

# CONSERVATISM

# Conservatism



Conservatism is only as good as  
what it conserves.

— *Friedrich August von Hayek* —

# CONSERVATISM

Stevenson notes that as a philosophical position, conservatism has often been overshadowed by liberalism in the U.S. However, in Europe this tradition has a long heritage and has support among religious groups, the military, and land owners.



*Conservative*  
"THE REAL THING"

# CONSERVATISM

## I. Varieties of Conservatism



# CONSERVATISM

## 1. *Traditional Conservatism*

- a. Focus on authority and control.
- b. Protection and security for those who are less fortunate (*noblesse oblige*).
- c. Practices, customs, and traditions.



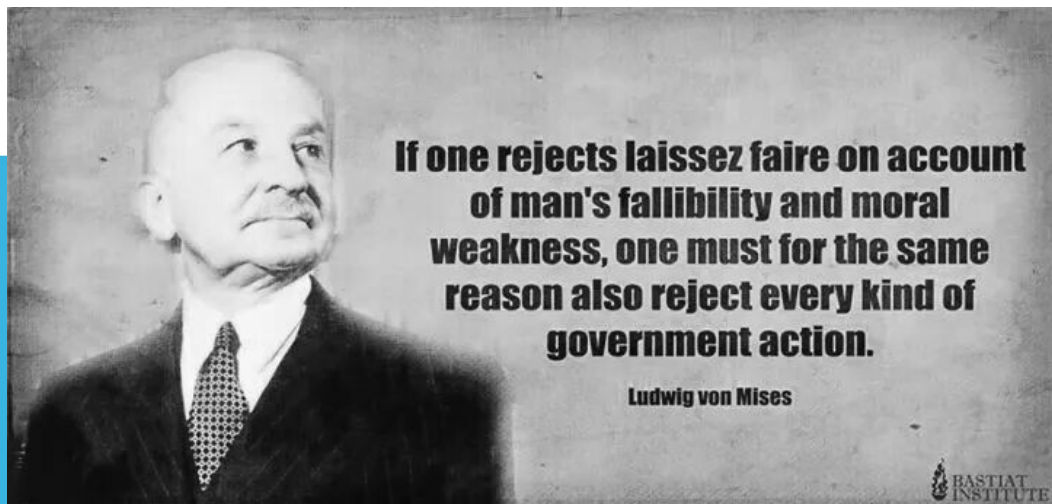
Conservatism is the policy of making no changes and consulting your grandmother when in doubt.

(Woodrow Wilson)

# CONSERVATISM

## 2. *Laissez-faire Conservatism*

- a. Individual freedom.
- b. Limits on government.
- c. In Europe this type of conservatism is known as “classical liberalism.”
- d. Individual rationality and self-interest.



**If one rejects laissez faire on account of man's fallibility and moral weakness, one must for the same reason also reject every kind of government action.**

Ludwig von Mises

# CONSERVATISM

## Commonalities?

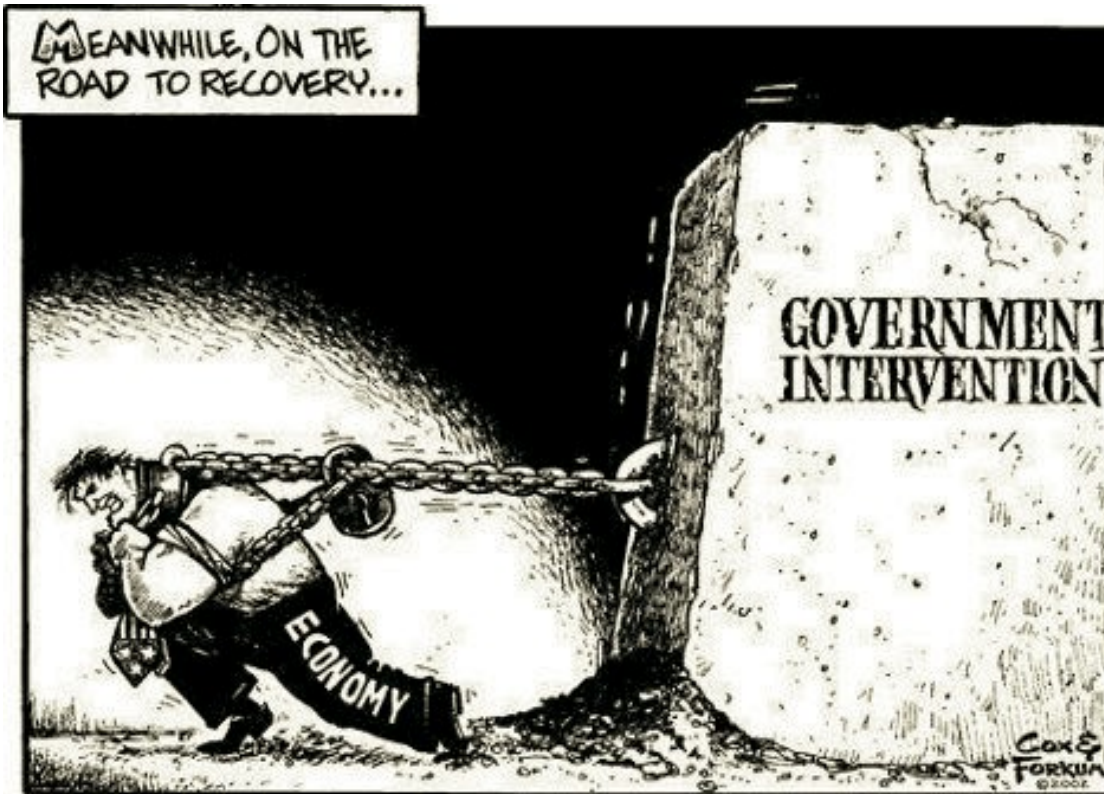


# CONSERVATISM

1. Both are opposed to extensive government intervention in society.



# CONSERVATISM



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2. Neither support government as a legitimate tool for social reform, or a vehicle for social planning.

# CONSERVATISM

3. Both support the value of private property.



# CONSERVATISM



4. Both are united in their opposition to socialism and communism.

# CONSERVATISM

## II. Prominent Traditional Conservatives



# CONSERVATISM

Burke

*Reflections  
on the  
Revolution in  
France  
(1790).*

## Edmund Burke

- 1729? – 1797
- British
- A Chief founder of conservatism
- Supportive of American Revolution
  - Saw it as a struggle for existing English liberties
- Strongly opposed to French Revolution
  - “One of the greatest calamities that has ever fallen upon mankind”
  - And its leaders were “harpies” sprung from night and hell



# CONSERVATISM

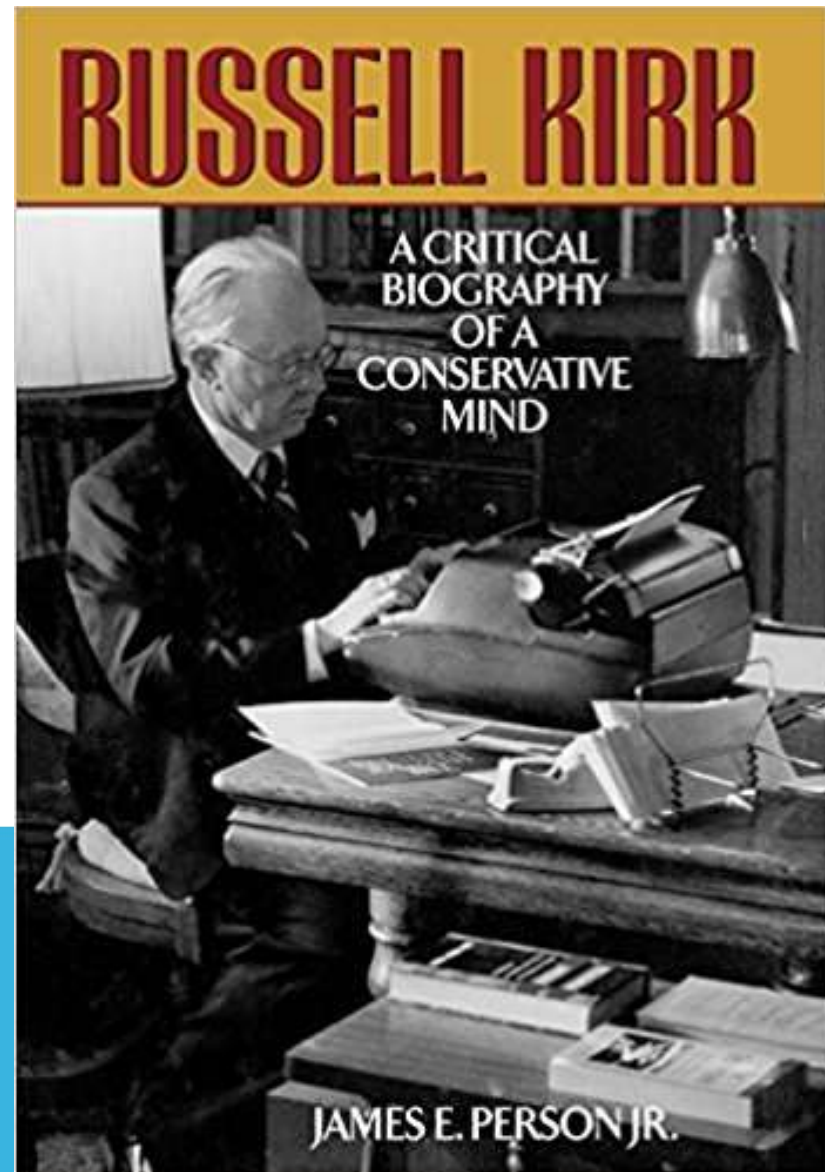
**Burke** was not happy with the French Revolution. Social experiments by governments were dangerous. Reason meant the “wisdom of generations” (recall liberalism stressed skepticism, doubt). Aristocracy and hierarchy were natural developments in society, not human equality.



