



Slavery and Islam

Link to article:



Table of Contents

01 Introduction

02 Understanding
Islam and Slavery

03 Slavery in Islam
vs Slavery in the
West

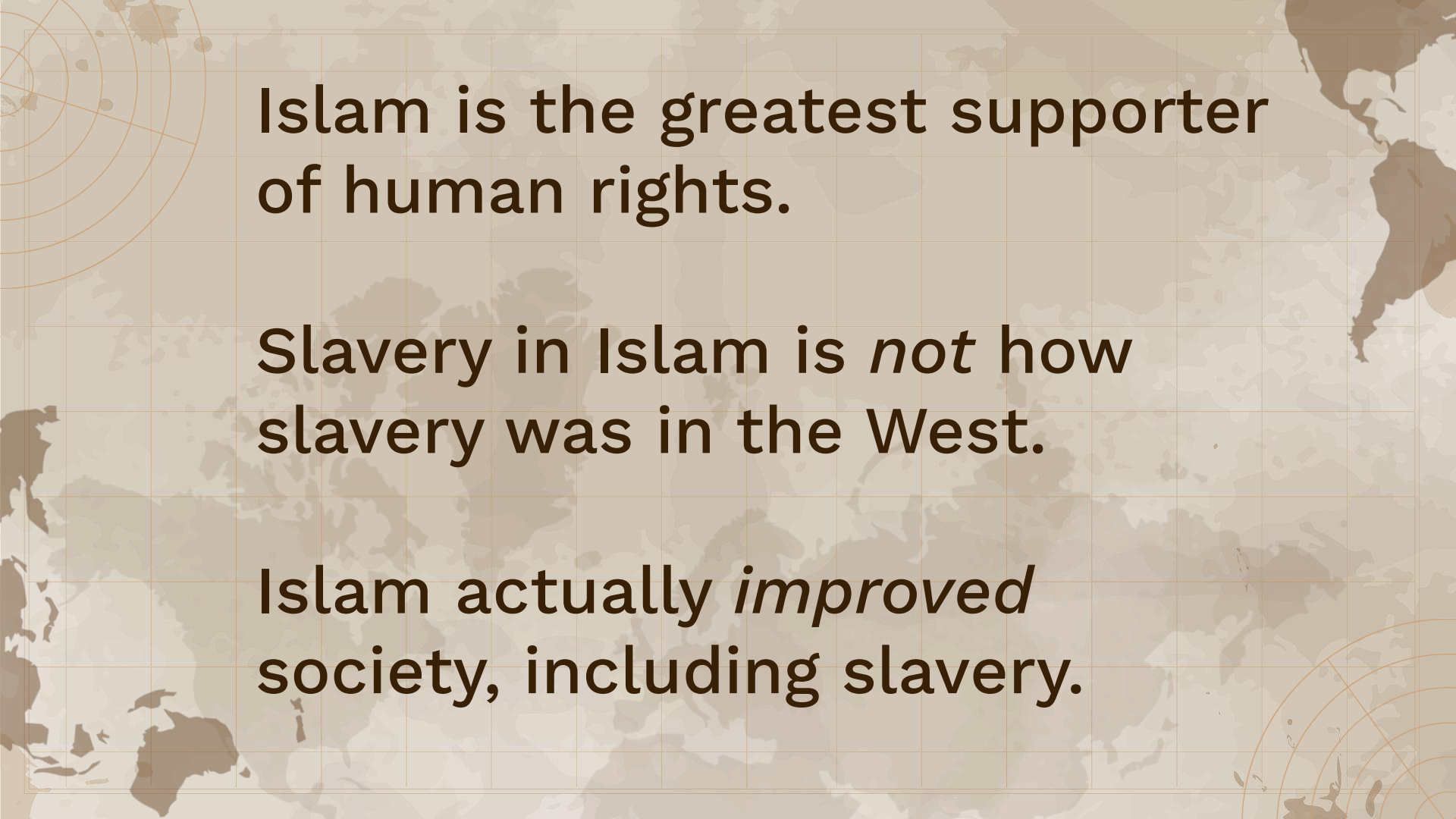
04 Why is there
Slavery in Islam?

05 Conclusion

01

Introduction





Islam is the greatest supporter
of human rights.

