

The Islamicity Foundation's¹ Third Annual Report on the Islamicity Indices Program

July 2019

1. Executive Summary

The 2019 Islamicity indices again show New Zealand to be the country that best reflects Islamic teachings, values and institutions in the world. Much as in 2018, Sweden, Iceland, Netherlands, and Switzerland complete the top five list of countries that best follow the precepts of Islam as compared to Muslim-majority countries. The practices of Muslim-majority countries underperformed in reflecting the teachings of the Holy Qur'an and hadiths.

In 2019, the world improved its performance along all five indices. The countries of western Europe, North America, and developed Asian countries continued to perform well in the indices. The list of top ten performers has changed little since last year. The results again demonstrate that developed countries with more effective institutions, stronger economies, and higher respect for human rights and the rule of law do well on the indices and follow the precepts of Islam more closely than the Muslim-majority countries.

The Muslim-majority countries mirrored their last year's trendline. They improved in their overall, economic, legal and governance indices scores and made the biggest jump in their International Relation Islamicity (IRI) Index scores. Their Human and Political Rights Islamicity (HPRI) Index score saw a decline, which was also the case for non-Muslim majority countries. Mirroring their median score performance, the median rank for Muslim-majority countries also improved, only decreasing for HPRI.

Although, the Muslim-majority countries' median scores increased across most indices, their results were once again lower than the global median across all indices. Historically, the Muslim-majority countries have been responsible for bringing down the global average, but it was the non-Muslim countries that performed worse this year, lowering the global median scores for Overall Islamicity (OI), HPRI, IRI, and Legal and Governance Islamicity (LGI) Indices.

Regionally, Europe had the better performance over the previous year, followed by the Middle East, Asia, and Africa. It is evident that their performance is closely correlated with their income

¹ The Islamicity Foundation is incorporated as a tax-exempt organization in the U.S. state of Maryland. Although the Islamicity Foundation has been organized as a stand-alone entity, in time and, if appropriate, it could partner with a world-class university. This would afford the Foundation and its mission more visibility; it would facilitate fundraising activities; and most important, by teaching seminars on Islam and development and on Islamicity Indices, the Foundation could develop a cadre of young collaborators to better accomplish its mission around the world.

levels. The richer the country, the better its scores and rank in the indices. However, even low-income countries can perform well in some indices as is evident by their high ranking in the IRI index.

To build strong institutions necessary for improving their governance practices and socio-economic progress, Muslim countries should more closely follow the precepts of Islam and teachings of Qur'an and hadiths. Only when these countries adopt effective institutions that embody freedom and are just, economically progressive, respectful of human and political rights and in harmony with the international community, will they truly internalize and execute Islamic standards of governance.

2. Islamicity Indices

To build the conditions for the society's prosperity and growth requires the development of strong and robust institutions. Douglas North emphasized the importance of institutions while much earlier Adam Smith stressed freedom and the sociocultural values of justice, liberty, security and equality that all together are responsible for the socio-economic progress of the west. Simply said, effective institutions are the bedrock of successful countries. The structural and moral scaffolding offered by institutions and justice are found to be instrumental to society's growth and progress. However, it takes much time to establish robust institutions, as evident in the case of Muslim-majority countries that for centuries have suffered from missed opportunities to adopt effective policies and change and transform their weak institutions.

How can this turn-around in Muslim countries be initiated, developed and sustained? The Islamicity Indices premise that peaceful and positive change in Muslim countries will have to come about in the context of Islam. Muslims are devoted to their religion and as our results show, Islamic rules and its recommended institutions are compatible with what the world generally recognizes as successful countries. For this turnaround, Muslims would have to better understand Qur'anic teachings and strive to establish *effective institutions based on the Qur'an and the hadiths* to replace their weak institutions and retrograde economies.

The Islamicity Indices provide the compass and the basis for establishing effective institutions, restoring hope, achieving sustainable development and for strengthening global order. The indices do not assess personal requirements of a Muslim, such as belief commitment, daily prayers, fasting and pilgrimage. The indices are instead premised on Qur'anic goals for a successful Muslim community and the extent of a society's adherence to its institutional recommendations of good governance. To include the more personal and mechanical demand of Islam would not enable valid and unbiased comparison of Muslim and non-Muslim countries. The aim of Islamicity Indices is to draw a picture of a Muslim community that adheres to Islam's recommendations. What would such a community look like? In a rule-abiding Muslim

community there must be political and individual freedom, equal opportunities for self-development, economic prosperity, accountability of rulers and governments, and socio-economic justice. These indices serve as an indication of the degree of compliance with Islamic teachings as reflected in the Islamic landscape of a community. They offer a quantifiable measure of progress that cannot be easily dismissed by those in power. They are also a measure to bring Muslim countries together to share the lessons of their successes and shortcomings, to create a united Muslim community.

The Indices provide a tool for the people and their supportive rulers to ensure their government's policies adhere to the teachings of the holy book and prescriptions of the prophet surrounding economic opportunities, legal and governance affairs, human and political rights, and international relations. These four indices are, in turn, aggregated to form an overall index. By adopting these indices, the population of a country are internalizing the teachings of the Qur'an and supporting peaceful reforms and effective institutions.

