

# Why Human Freedom Matters

## The Consequences of Insha'Allah

**Dr. Andy Bannister, PhD**

Director, Solas Centre for Public Christianity



[www.solas-cpc.org](http://www.solas-cpc.org)



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[www.andybannister.net/uai2019](http://www.andybannister.net/uai2019)

**Dr. John Joseph**  
(1932-1998)  
*Bishop of Faisalabad,  
Pakistan*



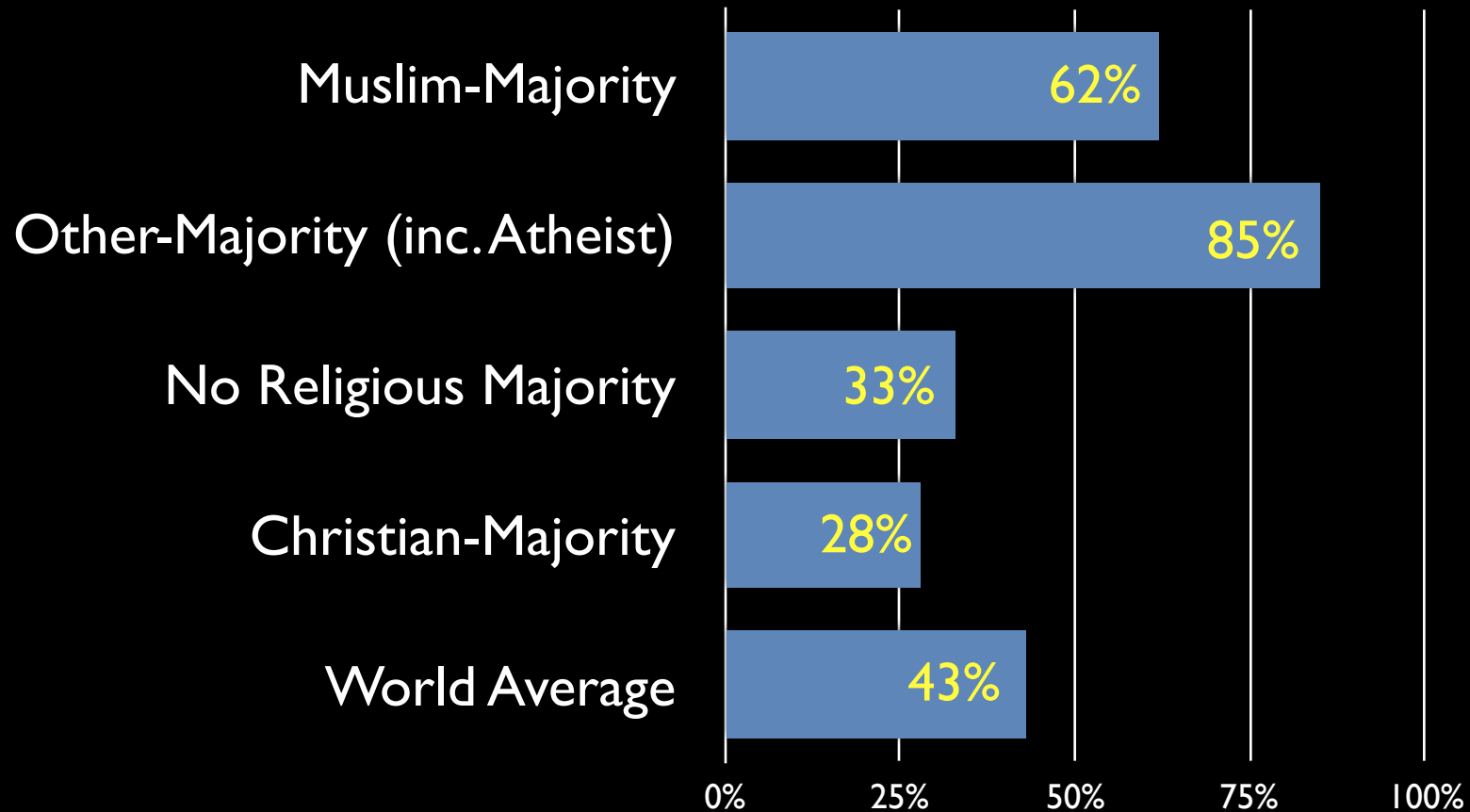
“Dedicated persons do  
not count the cost of the  
sacrifices they have to make.”