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Kirk – *The Conservative Mind* (1953).

The Six Tenets:



# CONSERVATISM



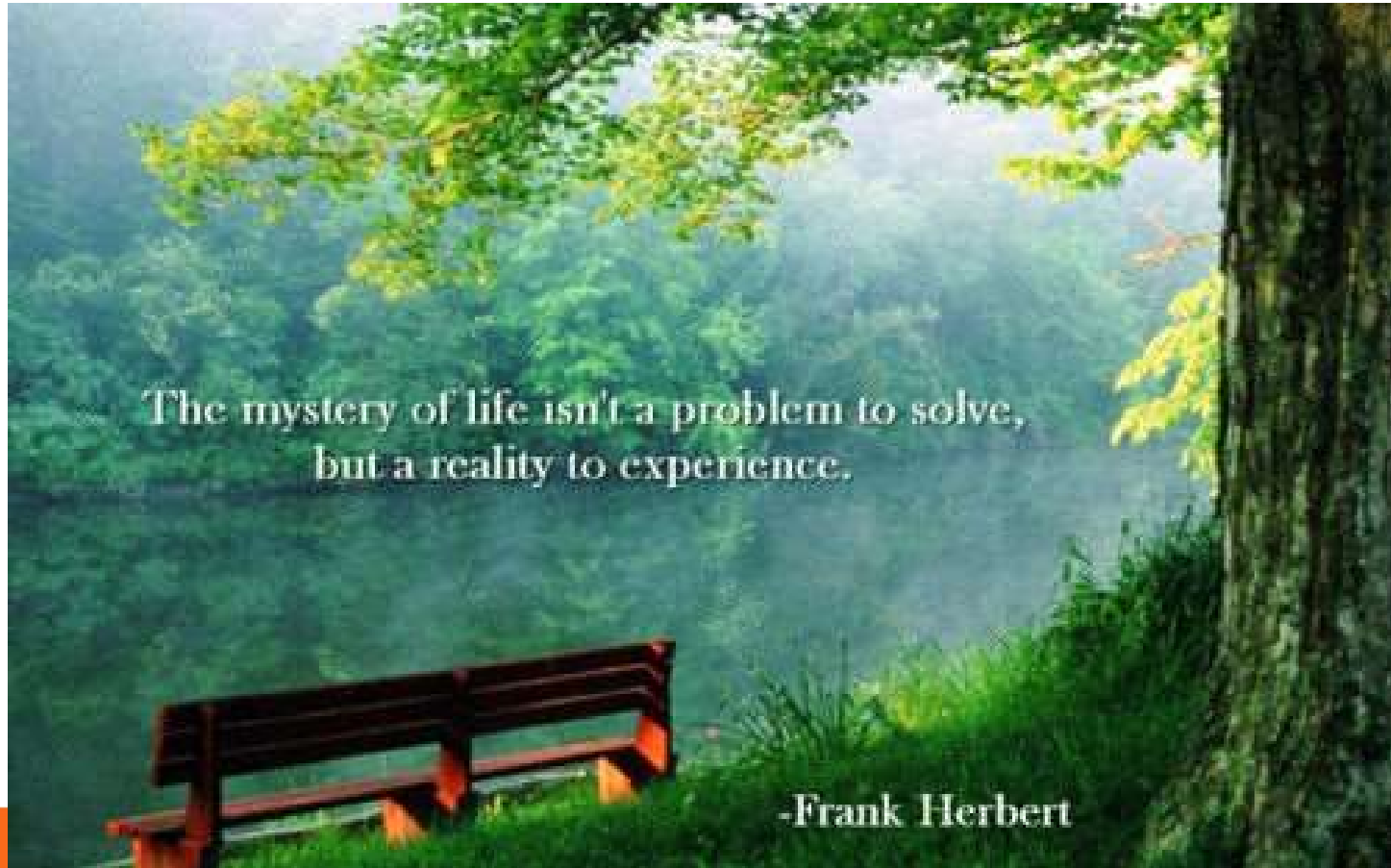
Remarkable contributions are typically spawned by a passionate commitment to transcendent values such as beauty, truth, wisdom, justice, charity, fidelity, joy, courage and honor.

— Gary Hamel —

AZ QUOTES

1. A belief that there are transcendent values governing society and individual conscience.

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2. Support for the variety and “mystery” of life.

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In the strict sense of the term, a true democracy has never existed, and never will exist. It is against natural order that the great number should govern and that the few should be governed.

(Jean-Jacques Rousseau)

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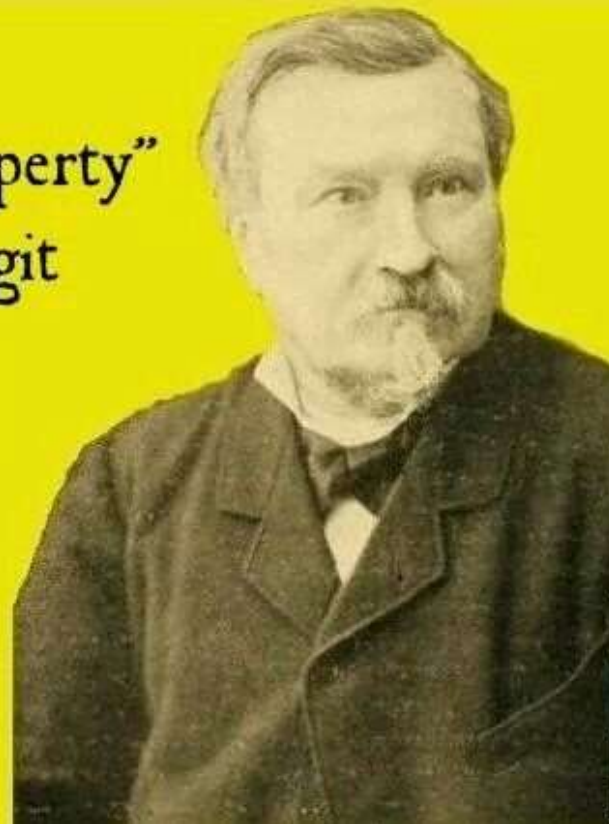
3. A conviction that orders and classes are natural developments in any society.

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Private property is redundant. "Public property" is an oxymoron. All legit property is private. If property isn't private it's stolen.

- Gustave de Molinari

[FB.com/BlueRidgeLibertyProject](https://www.facebook.com/BlueRidgeLibertyProject)



4. A belief that private property is key to individual freedom.

# CONSERVATISM



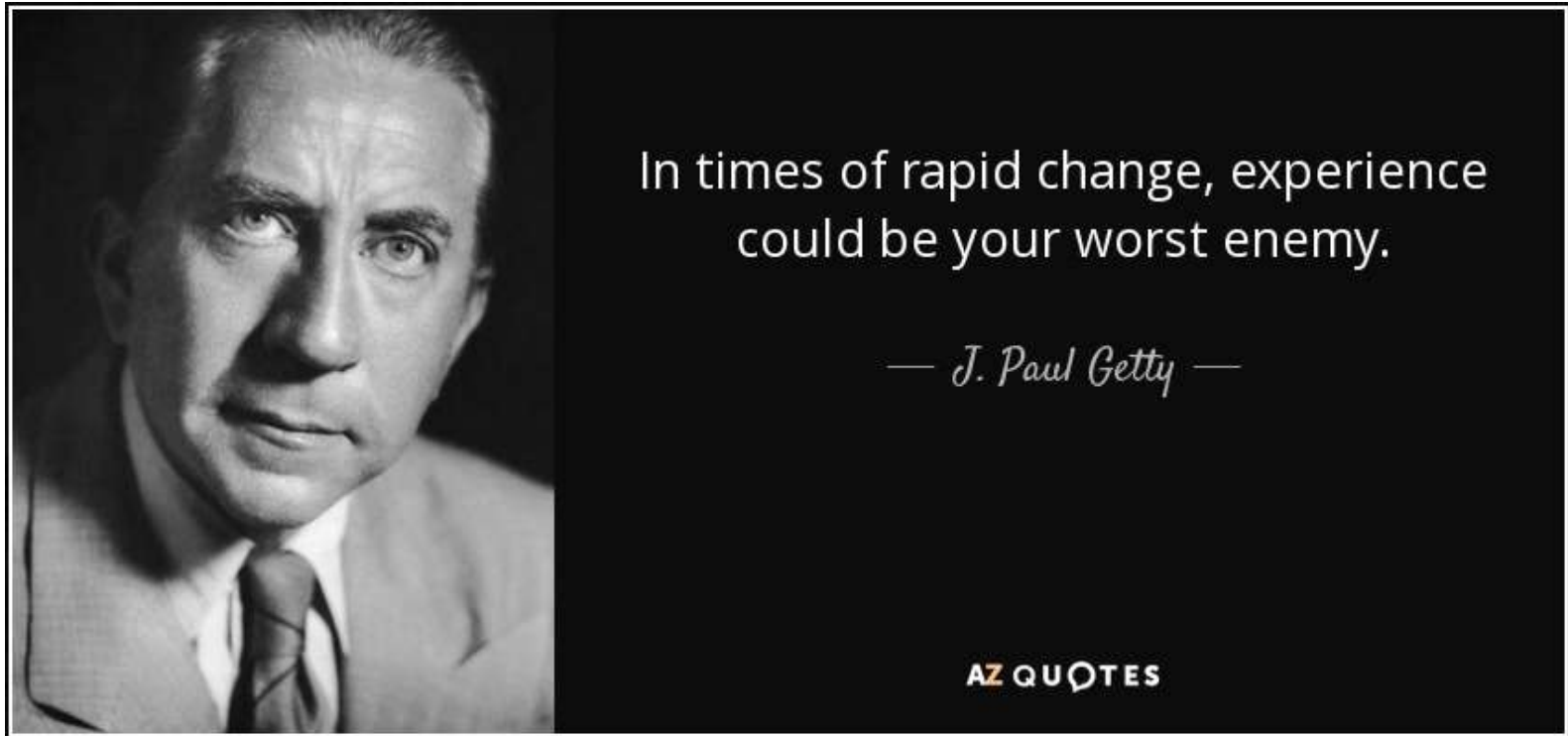
Every age, every culture, every custom and tradition has its own character, its own weakness and its own strength, its beauties and cruelties; it accepts certain sufferings as matters of course, puts up patiently with certain evils. Human life is reduced to real suffering, to hell, only when two ages, two cultures and religions overlap.