There are only seven declared Islamic countries (Afghanistan, Bahrain, Iran, Mauritania, Oman, Pakistan, Yemen) and only twelve countries that have declared Islam as the state religion (Algeria, Bangladesh, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Qatar, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates). In developing the Islamicity Indices we have chosen an all-encompassing approach, which is to include all countries whose governments profess Islamic teaching as the guiding, or one of the primary, principle for governance. To this end, we decided that the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) provides a good representation of countries that profess Islam at the national level. While the OIC has 57 members, 56 states and Palestine, we have the needed data for 40-member countries that have either:

- a) governments that has adopted Islam as the official state religion, or
- b) Islam as their primary religion, or
- c) a significant Muslim population, or
- d) simply declared themselves as an Islamic republic.²

How Islamic are Muslim countries or what is their degree of 'Islamicity'? To answer that, we attempt to discern if Islamic principles are conducive to (a) free markets and strong economic performance, (b) good government governance and rule of law, (c) societies with well-formed human and civil rights and equality and (d) cordial relations and meaningful contributions to the global community, or are they, in fact, a deterrent? In order to develop the Islamicity Indices we look at 151 countries that include a subset of the OIC countries for comparison. We attempt to measure the economic, social, legal, and political development of OIC countries, not only by

² There is no distinction made between Sunni and Shia Muslim countries. Approximately 12-15% of the world's Muslims are Shia with the largest representation in Iran and Iraq.

Western standards, which is well documented in various well-known index rankings,³ but by what we believe to be Islamic standards.

3. Broad Developments During the Year

The Index scores and ranks 151 countries by their Economic, Legal and Governance, Human and Political Rights, International Relations, as well as their Overall Islamicity, using a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is highly un-Islamic and 10 is highly Islamic. This year's Indices highlight that the majority of countries made some progress on their Islamicity scores.⁴

Globally, median OI scores saw declines in 2019, reversing improvements seen in 2018 (see Table 1).⁵ The global median OI score decreased by 4.3 percentage points. The negative trend was mirrored in the scores in two other indices – LGI and HPRI, while Economic Islamicity (EI) Index and IRI displayed a positive change.

The median OI scores and rankings for OIC countries mirrored last year's trendline. They made an improvement in their overall scores- the median OI score grew by 3.1%. The IRI score improved the most, increasing by 16.1%, and reversing last year's negative results of 7.8%. Similarly, the EI score increased by 4.1%, reversing last year's negative change of 9.0%. The LGI score again rose, this time by 6.0%, a better improvement relative to last year's 1.8% rise. The HPRI score saw the biggest decline of 12.8%, while last year it had increased by 11.7%.

The ranking for OIC countries moved along the same trendline as their scores. Median OI ranking improved by 3.5, EI and IRI by 10, LGI by 2.5 spots. Only HPRI had a negative change in ranking by 3 spots.

Table 1: Median Islamicity Scores in 2019 and Changes⁶

Description	Overall	Economy	Legal and Governance	Human and Political Rights	International Relations
All Countries (151)	4.50	4.88	4.75	4.58	5.10
OIC Countries	3.39	3.65	3.16	3.10	3.91

³ For example, United Nations Human Development Index (UNHDI), Economist Intelligence Unit's (EUI) Democracy Index, Heritage Foundation's Index of Economic Freedom, Fraser Institute's Economic Freedom Index (Economic Freedom of the World Index), Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index and Freedom House's Freedom in the World Index, etc.

⁴ The results do not reflect most recent developments in countries because the information (especially available indices) are largely based on 2018 data. This time lag in available indices, in turn, results in a lag in the incorporation of most recent developments in the Islamicity Indices.

⁵ This year, the Index tracked performance for 151 countries, down from 153 last year. Yemen Rep., Swaziland, and Fiji were excluded from the calculations, while Eswatini was added.

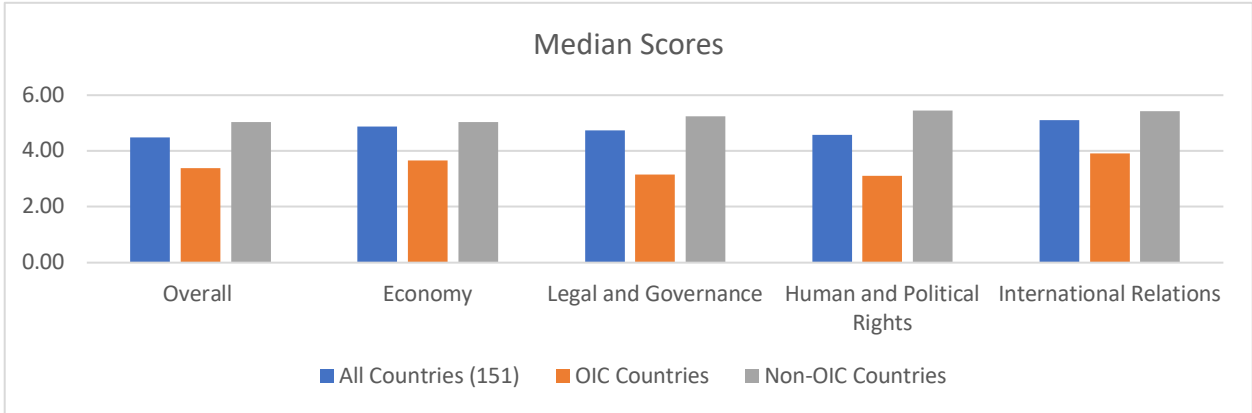
⁶ Results for Muslim countries are depicted in green.

Non-OIC Countries	5.03	5.05	5.24	5.44	5.43
Percentage Change Relative to 2018 for All Countries	-4.3%	1.7%	-1.5%	-5.0%	1.7%
Percentage Change Relative to 2018 for OIC Countries	3.1%	4.1%	6.0%	-12.8%	16.1%

As evident from the Table 1 above and Figure 1 below, Muslim countries performed worse than the world median across all indices. The results show that out of 40 self-proclaimed Islamic countries, 33 had a score of less than 5 in OI. The results demonstrate that the majority of Muslim countries fell in the lower half of the indices, with 7 countries scoring in the lowest quartile. The failure of Muslim countries is most noticeable in their performance in the Human and Political Rights Index followed by the Legal and Governance Index.