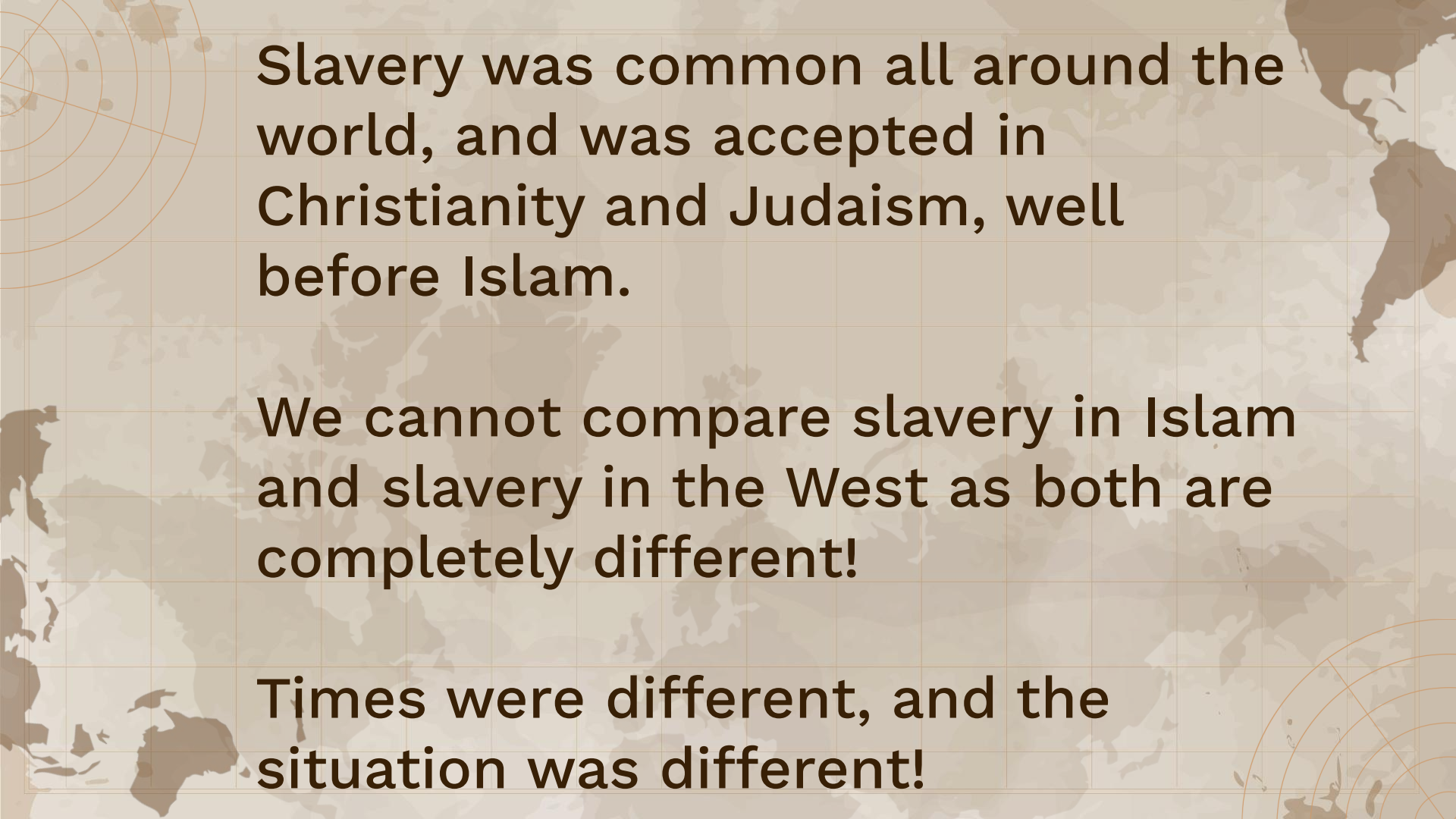
Slavery in Islam is *not* how
slavery was in the West.

Islam actually *improved*
society, including slavery.

