

# Modern World - A Different Perspective

A 4-session Course



# Course Outline

01

## Introduction to Islamic Civilization

Islam marks a new phase in history of humanity

02

## Rise of Modernity

Wa ma adaraka ma Modernity!

03

## Muslim Responses to Modernity

In the last 150 years

04

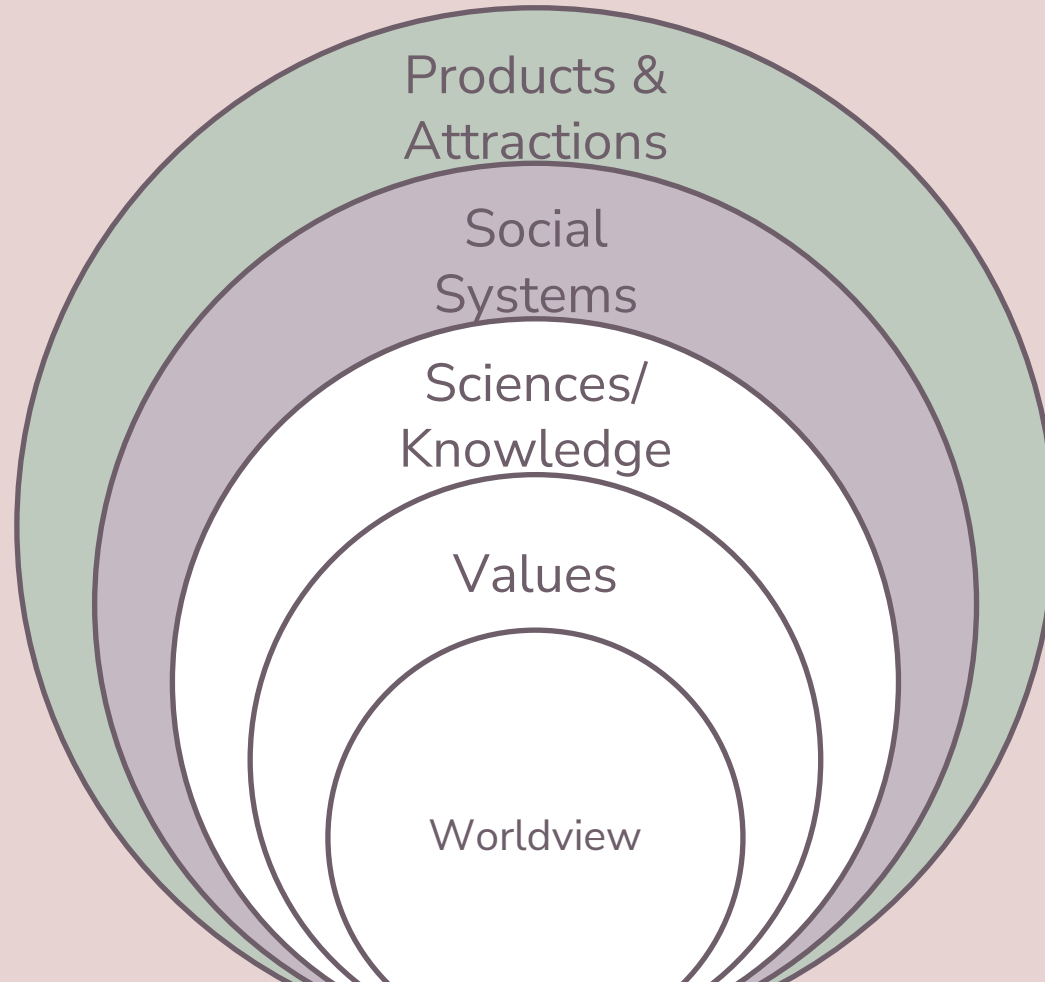
## Present and the Future

My duty and my path today!