When separating out all the non-Muslim countries, we see that their median OI score decreased slightly to 5.03. The results show that the Muslim-majority countries’ median score increased relative to non-Muslim countries. This year, it was both the low scoring OIC countries and the poorer performance of the non-OIC countries that brought down the global average.

Figure 1: Median Islamicity Scores in 2019



3.1 Summary of Major Changes in the Five Indices

3.1.1 Economic Islamicity – top ten best and worst changes

How Islamic are Muslim countries or what is their degree of economic ‘Islamicity’? The goals for a prosperous economic system are (i) achievement of economic justice and sustained economic growth, (ii) broad-based prosperity and job creation, and (iii) adoption of sound and consistent economic and financial practices. Towards these ends, the EI Index is based on eight areas of fundamental Islamic economic principles that are represented by 16 economic and social variables or proxies. The eight principal areas are: economic opportunity and economic freedom; job creation and equal access to employment; property rights and sanctity of

contracts; provisions to eradicate poverty and provision of aid and welfare; supportive financial system; adherence to Islamic finance; economic prosperity; and economic justice.

Based on the above criteria, we find that the economic performance improved for countries taken together. The median EI score rose to 4.88. That is a slight increase relative to 2018 by 1.7%. Similarly, the Muslim countries saw their score rise to 3.65 – an improvement of 2%.

The top ten score changes in EI are shown in Table 3 below. Leading the list of score decline is Haiti with a decrease of 47%. Syria and Mauritania are the only two Muslim-majority countries that saw their scores decline by 31% and 21%, respectively. Eight of the ten declines were non-Muslim countries. By contrast, five Muslim countries saw an improvement in their score – Sierra Leone, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Algeria and Guinea. Their score increase ranged from 18% to 31%.

In the top ten changes in ranking, six Muslim-majority countries had their rank improved in the range of 19 to 23 spots. These were Azerbaijan, Pakistan, Guinea, Algeria, Egypt and Morocco. Only one Muslim country of Iraq saw its rank decrease by 19 spots. The other nine countries with rank improvements were non-Muslim.

Table 2: Economic Islamicity – Major Score Changes

Top 10 Declines in Score

Country	2019	2018	Change
Haiti	1.473	2.785	-47%
Angola	1.167	2.073	-44%
Congo, Dem. Rep.	1.791	2.741	-35%
Congo, Rep.	1.611	2.426	-34%
Syria	1.835	2.669	-31%
Nicaragua	3.037	3.998	-24%
Belize	3.072	4.031	-24%
Cameroon	2.882	3.715	-22%
Benin	3.087	3.889	-21%
Mauritania	2.211	2.781	-21%

Top 10 Declines in Rank

Country	2019	2018	Change
Belize	122	96	-26
Nicaragua	123	98	-25
Jamaica	77	53	-24
Cameroon	128	107	-21
Benin	121	101	-20
Papua New Guinea	106	86	-20
Iraq	111	92	-19
Ecuador	125	109	-16
Haiti	148	132	-16
Panama	59	43	-16

Top 10 Improvements in Score

Country	2019	2018	Change
Ethiopia	2.785	2.081	34%
Sierra Leone	2.551	1.954	31%
India	4.787	3.816	25%
Ukraine	4.424	3.533	25%
Azerbaijan	6.635	5.341	24%

Top 10 Improvements in Rank

Country	2019	2018	Change
Ukraine	86	111	25
India	80	104	24
Azerbaijan	40	63	23
Pakistan	103	124	21
Guinea	110	130	20

Egypt	3.109	2.520	23%
Burundi	2.441	1.986	23%
Mozambique	1.851	1.529	21%
Algeria	3.396	2.836	20%
Guinea	3.428	2.901	18%

Algeria	112	131	19
Egypt	120	139	19
Morocco	66	85	19
Ethiopia	130	146	16
Greece	67	83	16

3.1.2 Legal and Governance Islamicity – top ten best and worst changes

The LGI Index is based on five fundamental areas of legal and governance principles and 13 variables or proxies. The five principal areas are: legal integrity; prevention of corruption; safety and security index; management index; and governance and government effectiveness. Here, the aim is to measure prevalence of corruption, the security of property rights, voice and accountability, rule of law and the effectiveness of governance structures.

Based on the above criteria, globally, countries fared worse in median LGI scores compared to last year. The median LGI score declined by 2% to 4.75. The Muslim countries, on the other hand, saw an improvement of 6% with a median score of 3.16.

The top ten score changes in LGI are shown in Table 4 below. The list of major score declines include five Muslim and five non-Muslim countries. Leading the list of score decline are Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Mali, and Lebanon with decreases ranging from -15% to -67%. The list of major score improvements include four Muslim and six non-Muslim countries. Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Pakistan, and Sudan saw their scores improve in the range of 15% to 23%.

Major rank increases include seven non-Muslim and three Muslim countries. Saudi Arabia, Uzbekistan, and Azerbaijan saw improvements in the range of 12 to 14 spots. On the other hand, only Senegal and Albania saw their rank decrease, both by 8 spots.

