

**Important Information about
Muslims in Russia**

- Compiled

- info@iosworld.org

**Institute of Objective Studies
162, Jogabai, Jamia Nagar
New Delhi - 110025**

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Slowly, there are changes in the social fabric of present-day Russia.

Predicting a Majority-Muslim Russia

"Russia's Turning Muslim, says Mufti" is the startling headline in the Times of London today. Ravil Gaynutdin, Head of the Council of Muftis of Russia, announced that Russia's population of 144 million contains 23 million ethnic Muslims – and not, as the census indicates, 14.5 million, or, as the Orthodox Church estimates, nearer to 20 million. An estimated 3-4 million Muslims are migrants from former Soviet regions, including 2 million Azeris, 1 million Kazakhs, and several hundred thousand Uzbeks, Tajiks and Kyrgyz."

"Goble notes the exponential growth in Islam since the demise of the Soviet Union: Russia had about 300 mosques in 1991 and now there are at least 8,000, about half of which were built with money from abroad, especially from Turkey, Iran and Saudi Arabia. There were no Islamic religious schools in 1991 and today there are between 50 and 60, teaching as many as 50,000 students. The number of Russians going on the hajj each year has jumped from 40 in 1991 to 13,500 in 2005. He quotes a Russian commentator predicting that within the next several decades there will be a mosque on Red Square."

Putin opens Moscow's Largest Mosque, warns against extremists

MOSCOW (Reuters) - President Vladimir Putin opened Moscow's new grand mosque on Wednesday, urging Russia's Islamic leaders to stand against extremism at a time when some 2,400 Russians are fighting with Islamic State in the Middle East.

Russia, home to some 20 million Muslims, has fought two wars against Chechen separatists in the mainly-Muslim North Caucasus region where an Islamist insurgency is still simmering and some rebels have sworn their allegiance to IS.

Unveiling the new mosque built of light stone, capped with turquoise and golden cupolas, Putin said Russia must educate its Muslim youth to prevent them from becoming religious extremists.

"This work is particularly important today as attempts are undertaken to exploit religious feelings for political purposes," Putin said during the opening of the mosque, which is said to cost some \$170 million.

"We see what's happening in the Middle East where terrorists of the so-called Islamic State discredit the great world religion, discredit Islam by sowing hate, killing people... destroying the world's cultural heritage in a barbaric way."

"Their ideology is built on lies, on open perversion of Islam. They are trying to recruit followers in our country as well."

Adopting Russian Orthodox Christian terminology for an important house of worship, the building is called the Moscow Cathedral Mosque. Its main golden dome and tall minaret reflected the style of many Orthodox churches, except for the Islamic crescents atop them.

Russia's Kremlin-backed Council of Muftis said private donations covered the construction of the mosque, including contributions from Kazakhstan and Turkey, who's President Tayyip Erdogan, was present at the opening ceremony.

The new mosque, which can accommodate 10,000 people, was built on the site of an earlier mosque erected in the early 20th century by the Tatar community.

Islam is the second largest religion in Russia after Orthodox Christianity, making up around 15 percent of the population.

Putin opens Moscow's Largest Mosque



Muslims' Military Service in the Russian Empire

The majority of Muslim soldiers came from the Volga-Ural region which had been subjugated to Muscovite rule in the 16th century and whose Muslim population had been providing recruits to the regular army since the 18th century. The introduction of universal conscription to military service in 1874 further increased their influx into the military. Still, the majority of the Russian Empire's culturally and ethnically diverse Muslim population remained exempt from conscription even after 1874 and only small numbers served in separate "ethnic units." This included the Muslim peoples of Central Asia, the Northern and Southern Caucasus, and the Crimea. The reasons for their exemption varied: in the case of the Crimean Tatars, administrators feared that subjugating them to military service would precipitate another mass exodus to the Ottoman Empire; in the case of the Muslims of the Caucasus, the government remained unsure about their allegiance to

Russia in spite of the military's fascination with their military potential, especially the mountaineers; in Central Asia, the state's weak administrative penetration of the region and the allegedly low combat abilities as well as questionable loyalties of the local population impeded their recruitment for several decades.