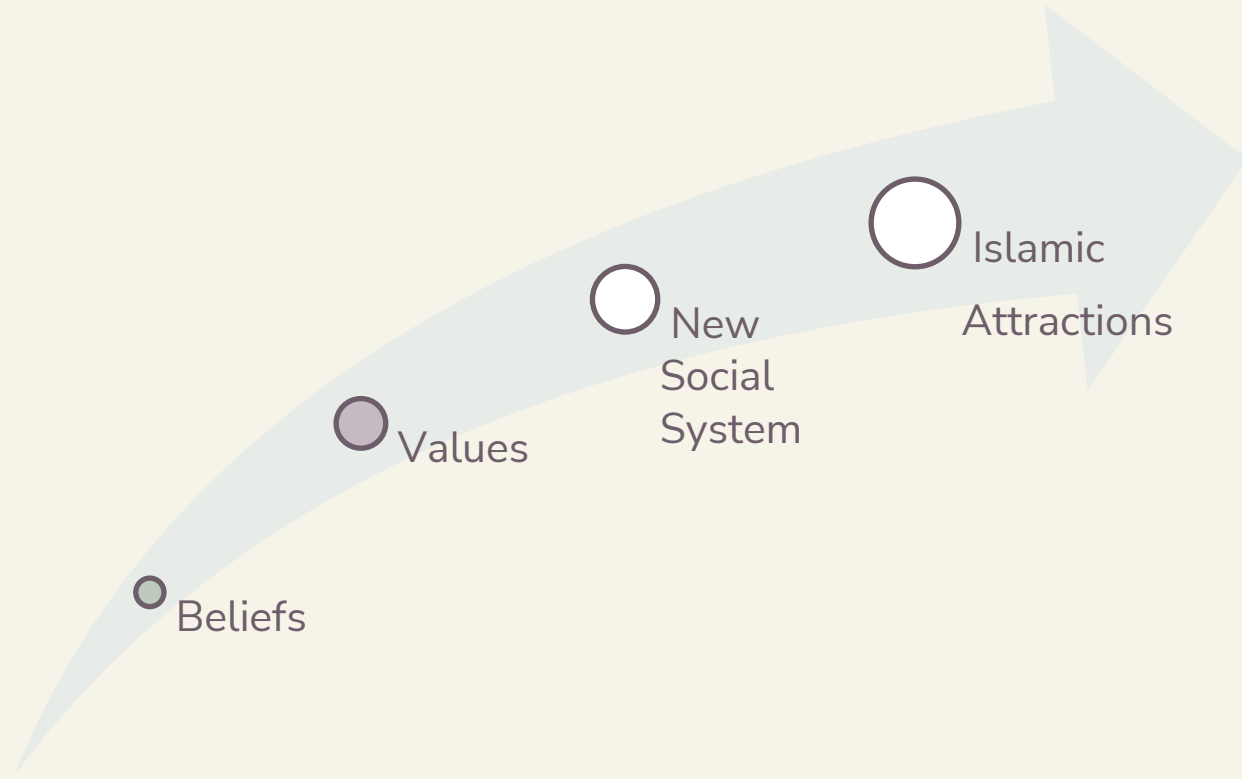
A word cloud background featuring various religious and cultural terms in shades of green, yellow, and brown. The most prominent words include 'religion', 'islamic', 'allah', 'ramadan', 'belief', 'spirituality', 'prayer', 'prophet', 'culture', 'understand', 'religious', 'individual', 'philosophy', 'holy', 'learning', 'prayer', 'choice', 'allah', 'ramadan', 'tradition', 'eastern', 'belief', 'east', 'community', 'prayer', 'temple', 'learn', 'teach', 'mecca', 'sufi', 'qu', 'spirituality', 'symbol', 'obligations', 'dome', 'monument', 'converting', 'knowledge', 'ancient', 'moses', 'abrahamic', 'hajj', 'prayer', 'mosque', 'understand', 'culture', 'individual', 'philosophy', 'holy', 'learning', 'prayer', 'choice', 'allah', 'ramadan', 'tradition', 'eastern', 'belief', 'east', 'community', 'prayer', 'temple', 'learn', 'teach', 'mecca', 'sufi', 'qu', 'spirituality', 'symbol', 'obligations', 'dome', 'monument', 'converting', 'knowledge', 'ancient', 'moses', 'abrahamic', 'hajj', 'prayer', 'mosque', 'understand', 'culture'. There are also three large decorative circles: a light green one in the top left, a light pink one in the top right, and a light purple one in the bottom center.

# What is Islam?

# ISLA IS A COMPLETE CIVILIZATION!



# The Holy Prophet (s) laid foundations of a new civilization



# Role of the Imams



Strengthen  
Islam in each  
layer,  
especially the  
three core and  
'soft' layers!

**Islamic Civilization was the leading civilization.**



## By 15<sup>th</sup> Century everything had started weakening...

Attractions  
were mostly  
present

Some values  
had been  
damaged

Social systems  
had began to  
weaken

Main elements  
of worldview  
were intact





02

# Rise of Modernity

What is modernity or  
modern world?



**So if I ask you what is  
the modern world in  
one single word?**

**CIVILIZATION!**

# Something happens in parts of Europe at the turn of 15<sup>th</sup> century



This changed everything  
in Western Europe and  
later globally!  
Foundations of a new  
society were being laid!