(Hermann Hesse)

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5. Reliance on convention, tradition, and custom as checks on human emotions and rational designs.

# CONSERVATISM



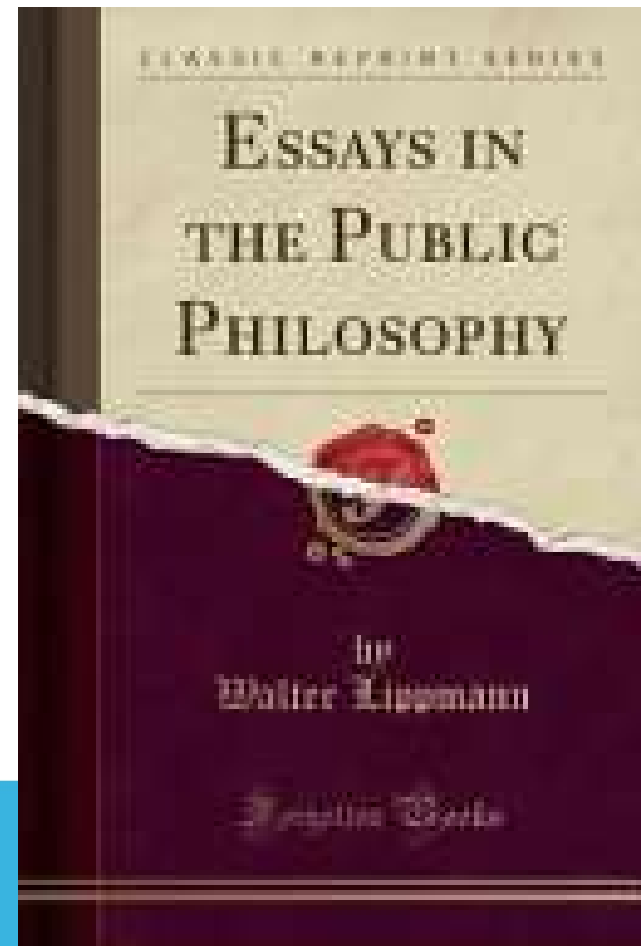
6. Suspicion of efforts at reform and change that move too rapidly in the face of social traditions.

# CONSERVATISM

Lippman – *Essays  
in the Public  
Philosophy*  
(1955)

“Where all  
think alike,  
no one  
thinks very  
much.”

Walter Lippmann



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1. “Leveling” aspects of democracy not good for the nation.

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By the power elite, we refer to those political, economic, and military circles which as an intricate set of overlapping cliques share decisions having at least national consequences. In so far as national events are decided, the power elite are those who decide them.

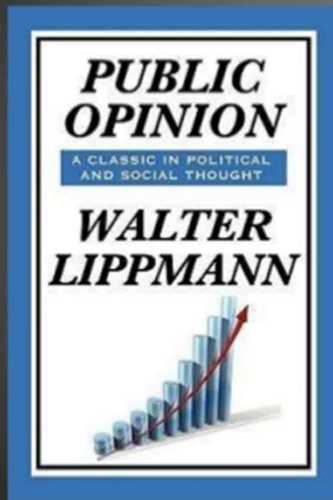
— *C. Wright Mills* —

AZ QUOTES

2. Elites spend too much time listening to the “whims of the public.”

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## “Public Opinion” (1922)



- Most people are busy, ill-informed and ill-suited for self-government
- “Manufacturing consent”
- Lippmann put his faith in experts — a stance that later changed

3. For democracies to survive, executive (elite) power must be separated from public opinion, which is usually defined as having narrow, self-seeking interests.

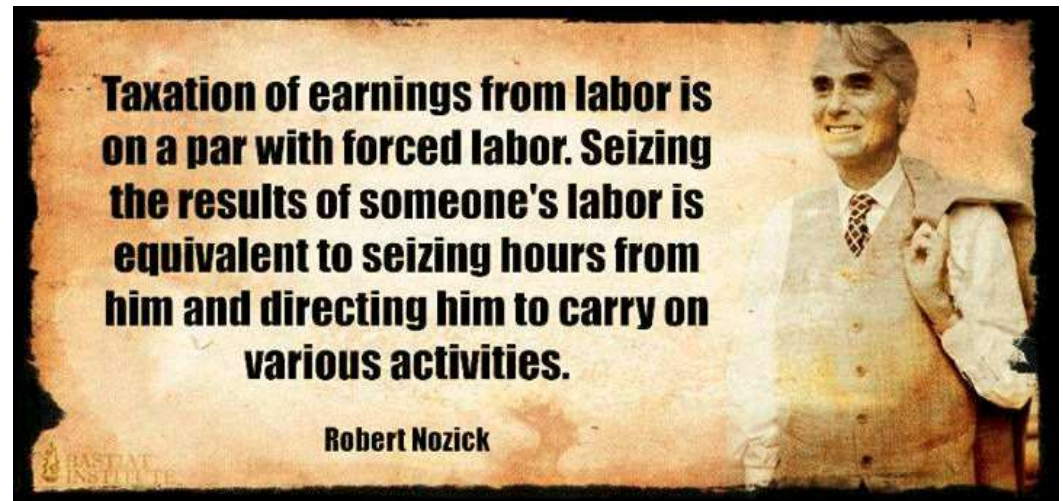
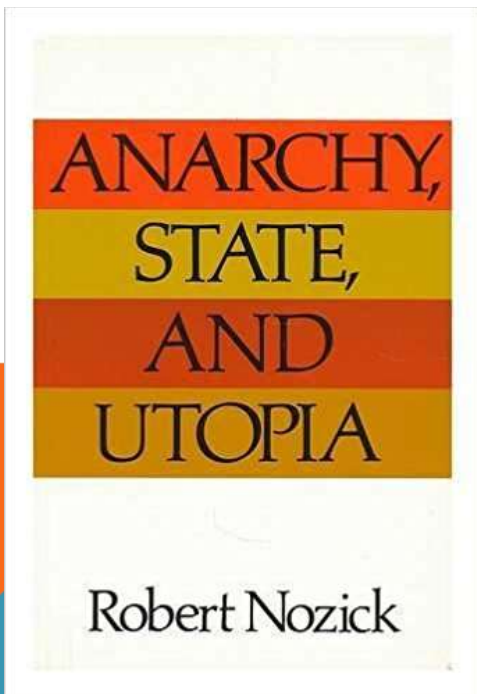
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## III. Prominent Laissez-faire Conservatives (Classical Liberals)



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Nozick – *Anarchy, State and Utopia* (1974).