Table 3: Legal and Governance Islamicity – Major Score Changes

Country	2019	2018	Change
Syria	0.340	1.029	-67%
Afghanistan	0.834	1.247	-33%
Nicaragua	2.057	2.898	-29%
Venezuela	0.720	0.986	-27%
Suriname	4.283	5.316	-19%
Iraq	0.759	0.931	-18%
Mali	2.062	2.456	-16%

Country	2019	2018	Change
Nicaragua	134	115	-19
Suriname	82	65	-17
North Macedonia	73	57	-16
Panama	66	53	-13
Dominican Republic	101	88	-13
Bolivia	121	109	-12
Paraguay	102	91	-11

Dominican Republic	3.475	4.107	-15%
Congo, Dem. Rep.	0.455	0.534	-15%
Lebanon	2.243	2.631	-15%

Senegal	75	67	-8
Albania	63	55	-8
Cote d'Ivoire	110	102	-8

Top 10 Improvements in Score

Country	2019	2018	Change
Uzbekistan	2.653	2.151	23%
Zimbabwe	1.404	1.144	23%
Kenya	3.616	2.979	21%
Togo	2.949	2.462	20%
Tajikistan	2.751	2.326	18%
Pakistan	2.274	1.928	18%
Ethiopia	2.962	2.516	18%
Armenia	5.541	4.739	17%
Sudan	0.733	0.637	15%
Rwanda	6.230	5.528	13%

Top 10 Improvements in Rank

Country	2019	2018	Change
Armenia	55	78	23
Kenya	97	114	17
Saudi Arabia	58	72	14
Hong Kong	13	27	14
India	62	76	14
China	59	73	14
Togo	114	126	12
Uzbekistan	122	134	12
Azerbaijan	86	98	12
Ethiopia	113	125	12

3.1.3 Human and Political Rights Islamicity – top ten best and worst changes

The HPRI Index measures human development, civil and political rights and social wellbeing. Aggregated along eight fundamental areas of human development; social capital; personal freedom; civil and political rights; women's rights; access to education; access to healthcare; and level of democratic values. These are represented by 15 proxies or variables.

The HPRI score declined for all countries in 2019 to 4.58, a decline of 5%. The Muslim countries saw a steeper decline of 12.8% to 3.10.

The top ten score changes in HPRI are shown below. The list of major score declines include four Muslim – Afghanistan, Syria, Iran and Libya. These countries saw their scores decline in the range of -21% to -46%. Conversely, the list of major score improvements include three Muslim – Guinea, Chad, and Pakistan. They saw their score improve in the range of 13% to 24%.

Major rank improvements include two Muslim countries. Algeria and Tunisia had increases of 13 and 10 spots, respectively. On the other hand, Tajikistan,

Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Libya had their ranks decline in the range of 12 to 14 spots.

Table 4: Human and Political Rights Islamicity – Major Score Changes

Top 10 Declines in Score

Country	2019	2018	Change
Afghanistan	0.931	1.717	-46%
Syria	1.199	2.170	-45%
Burundi	1.171	1.887	-38%
Haiti	2.548	3.634	-30%
Zimbabwe	2.363	3.081	-23%
Nicaragua	3.461	4.475	-23%
Tajikistan	2.774	3.556	-22%
Iran	3.067	3.895	-21%
Libya	2.632	3.316	-21%
Papua New Guinea	3.538	4.405	-20%

Top 10 Declines in Rank

Country	2019	2018	Change
Haiti	132	107	-25
Nicaragua	102	83	-19
Honduras	93	77	-16
Papua New Guinea	98	84	-14
Tajikistan	124	110	-14
Zimbabwe	136	122	-14
Azerbaijan	111	98	-13
Moldova	78	65	-13
Kyrgyzstan	88	76	-12
Libya	130	118	-12

Top 10 Improvements in Score

Country	2019	2018	Change
Hong Kong	7.909	6.344	25%
Guinea	2.485	2.004	24%
Gabon	3.301	2.802	18%
Cote d'Ivoire	3.210	2.763	16%
Chad	1.478	1.272	16%
Angola	2.231	1.935	15%
Pakistan	2.130	1.878	13%
Benin	3.897	3.516	11%
Greece	7.076	6.475	9%
Peru	5.633	5.155	9%

Top 10 Improvements in Rank

Country	2019	2018	Change
Cote d'Ivoire	107	130	23
Gabon	106	128	22
Hong Kong	25	45	20
India	95	112	17
Benin	94	111	17
Guatemala	86	101	15
Algeria	101	114	13
Thailand	81	91	10
Tunisia	77	87	10
Montenegro	43	53	10

3.1.4 International Relations Islamicity – top ten best and worst changes

Last but not least, the IRI Index measures two core areas of globalization and militarization.

The IRI score also improved for all countries by 1.7% with a median score of 5.1. The Muslim countries had a significant increase of 16.1% to a median score of 3.91.

The top ten score changes in IRI are shown below in Table 6. The list of major score declines include five Muslim countries – Libya, Syria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia. Their score declines had a wide range – from -9% to -89%. Globally, Libya and Syria had the greatest declines. .

Conversely, there were six countries with score improvements – Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Qatar, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq. Their score improvement ranged from 15% to 88%.

In the list of top ten rank changes, we have three Muslim-majority countries with the greatest improvements and four countries with greatest decreases. Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Qatar saw their rank increase by 57, 26 and 18 spots, respectively. Bosnia and Herzegovina, Tunisia, Morocco and Senegal saw their ranks decrease in the range of 9 to 13 spots.