It was the beginning of the Modern Civilization

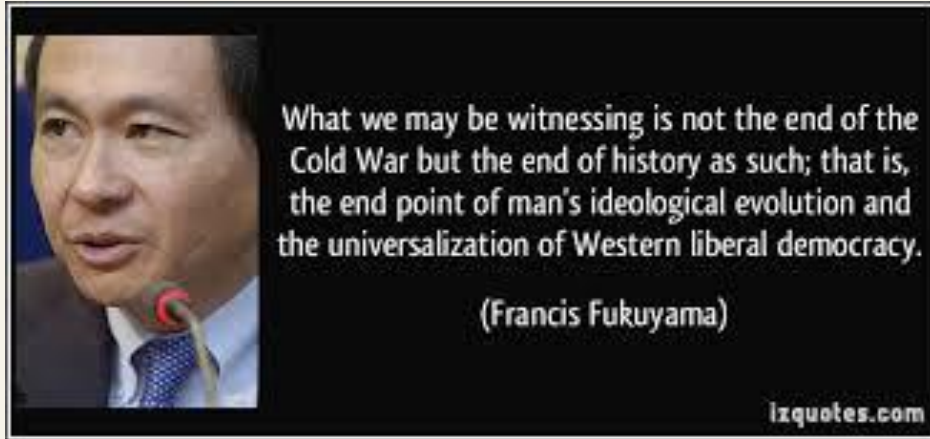
Renaissance

1431



435M Humans

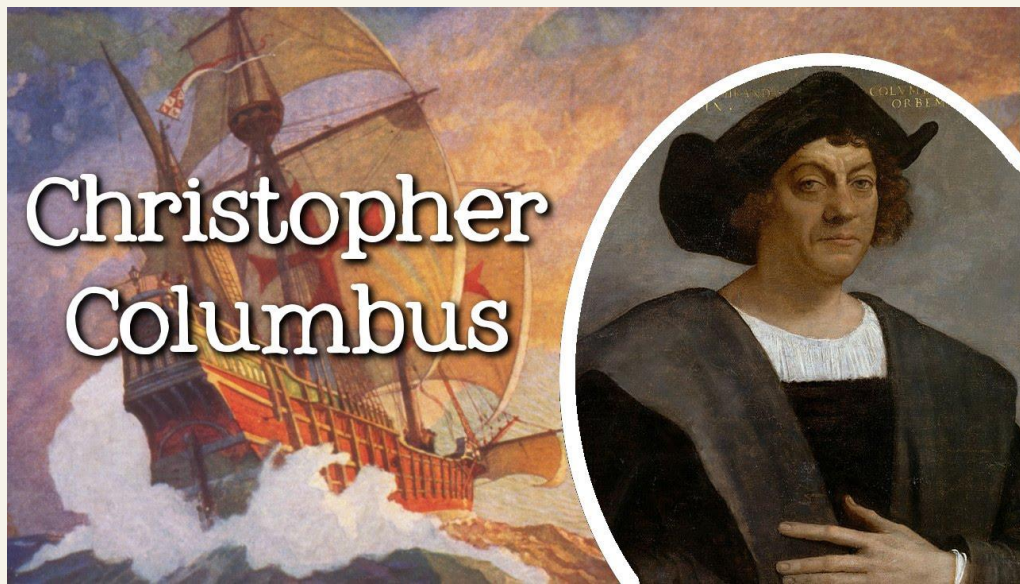
# The Modern Civilization attempts to present itself in a certain manner ...



Is this really the case?

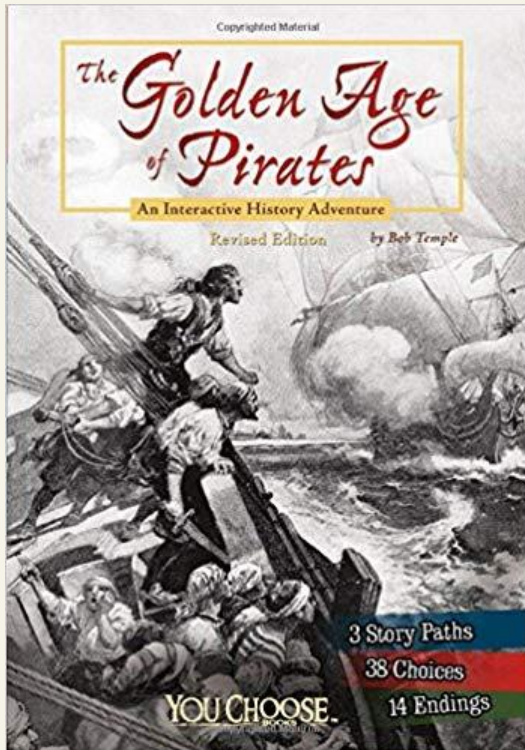
- Linear progression of civilization
- “Age of Faith” is gone – We are in the “Modern World”
- Therefore we are the pinnacle of the **human** civilization

# Age of Discovery & Exploration



What do you think about him?