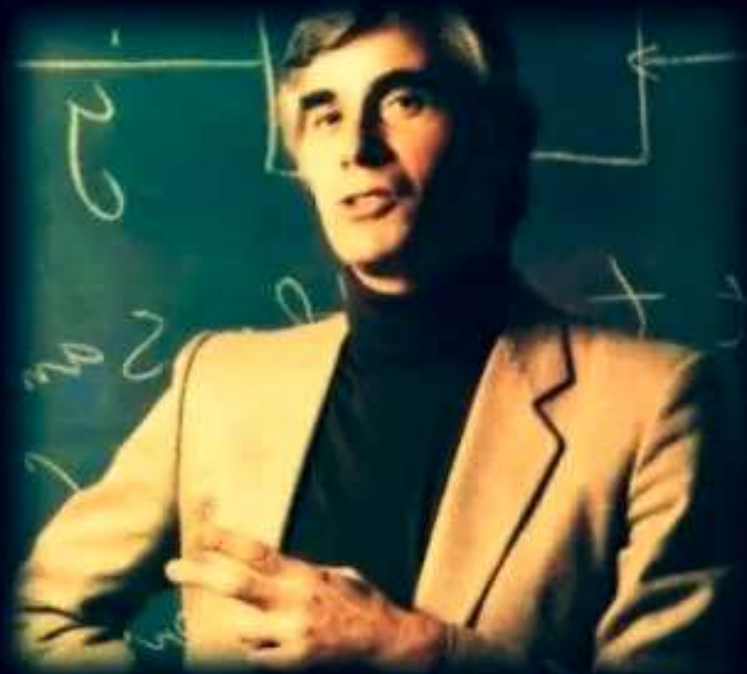


A well known libertarian, he advocated a minimal state (but not complete abolition as an anarchist would suggest)

# CONSERVATISM

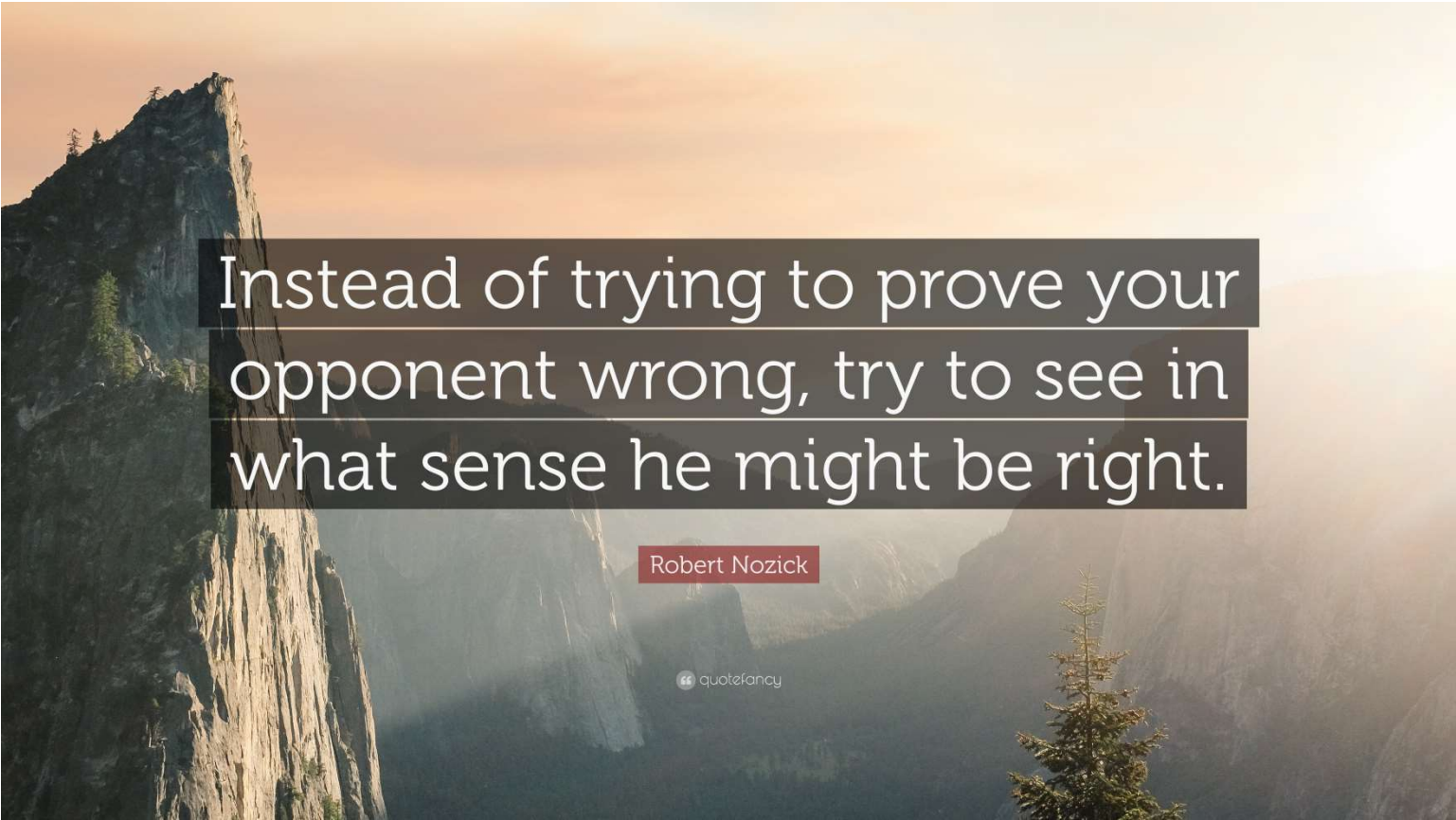
“People tend to forget the possibilities of acting independently of the state.”

– Robert Nozick,  
*Anarchy, State, and Utopia*



1. Individuals are discrete entities entitled to freedom and property.

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Instead of trying to prove your  
opponent wrong, try to see in  
what sense he might be right.

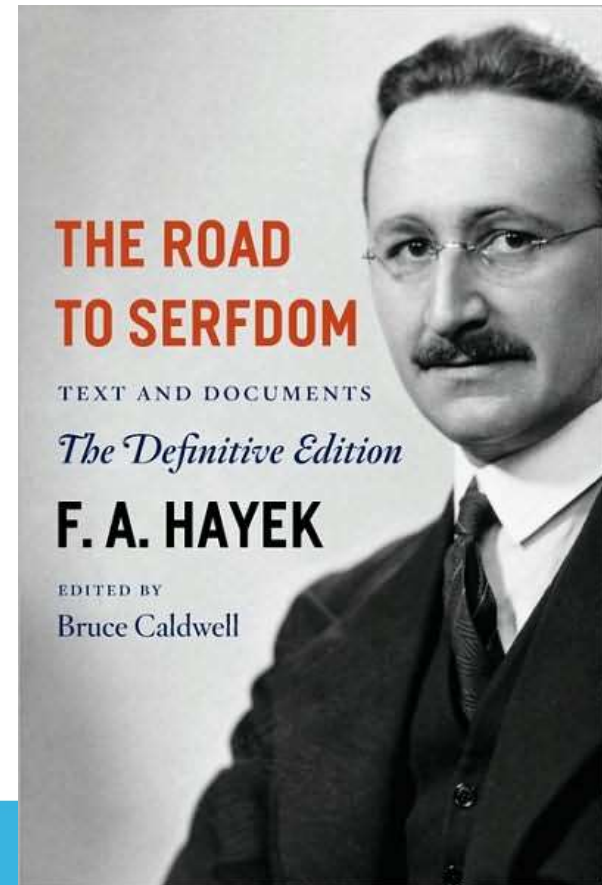
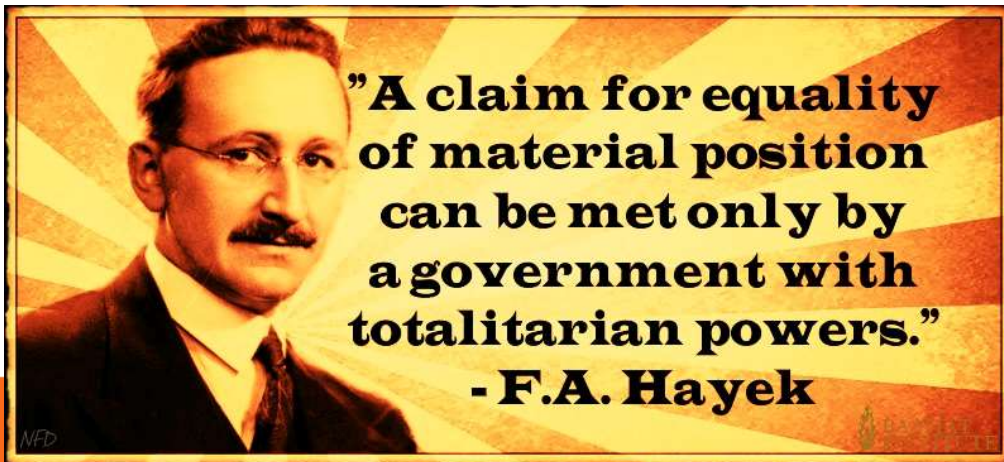
Robert Nozick

quotefancy

2. Any government power  
begins from this postulate.

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Hayek – *The Road to Serfdom* (1944).



He stressed greater individualism from an *economic* as opposed to *philosophical* position.

# CONSERVATISM

There is all the difference in the world  
between treating people equally  
and attempting to make them equal.

- F.A. Hayek



1. Bureaucracies or attempts at economic or social planning work to limit individual freedom.

# CONSERVATISM



I have come to feel strongly that the greatest service I can still render to my fellow men would be that I could make the speakers and writers among them thoroughly ashamed ever again to employ the term 'social justice'.

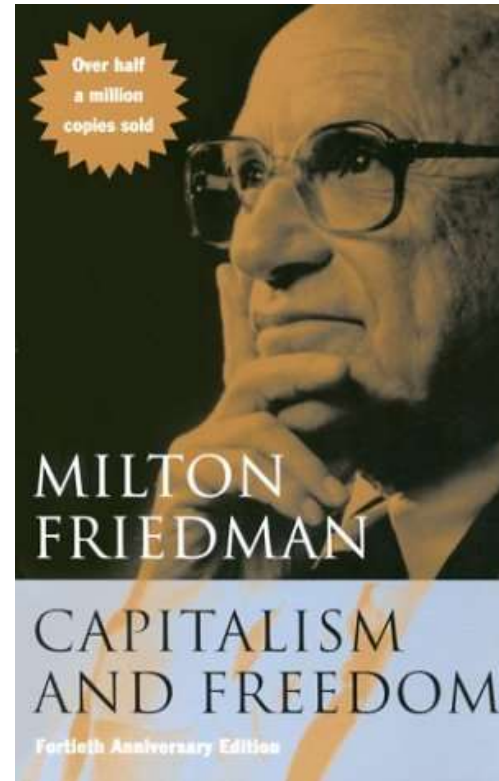
(Friedrich Hayek)

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2. Limiting individual economic activity for some “greater good” leads to socialism and totalitarianism.

