibility for its problems?



Break

# Closing

# Islam

## Next Readings

Ch 5. Islam Agonistes, Epilogue

## Study Website

<http://chosen.stdavidscalgary.net>

