



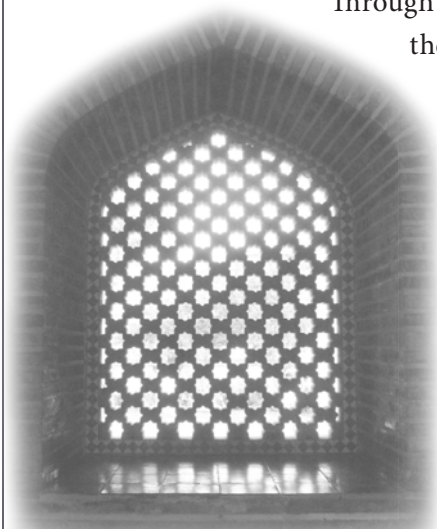
MUSLIM ASIA INITIATIVE

Muslim Asia related projects are a primary activity of the Political and Security Affairs (PSA) Group at The National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR).

Recognizing that 62% of Muslims worldwide live in non-Arab Asia, over the past nine years NBR has been deeply engaged in the study of Muslim societies in Asia and Islam's changing role in the region. Through a series of in-depth research studies, conferences, and analytical think-pieces, NBR's Muslim Asia Initiative reaches out to U.S. and international experts to provide new perspectives on emerging social, political, and security trends in Muslim Asia that have key relevance to U.S. security interests in Asia and relations with the Muslim world.

Utilizing NBR's "network of experts" business model, this initiative brings together the best scholars of Islam and Muslim societies in Asia from around the world to address emerging trends and developments in the region.

Through a variety of publication platforms, including the *NBR Special Report* and *NBR Analysis* series, the peer reviewed journal *Asia Policy*, and NBR's flagship annual volume *Strategic Asia*, as well as conferences and private briefings, NBR makes available the best possible research to the global policymaking community.



NBR'S MISSION

The National Bureau of Asian Research is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research institution dedicated to informing and strengthening policy.

NBR conducts advanced independent research on strategic, political, economic, globalization, health, and energy issues affecting U.S. relations with Asia.

Drawing upon an extensive network of the world's leading specialists and leveraging the latest technology, NBR bridges the academic, business, and policy arenas. The institution disseminates its research through briefings, publications, conferences, Congressional testimony, and email forums, and by collaborating with leading institutions worldwide.

NBR also provides exceptional internship opportunities to graduate and undergraduate students for the purpose of attracting and training the next generation of Asia specialists.

Core Areas of Research

Muslim Asia and U.S. Security Interests

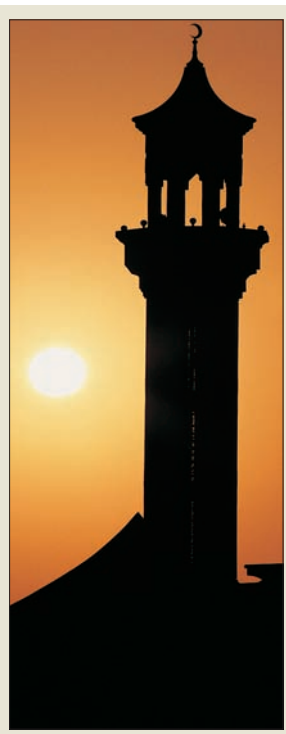
The Islamist orientation of global terrorism demands particular attention to the political, economic, and social dynamics of Muslim societies, and the capacities of their governments to tackle challenges emerging from within, or outside of, state boundaries.

Much attention has been paid both to the danger posed by the growth of radical Islam and to investigating ways to combat its spread. NBR has produced a plethora of research and analysis that explores Islamist terrorism in Asia, monitors its evolution, and assesses the implications for U.S. national security interests.

Muslim Asia and U.S. Relations with the Muslim World

NBR has also sought to engage less visible issues related to Islam and Muslim societies in Asia to broaden the debate and better inform policymakers of emerging trends and developments in Muslim Asia. These studies have found that there are many

and varied roles of Islam in the region that go far beyond the actions of a radical fringe. Further, while Islam continues to play a central role in the historical, political, ideological, and social evolution of Muslim Asian countries, there are also broad global, political, economic, and cultural trends that are influencing developments in these societies. It is on these less-studied yet no less critical issues affecting Muslim Asia that NBR has often trained its analytical resources.



A SNAPSHOT OF MUSLIM ASIA

The future of Islam and its relations with the West will be influenced by the Muslims living in Asia. To gain a better understanding of Islam in the United States, it is imperative to examine the changing face of Islam in Muslim Asia and the implications for relations with the West.