Table 5: International Relations Islamicity – Major Score Changes

Top 10 Declines in Score

Country	2019	2018	Change
Libya	0.132	1.176	-89%
Syria	0.099	0.621	-84%
Laos	4.735	5.948	-20%
Egypt	1.192	1.471	-19%
Croatia	5.232	6.373	-18%
Latvia	5.530	6.699	-17%
Venezuela	2.649	3.203	-17%
Morocco	3.179	3.562	-11%
El Salvador	3.377	3.725	-9%
Tunisia	4.934	5.392	-9%

Top 10 Declines in Rank

Country	2019	2018	Change
Laos	85	54	-31
Croatia	69	41	-28
Latvia	58	34	-24
Bosnia and Herzegovina	74	61	-13
Tunisia	79	68	-11
Lithuania	91	80	-11
Morocco	124	114	-10
Senegal	36	27	-9
Madagascar	17	8	-9
Mexico	101	92	-9

Top 10 Improvements in Score

Country	2019	2018	Change
Turkmenistan	5.232	2.778	88%
Hong Kong	8.841	4.935	79%
Uzbekistan	4.503	3.235	39%
Suriname	5.497	4.183	31%
Congo, Rep.	3.311	2.647	25%
Russia	0.430	0.359	20%
Qatar	4.570	3.824	20%
Sudan	2.616	2.255	16%
Saudi Arabia	1.887	1.634	16%
Iraq	1.656	1.438	15%

Top 10 Improvements in Rank

Country	2019	2018	Change
Hong Kong	3	81	78
Turkmenistan	69	126	57
Suriname	60	101	41
Uzbekistan	95	121	26
Qatar	92	110	18
Bolivia	74	92	18
Malta	4	18	14
Nepal	55	66	11
Slovenia	30	40	10
Ethiopia	85	95	10

3.1.4 Overall Islamicity – top ten best and worst changes

The top ten countries with the largest changes in their OI scores and rank relative to the prior year are shown below together with the percentage and rank changes.

Table 6: Significant Improvements and Declines in Overall Index Scores

Top 10 Declines in Score

Country	2019	2018	Change
Syria	1.065	1.823	-42%
Haiti	2.340	2.999	-22%
Nicaragua	3.266	4.025	-19%
Afghanistan	1.663	1.939	-14%
Congo, Dem. Rep.	1.680	1.922	-13%
Iran	2.738	3.127	-12%
Mauritania	1.926	2.193	-12%
Honduras	3.563	4.019	-11%
Papua New Guinea	3.770	4.231	-11%
Zimbabwe	2.128	2.354	-10%

Top 10 Declines in Rank

Country	2019	2018	Change
Nicaragua	120	97	-23
Papua New Guinea	103	91	-12
Honduras	109	98	-11
Paraguay	89	78	-11
Suriname	93	84	-9
Haiti	137	130	-7
Iran	132	125	-7
Panama	49	42	-7
Belize	78	72	-6
Bosnia and Herzegovina	66	60	-6

Top 10 Improvements in Score

Country	2019	2018	Change
Pakistan	2.624	2.295	14%
Ethiopia	2.539	2.253	13%
Hong Kong	8.334	7.538	11%
India	4.367	3.994	9%
Ukraine	3.907	3.577	9%
Egypt	2.633	2.416	9%
Guinea	2.948	2.718	8%
Algeria	3.268	3.018	8%
Greece	5.981	5.535	8%
Chad	1.813	1.687	8%

Top 10 Improvements in Rank

Country	2019	2018	Change
Ukraine	99	113	14
India	88	100	12
Armenia	62	73	11
Hong Kong	15	26	11
Algeria	119	129	10
China	79	89	10
Azerbaijan	90	99	9
Gabon	118	126	8
Greece	47	55	8
Guatemala	94	102	8

The Muslim countries of Syria, Afghanistan, Iran, and Mauritania lead the list of countries with the most significant declines in the OI scores, ranging from -42% to -12%. Completing the list are six non-Muslim countries.

Pakistan, Egypt, Guinea, Algeria, Angola and Chad had improvements in scores, ranging from 8% to 14%. An equal number of non-Muslim countries completed the list with similar score increases.

In the list of top ten declines and improvements in rankings, Algeria and Azerbaijan saw improvements of 10 and 9 spots, respectively, while Iran saw a decline of 7 spots.

4. Focus on Muslim Countries

In the Islamicity Indices, we investigated 151 countries that are further broken into various sub-categories of countries for a more nuanced comparison: high, upper-middle, lower-middle, and low-income countries, OECD countries, non-OECD countries, OIC countries, and non-OECD non-OIC countries. Here, we compare the results of those countries and evaluate their performance along all five Islamicity Indices.

Starting with an assessment of the countries' overall performance in 2019, we look at the sub-categories of the countries and their median rankings. It is no surprise that the OECD and high-income country categories performed best with a median OI ranking of 20.5 and 24.5, respectively. They were followed by the upper middle income, non-OECD and non-OIC, non-OECD and lower middle income.

Table 7: Median Islamicity Rank for Categories of Countries

<i>Median Rank</i>	<i>OI</i>	<i>EI</i>	<i>LGI</i>	<i>HPRI</i>	<i>IRI</i>
All Countries (153)	76	77	77	77	77
OECD	20.5	19.5	19.5	18.5	42.5
High Income	24.5	24.5	24.5	24.5	49
Upper Middle Income	75.5	75	80.5	69.5	92
Non-OECD Non-OIC	87.5	89.5	88.5	79.5	77.5
Non-OECD	94	94	93	94	87
Lower Middle Income	105	95	106	102	99
OIC	116	103	111	114	112
Low Income	124	123.5	119	127.5	64

The median OIC countries rank was 116, which falls in the third quartile, having only done better than low-income countries. It is no surprise that OIC countries are at the bottom of the list between lower-middle- and low-income countries. 21 of the 40 OIC countries are either lower-middle- or low-income country. Of the 21 countries, 13 were African, 7 were Asian and 1 Middle Eastern.

4.1 Economic Islamicity Index

The results of median EI scores and ranks increased this year. In the Table 9 below, we see noteworthy changes this year.

Economically, the Muslim-majority countries fared better. 14 out of 40 countries are in the upper half of scores, representing all the regions and from high, upper-middle, and lower-middle income countries. Only 4 countries, made up of upper middle-income Libya, lower-middle income Mauritania and Sudan and low-income Syria are in the bottom quartile. The other 22 countries that make up the third quartile are a concoction of all income groups, representing all regions.

