*Argo* Background Basic Ideas



Islam – a religion outlined in the Qur’an.

Qur’an – also called the Koran, a religious text of Islam which Muslims believe to be the word of the Arabic god Allah.

Muhammad – a prophet (570-632) whose stories make up the Qur’an.

Muslim – a person who follows the religion of Islam. 23% of world population.

Mecca – city of Hejaz in Saudi Arabia. It was the birthplace of Muhammad and is considered a holy city.

Five Pillars of Islam

1. [Shahadah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shahadah): declaring there is no god except [God](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/God_in_Islam), and [Muhammad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_in_Islam) is God's [Messenger](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prophets_and_messengers_in_Islam)
2. [Salat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salat): ritual prayer five times a day
3. [Zakat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zakat): giving 2.5% of one’s savings to the poor and needy
4. [Sawm](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sawm): fasting and self-control during the holy month of [Ramadan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramadan_%28calendar_month%29)
5. [Hajj](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hajj): pilgrimage to [Mecca](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mecca) at least once in a lifetime if one is able

Women’s rights to marriage, birth control, education, and dress are often severely restricted. There is no smoking or drinking. Islamic philosophies are very different from western cultures, particularly the United States.

Jihad - an [Islamic term](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Islamic_terms_in_Arabic) referring to the religious duty of [Muslims](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim) to maintain the religion. Sometimes it is interpreted as Holy War.

ISIS - also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria – an Islamic extremist group.

Al-Qaida is a global [militant Islamist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Militant_Islamist) organization founded by [Osama bin Laden](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Osama_bin_Laden).

Iran Hostage Crisis – 52 American diplomats and citizens held 444 days. November 1979.

In Iran the Shaw (King) supported western values and supplied the US with oil. Many Iranians called for the overthrow of the Shaw and his replacement with Ayatollah Khomeini, a strong believer in Islam.

After the Iranian Revolution, the Shaw was admitted to the US. Iranians called for his return where he was to be put on trial for crimes he was accused of committing during his reign.

A group of students supporting the Iranian revolution took over the US embassy in Tehran taking hostages.

Watch the film *Argo* to see what happened!