# Age of Piracy & Terror on the Seas



Thousands of pirates were active between 1650 and 1720, and these years are sometimes known as the 'Golden Age' of piracy. Famous pirates from this period include Henry Morgan, William 'Captain' Kidd, 'Calico' Jack Rackham, Bartholomew Roberts and the fearsome Blackbeard (Edward Teach).





And colonialization is rarely mentioned...



Britain drained a total of nearly \$45 trillion from India during the period 1765 to 1938. It's a staggering sum. For perspective, \$45 trillion is 17 times more than the total annual gross domestic product of the United Kingdom today.

**Things were not as glorious as we  
might think they were...**



We need to read more about the “real” history of the  
modern world

# Our perception today of the history of modern civilization is not completely correct



- ❖ Age of Discovery & Exploration!
- ❖ Industrial Revolution

We need to read more about the “real” history of the modern world

# Modernity as a Civilization

**WORLDVIEW** – Fundamental realities – what is real and what is not?

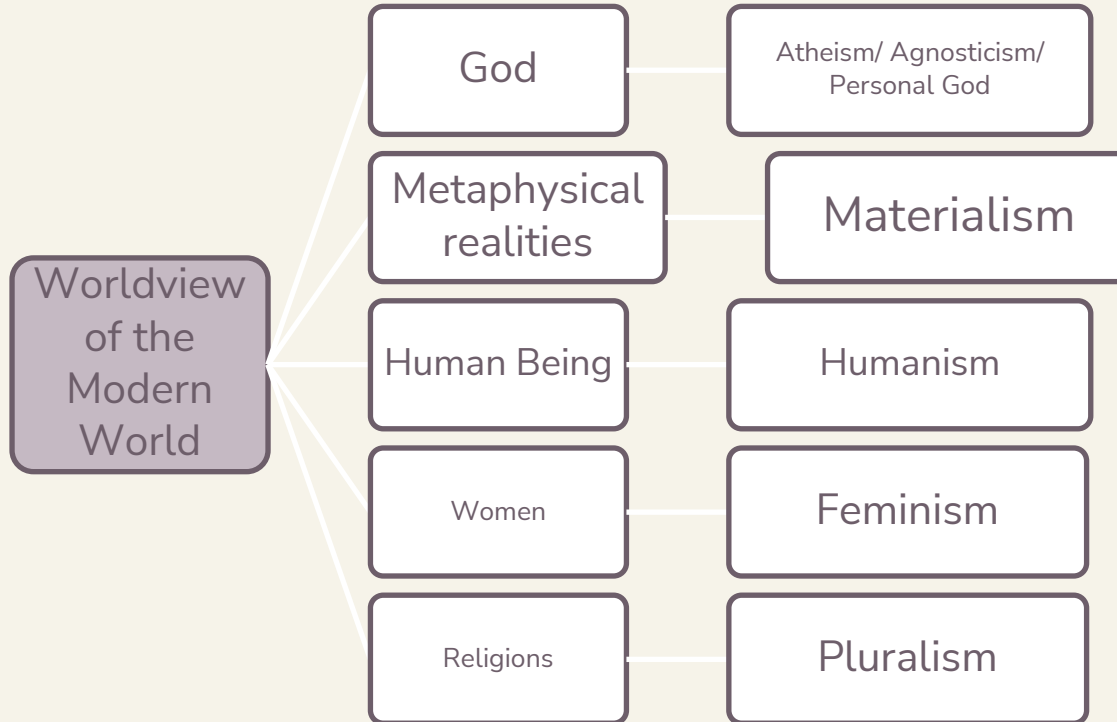
**VALUES** – What is good and what is bad?

