

Muslim Population in Oceania: 1950 – 2020

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Abstract—The purpose of this manuscript is to present a reliable estimate of the Muslim population and its percentage in each country in Oceania from 1950 till 2020. This data is summarized to be a reference for other studies and discussions related to the Muslim population. The presented data show that the percentage of World Muslim population with respect to the total World population has increased steadily from 17% in 1950 to 26% by 2020. While the total Oceania population increased from 13 million in 1950 to 41 million by 2020, the percentage of Muslims in Oceania increased from 0.2% in 1950 to 1.3% by 2020.

I. INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

Muslims remain well under represented in Oceania, although there are substantial minorities in Australia, New Zealand and Fiji. Accordingly, the total population of Oceania increased from 13 million in 1950, to 41 million by 2020. Therefore, it is the least populated continent in the world. The related Muslim population increased from 0.3% in 1950, to 1.3% by 2020.

The results of this paper are summarized in tables and a superscript number is put by a country name representing the source of the percentages. A “(year)” sign is put next to this number to indicate that the source bases its estimate on official census data and the year the census was conducted. Percentage values are based on the latest available census and reliable estimates. Official censuses were considered in this study to be the most reliable; although official censuses are usually challenged by minorities, whether Muslims or not, claiming that their number is underestimated for various reasons. However, these claims tend to be based on emotions and wishful thinking and not on scientific facts. In addition, residents who are not citizens are not counted in many religious and ethnic censuses. While typically non-citizens do not influence the political life in a country, they do help in establishing and maintaining various religious facilities and activities. Thus, it makes sense to include them in an estimate that inquires about adherents of a certain religion in a country.

However, not all censuses inquire on religious adherence, nor are held regularly. Thus, our second source of estimates is Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) that include data on religion. When no census or Survey is available, we resort to other estimates from reliable sources. The total population estimate for each country and the corresponding annual population growth rate (APGR) since 1950 are based on [UNP]. An estimate for the Muslims demographics in the decennial estimates based on these growth rates.

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We divided Oceania into four regions; the data for each is included in a separate section, and are sorted in terms of the percentage of Muslims in descending order. These regions are Melanesia (Section 2), Australasia (Section 3), Micronesia (Section 4), and Polynesia (Section 5). Section 6 presents a summary for the whole world.

II. MUSLIMS IN MELANESIA

This region consists of four island nations: Fiji, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu. The total population in this region increased from 0.3 million in 1870, to 0.5 million in 1950, to 2.2 million by 2020. The related Muslim population changed from 4% in 1870, to 5% in 1950, to 3% by 2020. The corresponding individual data for each country in this region is discussed below and summarized in Table 2.

2.1. Fiji: Based on census data, the Muslim population increased from 16,932 or 6.52% in 1946, to 25,394 or 7.34% in 1956, to 37,116 or 7.79% in 1966, to 45,459 or 7.73% in 1976, to 54,323 or 7.59% in 1986, to 56,001 or 7.23% in 1996, then decreased to 52,520 or 6.27% in 2007.

2.2. New Caledonia: Estimates for the Muslim population decreased from 10% in 1981, to 10,000 or 4.33% in 2007.

2.3. Solomon Islands: By 2009, there were six Muslims in the Islands, or less than 0.01% of the population.

2.4. Vanuatu: By 2005, the Muslim population is estimated at 200 or 0.1% of the total population.

III. MUSLIMS IN AUSTRALASIA

This region consists of two island nations: Australia and New Zealand. The total population in this region increased from two million in 1870, to ten million in 1950, to 29 million by 2020. The related Muslim population decreased from less than 0.1% before 1970, to 2% by 2020. The corresponding individual data for each country in this region is discussed below and summarized in Table 6.2.

3.1. Australia: Based on census data, the Muslim population decreased from 3,206 or 0.09% in 1901, to 3,908 or 0.09% in 1911, to 2,868 or 0.05% in 1921, to 1,877 or 0.04% in 1933, then continued increasing since then to 2,704 or 0.04% in 1947, to 22,311 or 0.17% in 1971, to 45,200 or 0.33% in 1976, to 14,576,330 or 0.53% in 1981, to 109,523 or 0.70% in 1986, to 147,487 or 0.88% in 1991, to 200,885 or 1.12% in 1996, to 281,600 or 1.50% in 2001, to 340,400 or 1.71% in 2006.