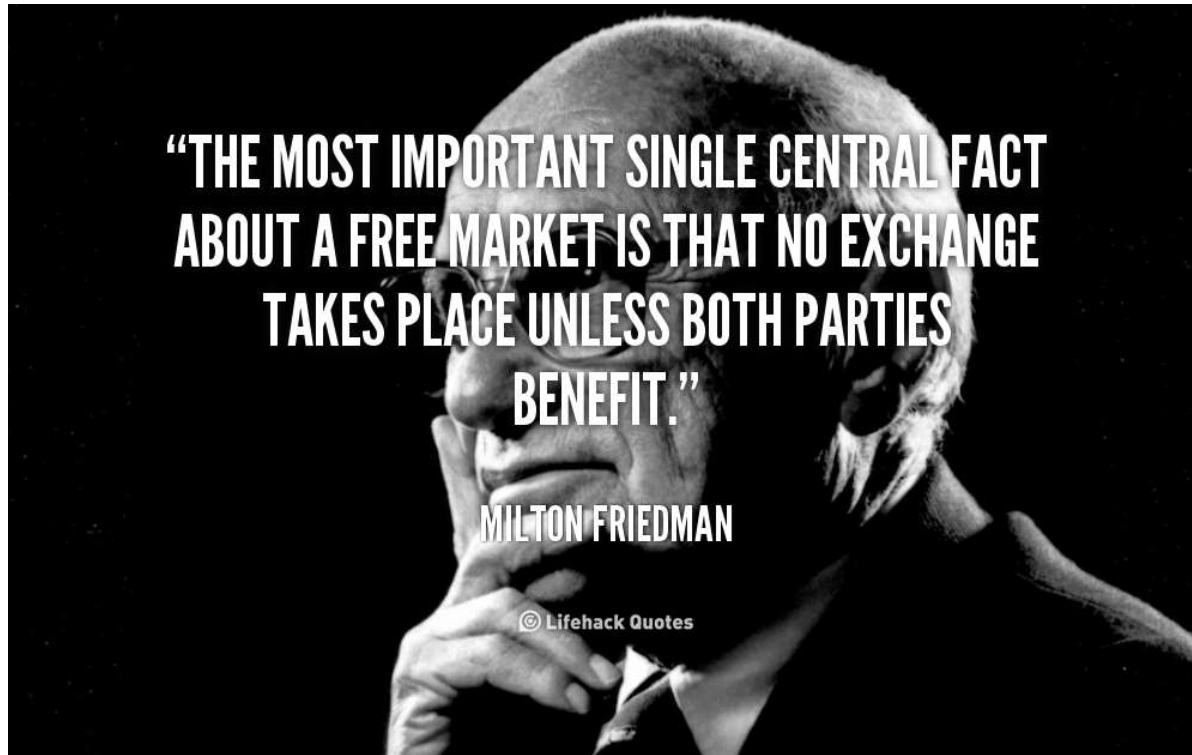
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Friedman –  
*Capitalism and  
Freedom* (1962).



A leader of the well known “Chicago School” of economics.

# CONSERVATISM



“THE MOST IMPORTANT SINGLE CENTRAL FACT ABOUT A FREE MARKET IS THAT NO EXCHANGE TAKES PLACE UNLESS BOTH PARTIES BENEFIT.”

MILTON FRIEDMAN

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1. Continued to argue for less government control of economic enterprise and greater reliance on individual choice.

# CONSERVATISM



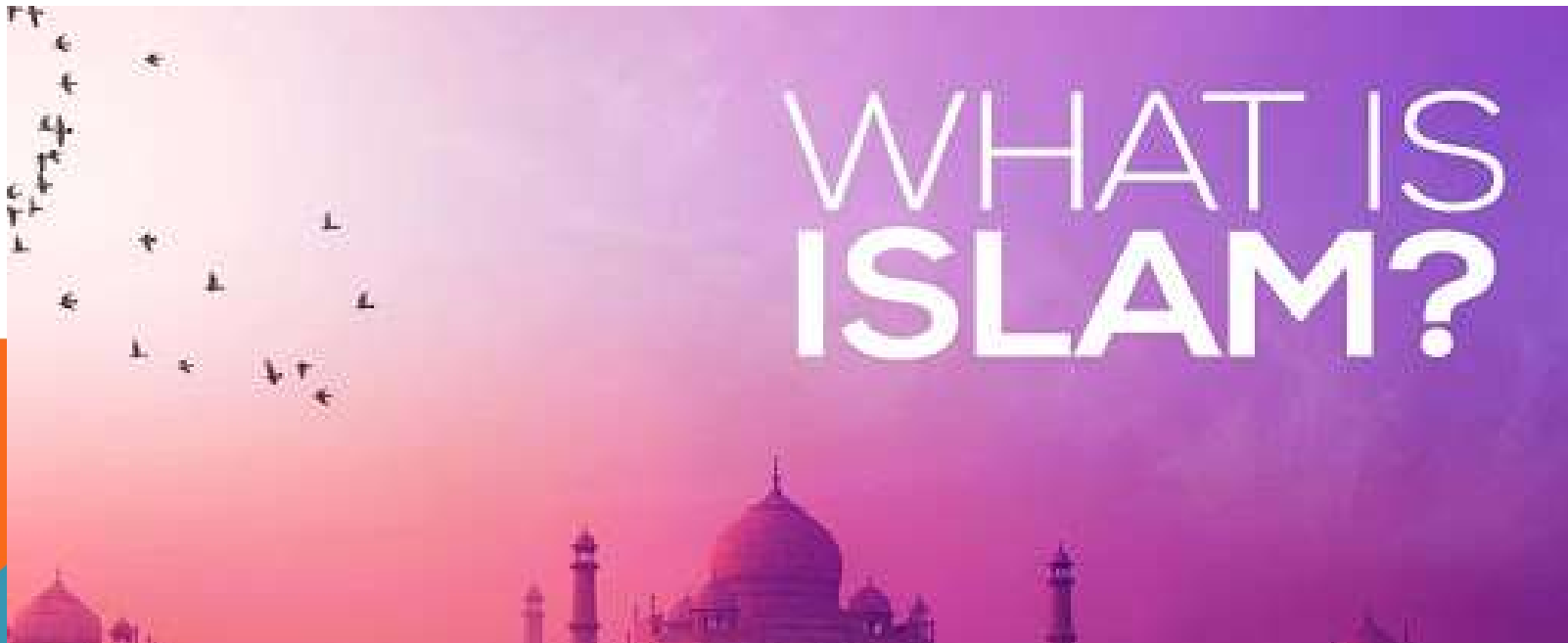
**ISLAM: SUBMISSION TO GOD**

# The Islamic Tradition



# ISLAM: SUBMISSION TO GOD

As the third great monotheistic world religion, Islam has strong historical roots in Judaism and Christianity. The tradition was established in the 7<sup>th</sup> century c.e. when the prophet Muhammad had a series of visions, which, according to the Qur'an, were direct revelations from God.



# ISLAM: SUBMISSION TO GOD

From the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> centuries, a great flowering of Islamic civilization occurred.



# ISLAM: SUBMISSION TO GOD



In fact, many scholars have suggested that Europe's emergence from the Dark Ages was a result of exchanges that took place among Muslim intellectuals and their Jewish and Christian counterparts in Spain during the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries.

## ISLAM: SUBMISSION TO GOD

Therefore, according to [Stevenson](#) and [Haberman](#), no discussion of “biblical” views of human nature or their impact on human cultures is adequate unless it takes into consideration the challenge that the Qur’an poses to those views.