**KNOWLEDGE** – Different sciences and fields of knowledge

**SOCIAL SYSTEMS** – How the society is run?

**ATTRACTIONS / SYMBOLS** – What exemplary out is produced to attract others

# Worldview – modern world is based on a specific worldview



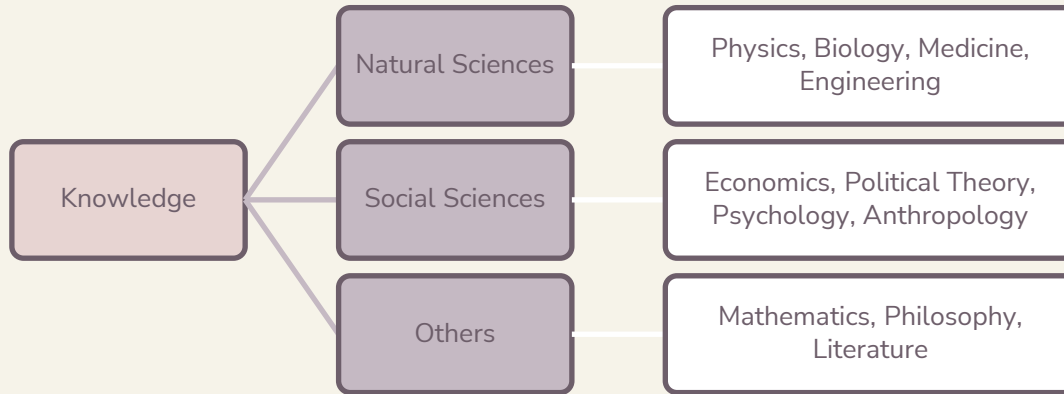
# Values & anti-values: The modern world has an elaborate value system.



- ❖ + Individual freedom & choice
- ❖ + Material wealth
- ❖ - Modest dressing (Hijab)
- ❖ + LGBT issue
- ❖ - Gender segregation

Values heavily stem from worldview and **Values** deeply affect priorities and actions

# Knowledge (ACADEMIC STUDIES) of the modern world



Knowledge is knowledge how does the modern world affect knowledge?

