

INTRODUCTION

Islam in America is changing. This change is taking place despite fierce opposition from some conservative Muslims who view change as a threat both to themselves, as well as to the religion of Islam. On the other hand, many Muslims in America understand that change is inevitable and necessary in order for Islam to remain a viable religion and a way of life for Muslims in the West. This monograph describes this change, what affects its direction, why is it necessary and the result of this change.

We will discuss the following concepts:

- 1- Is the religion of Islam suitable for America?
- 2- If so, can we apply Islam in the same way it was applied centuries ago, or do we expand or develop a new understanding of how to live as Muslims in a Western society
- 3- What are the fundamental principles and concepts that do not change with time and place, and what are the variables that need a different understanding and new methods of application
- 4- What will happen to Islamic centers if they isolate themselves and refuse to interact with the larger community and not offer Islamic solutions to current problems?
- 5- Our understanding of the relationship between Muslims and non-Muslims must be clarified and a different perspective evolve
- 6- What are the sources of strength and weakness for American Muslims?
- 7- What are our obligations towards Muslims in other parts of the world?
- 8- Is Islam compatible with Western culture and ideology?
- 9- Our children are the future: how do we care for them and what do we tell them as Muslims living in America?
- 10- What are the major problems facing Muslims in America?
- 11- A road map to the future