A Socio-Economic and Political System

For those who believe Islamist ideology, "Islam is not merely a religious doctrine, but a comprehensive socio-economic and political system." Our "enemy is Islamism, and its operatives — whether they come as terrorists or stealth saboteurs — are the purveyors of sharia, Islam's authoritarian legal and political system." Again, "In Islamist ideology, sharia is deemed to be the necessary precondition for Islamicizing a society — for Islam is not merely a religious doctrine, but a comprehensive socio-economic and political system."

Sharia is a Necessary Precondition to Islamicizing a Society

In short, according to Andrew McCarthy and other experts, Islam is considered by Islamists to be "a comprehensive socioeconomic and political system" for which imposition of sharia is a "necessary precondition for Islamicizing a society" and sharia itself is "Islam's authoritarian legal and political system."

Footnotes:

¹Andrew C. McCarthy, "Ignorance about Islamic Radicalism is Our Downfall," *The Examiner*, May 25, 2010, http://washingtonexaminer.com/node/84681, accessed September 26, 2011.
²*Ibid*.

³Ibid.

⁴Claire Spencer, "Saudi Arabia: Women Look at the Big Picture," *The Telegraph*, September 26, 2011, http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/saudiarabia/8789736/Saudi-Arabia-women-look-at-the-bigger-picture.html, accessed September 26, 2011.

⁵Tarek al-Issawi, "Trapped Saudi Girls Left to Burn by Law on Dress," *The Scotsman*, March 18, 2002, http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/world/Trapped-Saudi-girls-left-to.2310989.jp, accessed September 26, 2011.

⁶Deroy Murdock, "Sharia-Compliant Finance Funds Jihad," *Human Events*, April 4, 2008, http://www.humanevents.com/article.php? id=25850, accessed September 27, 2011. ⁷http://www.humanevents.com/article.php? id=38347

⁸Andrew C. McCarthy, "It's about Sharia: Newt Gingrich Resets Our National Security Debate," National Review Online, July 10, 2010, http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/243580/its-about-sharia-andrew-c-mccarthy, accessed September 26, 2011.

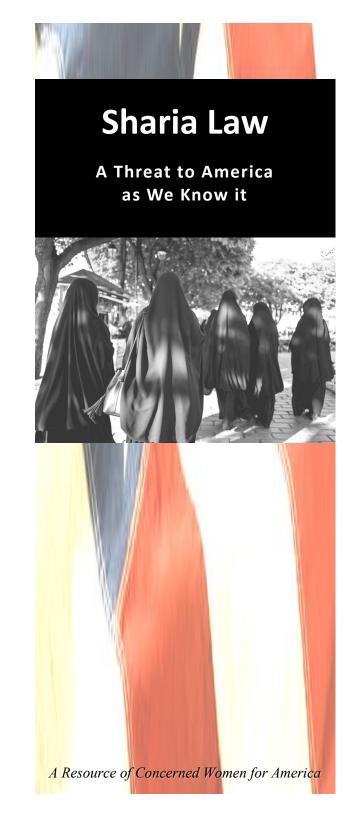
9Ibid.

10 Ibid.

¹¹Ibid.

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Islamists teach that "Only by returning to the Islam of the founders could the umma — the Muslim Nation — reverse its political, economic, and social torpor. This would

require faithfully implementing the divine law, sharia."



According to former Speaker Newt Gingrich, sharia's "foundational premise is anti-American, holding that we are not free people at liberty to govern ourselves irrespective of any theocratic code,

that people are instead beholden to the Islamic state, which is divinely enjoined to impose Allah's laws."²



"Sharia, moreover, is anti-equality. It subjugates women and brutally punishes transgressors, particularly homosexuals and apostates. While our law forbids cruel and unusual

punishments, Gingrich observed that the brutality in sharia sanctions is not gratuitous, but intentional: It is meant to enforce Allah's will by striking example."³

Sharia is a Comprehensive System Governing All of Life

- Women are considered second-class; their testimony in court is half that of men.
- Men may strike women who are disobedient.
- Punishments may include flogging and stoning.
- Nations under sharia law may restrict women from driving, from voting, or from education.
- In Saudi Arabia, women recently earned a limited right to vote.⁴
- In Saudi Arabia, religious police prevented firefighters from rescuing school girls when their dormitory caught fire because they were not dressed according to Islamist requirements. The incident created an outcry even within the Kingdom.⁵
- Wall Street is becoming enmeshed in sharia. "Sharia-compliant finance (SCF) is expanding among banks and securities houses eager to absorb the hundreds of billions of petrodollars ... To lure this cash, financial companies increasingly offer vehicles that neither pay interest nor benefit from gambling, entertainment, alcohol, pork, or anything considered 'haram' or 'un-kosher' in Islam. [...] Selling sharia-compliant investments legitimizes a barbaric theocratic orthodoxy that should be defeated, not promoted."
- Sharia permits executions for apostasy and blasphemy.⁷