



An Around the World with Nellie Bly Special Report

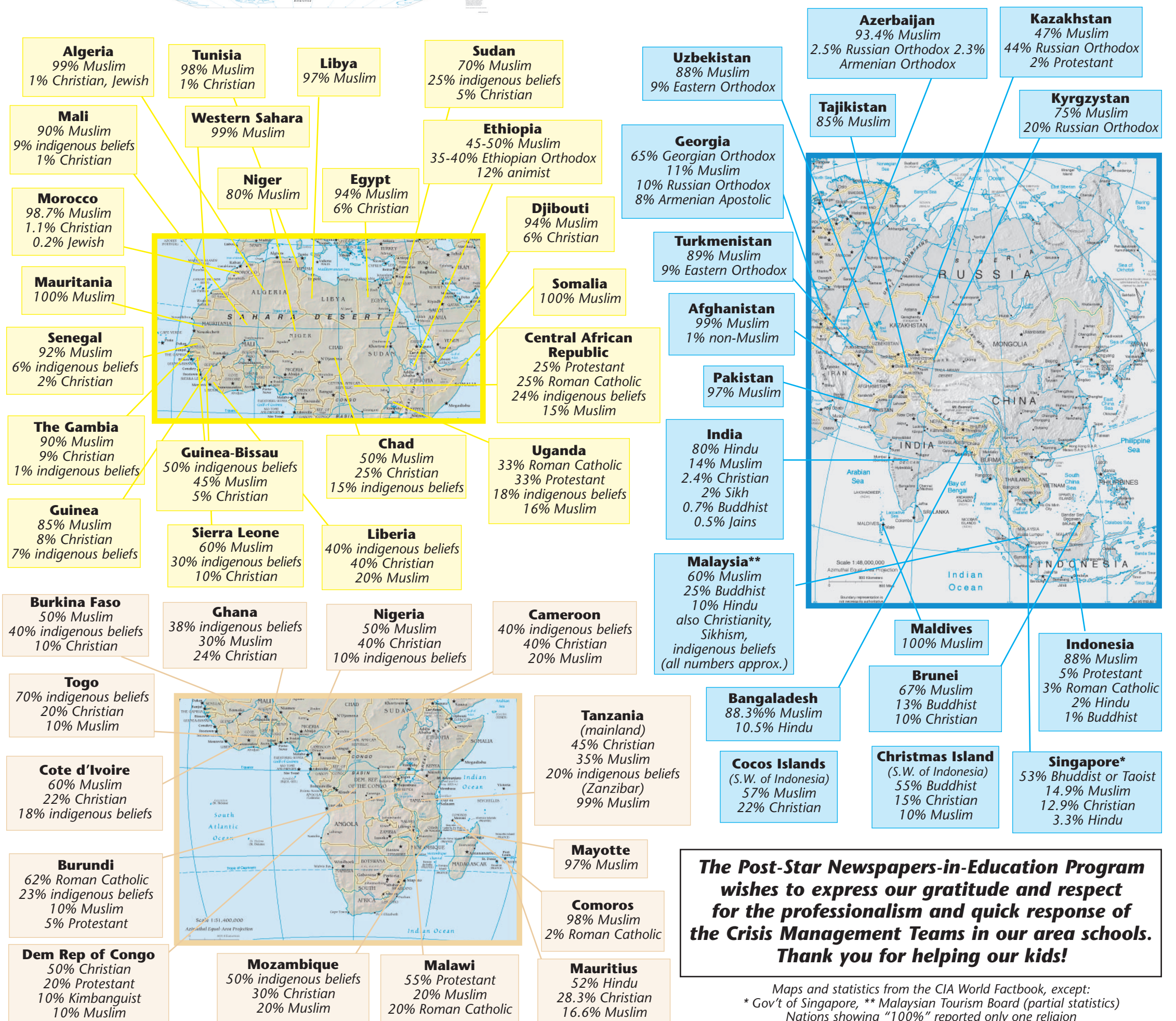
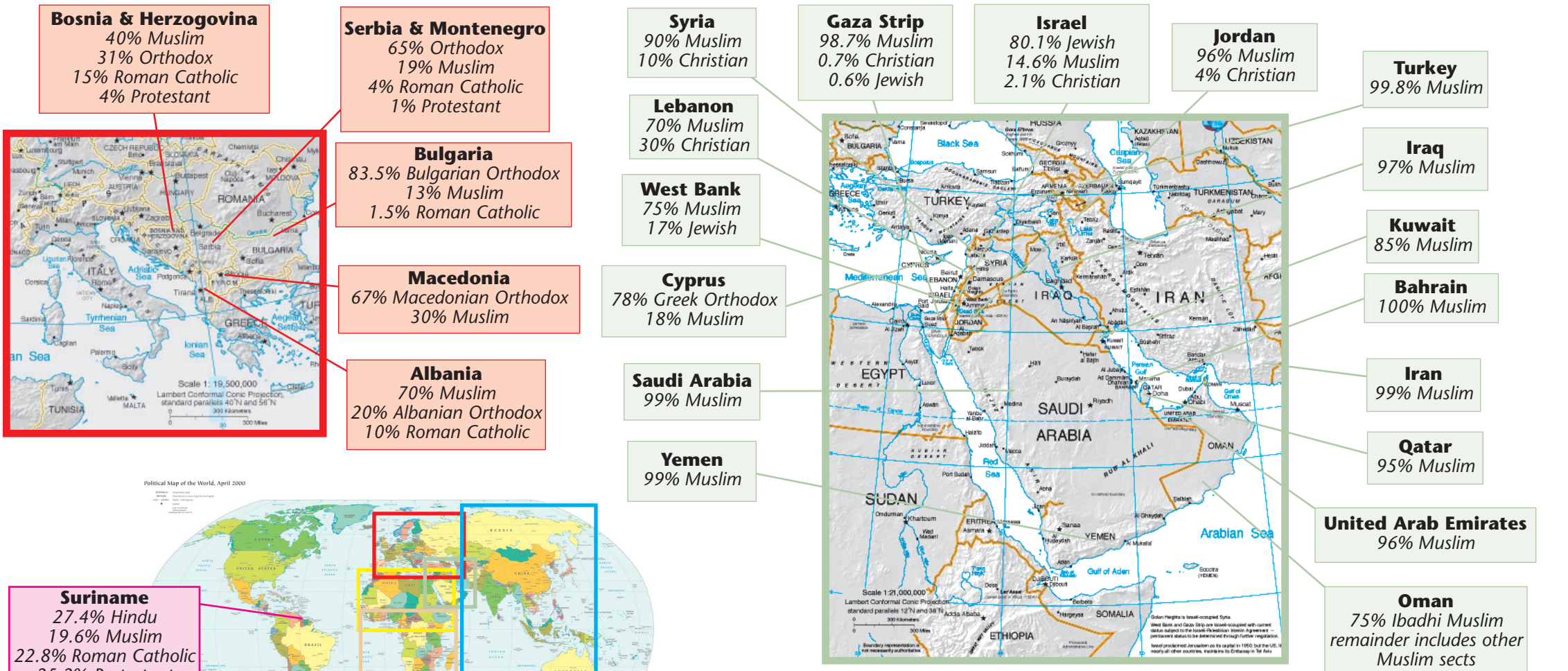
The Diverse World of Islam