Table 8: Economic Islamicity Index for Muslim Countries

Country	EI Rank	EI Score
United Arab Emirates	23	7.792
Malaysia	30	7.174
Qatar	36	6.900
Azerbaijan	40	6.635
Bahrain	42	6.575
Kazakhstan	44	6.392
Oman	48	6.257
Indonesia	52	5.938
Kuwait	54	5.913
Saudi Arabia	55	5.809
Albania	56	5.730
Jordan	58	5.516
Turkey	61	5.367
Morocco	66	5.178
Bosnia and Herzegovina	74	4.980
Kyrgyzstan	75	4.901
Uzbekistan	92	4.090
Niger	99	3.718
Burkina Faso	100	3.709
Mali	101	3.661
Pakistan	103	3.649
Tunisia	104	3.595
Turkmenistan	105	3.595
Bangladesh	107	3.557

Senegal	108	3.554
Guinea	110	3.428
Iraq	111	3.418
Algeria	112	3.396
Lebanon	113	3.377
Tajikistan	115	3.308
Egypt	120	3.109
Afghanistan	126	2.958
Nigeria	127	2.955
Iran	129	2.873
Sierra Leone	135	2.551
Chad	137	2.535
Libya	140	2.428
Mauritania	141	2.211
Syria	145	1.835
Sudan	150	1.205

4.2 Legal and Governance Islamicity Index

Globally, countries did worse in LGI compared to last year. Their median score decreased by 2%. However, the Muslim-majority countries did far better, increasing their score by 6%.

11 countries from the Middle East, Asia, Europe, and Africa had a score higher than 5. These countries are largely high-, upper middle-, and lower middle-income countries. 14 countries from the Middle East, Africa and Asia were in the fourth quartile. They were upper middle-, lower middle-, and low-income countries. The remaining 15 countries were again a mix of various income groups from all regions that had a score in the third quartile.

Table 9: Legal and Governance Islamicity Index for Muslim Countries

Country	LGI Rank	LGI Score
United Arab Emirates	38	7.307
Qatar	39	7.166
Malaysia	44	6.706
Oman	50	6.389
Jordan	57	5.488
Saudi Arabia	58	5.453
Albania	63	5.227
Kuwait	64	5.227
Morocco	65	5.183

Indonesia	69	5.024
Tunisia	71	5.007
Kazakhstan	72	4.949
Bahrain	74	4.834
Senegal	75	4.790
Turkey	84	4.234
Azerbaijan	86	4.208
Burkina Faso	92	3.695
Bosnia and Herzegovina	96	3.620
Algeria	107	3.307
Egypt	108	3.249
Kyrgyzstan	111	3.064
Niger	116	2.865
Sierra Leone	118	2.826
Tajikistan	120	2.751
Uzbekistan	122	2.653
Iran	124	2.547
Pakistan	126	2.274
Lebanon	128	2.243
Turkmenistan	129	2.221
Guinea	132	2.066
Mali	133	2.062
Mauritania	135	1.921
Bangladesh	136	1.894
Nigeria	137	1.819
Afghanistan	143	0.834
Chad	144	0.790
Iraq	145	0.759
Sudan	147	0.733
Libya	149	0.653
Syria	151	0.340

4.3 Human and Political Rights Islamicity Index

Globally, countries did worse in the HPRI index, scoring 5% lower. Muslim-majority countries did even worse than the global performance, scoring 12%. Only two Muslim countries out of 40 had a score higher than 5. These were the upper middle-income European countries of Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Ten countries had a score in the fourth quartile. These were the African, Middle Eastern and Asian countries from lower middle- and low-income countries. The

only upper middle-income country among them was Iraq. The remaining 28 countries scored in the third quartile, representing all regions and income groups.

Table 10: Human and Political Rights Islamicity Index for Muslim Countries

Country	HRI Rank	HRI Score
Albania	46	6.260
Bosnia and Herzegovina	53	5.674
Malaysia	76	4.580
Tunisia	77	4.531
United Arab Emirates	79	4.381
Qatar	79	4.381
Kuwait	82	4.301
Lebanon	83	4.294
Kazakhstan	84	4.287
Senegal	85	4.249
Kyrgyzstan	88	4.113
Bahrain	89	4.029
Oman	91	3.977
Indonesia	92	3.974
Turkey	96	3.594
Jordan	97	3.580
Algeria	101	3.486
Saudi Arabia	104	3.437
Azerbaijan	111	3.144
Uzbekistan	112	3.137
Iran	114	3.067
Burkina Faso	117	2.959
Sierra Leone	118	2.945
Bangladesh	121	2.858
Morocco	122	2.809
Tajikistan	124	2.774
Mali	125	2.757
Turkmenistan	126	2.740
Nigeria	129	2.666
Libya	130	2.632
Guinea	133	2.485
Iraq	134	2.419
Egypt	138	2.196
Niger	139	2.189

Pakistan	140	2.130
Mauritania	145	1.488
Chad	146	1.478
Syria	148	1.199
Sudan	150	1.129
Afghanistan	151	0.931

4.4 International Relations Islamicity Index

The world improved its median score slightly this year. The Muslim-majority countries showed their best performance in the IRI index, improving their median score by 16%.

13 countries from Africa, Asia, and Europe had a score higher than 5. Their incomes were in the upper middle-, lower middle- and low levels. 14 countries from all four regions had a score in the fourth quartile, representing all income levels. The remaining 13 were the high-, lower middle- and low-income countries of the Middle East, Africa, and Asia.