During the First World War, several Muslim units were formed, with the so-called "wild division" (*dikaia diviziia*) from the Caucasus gaining a reputation for both its ruthlessness and its courage in Russia and abroad. In the summer of 1916, Nicholas II, Emperor of Russia (1868-1918) decreed that the male population of Central Asia should be drafted into labor battalions behind the front lines, which led to a massive uprising in the region. The vast majority of Muslims served as rank-and-file soldiers. On the eve of the First World War, there were only around 300 Muslim officers in the Russian Army, ten of whom had reached the rank of general. The majority of these officers came from the local elite in their respective communities and had risen to the upper echelons of the military hierarchy as a result of St. Petersburg's policies of highly selective social integration in the empire's Muslim peripheries.

Distribution of Percentage of Muslims out of 85 Regions of Russia

S. No.	Number of Regions	Percentage of Muslims
1	5	0.00
2	28	0.12 - 0.87
3	37	1.00 - 6.87
4	7	10.88 - 30.00
5	8	53.80 - 96.00
Total Regions	85	0.00 - 96.00

Distribution of Percentage of Muslims in Russia by Region:

Percentage of Muslims in Russia by Region

S.No.	Region	Percentage of Muslims
1	Arkhangelsk Oblast	0.00
2	Chukotka	0.00
3	Nenets Autonomous Okrug	0.00
4	Sevastopol	0.00
5	Tuva	0.00
6	Smolensk Oblast	0.12
7	Nizhny Novgorod Oblast	0.13
8	Buryatia	0.20
9	Karelia	0.20
10	Pskov Oblast	0.20
11	Bryansk Oblast	0.25
12	Kaliningrad Oblast	0.25
13	Kursk Oblast	0.25
14	Oryol Oblast	0.25
15	Tambov Oblast	0.25
16	Vologda Oblast	0.25
17	Zabaykalsky Krai	0.25
18	Voronezh Oblast	0.38
19	Sakhalin Oblast	0.40
20	Ivanovo Oblast	0.50
21	Primorsky Krai	0.50
22	Khakassia	0.60
23	Kostroma Oblast	0.60
24	Belgorod Oblast	0.62
25	Amur Oblast	0.63
26	Kaluga Oblast	0.63
27	Vladimir Oblast	0.63

28	Leningrad Oblast	0.75
29	Tver Oblast	0.75
30	Yaroslavl Oblast	0.75
31	Jewish Autonomous Oblast	0.80
32	Novgorod Oblast	0.80
33	Kirov Oblast	0.87
34	Altai Krai	1.00
35	Kemerovo Oblast	1.00
36	Komi Republic	1.00
37	Magadan Oblast	1.00
38	Murmansk Oblast	1.00
39	Ryazan Oblast	1.00
40	Tula Oblast	1.00
41	Khabarovsk Krai	1.13
42	Lipetsk Oblast	1.13
43	Novosibirsk Oblast	1.13
44	Rostov Oblast	1.13
45	Tomsk Oblast	1.13
46	Kamchatka Krai	1.20
47	Irkutsk Oblast	1.25
48	Krasnodar Krai	1.37
49	Yakutia	1.40
50	Krasnoyarsk Krai	1.50
51	Stavropol Krai	2.00
52	Moscow Oblast	2.12
53	Saint Petersburg	2.25
54	Samara Oblast	2.25
55	Saratov Oblast	2.40
56	Mordovia	2.50
57	Kurgan Oblast	2.62
58	Omsk Oblast	2.75

59	Sverdlovsk Oblast	2.88
60	Chuvashia	3.50
61	Moscow	3.50
62	Volgograd Oblast	3.50
63	Perm Krai	4.00
64	Udmurtia	4.25
65	Kalmykia	4.80
66	Penza Oblast	5.75
67	Tyumen Oblast	5.75
68	Altai Republic	6.20
69	Chelyabinsk Oblast	6.87
70	Ulyanovsk Oblast	6.87
71	Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Okrug	10.88
72	Adygea	12.60
73	Orenburg Oblast	13.87
74	Astrakhan Oblast	14.62
75	Crimea	15.00
76	Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug	17.40
77	North Ossetia-Alania	30.00
78	Tatarstan	53.80
79	Kabardino-Balkaria	55.40
80	Bashkortostan	58.62
81	Mari El	60.00
82	Karachay-Cherkessia	64.20
83	Dagestan	82.60
84	Chechnya	95.00
85	Ingushetia	96.00

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_in_Russia#:~:text=Islam%20in%20Russia%20is%20a,10%20%25%20of%20the%20total%20population.

<https://defence.pk/pdf/threads/russian-army-to-become-a-muslim-majority-army-by-2015-2020.18530/>

Source: Predicting a Majority-Muslim Russia - Daniel Pipes Blog

https://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/muslim_soldiers_in_the_russian_army

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