(Shortcuts will return next Monday)

It's been a very scary and upsetting week, hasn't it? It seems like the whole world has changed, but it really hasn't. The world still contains many, many more good people than bad people. Most people are pretty nice. Most people want to do good things. Most people want to live in a peaceful world. The world would be a terrible place indeed if that weren't true. But it is true, and it always has been. And here is something else that will never change: Knowledge is power, and there's no better way to fight for justice and freedom than to spread truth. You've heard that the people who crashed the jets into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon were Muslims. You might have even seen pictures of some people in Palestine laughing and cheering about the tragedy, and they were Muslims.

And here's something else you might have seen or heard: People in this country talking about Muslims as if all Muslims were terrorists. They might have even been saying that we should hate Muslims and harm them just for being Muslims. What those few, loud people in this country are doing is just as wrong as what those few, loud people in Palestine were doing. So let's start spreading a little truth and knowledge. First, all Muslims are not alike. Irish people are different than Mexican people and Swedish people are different than Italian people, even though they are all Christians. Muslims, too, are very different from one another, even though they believe in the same religion, called Islam. They live in different countries, they wear different clothing, they speak different languages and they eat different foods. And here's something else important: Every religion says you should be good and kind to other people. But people don't always do what their religion says is right. That's true of Muslims, but it's also true of Christians and Buddhists and everyone else. There have been many evil things done by people whose holy books told them they should do good. You can't blame everyone in a religion because some people who are of that religion do evil things. Arm yourself against fear with knowledge. Arm yourself against hatred with truth. Here are some maps showing countries where 10% or more of the people are Muslim. In coming weeks, we'll use my regular Wednesday feature to look more closely at some of these countries with a strong Islamic influence.

But other Muslims in that same neighborhood said they didn't agree with what those people were doing and how they were acting. And Muslims in other parts of the world were angry and embarrassed by those pictures.



The Post-Star Newspapers-in-Education Program wishes to express our gratitude and respect for the professionalism and quick response of the Crisis Management Teams in our area schools. Thank you for helping our kids!

Maps and statistics from the CIA World Factbook, except:
 * Gov't of Singapore, ** Malaysian Tourism Board (partial statistics)
 Nations showing "100%" reported only one religion
 Methods of reporting may cause differences in how specific religions are listed