Table 11: International Relations Islamicity Index for Muslim Countries

Country	IRI Rank	IRI Score
Sierra Leone	7	8.377
Albania	15	7.715
Burkina Faso	34	6.722
Senegal	36	6.656
Indonesia	42	6.258
Bangladesh	47	6.026
Malaysia	51	5.894
Guinea	65	5.331
Tajikistan	66	5.265
Kazakhstan	67	5.265
Turkmenistan	69	5.232
Niger	71	5.199
Bosnia and Herzegovina	74	5.166
Tunisia	79	4.934
Nigeria	87	4.702
Qatar	92	4.570
Mali	92	4.570
Uzbekistan	95	4.503
United Arab Emirates	97	4.437
Kyrgyzstan	106	4.106

Kuwait	112	3.709
Oman	114	3.543
Chad	118	3.377
Morocco	124	3.179
Mauritania	128	2.616
Sudan	129	2.616
Afghanistan	131	2.417
Jordan	133	2.185
Pakistan	134	2.152
Algeria	137	2.020
Saudi Arabia	138	1.887
Iran	139	1.656
Iraq	140	1.656
Bahrain	141	1.490
Egypt	143	1.192
Azerbaijan	144	1.126
Lebanon	144	1.126
Turkey	146	0.927
Libya	150	0.132
Syria	151	0.099

4.5 Overall Islamicity

From Table 7 it is evident that median OI score and rank improved for Muslim-majority countries. However, from Table 12 below, we see that none of the OIC countries occupy a ranking in the upper quartile. Seven countries are in the second quartile – they are the high income and upper-middle income countries of UAE, Malaysia, Albania, Qatar, Oman, and Kazakhstan, and the lower-middle income country of Indonesia. The third quartile is a mix bag of 23 countries of high, upper- middle, lower-middle, and low-income countries. The last quartile is predominantly OIC countries that are lower-middle and low-income countries with the exception of upper-middle income Iraq and Libya.

In all, income levels are a good predictor of the country’s performance in the Islamicity Indices. The higher their income levels, the greater the chance of them doing well to promote economic opportunities for their citizens, safeguard their human and political rights, uphold good governance and strong legal systems and have cordial relations with neighboring countries.

As is evident from Table 12 below, 31 out of the 40 OIC countries rank in the bottom half of the OI, while 33 countries have a score lower than 5. The seven countries with a score in the upper

half are the high, upper-middle, and lower-middle income countries of Asia, Middle East and Europe. The seven countries in the bottom quartile are the upper-middle, lower-middle, and low-income countries of Middle East, Africa, and Asia. The remaining 26 countries in the third quartile come from all regions and all income levels.

Table 12: Overall Islamicity Index for Muslim Countries

Country	OI Rank	OI Score
United Arab Emirates	44	6.142
Malaysia	45	6.021
Albania	46	5.988
Qatar	51	5.852
Oman	57	5.220
Kazakhstan	59	5.182
Indonesia	61	5.054
Kuwait	64	4.957
Bosnia and Herzegovina	66	4.902
Bahrain	71	4.740
Jordan	76	4.498
Saudi Arabia	77	4.497
Senegal	82	4.416
Tunisia	84	4.409
Azerbaijan	90	4.255
Morocco	91	4.150
Kyrgyzstan	92	4.086
Turkey	96	4.019
Burkina Faso	104	3.744
Uzbekistan	113	3.439
Sierra Leone	116	3.340
Algeria	119	3.268
Lebanon	122	3.189
Tajikistan	123	3.178
Bangladesh	124	3.144
Niger	126	3.118
Turkmenistan	127	3.116
Mali	128	3.036
Guinea	130	2.948
Nigeria	131	2.745
Iran	132	2.738
Egypt	134	2.633

Pakistan	135	2.624
Iraq	139	2.228
Mauritania	142	1.926
Libya	145	1.826
Chad	146	1.813
Afghanistan	148	1.663
Sudan	150	1.201
Syria	151	1.065

5 Focus on Muslim Countries by Region

5.1 Africa (North, Western, and Central African countries)

In 2019, the African Muslim countries had a median OI rank of 128 – an improvement over last year’s median rank of 132. On the EI, their median rank was 112, which was a significant improvement over previous year’s median of 130. They again did better this year in their LGI rank, improving their median rank from 121 to 118. Median HPRI was 129, another improvement from last year’s 133. Only in IRI did they fare worse by moving to a median of 92 from 89. However, their best median rank is in the IRI index.

Overall, the African countries’ median rank was similar to lower middle- and low-income countries, save for IRI which is similar to non-OECD median rank.

Table 13: Muslim African Countries Islamicity Indices

Country	OI Rank	EI Rank	LGI Rank	HRI Rank	IRI Rank
Senegal	82	108	75	85	36
Tunisia	84	104	71	77	79
Morocco	91	66	65	122	124
Burkina Faso	104	100	92	117	34
Sierra Leone	116	135	118	118	7
Algeria	119	112	107	101	137
Niger	126	99	116	139	71
Mali	128	101	133	125	92
Guinea	130	110	132	133	65
Nigeria	131	127	137	129	87
Egypt	134	120	108	138	143
Mauritania	142	141	135	145	128
Libya	145	140	149	130	150

Chad	146	137	144	146	118
Sudan	150	150	147	150	129
MEDIAN	128	112	118	129	92

5.2 Asia (Asia-Pacific, South Asia, and Central Asia):

The Asian Muslim countries did slightly better than their African counterparts, except in the LGI index. Their median OI rank was 113, better than the previous year's 118. The countries performed their best in EI, scoring a median rank of 92 – same as last year. In LGI, their median rank was 120 – an improvement over the previous year's 129. The Asian countries' median HPRI rank has went from 110 to 112. However, their IRI median rank improved significantly – from last year's median of 117 to an impressive 69.