- Bishop John Joseph



# 215 million

Christians live under daily  
threat of religious persecution



“Persecution of more than one thousand persons is present in 45 percent of Muslim-majority countries and 60 percent of the “Other Majority” religion countries, compared to 11 percent of Christian-majority countries and 8 percent of countries where no single religion holds a majority.”

Brian J. Grim and Roger Finke, *The Price of Freedom Denied: Religious Persecution and Conflict in the Twenty-First Century* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011) 21

# ***Open Doors International***

## **World Watch List 2018**

### ***Top Ten Offenders***

Afghanistan

Sudan

Eritrea

Pakistan

Yemen

Somalia

Iran

Libya

North Korea

Iraq

# THE PRICE OF FREEDOM DENIED

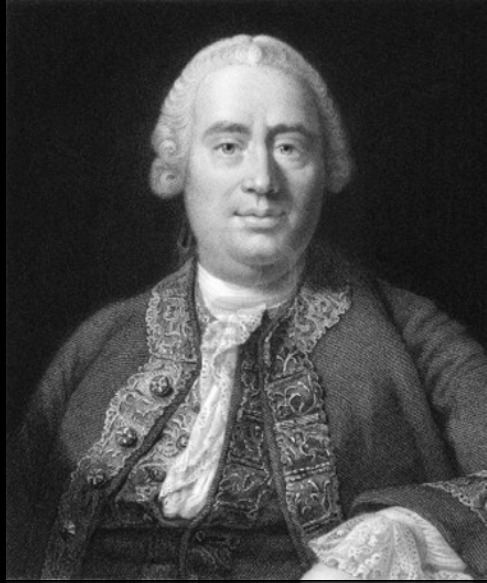
RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION AND CONFLICT IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY



BRIAN J. GRIM  
ROGER FINKE

CAMBRIDGE

What do we mean by the word  
**freedom?**



David Hume  
(1711-1776)

The 'Liberty of Spontaneity'

The 'Liberty of Indifference'

The 'Liberty of Spontaneity'

The 'Liberty of Indifference'





# Determinism

All of our actions and choices are just following a pre-programmed script

The 'Liberty of Spontaneity'

The 'Liberty of Indifference'



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Why Does Freedom Matter?

**Freedom is Crucial For ...**

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# Freedom is Crucial For ...

- Morality and justice
- Thinking and reason (and science!)
- True faith
- Love

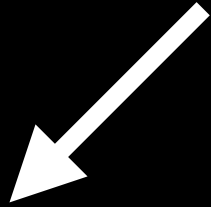


Where Does  
Freedom Fit Best?



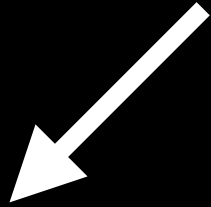
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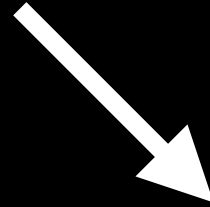


Naturalistic  
Determinism

# Determinism



Naturalistic  
Determinism



Theological  
Determinism

“It is hard to imagine how free will can operate if our behaviour is determined by physical law, so it seems we are no more than biological machines and that free will is just an illusion.”

Stephen Hawking

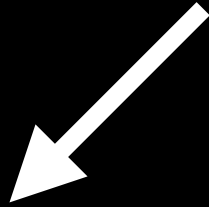
“DNA neither knows nor  
cares. DNA just is. And we  
dance to its music.”

Richard Dawkins

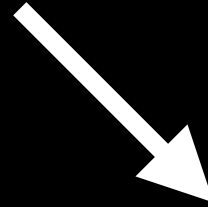
“Our actions are in fact literally predestined, determined by the laws of physics, the state of the universe, long before we were born ... we chose none of this, and so free will does not exist.”

