



1. In descending order, the top 15 countries of origin for Muslims born outside of the UK are: **Pakistan, Bangladesh, Somalia, India, Turkey, Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Kosovo, and Cyprus.**

2. The first major influx of Muslims to the United Kingdom **arrived around 300 years ago**, in the form of sailors recruited in India to work for the East India Company.



3. In the 1950s, 'guest workers' from **Southern and Eastern Europe, Turkey, the Middle East, Central Asia, and North Africa** were recruited by governments and businesses to rebuild Europe after WWII.

4. Immigration was boosted briefly by The Commonwealth Immigrants Act of 1962, which removed the right of automatic entry for **Commonwealth Citizens**, restricting it to those who had a work voucher. **This policy resulted in an increased urgency to get to Britain and an increase in the number of migrants entering the UK before the new law came into effect.**

5. Recent decades have witnessed an increase of roughly **100,000 asylum seekers and refugees** fleeing war-torn countries or unstable political regimes, such as **Somalia, Afghanistan, and Iraq**. The new Muslim immigrants to Europe tend to be families intent on permanent settlement rather than the more mobile labour migrants.

When did Muslims come to the UK, why and from where?

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Jawad Iqbal, "The diverse origins of Britain's Muslims," BBC News, January 18, 2016, accessed June 27, 2017, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-33715473>. "The diverse origins of Britain's Muslims"

2. The first major influx of Muslims to the United Kingdom arrived around 300 years ago, in the form of sailors recruited in India to work for the East India Company.

Ibid

3. With growing demands for workers in ports and ships, Muslims from Egypt and Yemen started to arrive and naturally set up their own communities in the UK. There are now an estimated 70-80,000 Yemenis living in Britain, who form the longest-established Muslim group in Britain.

"Religions - Islam: History of Islam in the UK," BBC, September 07, 2009, http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/islam/history/uk_1.shtml.

4. In the 1950s, "guest workers" from Southern and Eastern Europe, Turkey, the Middle East, Central Asia, and North Africa were recruited by governments and businesses to rebuild Europe after WWII.

"Muslim Migration to Europe," College of Liberal Arts | University of Minnesota, June 17, 2015, <https://cla.umn.edu/ihr/news-events/other/muslim-migration-europe>.

5. Many of these workers were single Muslim men who worked hard for long hours as unskilled labourers in factories, in construction, and in textiles mills so they could support their families back home.

6. Immigration was boosted briefly by The Commonwealth Immigrants Act of 1962, which removed the right of automatic entry for Commonwealth Citizens, restricting it to those who had a work voucher. People then hurried to Britain before this new law made it too difficult.

"Religions - Islam: History of Islam in the UK"

7. Many migrants stayed in Europe and brought their families to join them through family reunification policies and continued labour migration. Since the 1970s, the number of immigrants in Europe has increased rather than decreased.

"Muslim Migration to Europe"

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Ibid.

9. The links and networks that British Muslims have with their countries of birth and other overseas connections offer the nation a competitive edge in promoting economic ties and trade.

Dr. Sundas Ali, "British Muslims in Numbers," Muslim Council of Britain, January 2015, https://www.mcb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/MCBCensusReport_2015.pdf.

10. Immigration into the UK tends to be of young adults who contribute to a productive workforce and, being of an age to start families, add to higher birth rates. A larger economically active workforce equates to a higher national tax revenue, which subsequently contributes towards funding pensions and the NHS, for example, which thus aids in combatting the impacts of the UK's aging population.

Ludi Simpson, "What makes ethnic populations grow? Age structures and immigration," 2013, <http://www.ethnicity.ac.uk/media/library/briefings/dynamicsofdiversity/what-makesethnic-group-populations-grow-agestructures-and-immigration.pdf>.