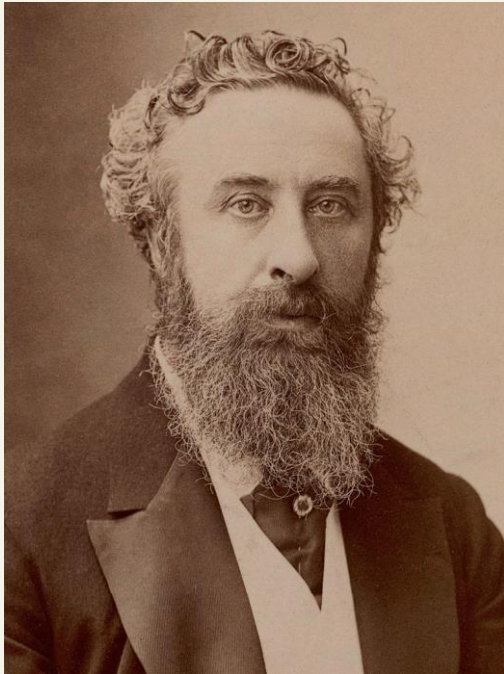
# Three examples





# Blunders of Capitalism – One Example

Robert Bulwer-Lytton – 1876 Colonial India

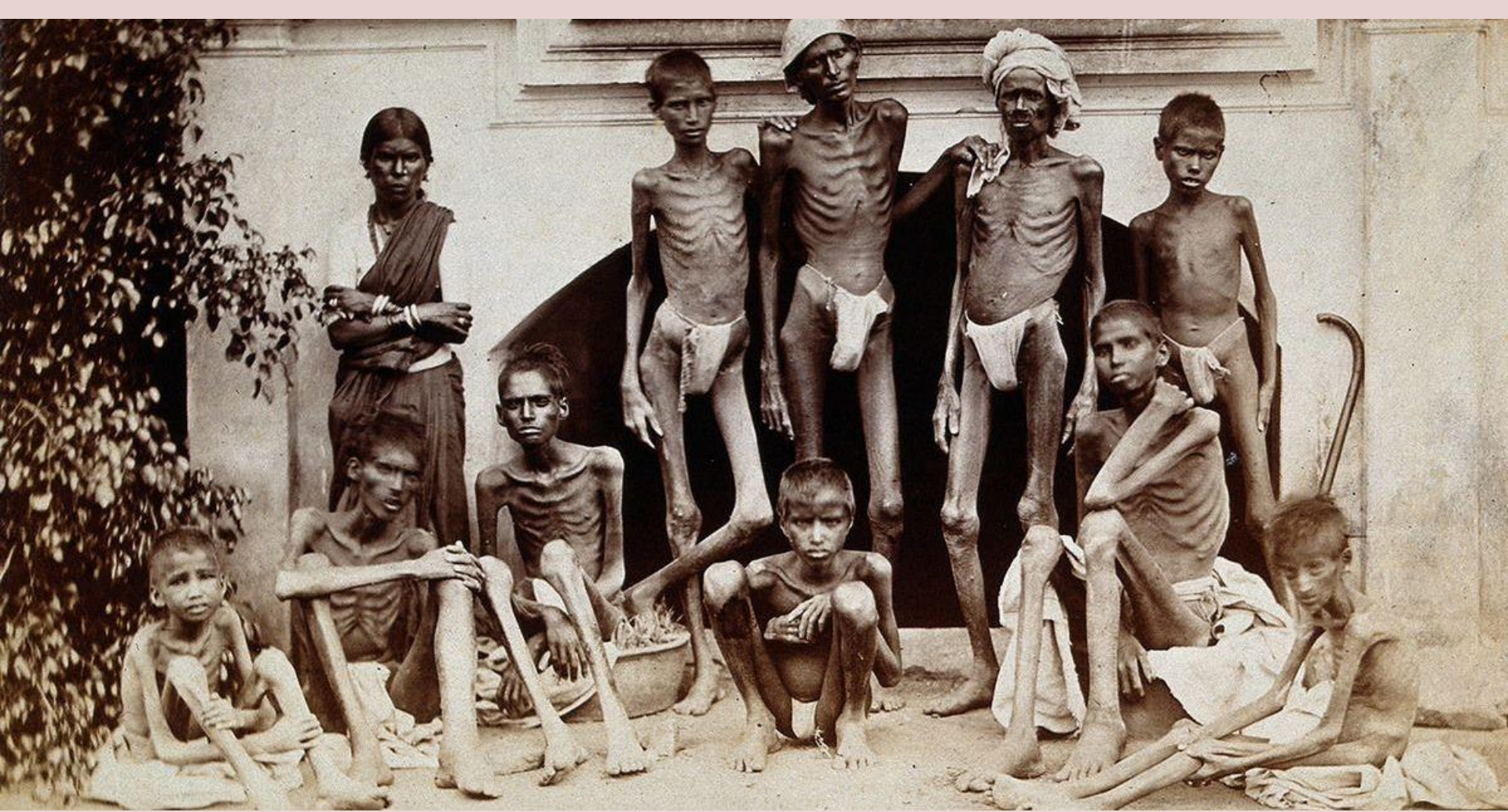


Famine in some parts of India although a lot of food in other parts

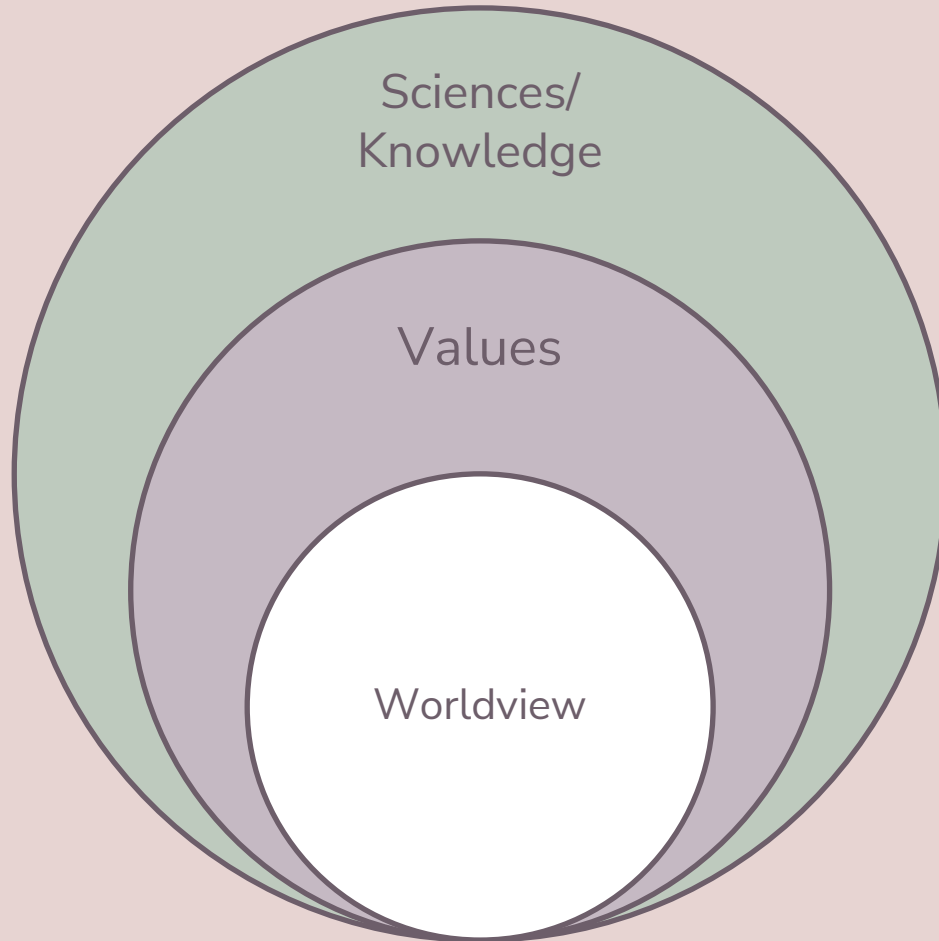
He had a staunch belief in Adam Smith's Free Market Economy