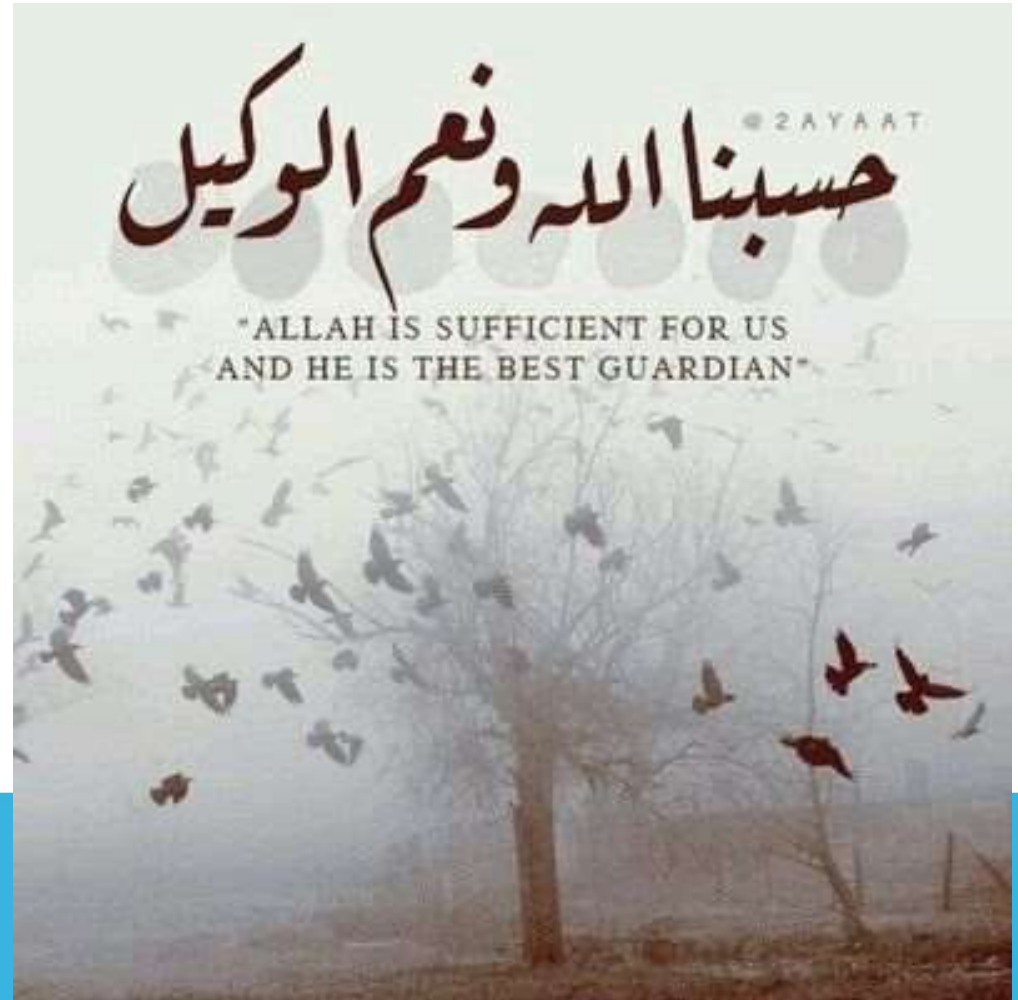
**ISLAM: SUBMISSION TO GOD**

# Theory of the Universe



## ISLAM: SUBMISSION TO GOD

As pointed out by the text authors, the Qur'an and its interpretive traditions do not argue for monotheism; they simply assume it. There is only one divine being, Allah.



# ISLAM: SUBMISSION TO GOD

**FORGIVE THEM  
EVEN IF THEY  
ARE NOT SORRY**

24:22

let them forgive and overlook,  
do you not wish that Allah should  
forgive you? For Allah is  
 **Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful**

trufhofislam2529 | tumblr

Like His counterpart in biblical literatures, Allah is the Creator of the universe who communicates with humankind by means of prophets and messengers.

## ISLAM: SUBMISSION TO GOD

Although Muslims regard both Adam and Christ as prophetic figures who are considered exemplars of humanity at its finest and therefore worthy of emulation, they see the Christian doctrine of the Trinity as an ontological impossibility.



## ISLAM: SUBMISSION TO GOD

Muslims insist that God cannot be compared to anyone or anything found in creation, and for them this is an article of faith. Therefore, one does not find catechisms, confessions, and creeds – but instead one enters the Islamic community (the *umma*) by means of a public profession that there is “only one God and Muhammad is God’s messenger.”



**ISLAM: SUBMISSION TO GOD**

# Theory of Human Nature



## ISLAM: SUBMISSION TO GOD

In terms of Islam's understanding of human nature, the Qur'an retells the story of Adam and Eve by identifying Satan as the *couple's* tempter (not the serpent), at which point Adam receives a revelation "from his Lord" marking him as a prophet, who then "turns" to God (or God to him), which in the Qur'an indicates forgiveness of sin.



# ISLAM: SUBMISSION TO GOD

The story of creation, comparison of Quranic & Biblical narrative:

The Old Testament informs us that firstly Eve was deceived by Satan and then she misled her husband, so that God punished Satan and Eve because of the sin, and Adam because of listening to his wife! Whereas God called and blamed BOTH Adam & Eve for the sin in Quran, because Satan had deceived both of them.



Read More: <http://rahyafteha.ir/en/6887/>



In other words, instead of sin becoming part of the inheritance of humankind due to Adam's "fall," forgiveness is offered to a repentant Adam, for Allah is "the One who turns, the Merciful."

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# Diagnosis



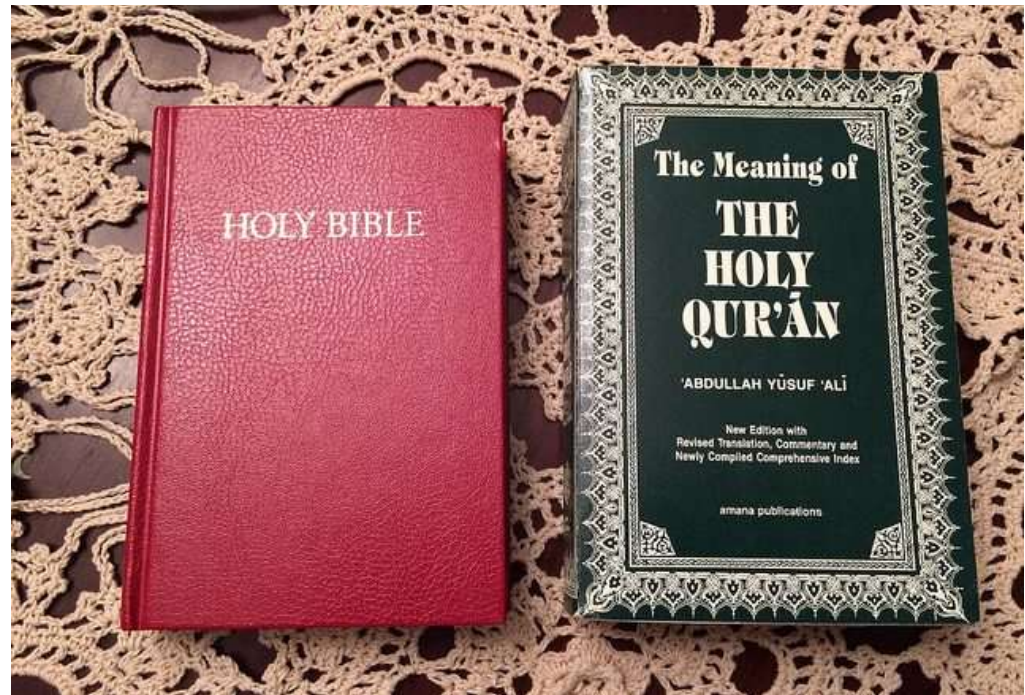
## ISLAM: SUBMISSION TO GOD

For Muslims, the Holy Book is not understood as a source of new information about God or about humankind; the Qur'an offers itself as "guidance" for humanity, but guidance presented in the form of "reminders."

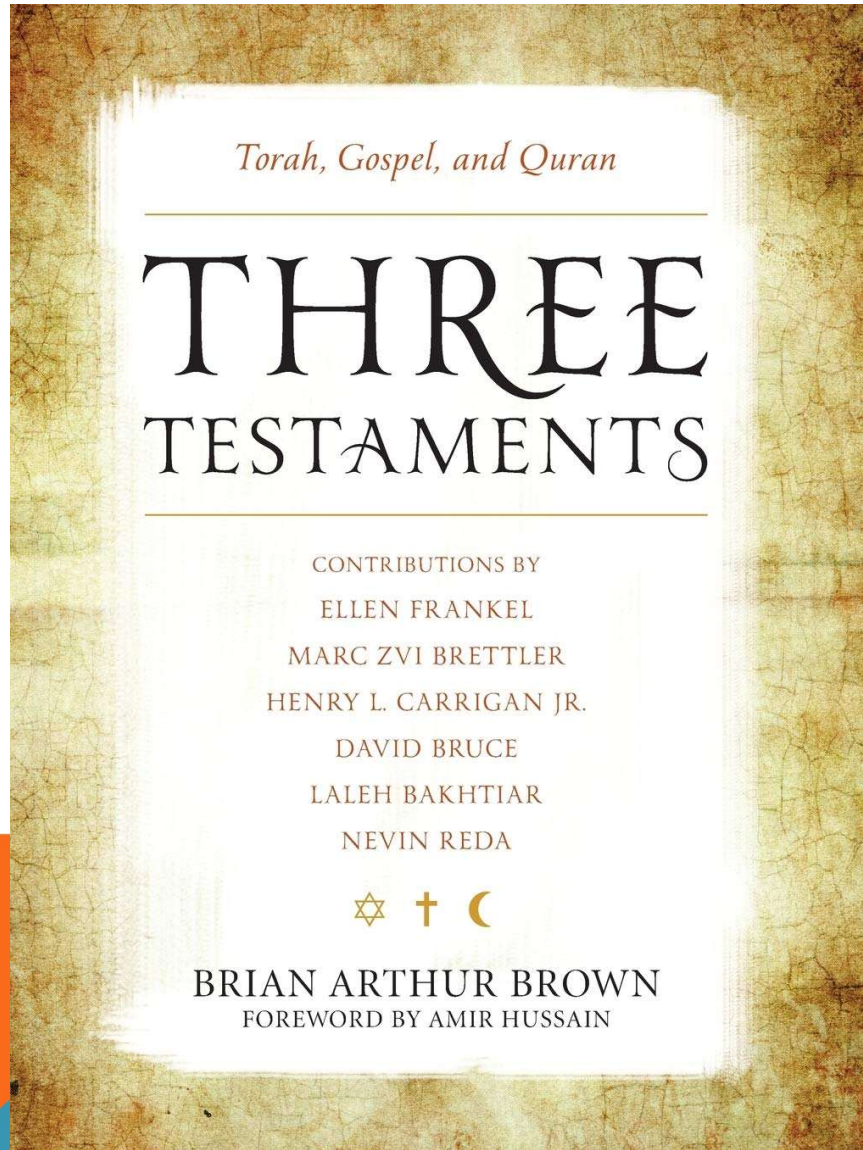


# ISLAM: SUBMISSION TO GOD

What this means is that the Qur'an's relationship to biblical literatures is revisionary. This would be analogous to the relationship that the New Testament bears to Jewish scripture.