3.2. New Zealand: According to census data, the Muslim population remained at or below 0.01% of the total population until the 1960s, changing from 17 in 1874, to 39

TABLE2. ESTIMATE OF THE MUSLIM POPULATION IN MELANESIA FROM 1950 TO 2020.

		1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
Fiji	Population	288,993	393,995	520,304	633,670	723,560	801,681	854,098	909,942
	Muslims %	6.52	7.34	7.79	7.73	7.59	7.23	6.27	6.27
	Muslims	18,842	28,919	40,532	48,983	54,918	57,962	53,552	57,053
	APGR %		3.148	2.820	1.991	1.335	1.031	0.635	
	Reference	[UN56](1946)	[UN63](1956)	[UN71](1966)	[UN83](1976)	[UN](1986)	[UN](1996)	[FJ](2007)	
New Caledonia	Population	64,824	78,003	105,321	142,718	171,065	215,215	253,743	299,168
	Muslims %	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	4.33	4.33	4.33	4.33
	Muslims	6,482	7,800	10,532	14,272	7,407	9,319	10,987	12,954
	APGR %		1.868	3.048	3.085	1.828	2.322	1.660	
	Reference				[KET]			[NC]	
Solomon Islands	Population	89,793	118,294	160,668	228,920	313,629	415,544	535,699	690,597
	Muslims %	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
	Muslims	9	12	16	23	31	42	54	69
	APGR %		2.795	3.109	3.604	3.198	2.854	2.572	
	Reference						[DOS01](1999)		
Vanuatu	Population	47,695	63,824	86,013	117,155	149,449	189,723	245,786	318,416
	Muslims %	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11
	Muslims	52	70	95	129	164	209	270	350
	APGR %		2.956	3.029	3.138	2.464	2.415	2.623	
	Reference							[VN]	
Total	Population	491,305	654,116	872,306	1,122,463	1,357,703	1,622,163	1,889,326	2,218,123
	Muslims %	5.17	5.63	5.87	5.65	4.60	4.16	3.43	3.18
	Muslims	25,386	36,802	51,174	63,406	62,521	67,531	64,863	70,427
	APGR %		2.904	2.920	2.553	1.921	1.796	1.536	

in 1878, to 7 in 1881, to 43 in 1896, to 41 in 1901, to 17 in 1906, to 12 in 1911, to 47 in 1916, to 65 in 1921, to 76 in 1926, to 51 in 1936, to 67 in 1945, to 205 in 1951, to 200 in 1956, to 260 in 1961. The Muslim population then continued its steady increase to 551 or 0.02% in 1966, to 779 or 0.03% in 1971, to 1,415 or 0.05% in 1976, to 2,004 or 0.06% in 1981, to 2,544 or 0.08% in 1986, to 5,772 or 0.17% in 1991 to 13,548 or 0.37% in 1996, to 23,631 or 0.63% in 2001, to 36,072 or 0.90% in 2006.

IV. MUSLIMS IN MICRONESIA

This region consists of seven island nations and territories: Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Northern Mariana Islands, and Palau. The total population in this region increased from 0.1 million in 1870, to 0.2 million in 1950, to 0.6 million by 2020. The related Muslim population increased from around 0.2% in and before 1990, to 0.3% by 2020. The corresponding individual data for each country in this region is discussed below and summarized in Table 4.

4.1. Federated States of Micronesia: According to the 1994 census, the Islands had 105,506 inhabitants out of which 26 or 0.02% were Muslims.

4.2. Guam: Estimates of the Muslim population in this U.S. Territory decreased from 100 or 0.07% in 1990 to 50 or 0.03% in 2008.

4.3. Kiribati: According to the 2005 census, the islands had a total population of 92,514 out of which less than 100 or 0.1% was Muslim.

4.4. Marshall Islands: As of 2009, the Muslim population is less than ten or 0.02% of the total population.

4.5 Nauru: According to the 1947 census data, the Island had 1,476 inhabitants out of which 34 or 2.30% were Muslims. The 2002 census reported 10,063 inhabitants, none of which were Muslim.

4.6. Northern Mariana Islands: According to census data, the total population increased from 16,780 in 1980, to 43,345 in 1990, to 58,846 in 1995, to 69,221 in 2000. These censuses included ethnic data on Bangladeshis who are mostly Muslim. Accordingly, the Muslim population changed from none in 1980, to 28 or 0.06% in 1990, to 7 or 0.01% in 1995, to 873 or 1.26% in 2000.