320 thousand tons of grains exported to Europe in years 1877 and 1878

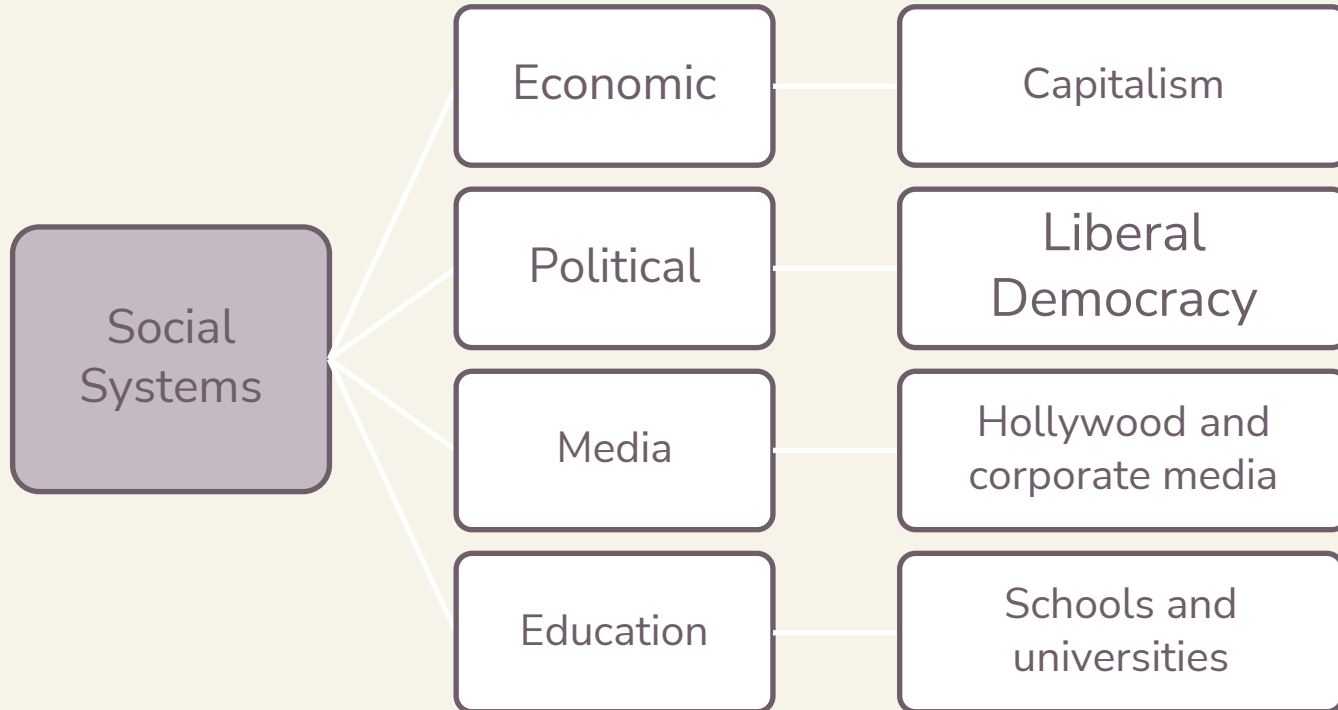
5 to 10 million people died of hunger in India