- Of the 1.57 billion Muslims worldwide, 973 million (62%) live in the Asia-Pacific; only 20% of the world's Muslims live in the Arab Middle East.
- Of the 10 countries with the largest Muslim populations in the world, the top 4 are in Asia: Indonesia (12.9%), Pakistan (11.1%), India (10.3%) and Bangladesh (9.3%).
- South Asia accounts for about half (50%) of Asia's Muslim population, with the remainder divided between Southeast-East (26%) and Central-Western Asia (24%).
- Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh together are home to nearly a third (31%) of the world's Muslim population, and 99% of South Asia's Muslim population.
- Indonesia is the most populous Muslim state in the world, with 203 million (12.9%) of the world's Muslims; India holds the largest population of Muslims living as minorities, with 161 million (10.3%) of the world's Muslims.¹

¹ Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, "Mapping the Global Muslim Population: A Report on the Size and Distribution of the World's Muslim Population," October 2009, <http://pewforum.org/Muslim/Mapping-the-Global-Muslim-Population.aspx>.

Recent Initiatives: 2009–10

Students Islamic Movement of India and the Indian Mujahideen

Christine Fair assesses the organization, ideology, and membership of the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) and the Indian Mujahideen (IM), as well as India's ability to contend with this domestic security threat.

Who Speaks for Islam? Muslim Grassroots Leaders and Popular Preachers in South Asia

Mumtaz Ahmad, Dietrich Reetz, and Thomas H. Johnson examine the evolving social and political roles of traditional and nontraditional Muslim religious figures and leaders in Pakistan, India, and Afghanistan.

Counterterrorism Cooperation in South Asia: History and Prospects

Sumit Ganguly examines the history of terrorism in South Asia, past attempts at counterterrorism cooperation, and the prospects and challenges for effective regional cooperation.

Narco-Jihad: Drug Trafficking and Security in Afghanistan and Pakistan

Ehsan Ahrari, Vanda Felbab-Brown, and Louise I. Shelley with Nazia Hussain assess the global and regional dynamics of narcotics production and trafficking in Afghanistan and Pakistan and the implications for counterinsurgency efforts in the region.

Development and Counterinsurgency in Afghanistan and Pakistan

Agnieszka Paczynska assesses the prospects and challenges for integrating development strategies into counterinsurgency (COIN) efforts in Afghanistan and Pakistan.



Pakistani Partnerships with the United States

Daniel Markey assesses the relationships between the United States and different elements within Pakistan's political and military leadership in the context of ongoing regional counterterrorism and counterinsurgency efforts.

Transnational Islam in South and Southeast Asia

Experts assess transnational Islam as it manifests in Bangladesh, Pakistan, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand to explore the landscape of transnational Islam in South and Southeast Asia and examine its implications for these regions' sociopolitical futures.

Islamic Education in Bangladesh and Pakistan—Trends in Tertiary Institutions

Mumtaz Ahmad and Matthew J. Nelson shed new light on the emerging educational and socio-political landscape of Muslim South Asia, with critical implications for U.S. policy and security interests in the region.

Past Initiatives: 2001–08

Post-September 11 Afghanistan-Pakistan Relations—Prospects for Counterinsurgency Cooperation (2008)

Challenges Facing Pakistan’s Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) (2008)

NBR-RSIS Discussion Workshop on “Transnational Islam in South and Southeast Asia,” June 26, 2008, Singapore (2008)

Aspects of Islamism in South and Southeast Asia (2008)

Muslim Professional Associations and Politics in Southeast Asia (2008)

Islam in Japan (2008)

Militant Recruitment in Pakistan—A New Look at the Militancy-Madrasah Connection (2007)

Conference on “Islamic Finance in Southeast Asia: Local Practice, Global Impact,” October 18, 2007, Washington D.C. (2007)

Conference on “Approaches to “Moderate” Islam in Asia,” August 3, 2007, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (2007)

International Jihad and Muslim Radicalism in Thailand? Toward an Alternative Interpretation (2006)

Discussion Workshop on “U.S. Engagement with Muslim Asia since September 11, 2001,” November 2006, Washington D.C. (2006)

Islamic Leaders in Uzbekistan (2006)

Conference on “Generational Change and Leadership Succession in Uzbekistan,” March 2, 2006, Washington D.C. (2006)

Trends in Secular Educational Development in Azerbaijan and Central Asia (2004)

Muslims, Politics, and Violence in Indonesia: An Emerging Jihadist-Islamist Nexus? (2004)

Funding Terrorism in Southeast Asia: The Financial Network of Al Qaeda and Jemaah Islamiyah (2003)



For more information on NBR’s Muslim Asia Initiative, please contact:

Roy Kamphausen, Senior Vice President for Political and Security Affairs, at rkamphausen@nbr.org or (202) 347-9767

Mahin Karim, Senior Project Director, at mkarim@nbr.org or (206) 632-7370

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