4.7 Palau: In 2008, the Muslim population was 500 or 2.51% of the total population.

TABLE 3. ESTIMATE OF THE MUSLIM POPULATION IN AUSTRALASIA FROM 1950 TO 2020.

		1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
Australia	Population	8,218,999	10,276,473	12,728,362	14,695,356	17,091,250	19,170,936	21,511,888	24,138,692
	Muslims %	0.04	0.04	0.17	0.53	0.88	1.50	1.71	1.71
	Muslims	3,288	4,111	21,638	77,885	150,403	287,564	367,853	412,772
	APGR %		2.259	2.163	1.447	1.522	1.155	1.159	
	Reference	[UN56](1947)		[UN73](1971)	[UN83](1981)	[UN93](1991)	[UN](2001)	[AU](2006)	
New Zealand	Population	1,908,001	2,372,000	2,819,597	3,147,183	3,385,608	3,868,201	4,303,457	4,787,689
	Muslims %	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.06	0.17	0.63	0.90	0.90
	Muslims	191	237	846	1,888	5,756	24,370	38,731	43,089
	APGR %		2.201	1.744	1.105	0.733	1.341	1.072	
	Reference	[NZH](1951)	[NZH](1961)	[NZH](1971)	[NZH](1981)	[NZH](1991)	[UN](2001)	[NZ](2006)	
Total	Population	10,127,000	12,648,473	15,547,959	17,842,539	20,476,858	23,039,137	25,815,345	28,926,381
	Muslims %	0.03	0.03	0.14	0.45	0.76	1.35	1.57	1.58
	Muslims	3,478	4,348	22,484	79,774	156,159	311,934	406,584	455,861
	APGR %		2.248	2.085	1.386	1.387	1.186	1.144	

V. MUSLIMS IN POLYNESIA

This region consists of nine island nations and territories: Cook Islands, French Polynesia, Niue, Samoa, American Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Wallis and Futuna. The total population in this region increased from 0.1 million in 1870, to 0.2 million in 1950, to 0.7 million by 2020. The related Muslim population remains less than 0.1%. The corresponding individual data for each country in this region is discussed below and summarized in Table 5.

5.1. Cook Islands: Based on census data, the Muslim population increased from three or 0.02% in 2001 to eight or 0.06% in 2006.

5.2. French Polynesia: These islands are part of the Republic of France as a French Overseas Collectivity and their censuses do not include data on religious affiliations. Less than 0.01% of the total population is estimated to be Muslim.

5.3. Niue: No Muslims reside in this Island.

5.4. Samoa: According to Census data, the Muslim population increased from 48 or 0.03% in 2001, to 61 or 0.04% in 2006.

5.5. American Samoa: In 1990, there were twelve Muslims in the Islands, which constitute 0.03% of the total

population.

5.6. Tokelau: According to the 2006 census data, these islands dependency of New Zealand had 1,074 inhabitants, none of which were Muslims.

5.7. Tonga: According to census data, the Muslim population increased from 35 or 0.04% in 1996 to 47 or 0.05% in 2006.

5.8. Tuvalu: As of 2009, there was a small number of Muslims in the Islands or less than 0.1% of the total population.

5.9. Wallis and Futuna: No Muslims live in this French Territory.

VI. WORLD SUMMARY

A summary for each continent for the purpose of comparison is presented in Table 6. Accordingly, the world population increased from 1.19 billion in 1870, to 2.53 billion in 1950 to 7.88 billion by 2020. The related Muslim population increased from 0.18 billion or 15% in 1870, to 0.43 billion or 17% in 1950 to 2.04 billion or 26% by 2020. Most Muslims live in Asia, but this fraction of Muslims decreased from 74% in 1950 to 71% by 2020. Africa comes

TABLE 4. ESTIMATE OF THE MUSLIM POPULATION IN MICRONESIA FROM 1950 TO 2020.