# THESE ARE SOFT LAYERS OF A CIVILIZATION

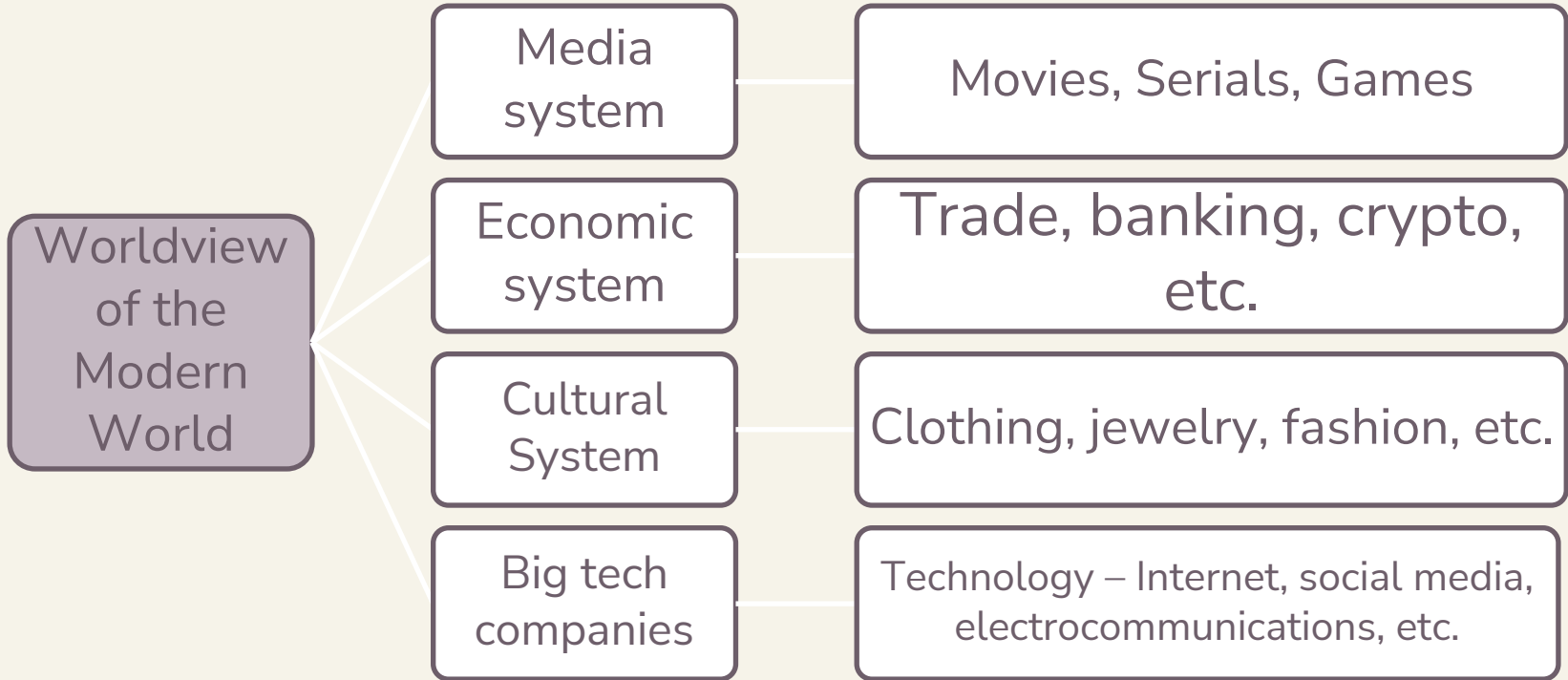


**Social Systems – What runs the society. You interact the most and they are build on theories developed in the previous layer**

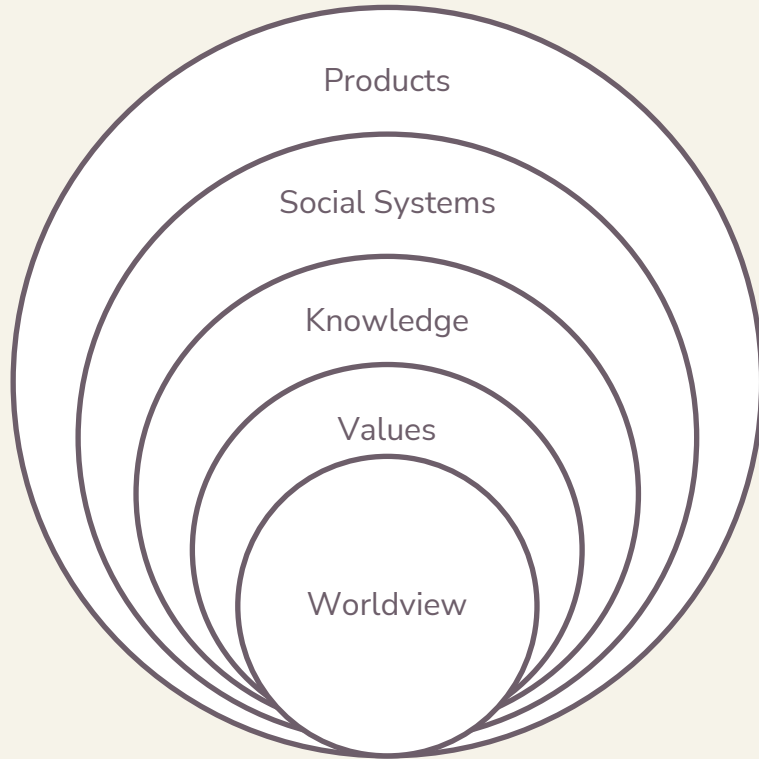


# Products

Products and Attractions are produced by Social systems



# So this what any civilization looks like!



Modern world as a civilization brings forth many challenges for us as Muslims, both individually and collectively

# Thank You

Any questions?

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