

A worldview is a particular philosophy of life or conception of the world. It refers to the framework of ideas or beliefs through which individuals and society view the world. To answer the question regarding if my religion proposes a specific worldview, I will provide a brief background on defining my religion. The key to a Muslim worldview is the word “Islam”. Islam is an Arabic word, meaning submission to God. The word Muslim means one who submits themselves to God. Islam did not start with Prophet Muhammad in the 7th century. Technically, Islam is the message that was delivered by all prophets of God from Adam to Muhammad. Islam is neither named after a person or a tribe nor does it end with an -ism. Though each prophet had a relatively different law, the essence of the message of Islam was always the same: have faith in one God and do good. In the Bible, the first four of the Ten Commandments enjoin the worship of one God; the rest urge believers to avoid what is wrong and to do what is good. All prophets and their followers (including Jesus and his disciples) are simply called “Muslims” in the Quran. Hence, anyone who submits to God and strives to be a good person can be called a “muslim” (with a small ‘m’) from a linguistic perspective. Muslims (always with a capital M) is someone who practices Islam and follows the five pillars of Islam. *Shahadah*, testifying that there is only One God and Muhammad is His last Prophet. *Salah*, praying five times a day. *Sawm*, fasting from dawn to sunset during the month of Ramadan. *Zakah*, paying alms-tax on savings worth 85 g of gold or more if the amount is kept for a year. *Hajj*, performing a pilgrimage to Mecca, if physically and financially able to. Muslims also believe in the six articles of faith: *Almighty God, His angels, His prophets, His scriptures, Free choice, fate, and destiny, and The Day of Judgment.*

The Islamic worldview is more than a religion. Islam covers all aspects of life for Muslims. Islam is a comprehensive way of life. Based on common sense and clear-cut teachings, Islam defines the rights and responsibilities of every individual in regard to their relationship with God and His creation. It balances the spiritual and material needs of its followers and helps them gain happiness in this life and salvation in the next. Islam reveres or worships Allah, or the Arabic word for God. Like Christianity, Islam is a revealed religion. The Islamic worldview is grounded in Islamic creationism, which is the belief that the universe (including humanity) was created directly by Allah (God) as explained in the Qur’an. They say, “God has offspring,” Glory be to Him! In fact, to Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and the earth—all are subject to His Will. He is the Originator of the heavens and the earth! When He decrees a matter, He simply tells it, “Be!” And it is! (Quran 2:116-117) Every human being is born with the innate will (fitrah) to submit to God, but parents and society change this nature, and in order to relate to the Almighty, many have put a face on God (mostly human or animal) throughout history. The process of restoring the fitrah (innate will to submit to God) is called reversion. Islam is essentially a religion of Peace and Love. It teaches love and compassion for all, irrespective of their religious belief. To invoke God’s mercy, it is imperative for a Muslim to show kindness to His creation.

Is Islam compatible with science? Although the Quran is a book of signs, not a book of science, there are many scientific references in the Quran such as the formation and developmental phases of an embryo in the uterus (Quran 23:12-14 and 22:5), the Big Bang (21:30), the constant expansion of the universe (51:47-8), spherical shape of the earth (39:5 and 79:30), the earth’s rotation (27:88), and many others that have become known only in the last two centuries.

According to an Arab proverb, “The ink of a scholar is holier than the blood of a martyr.” Islam’s emphasis on education galvanized learning and science in the Muslim world culminating in what is known as the Islamic Golden Age. For centuries, Muslims pioneered medicine, anatomy, mathematics, geography, astronomy, architecture, and many other sciences. Algebra, alchemy, and alcohol are all Arabic words. The Canon of Medicine by Avicenna (Ibn Sina, 980-1037 C.E.) was a primary medical text in medieval Europe for more than 700 years. Many surgical tools that are in use today were invented by

Albucasis (Al-Zahrawi, 936-1013 C.E). Mariam Al-Astrolabiya, a female Muslim scholar who lived in the 10th century in Syria, was famous for designing and constructing astrolabes. Arabic numerals (0, 1, 2, 3, etc.) are used worldwide. Muslims invented numerous sciences and developed many others (which they had inherited from the Romans, Greeks, Persians, Indians, and others) and laid the foundations to the European industrial revolution. The invention of cameras, computers, and navigation systems could not have been possible without the contributions of Muslim scholars (Clear Quran: A thematic English translation of the message of the final revelation, 2016, p. xviii.)

In social work, conflict resolution typically involves some type of change. It is important to remember that when people are asked to change their identity or things, they find meaningful, they will resist, sometimes even when the alternative is death (LeBaron, 2018). Developing approaches to treatment to uncover shared values is an important aspect to consider in the field of social work. As a Muslim Social Worker, it is my duty to serve God and do good unto others, by serving humanity. I can do this by respecting all worldviews and utilizing a person-centered approach when interacting with clients. God commands justice and good conduct and forbids immorality and bad conduct and oppression (Quran 16:90).

LeBaron, M. (2018, April 4). *Cultural and worldview frames*. Beyond Intractability. https://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/cultural_frames#narrow-body

The Clear Quran: A thematic English translation of the message of the final revelation. (2016). Book of Signs Foundation.