		1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
Federated States of Micronesia	Population	32,000	44,534	61,426	72,958	96,313	107,099	111,101	115,253
	Muslims %	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
	Muslims	6	9	12	15	19	21	22	23
	APGR %		3.360	3.268	1.735	2.816	1.067	0.368	
	Reference					[UN](1994)			
Guam	Population	59,650	67,436	85,459	106,572	133,914	155,153	179,893	208,578
	Muslims %	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.03	0.03
	Muslims	42	47	60	75	94	109	54	63
	APGR %		1.234	2.397	2.232	2.310	1.483	1.491	
	Reference						[GU]	[GU]	
Kiribati	Population	31,423	43,336	47,735	56,213	72,335	84,494	100,549	119,655
	Muslims %	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10
	Muslims	31	43	48	56	72	84	101	120
	APGR %		3.267	0.972	1.648	2.554	1.566	1.755	
	Reference							[KI](2005)	
Marshall Islands	Population	12,602	13,928	20,206	30,873	43,380	50,840	55,268	60,083
	Muslims %	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
	Muslims	3	3	4	6	9	10	11	12
	APGR %		1.005	3.791	4.330	3.460	1.600	0.839	
	Reference							[DOS]	
Nauru	Population	1,011	2,547	4,300	5,242	7,287	7,882	9,798	12,181
	Muslims %	2.30	2.30	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
	Muslims	23	59	0	1	1	1	1	1
	APGR %		9.680	5.377	2.001	3.349	0.788	2.200	
	Reference	[UN56](1947)			[NR](1983)	[NR](1992)	[NR](2002)		
Northern Mariana Islands	Population	6,596	8,825	12,548	16,780	43,345	69,221	64,342	59,807
	Muslims %	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.06	1.26	1.26	1.26
	Muslims	1	1	1	2	26	872	811	754
	APGR %		2.954	3.582	2.949	9.955	4.792	-0.728	
	Reference				[MP](1980e)	[MP](1990e)	[MP](2000e)		
Palau	Population	6,587	9,760	11,210	12,116	15,122	19,129	20,478	21,923
	Muslims %	2.51	2.51	2.51	2.51	2.51	2.51	2.51	2.51
	Muslims	165	245	281	304	380	480	514	550
	APGR %		4.010	1.395	0.780	2.241	2.378	0.684	
	Reference							[PW]	
Total	Population	149,869	190,366	242,884	300,754	411,696	493,818	541,430	597,479
	Muslims %	0.18	0.21	0.17	0.15	0.15	0.32	0.28	0.25
	Muslims	271	407	407	458	600	1,578	1,513	1,522
	APGR %		2.421	2.466	2.160	3.190	1.835	0.925	

second, with the fraction of Muslims living in it increased from 23% in 1950 to 26% by 2020. Although the percentage of Muslims in Europe has increased from 2% in 1950 to 6% by 2020, the fraction of World Muslim population living there remained between 2% and 3% during the same period. Finally, since 1950 less than 0.5% and 0.1% of the World Muslim population lives in the Americas and Oceania, respectively. A color coded map of the World illustrating the presence of Muslims in each country is presented in Figure 6.

Since the 1960s, the world population annual growth (APGR) has been decreasing constantly, from 2.0% to 1.2% in the 2000s. The corresponding APGR for the World Muslim population also has been decreasing since the 1960s,

from 2.7% to 1.7% in the 2000s. However, since the 1970s, the Muslim's growth is about 40% higher than the world's growth. This explains why the representation of Muslims with respect to the total World population is increasing at over one percentage point each decade. Accordingly, Muslims increased from one out of seven of the World population in 1870, to one out of six in 1950, to one out of five in 1980, to one out of four in 2010, to one out of three by 2070.

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TABLE 5. ESTIMATE OF THE MUSLIM POPULATION IN POLYNESIA FROM 1950 TO 2020.