# ISLAM: SUBMISSION TO GOD



So it useful to think of the Qur'an as presenting readers with a “third testament” rather than entirely new system of religious thought and practice.

# ISLAM: SUBMISSION TO GOD

For Muslims, this “third testament” became necessary when, in their view, readers of the second, or “new” testament began to conflate the messenger (Jesus) with the message (his teachings about Mosaic law) in such a way that the messenger *became* the message.

## Islamic Holy Texts

- **Qur'an (Koran)**
  - most important because it is the written word of God and is not corrupted by humans.
- **Old Testament**
  - second most important but corrupted by humans.
- **Hadith**
  - third most important, Book of the Prophets.

# ISLAM: SUBMISSION TO GOD

Therefore, humanity does not inherit “original sin” from Adam. Instead “salvation” is achieved through individual emulation of prophetic example: conforming one’s behavior to the *sunnah*, or practice of the prophets.

## Salvation according to Qur’an

- God says we are all created in a state of goodness (30:30);
- He has not burdened man with any "original sin", having forgiven Adam and Eve (2:36-38; 7:23,24) as He forgives us (11:90; 39:53-56).
- As we are all personally responsible for our actions (2:286; 6:164) there is no need for a human savior in Islam;
- salvation comes from God alone (28:67).

# ISLAM: SUBMISSION TO GOD

## *Contradictory Truth Claims Regarding “Salvation”*



**Christianity**– by faith alone in Christ alone



**Islam**– by belief in Allah, his prophet Muhammad, and good works



**Hinduism**– by overcoming karma and reincarnations with good works



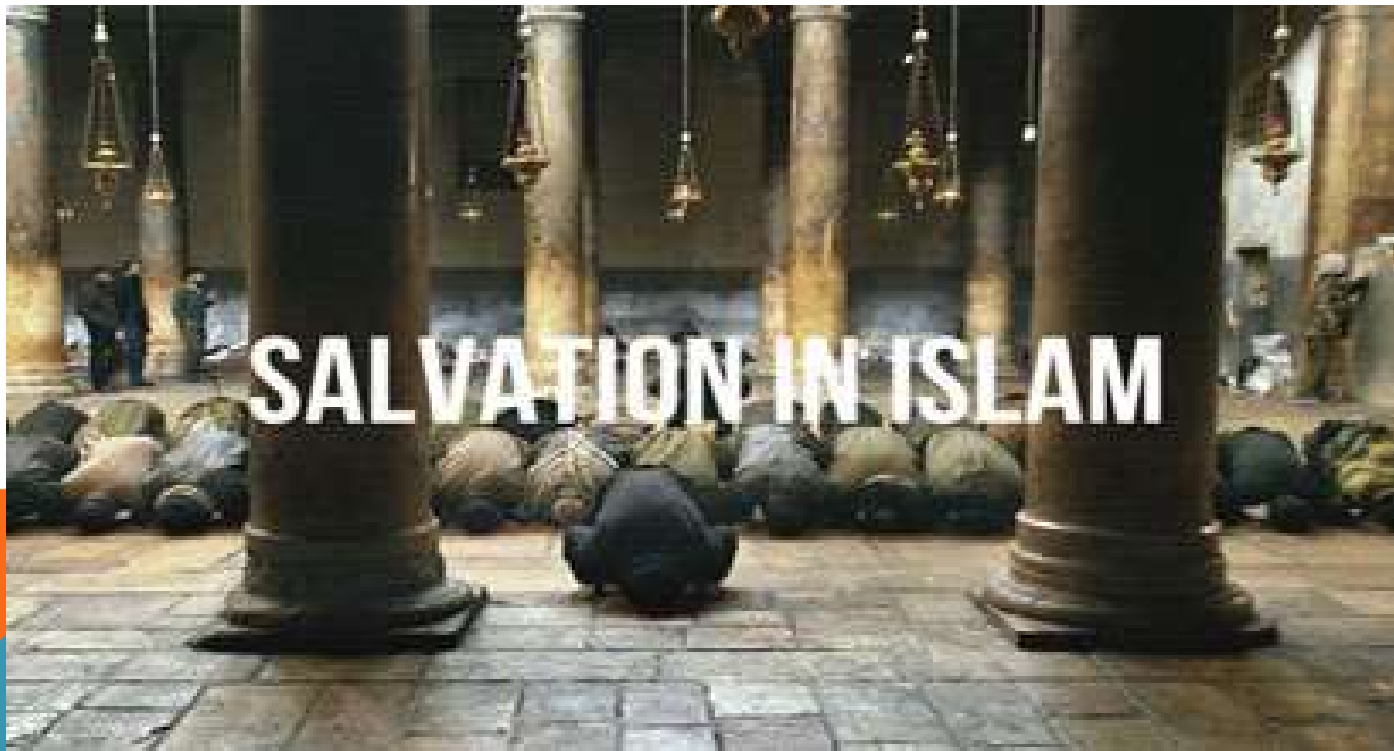
**Buddhism**– by cessation of desire through eight-fold path



**Humanism**– by education in this life (no afterlife)

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# Prescription



# ISLAM: SUBMISSION TO GOD

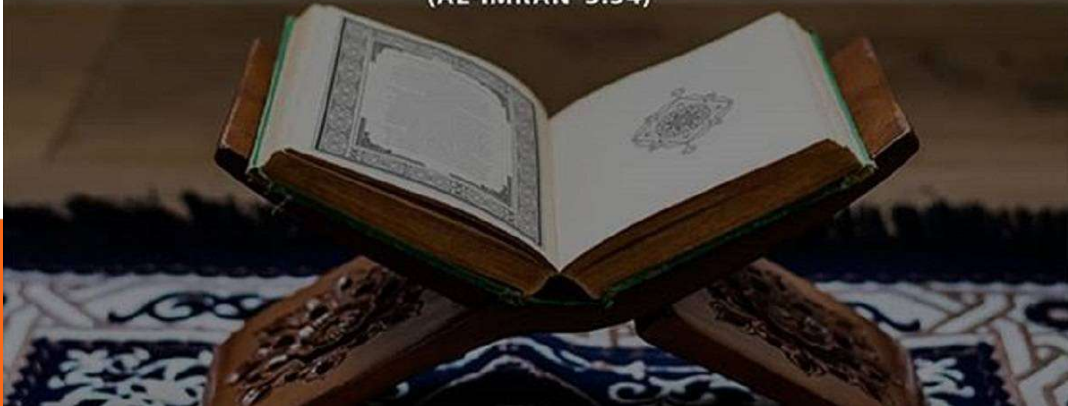
Islamic traditions contemplate human nature as a complex amalgam of intentions and desires, some of which lead one toward the divine, others leading one astray.

THE HUMAN BEING			
<b>Very Hasty</b>	<b>Hasty</b>	<b>Anxious</b>	<b>Weakling</b>
وَكَانَ الْإِنْسَانُ عَجُولًا Al-Quran 17/11	خُلِقَ الْإِنْسَانُ مِنْ عَجَلٍ Al-Quran 21/37	إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ خُلِقَ هَلُوعًا Al-Quran 70/19	وَخُلِقَ الْإِنْسَانُ ضَعِيفًا Al-Quran 4/28
<b>Manifestly Ungrateful</b>	<b>Surely Ungrateful</b>	<b>Ungrateful</b>	<b>Unjust &amp; Ungrateful</b>
إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لَكَفُورٌ مُّبِينٌ Al-Quran 43/15	إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لَكَفُورٌ Al-Quran 22/66	وَكَانَ الْإِنْسَانُ كَفُورًا Al-Quran 17/67	إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لَظَلُومٌ كَفَّارٌ Al-Quran 14/34
<b>Quarrelsome/Argumentative</b>	<b>Miserly</b>	<b>Thankless</b>	<b>Unjust &amp; Ignorant</b>
وَكَانَ الْإِنْسَانُ أَكْثَرَ شَيْءٍ جَدَلًا Al-Quran 18/54	وَكَانَ الْإِنْسَانُ قَتُورًا Al-Quran 17/100	إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لِرَبِّهِ لَكَنُودٌ Al-Quran 100/6	إِنَّهُ كَانَ ظَلُومًا جَهُولًا Al-Quran 33/72

# ISLAM: SUBMISSION TO GOD

But they plan, And Allah plans. And  
Allah is the best of all planners.

(AL-IMRAN 3:54)



Like many Christians, Muslims believe that God loves them and has a plan for their lives. The particulars of that plan, however, are unknown.

