

## **Islamic Criteria in Judging Civilizations:**

Since this topic is completely dependent on the views and interpretation of life, I will use the Islamic criteria that differentiates between civilized and non-civilized society. These criterion is made of the following points:

### **1. Highest Value:**

Moral Code: Who Decides Between Right and Wrong?

<https://youtu.be/9Hx31F7WdYE>

- If the highest value in the society that determines what is right and what is wrong, what is acceptable and what is not acceptable, and what is legal and what is illegal, is idealism then this society is civilized. But if this value is materialism, then this society has a non-civilized feature.
- There are illustrative examples of this particular issue; the first is in the city of Lake Tahoe. Part of Lake Tahoe is located in the state of Nevada while the other is located in the state of California. In California, prostitution and gambling are illegal because the economy is based on manufacturing and agriculture while in Nevada prostitution and gambling are legal because the economy is based on the entertainment industry and tourism. There is one street that divides Lake Tahoe in two portions; one in California and one in Nevada. Two hotels located across the street from each other in one of them prostitution and gambling is illegal while the other is legal.
- The second example is in Evansville. Gambling is illegal in the land of Indiana, but a gambling Casino in the river is okay because it is not in the dry land! Although it is common sense that there is no difference between river and dry land, but because the Casino pays lots of taxes to the city, it is okay!

- The third example is to throw away food to keep the price up. Happens by the US department of agriculture and some grocery stores. Extra food should be given away as a charity.
- Clarification: There are two extremes when dealing with materialism; the extreme of neglecting its importance and clashing with it and the extreme of making it the highest value that governs everything in life. Islam is in the middle of the two extremes. Islam recognizes the importance of materialism but makes divine idealism as the governing highest value in life. If an issue is determined to be moral based on divine idealism, then people may use materialism in choosing between different alternatives. But if an issue is determined to be immoral, then it does not matter how much materialistic benefits it brings. Materialistic benefits in this case are treated as evil temptations.

## 2. Source of Legislation:

- If the society is divided into higher people who write laws and lower people that follow these laws, then this society has a non-civilized feature, but if the guidance from God is the source of major laws and legislations, then this society is a civilized society.
- This includes written laws enforced by the governing body or unwritten laws enforced by the social pressure of the society itself.
- Allah is the only one who can make laws that are fair to everyone. Man made laws are made to serve specific segment of the society.

## 3. Role of women;

Career moms vs. stay-at-home moms <https://youtu.be/ViMQg5RUI7k>

- Islam recognizes that the main role of women is to produce a human being. This is more honorable than the role of man, which is produce a

materialistic product such as bridge, building, road, chair, .....etc.

Abandon her sacred job and compete with men on producing cheaper products is a sign of no civilization.

- Sometimes, a woman would abandoned her job as a mother, but works as a servant in restaurants and similar jobs.

#### 4. Building Unit of the Society:

THREE Reasons Why The Nuclear Family Is Fundamental To Society

<https://youtu.be/sf5lPqY7gEU>

Approval of Out-of-Wedlock Births Growing in U.S.

<https://youtu.be/DkE8PpE9b48>

- If the building unit of the society is a healthy family made of a loving and caring father and a loving and caring mother who are married, as well as the legitimate children, then this society is civilized. But if the population of the society is based on illegitimate children, families of single fathers, single mothers, two fathers or two mothers, then this society has a non-civilized feature.
- Pregnant teens. In U S, Females Aged 15–19 Years 750,000 birth in year 2001 to about 250,000 in 2014. No statistics on miscarriages or abortion. 39% go to bed on the first date. US: 1965 24%, 1990 64%
- More than half of the babies in UK were from outside of wedlock (bastards).
- We believe in equality between men and women, but the loser in the liberal relationship is the girl. If she is deserted, if she is aborted or even end up as a single mother.
- Muslim nations are doing the best in this area. No girl would allow a guy to take advantage of her.
- Why buy the cow if you can get the milk for free? Make girls cheaper. Example of naked dress in snow to get a date. Girl dating a married guy

and spending her money on. You are like my mother, I can't find better than that.

- Girls are precious. In Muslim countries because no free milk is offered.
- Lines of defense. Don't approach adultery. Hijab, shyness, no alone. Boys and girls when the distance between them decreases, this increases the possibility of romance. Race and stop at the edge of the cliff. We can't allow boys and girls to date, ... and then tell them no stop. It doesn't work that way.

#### 5. Bases of Unity:

- If the values that unit members of the society are common moral values, and common ideology and views of life that is based on heavenly guidance, then this society is civilized (united based on the ten commandments or faith). But if this society is united over materialism and common materialistic interests, such as the rich comfortable fulfilling life that we live and want our children to continue living, then this society has a non-civilized feature.
- The earthly basis of unity, such as race, color or materialism does not produce civilized societies.
- The heavenly basis of unity is the ten commandments for example.

#### 6. Level of inequalities:

Global Wealth Inequality – What you never knew you never knew

<https://youtu.be/uWSxzjyMNpU>

- There are many forms of inequality that we are witnessing today. The first form of inequality is the political injustice. The concentration of power in few hands. The oppression and disregard of civil and human rights in many areas of the world.
- Even in democracies, we see the neglect of basic rights and civil freedoms in the name of national security and patriotism, interesting enough, the same excuses used by dictators in the third world.

- We also see injustices in democracies where certain small powerful intersect groups, very powerful lobbies are working hard for their own selfish benefit and even to serve countries other than their own.
- The second form of inequality is inequality in the distribution of wealth both on the level of one country and on the international level. We witness today the accumulation of wealth in the hands of few. In one of the third world countries, 98% of the population is consuming 20% of the national income where only 2% of the population are consuming 80% of the national income. Even in the first world, we see pockets of third world within the boundaries of first world.
- On the international level, we see the obscene luxury that small segment of humanity is living on the expense of millions of poor and needy who are starving to death. We also see the exploitation of the powerful of the weak. The rich are exploiting the poor. The attempt to dominate and control resources and markets in the name of globalizations. And as a result, we see things like US is consuming 60% of the world resources even though we constitute 5% of the world population.
- "Distribution of wealth in the globe is highly uneven. Economic growth is also highly unevenly distributed, it favors the richer portion of mankind and making the gap wider. The situation is getting worse as the population of the world grows much more in poor states. The population of the world is expected to be near 8.5 billion by the year 2025. Of that total, as many as 6.5 billion are expected to be living in the poorer states of mankind. Even worse, approximately two-thirds of these will be concentrated in the urban slums of the less developed world, making them highly susceptible to radical political mobilization. The portion of the populations of the rich countries who are over the age of 65 is increasing much more rapidly than the corresponding age bracket in the poorer countries, while their number under the age of fifteen is shrinking more rapidly.

- Negative demographic trends are reinforced by negative economic trends. According to the United Nations Human Development Report for 1992, in the 1960s the richer countries were thirty times wealthier than the poorer ones, but by the 1990s the gap had widened to the point that the income of the richer countries had become 150 times higher.
- First world: US, Canada, France, Italy, UK, ...
- Second world: Former communist countries of Eastern Europe and the former Union of Soviet Socialist republics (USSR), which are Moldova, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Russia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Ukraine. (called transitional economy). China is second world. Lots of Asia, Africa, Latin America,
- The rest of countries are third world.
- TV made it worse because a poor guy can see a rich guy life style on TV.

ARE WE REALLY CIVILIZED TODAY?