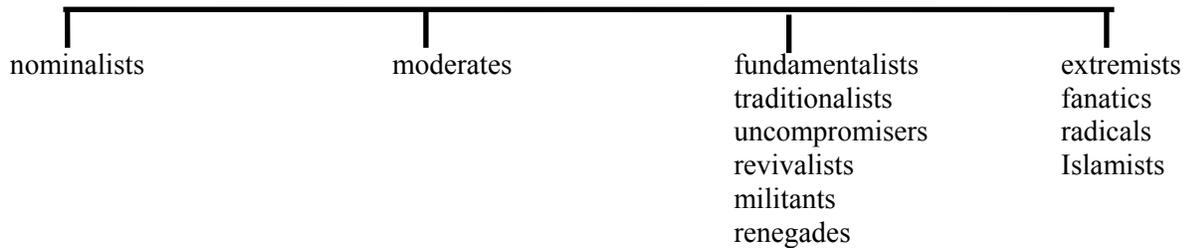


**EXCERPTS FROM  
FROM  
“VARIETY IN ISLAM”  
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We constantly need to distinguish between extremist, militant Islam and more traditional adherents of the faith. The following chart illustrates the broad makeup of Islam.



Of the world's 6 billion population, roughly 1 billion are Muslim. Much of the American media focuses on the extremist edge. Such characterizations do disservice to the majority of peace-loving Muslims.

Nominalists - Like other religions, some Muslims belong to the faith in name only.

Moderates - An even-tempered, heart-felt manner of life that represents the major section of the faith.

Fundamentalists (traditionalists) desire to preserve Islam's rich religious and cultural identity, reunite factions within the Arab world, and reassert Islam's intellectual and artistic traditions.

An uncompromising school of thought within fundamentalism seeks strict application of the sharia (a complex and flexible body of legal opinion that applies Islam to the manners, customs, laws and ethics of a specific society.) Uncompromisers desire to re-Islamicize a society, usually by peaceful means.

Extremist, radical and militant Islam - seen by many as a deviant movement - politicizes the faith. Terrorist tactics are encouraged to accomplish religious/political ends across national boundaries. Restrictive, anti-Western, fanatical, destructive deeds take place in the name of Islam.

The following conclusions are helpful.

**1. Remain balanced.** Militant Islam deserves our just condemnation. The practice and faith of millions of peace loving Muslims merit our respect and tolerance.

**2. Long-haul.** It took a long time to establish this militant network. It will take rigorous, extensive work to ferret it out.

**3. Spiritual foundation.** Diverse religious views prompt us to clarify and further internalize our own spiritual world and life view.

**4. Dialogue.** Moments of calm are excellent times for discussion with our Department of Defense, Armed Forces and civilian Muslim friends.

\*\* Religious leaders have expressed concern of the use of "Islamic" in front of "terrorist." This associates an entire religion with the acts of a few.