Paul Bloom

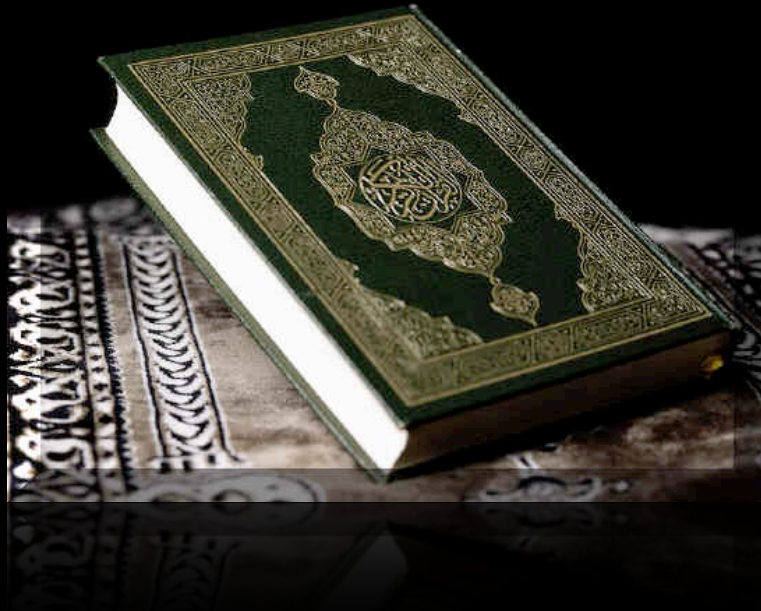
# Determinism



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# The Qur'an and Freedom

“Do what ye will. Lo! He is Seer of  
what ye do.”

Qur'an 41:40

“Lo! We have shown him the way, whether he be grateful or disbelieving.”

Qur'an 76:3

“Say: Naught befalleth us save that  
which Allah hath decreed for us.  
He is our Protecting Friend. In  
Allah let believers put their trust!”

Qur'an 9:51

“And thou (Muhammad)  
threwest not when thou didst  
throw, but Allah threw ...”

Qur'an 8:17

“... if Allah willeth misfortune  
for a folk there is none that can  
repel it, nor have they a  
defender beside Him.”

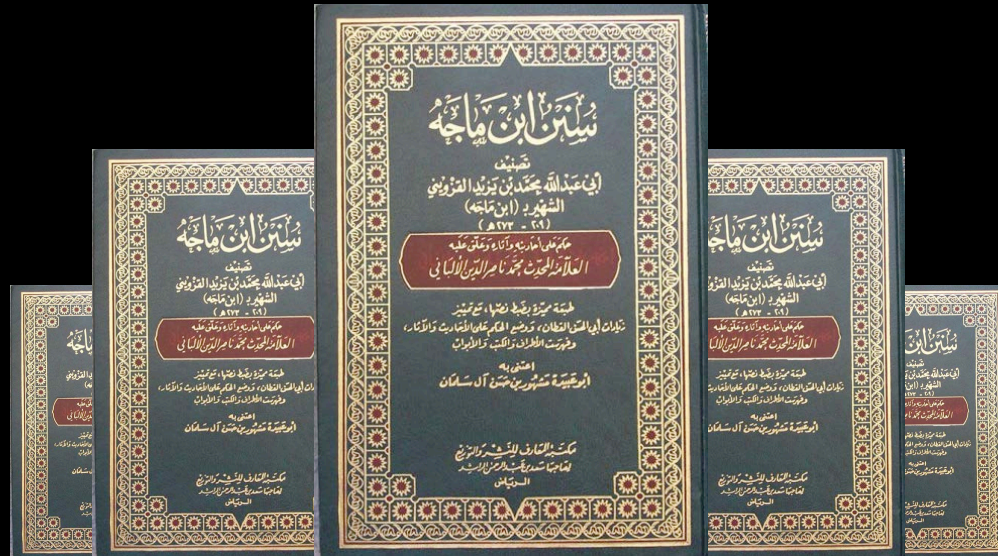
Qur'an 13:11

“Knowest thou not that unto Allah belongeth the Sovereignty of the heavens and the earth? He punisheth whom He will, and forgiveth whom He will. Allah is Able to do all things.”

Qur'an 5:40

“Allah has power over all things”

A formulaic phrase that occurs 47 times  
in the Arabic text of the Qur'an



# The Hadith and Freedom

Narrated Abu Huraira: The Prophet said, “Adam and Moses argued with each other. Moses said to Adam. ‘O Adam! You are our father who disappointed us and turned us out of Paradise.’ Then Adam said to him, ‘O Moses! Allah favoured you with His talk (talked to you directly) and He wrote (the

Torah) for you with His Own Hand. Do you blame me for action which Allah had written in my fate forty years before my creation?' So Adam confuted Moses, Adam confuted Moses," the Prophet added, repeating the Statement three times.

*Sahih Bukhari, Book 77, Number 611*

Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger as saying: "Allah fixed the very portion of adultery which a man will indulge in. There would be no escape from it."

