

Part 5: Understanding Anti-Muslim Racism in Policy

Lesson 5.1

Essential Question

How do US foreign and domestic policies advance and reinforce anti-Muslim racism and sentiments?

Enduring Understanding

US policies like racial profiling, community surveillance, and targeted policing reinforce anti-Muslim racism.

Learning Outcomes

Students will know:

- US domestic and foreign policies advance and reinforce anti-Muslim racism.
- Every day, Muslims are subjected to racial profiling at airports, in daily policing, and in prisons. These institutional and individual practices sustain anti-Muslim racism.
- The global war on terror and its subsequent rhetoric has led to increased fears and unconstitutional policies (like the Muslim Ban) that reinforce anti-Muslim racism.

Students will be able to:

- Analyze how state and federal policies can discriminate and profile Muslims, intentionally or unintentionally.
- Debate the benefits and drawbacks of local and national surveillance programs.
- Explain the causes and effects of the global war on terror.
- Interpret maps and graphs to build knowledge on US foreign policies.

Standards:

- **ISBE SEL 2B:** Recognize individual and group similarities and differences.
 - **4a:** Analyze the origins and negative effects of stereotyping and prejudice.
- **ISBE.SS.CV.2.6-8:** Analyze the power and limits of governments, public officials, and bureaucracies at different levels in the United States and other countries.
- **SS.H.7.9-12:** Identify the role of individuals, groups, and institutions in people's struggle for safety, freedom, equality and justice.

Vocabulary:

- Profiling
- CVE (Countering Violent Extremism)
- Watchlists
- Due process
- Anti-Sharia legislation
- NSEERS (National Security Entry-Exit Registration System)

Time:

50-60 Minutes

Materials:

- Discriminatory US Policies PowerPoint
- Interactive maps (2)
- Copies of the ACLU article on anti-Muslim discrimination
- Copies of six articles on different forms of anti-Muslim discrimination by the ACLU (these correspond to the ACLU article above)

Procedure:

1. **Opener:** Display the Discriminatory US Policies PowerPoint slide.
 - a. Students should analyze each picture and caption. Have them think about: What did the government do? Who did it affect? What does it affect about their lives?
2. **Think-Pair-Share:** What groups have experienced discriminatory policies throughout US history? What evidence do we have? Based on what you read, how does the government enact policies that disproportionately affect minority groups?
3. **Remind students that discriminatory policies are not new** and have been used to other and vilify various minority groups throughout history. Explain that the US government has enacted racist policies that have applied to various minority groups throughout history. Present the interactive map.
4. **Ask students to make inferences about US foreign policy** using this [interactive map](https://tinyurl.com/TripleCmap) available at <https://tinyurl.com/TripleCmap> or [New America Interactive Maps/Graphs](#) available at <https://tinyurl.com/TripleCmap2> .
 - a. Ask students: What trends/patterns do you notice? How might this impact policy in the United States?
5. **Prepare students for a Jigsaw.** Use the [ACLU](#) article, Anti-Muslim Discrimination, which examines anti-Muslim policies in the United States. Number students from 1 to 6. Allow students to group together and assign each group one portion of the text in addition to the related materials on their topic (see Appendix). Each group should annotate and analyze their policy and related materials and be prepared to explain it to their classmates. Regroup students into mixed groups to allow each group member to explain the policy they studied.
 - a. Alternatively, teachers may also choose to have expert groups present their information to the whole class, or use the [Stay and Stray](#) method in small groups.
6. **Reflection**
 - a. You can ask students to share with the whole class or have them reflect with a Quick Write/Journal Prompt.
 - b. *How do US foreign and domestic policies advance and reinforce anti-Muslim racism and sentiments?*

Talking Points (Lesson 5.1 & 5.2)

- Anti-Muslim racism appears in a variety of policies including unwarranted surveillance (both in communities and on social media), unlawful profiling by police and other state agents, exclusionary immigration policies, as well as more individualized attacks such as anti-mosque actions and limitations on the freedom of religion.
- Sometimes the way the state enacts anti-Muslim racism is through the facilitation of individualized actions and hate crimes (either through how police power is (un)used or through the justice system)
- Consequences of these discriminatory policies include community fear and mistrust of police, unwarranted suspicion and stigma, and censorship of religious speech or political activism.