		1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
Cook Islands	Population	15,079	18,378	21,322	17,743	18,608	18,027	15,772	13,799
	Muslims %	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.06	0.06
	Muslims	3	4	4	4	4	4	9	8
	APGR %		1.998	1.497	-1.821	0.477	-0.317	-1.327	
	Reference						[CK01](2001)	[CK](2006)	
French Polynesia	Population	60,696	79,334	110,872	151,101	195,386	235,958	272,394	314,456
	Muslims %	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
	Muslims	6	8	11	15	20	24	27	31
	APGR %		2.714	3.404	3.144	2.604	1.905	1.446	
	Reference								
Niue	Population	4,553	4,864	4,990	3,281	2,239	1,788	1,473	1,213
	Muslims %	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
	Muslims	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	APGR %		0.663	0.256	-4.106	-3.749	-2.224	-1.919	
	Reference								
Samoa	Population	82,102	109,916	142,354	155,019	161,330	176,556	178,943	181,362
	Muslims %	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.04
	Muslims	25	33	43	47	48	53	72	73
	APGR %		2.961	2.620	0.856	0.400	0.906	0.134	
	Reference						[WS01](2001)	[WS](2006)	
Samoa, American	Population	18,937	20,051	27,159	32,297	46,773	57,291	66,250	76,610
	Muslims %	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03
	Muslims	6	6	8	10	14	17	20	23
	APGR %		0.573	3.081	1.748	3.773	2.049	1.464	
	Reference					[RIS]			
Tokelau	Population	1,580	1,870	1,599	1,572	1,577	1,449	1,166	938
	Muslims %	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
	Muslims	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	APGR %		1.699	-1.553	-0.170	0.032	-0.843	-2.152	
	Reference							[TK](2006)	
Tonga	Population	47,220	68,360	98,312	96,889	94,573	98,587	104,260	110,259
	Muslims %	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.05
	Muslims	19	27	39	39	38	39	52	55
	APGR %		3.769	3.700	-0.146	-0.242	0.417	0.561	
	Reference						[UN](1996)	[TO](2006)	
Tuvalu	Population	4,487	5,444	5,887	7,349	9,043	9,561	11,140	12,979
	Muslims %	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10
	Muslims	4	5	6	7	9	10	11	13
	APGR %		1.952	0.785	2.243	2.096	0.559	1.540	
	Reference							[DOS]	
Wallis & Futuna	Population	7,000	8,000	8,546	12,408	13,705	14,944	14,231	13,552
	Muslims %	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
	Muslims	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	APGR %		1.344	0.662	3.799	0.999	0.869	-0.488	
	Reference								
Total	Population	241,654	316,217	421,041	477,659	543,234	614,161	665,629	725,170
	Muslims %	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.03
	Muslims	64	85	113	123	134	148	193	205
	APGR %		2.726	2.904	1.270	1.295	1.235	0.808	

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TABLE 6. ESTIMATE OF THE WORLD MUSLIM POPULATION FROM 1950 TO 2020.

		1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
Asia	Population	1,412,651,521	1,707,418,774	2,143,319,321	2,644,427,068	3,204,038,591	3,726,446,557	4,197,154,822	4,746,309,359
	Muslims %	22.76	23.37	24.22	25.20	26.77	28.36	29.49	30.65
	Muslims	321,458,277	398,999,053	519,134,735	666,470,391	857,715,249	1,056,932,424	1,237,795,730	1,454,647,845
	CAPGR %		1.913	2.300	2.123	1.938	1.522	1.197	
	MAPGR %		2.184	2.667	2.530	2.555	2.111	1.592	
	Mus. Ratio%	74.25	73.99	73.77	73.14	73.19	72.81	71.81	70.96
Africa	Population	227,268,888	285,040,297	366,781,400	482,232,286	638,726,991	819,461,202	1,033,044,104	1,307,200,138
	Muslims %	44.12	44.27	44.41	44.78	43.33	42.72	42.06	41.48
	Muslims	100,259,754	126,200,548	162,887,891	215,924,202	276,762,636	350,105,469	434,541,642	542,270,929
	CAPGR %		2.291	2.553	2.774	2.850	2.523	2.343	
	MAPGR %		2.328	2.585	2.859	2.513	2.379	2.184	
	Mus. Ratio%	23.16	23.40	23.15	23.70	23.62	24.12	25.21	26.45
Europe	Population	547,424,812	604,423,268	655,996,572	692,899,864	720,758,128	726,156,921	732,729,325	741,656,508
	Muslims %	1.97	2.22	3.04	3.57	4.43	5.14	5.74	5.76
	Muslims	10,765,329	13,426,084	19,918,426	24,726,900	31,939,389	37,323,169	42,052,753	42,706,747
	CAPGR %		0.995	0.822	0.549	0.395	0.075	0.090	
	MAPGR %		2.233	4.023	2.186	2.593	1.570	1.200	
	Mus. Ratio%	2.49	2.49	2.83	2.71	2.73	2.57	2.44	2.08
Americas	Population	338,886,187	423,934,980	517,716,215	616,702,439	724,937,938	839,803,665	940,248,735	1,053,848,972
	Muslims %	0.13	0.14	0.34	0.63	0.73	0.81	0.93	0.94
	Muslims	448,741	573,048	1,745,264	3,900,006	5,309,972	6,794,905	8,743,857	9,931,812
	CAPGR %		2.264	2.019	1.765	1.630	1.482	1.136	
	MAPGR %		2.475	11.781	8.373	3.134	2.497	2.554	
	Mus. Ratio%	0.10	0.11	0.25	0.43	0.45	0.47	0.51	0.48
Oceania	Population	11,009,828	13,809,172	17,084,190	19,743,415	22,789,491	25,769,279	28,911,730	32,467,153
	Muslims %	0.18	0.21	0.17	0.15	0.15	0.32	0.28	0.25
	Muslims	29,200	41,641	74,178	143,761	219,414	381,190	473,154	528,015
	CAPGR %		2.291	2.151	1.457	1.445	1.236	1.157	
	MAPGR %		3.613	5.944	6.841	4.319	5.679	2.185	
	Mus. Ratio%	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.03
World	Population	2,537,241,236	3,034,626,491	3,700,897,698	4,456,005,072	5,311,251,139	6,137,637,624	6,932,088,715	7,881,482,130
	Muslims %	17.06	17.77	19.02	20.45	22.07	23.65	24.86	26.01
	Muslims	432,961,301	539,240,373	703,760,495	911,165,259	1,171,946,661	1,451,537,157	1,723,607,136	2,050,085,347
	WAPGR %		1.806	2.005	1.874	1.771	1.457	1.225	
	MAPGR %		2.219	2.699	2.617	2.549	2.163	1.733	