*Sahih Muslim, Book 33, Number 6422*

Narrated 'Abdullah bin Mus'ud: Allah's Apostle, the true and truly inspired said, “(The matter of the Creation of) a human being is put together in the womb of the mother in forty days, and then he becomes a clot of thick blood for a similar period, and then a piece of flesh for a similar

period. Then Allah sends an angel who is ordered to write four things. He is ordered to write down his (i.e. the new creature's) deeds, his livelihood, his (date of) death, and whether he will be blessed or wretched (in religion). Then the soul is breathed into him."

*Sahih Bukhari*, Book 54, Number 430



# Freedom in Early Islam



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  - ✦ Held power for a while, defeated in the 9th century

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“The connection [of things] is due to the prior decree of God, who creates them side by side, not to it being necessary in itself, incapable of separation.”

Al-Ghazzali

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  - ✦ Everything happens because of Allah's decree

“He wills the unbelief of the unbeliever and the irreligion of the wicked and, without that will, there would be neither unbelief nor irreligion.”

Al-Ghazzali

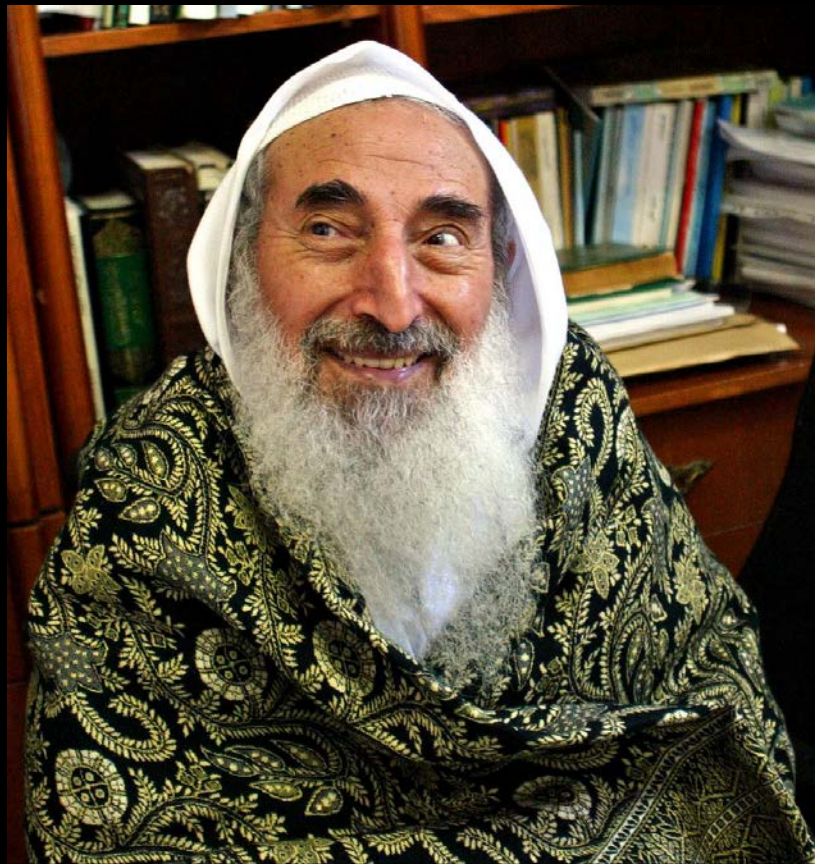
“Orthodox Islam teaches the absolute predestination of both good and evil, that all our thoughts, words and deeds, whether good or evil, were foreseen, foreordained, determined and decreed from all eternity, and that everything that happens takes place according to what has been written for it.”

Arthur Jeffery



Sheikh Ahmed Ismail Hassan Yassin  
(1937-2004)





“One must realize that the phrase *insha’Allah* [God willing] is not simply a polite social convention, but a theological doctrine.”

Robert R. Reilly, *The Closing of the Muslim Mind: How Intellectual Suicide Created the Modern Islamist* (Wilmington: Intercollegiate Studies Institute, 2010) p143

What you believe about God  
will directly effect what you  
believe about many other ideas

“God is love.”

1 John 4:16

“To be made in the image of God is to be endowed with a particular kind of personal reality. To be a person is to be made in the image of God: that is the heart of the matter. If God is a communion of persons inseparably related, then ... it is in our relatedness to others that our being human consists.”

Colin Gunton, *The Promise of Trinitarian Theology* (T&T Clark, 1997) p113

“Jesus said, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

John 8:34-36

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