# ISLAM: SUBMISSION TO GOD

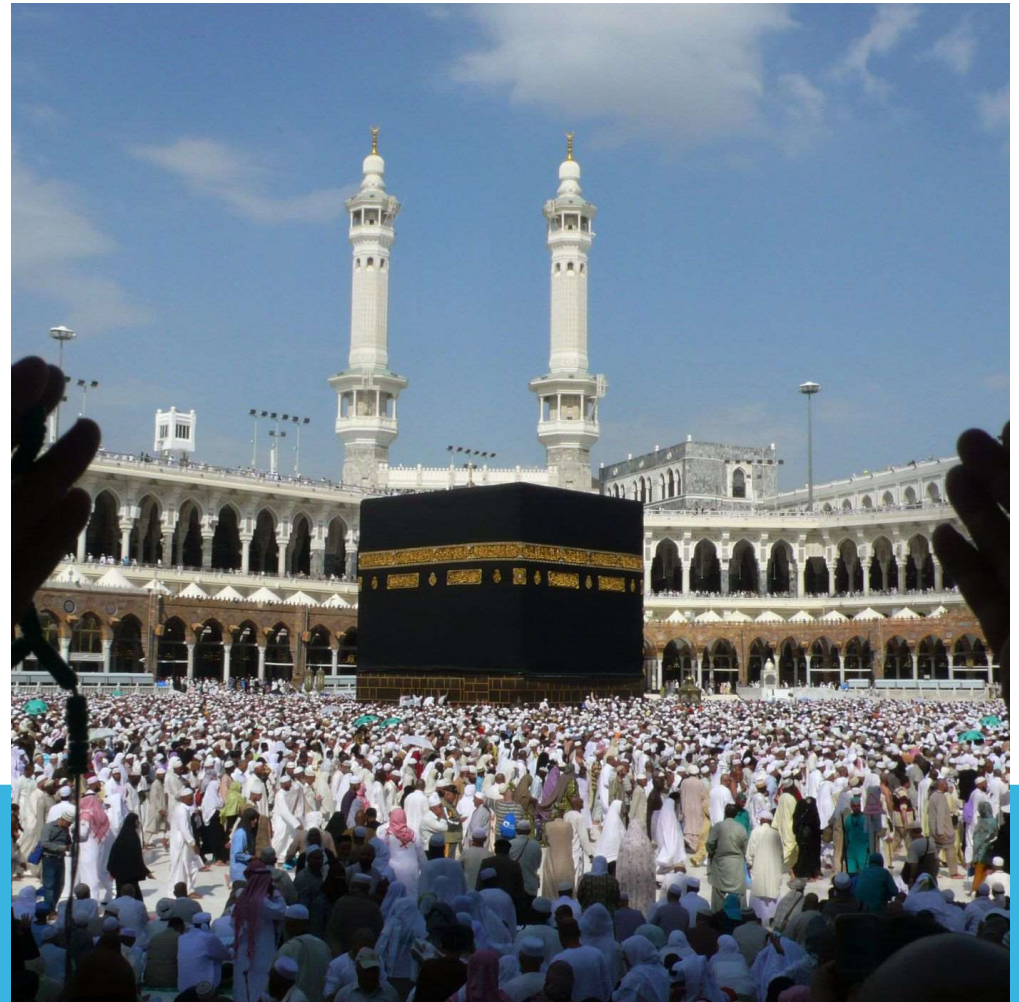
Devout Muslims meditate upon the examples set by Muhammad and other prophetic figures (including Abraham, Joseph, Moses, and Jesus) as those examples have been preserved for them in a vast body of devotional literature, including the Qur'an.



Say, "We believe in Allah and in what was revealed to us and what was revealed to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, and the Descendants, and in what was given to Moses and Jesus and to the prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction between any of them, and to Him (Allah) we surrender"  
Quran 3:84

# ISLAM: SUBMISSION TO GOD

One could say that devout Muslims attempt to fill in the blanks of the divine plan as it applies to them in their individual lives by attending, as best they can, to particular lessons drawn from these complex literary sources.



**ISLAM: SUBMISSION TO GOD**

# Critical Discussion



# ISLAM: SUBMISSION TO GOD

As **Stevenson** and **Haberman** note, the Qur'an and its interpretive traditions present readers with a broadly biblical yet straightforward and comprehensive theory of human nature.



# ISLAM: SUBMISSION TO GOD

Terrorism has no place In Islam

Allah says in Quran,  
“...Whosoever kills an innocent  
human being, it shall be as if he  
has killed all mankind, and  
whosoever saves the life of one,  
it shall be as if he had saved the  
life of all mankind...”  
Qur’an 5:32

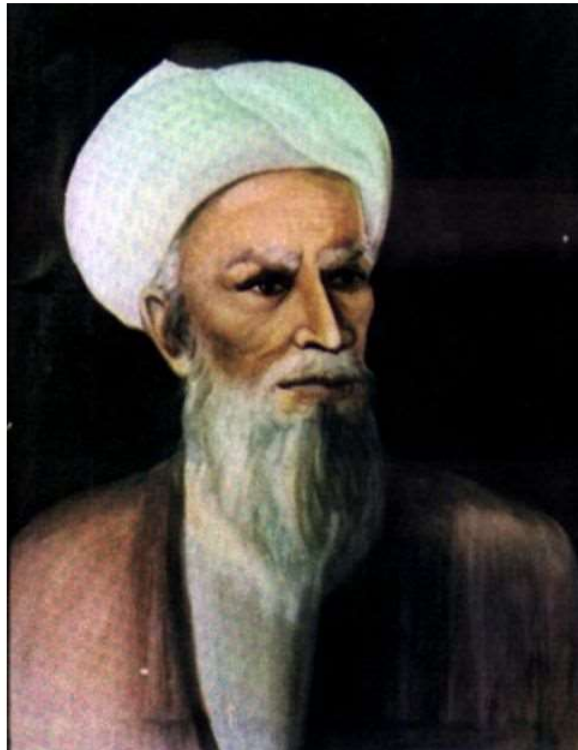
This theory is characterized by competing elements that exist in tension: individual and environment (or society), unity and diversity within human society itself, ungodly desires and inclination to follow the divine will.

# ISLAM: SUBMISSION TO GOD

Within this world of competing tensions, God has sent prophets and saints to guide those who would lead a life worthy of the high calling for which the human being was created: the *khalifa* ideal.

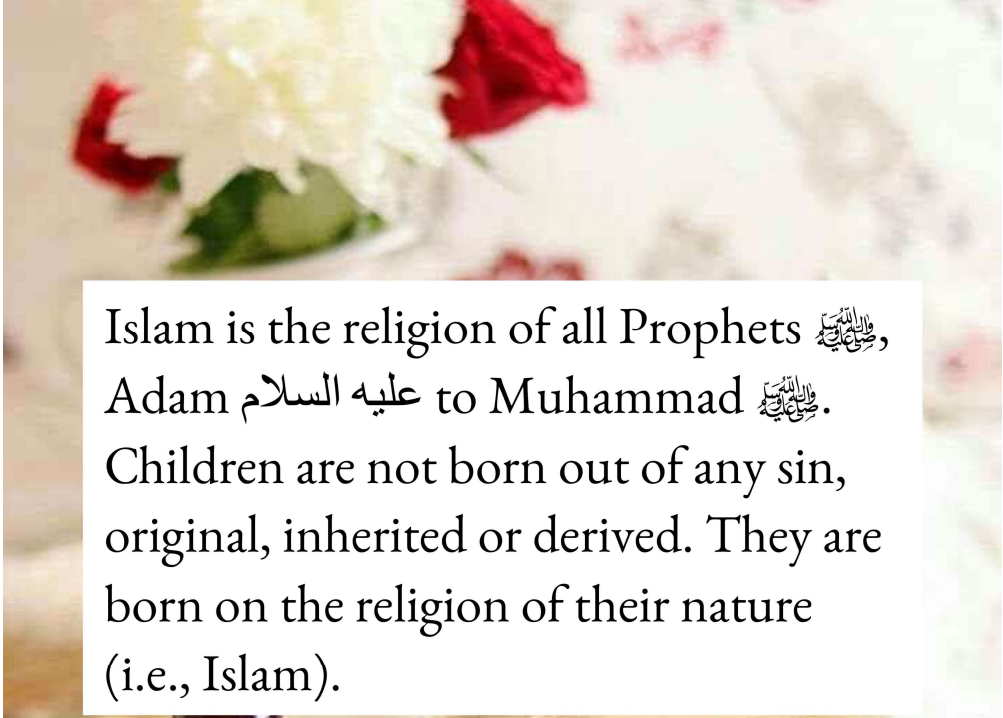
## The Caliph

- When Muhammad died in 632 A.D., conflicts over who should be his successor erupted
- **Caliph** = successor to the Messenger of God
- First four caliphs all had direct ties to Muhammad



# ISLAM: SUBMISSION TO GOD

As a result, the story that Muslims tell one another about the human species is optimistic: men and women are not “fallen” by nature, and they are not predisposed to displease their Creator.



Islam is the religion of all Prophets ﷺ, Adam عليه السلام to Muhammad ﷺ. Children are not born out of any sin, original, inherited or derived. They are born on the religion of their nature (i.e., Islam).

IGhalaThought

Photom

# ISLAM: SUBMISSION TO GOD

Still, “fallen” or not, men and women do displease God with remarkable consistency and are ultimately dependent on His mercy for salvation.