Overall, the Asian countries' results were similar to the non-OECD, lower middle- and low-income countries along the first four indices. Only in IRI did they do better than the global average.

Table 14: Muslim Asian Countries Islamicity Indices

Country	OI Rank	EI Rank	LGI Rank	HPRI Rank	IRI Rank
Malaysia	45	30	44	76	51
Kazakhstan	59	44	72	84	67
Indonesia	61	52	69	92	42
Azerbaijan	90	40	86	111	144
Kyrgyzstan	92	75	111	88	106
Uzbekistan	113	92	122	112	95
Tajikistan	123	115	120	124	66
Bangladesh	124	107	136	121	47
Turkmenistan	127	105	129	126	69
Pakistan	135	103	126	140	134
Afghanistan	148	126	143	151	131
MEDIAN	113	92	120	112	69

5.3 Middle East

Muslim Middle Eastern countries fared better than their African and the rest of Asia counterparts. Moreover, they did better in all indices compared to last year. Their median OI rank was 76 – an improvement over last year's median of 83. They had a significant

improvement in EI and LGI, going from 64 last year to 55 this year and 75 to 64, respectively. In HRPI and IRI, they had a slight improvement of 5 and 2 spots to a median of 91 and 138, respectively.

These countries were in the high and upper middle-income groups, their ranks reflected that.

Table 15: Muslim Middle Eastern Countries Islamicity Indices

Country	OI Rank	EI Rank	LGI Rank	HRI Rank	IRI Rank
United Arab Emirates	44	23	38	79	97
Qatar	51	36	39	79	92
Oman	57	48	50	91	114
Kuwait	64	54	64	82	112
Bahrain	71	42	74	89	141
Jordan	76	58	57	97	133
Saudi Arabia	77	55	58	104	138
Lebanon	122	113	128	83	144
Iran	132	129	124	114	139
Iraq	139	111	145	134	140
Syria	151	145	151	148	151
MEDIAN	76	55	64	91	138

5.4 Europe

European Muslim countries had the best performance among the four groups. They had a median OI rank of 66, a decrease of 6 spots over 2018. It again did best in HPRI and worst in LGI. Its median HPRI decreased by 3 spots to 53, while its LGI improved from 85 to 84. Economically, the European countries improved slightly from 64 to 61, while their IRI median rank tanked from 61 to 74 this year.

Europe's median rank were the best among OIC countries. These are the upper middle-income countries and their ranks were reflective of it.

Table 16: Muslim European Countries Islamicity Indices

Country	OI Rank	EI Rank	LGI Rank	HRI Rank	IRI Rank
Albania	46	56	63	46	15
Bosnia and Herzegovina	66	74	96	53	74
Turkey	96	61	84	96	146

MEDIAN

66	61	84	53	74
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6 Summary

Using 46 proxies to represent principal Islamic teachings in the four major dimensions of economic, legal and governance, human and political rights and international relations for 151 countries, we again find non-Muslim majority countries performing the best and Muslim-majority countries occupying the bottom part of the list. The best performing non-Muslim countries are in harmony with Islam’s recommendations and are considered generally as the most successful countries in the world. Islam’s recommended institutions are at the foundation of successful countries. In 2019, New Zealand came in first in the overall index (OI), followed by Sweden and Iceland. The highest-ranking Muslim-majority country on the list is United Arab Emirates, occupying 44th rank, followed by Malaysia, Albania, and Qatar. And the last spots on the list are again occupied by Afghanistan, Sudan, and Syria.

Our results demonstrate the ineffective institutions and the lack of reform across Muslim countries. Traditional shortcomings such as a weak rule of law, pervasive culture of corruption, inconsistent and shortsighted economic policies, limited and inequitable opportunities for individual development and growth, injustice, absence of freedom, human and political rights violations, strife and armed conflicts are responsible for the lack of a country’s development, which are path-dependent and reflect weak institutions. Generally speaking, successful countries show good performance in all dimensions and their performance is stable from year to year.

Still in 2019, Muslim-majority countries showed limited improvement in their overall, economic, legal and governance scores, with their best performance in IRI scores. Their performance in Human and Political Rights (HPRI) showed the biggest deterioration, which was also the case with other global countries. As opposed to their improvement in scores, the median OI ranking for Muslim countries deteriorated in economic, legal and governance, and international relations indices. Only HPRI had a positive change in rankings.

The median OIC countries rank fell into the third quartile, having only done better than low-income countries. It is no surprise that OIC countries are at the bottom of the list between lower-middle- and low-income countries.

Once again, we witness that Muslim countries who profess Islam and the teachings of the Qur’an are not as Islamic in their practices as are many non-Muslim countries. The landscape of Muslim countries does not reflect the teachings of the Qur’an and the lessons of the hadiths. The OIC countries should encourage fundamental reforms to build effective institutions to make sure their practices follow Islamic principles and recommendations. Looking across the

board, justice, the rule of law, freedom and equitable opportunity to pursue individual dreams are at the foundation of successful societies. In the case of Islam, there can be no doubt that justice is at the heart of the religion, followed by freedom that Allah afforded humanity, a gift that no human should take away. Yet, most Muslim countries are guilty of unjust rule and oppression. The Islamicity Indices provide the moral instrument for achieving successful societies. They provide a measurable instrument for assessing success and shortcomings and the areas requiring the most urgent attention. Governments and the people can peacefully agree to adopt such indices and set a timetable, e.g. 20-30 years, to achieve an agreed upon improvement in their institutional structure. In this way, they can achieve peaceful and measurable reform across the Muslim world.