02

Understanding Islam and Slavery

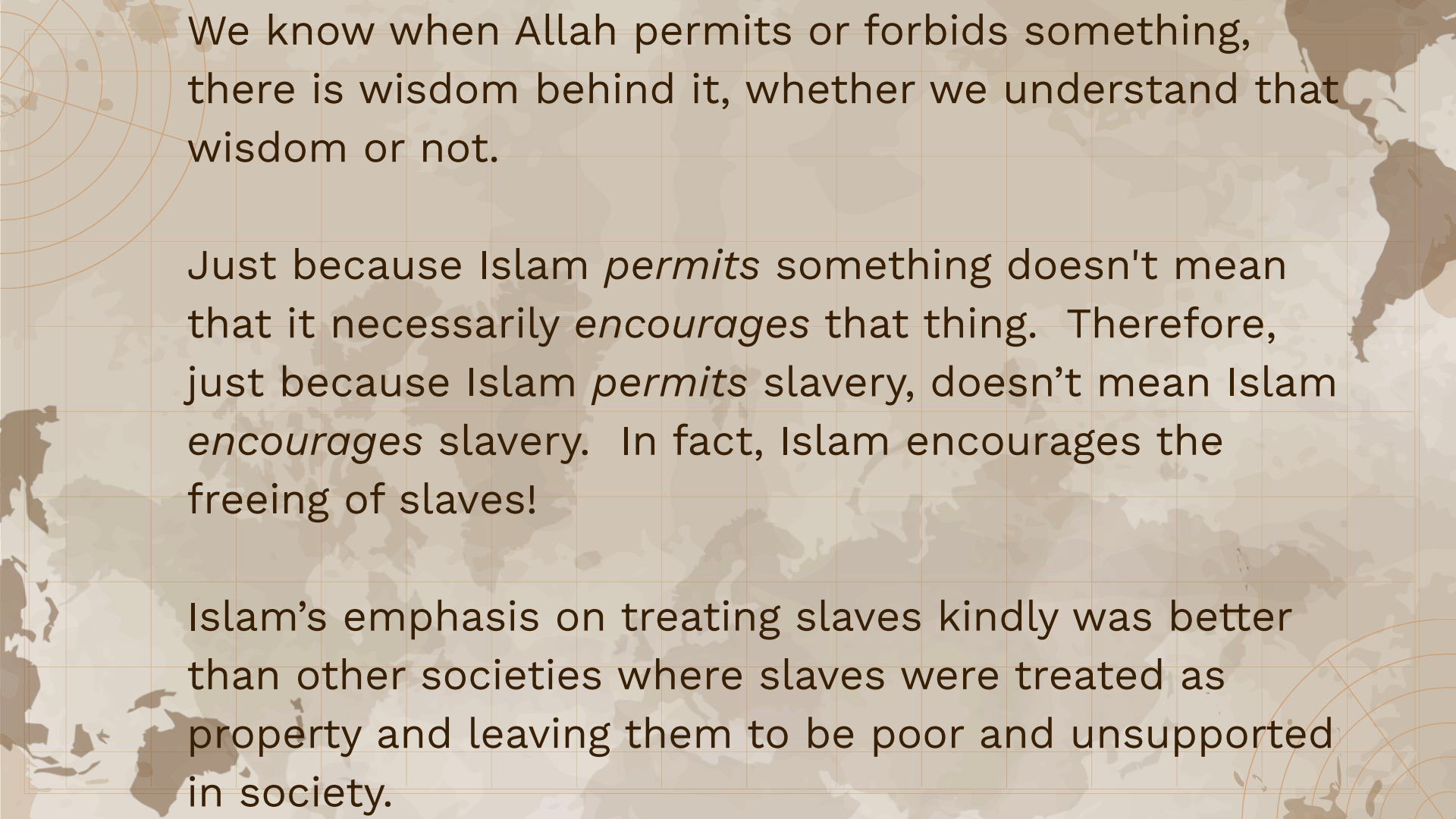




Slavery was common all around the world, and was accepted in Christianity and Judaism, well before Islam.

We cannot compare slavery in Islam and slavery in the West as both are completely different!

Times were different, and the situation was different!



We know when Allah permits or forbids something, there is wisdom behind it, whether we understand that wisdom or not.

Just because Islam *permits* something doesn't mean that it necessarily *encourages* that thing. Therefore, just because Islam *permits* slavery, doesn't mean Islam *encourages* slavery. In fact, Islam encourages the freeing of slaves!

Islam's emphasis on treating slaves kindly was better than other societies where slaves were treated as property and leaving them to be poor and unsupported in society.

03

**Slavery in Islam
vs Slavery in the
West**



Slavery in the West

Slaves in America were never considered human beings, rather they were considered property.

Masters could treat their slaves however they wanted, often beating them senselessly and forcing them to do difficult and dangerous work.

These people were captured and forced into slavery, often taken from another country or a different ethnic group.

04

Slavery in Islam





In Islam, the relation between slave and master is more of a brotherhood¹.

Islam eliminated the concept of humans being slaves to one another, and instead turned humans into slaves of Allah².

Slaves were treated with respect, and worked on tasks which weren't too difficult or burdensome.

Masters were commanded by the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم to give the slaves the same food they ate.

Only those captured in battle became slaves, and that too was only if there was no better option available.

Why is there slavery in Islam?

Prisoners of war had nowhere to go, no way to make money, so making them slaves allowed them to join society and have their basic needs taken care of.

They would also have the potential to be freed.

In other non-Islamic civilizations, prisoners of war were slaughtered, instead of being allowed to live. If they were permitted to live, they would live in harsh and miserable conditions as slaves.

These prisoners were never ill-treated nor tortured by their Muslims masters. Islam is the only religion with laws to treat prisoners kindly and humanely.

Muslims needed to keep these prisoners of war for future wars, to strengthen Islam, and keeping them as slaves was an ideal way of sustaining and protecting them. Many slaves, due to kind treatment from their masters, even became Muslim!

05

Conclusion



Conclusion

To summarize, the concept of slavery in Islam *cannot* be compared to the slavery that we think of, such as the horrific slavery that was in America.

If we were to compare the harsh concept of Western slavery to Islam, we would see that Islam basically abolished, or ended the cruel treatment of slaves. Islam has always been the religion that has improved human civilization the most.

As Muslims we must look past what others say negatively about Islam, and try to understand the beauty and wisdom of Islam for ourselves.



JazakAllah Khairan

References (linked to source)

1. [Can You Explain the Concept of Slavery in Islam? -SeekersGuidance](#)
2. [Mufti Shafi Uthmani- Maariful Quran- Slavery -Surah Muhammad](#)
3. [6 key points on Islam's teachings on Reqaab and Jariyaat & the Muslim response to Western criticism of Islam & Slavery -Abdullah al Andalusi](#)
4. [The Problem of Slavery and viewing Islam through a Western lens -Abdullah al Andalusi](#)

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