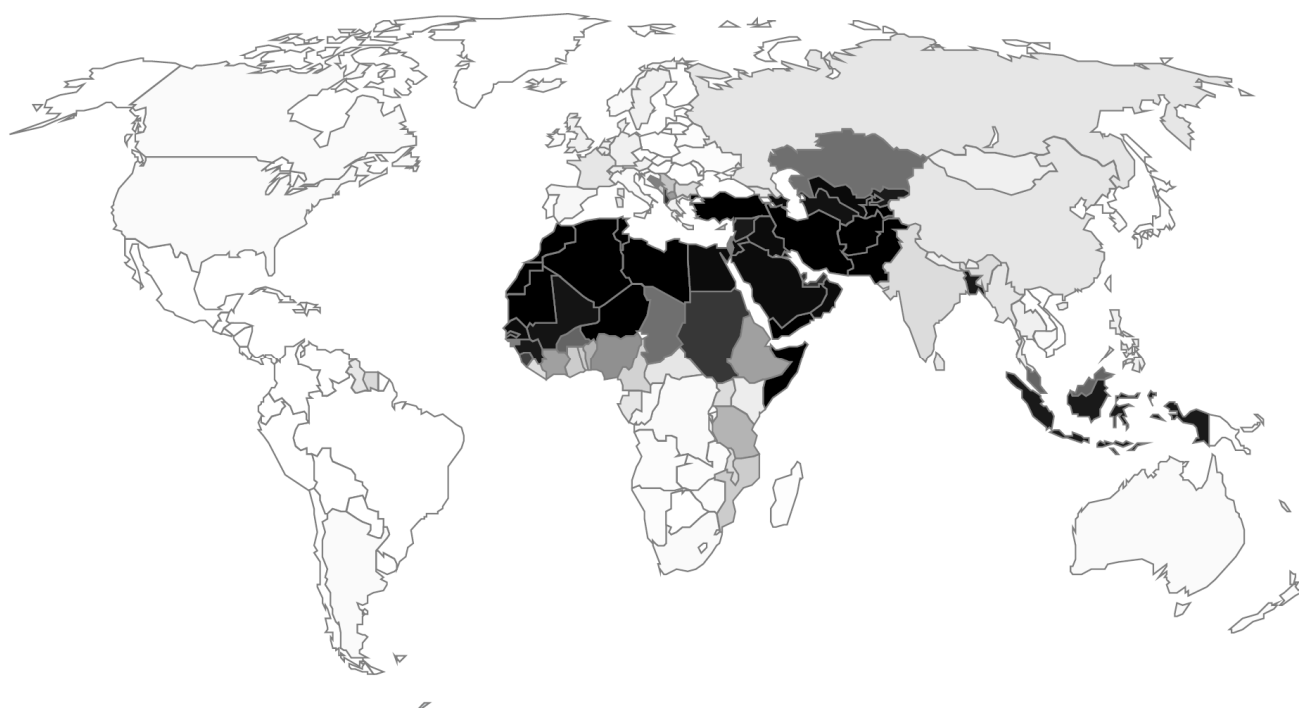


Figure 6. A color coded map of the World illustrating the presence of Muslims in the continent as of 2010.

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