

Nation of Islam (NOI)

Name: Nation of Islam (NOI)

Type of Organization:

- Doomsday
- militant
- religious
- separatist

Ideologies and Affiliations:

- Anti-LGBT
- anti-Semitic
- Black supremacist
- racist

Place of Origin:

Detroit, Michigan, United States

Year of Origin:

1930

Founder(s):

Wallace D. Fard

Places of Operation:

United States

Overview

Executive Summary:

The Nation of Islam (NOI) was formed in 1930 by Wallace D. Fard, a mysterious figure whose origins remain disputed. Fard was also known as Wallace Fard Muhammad, W. Fard Muhammad, Farad Muhammad, Wallace Dodd, Wallace Ford, Wallie D. Ford, Wallei Ford, and Wallace Farad.¹ The NOI purports to fight systemic oppression of, and discrimination against, Black Americans by preaching Black racial supremacy. The group mixes tenets of Islam with conspiracy theories and mythology deeply rooted in racism, anti-Semitism, and anti-LGBT beliefs.² While the NOI claims to be Islamic, its teachings contradict traditional, core Islamic doctrine.

As early as 1974 under Elijah Muhammad, NOI promoted Black separation and lambasted integration.³ According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, the NOI was considered a fringe “voodoo sect” in the 1930s and 1940s. In 1959, minister and civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. denounced it as “a hate group arising in our midst that would preach the doctrine of Black supremacy.”⁴ Upon leaving NOI in the 1960s, Malcolm X denounced its racism as a “sickness and madness.”⁵ Nonetheless, NOI has since grown into one of the wealthiest and best-known Black organizations in America.⁶

Under the leadership of Louis Farrakhan, NOI has continued to promote hateful racist and anti-Semitic positions. For example, in 1991, at Farrakhan’s request, NOI’s research department published *The Secret Relationship Between Blacks and Jews*, which highlighted Jews’ involvement in the slave trade and the Confederacy. Historians generally label the book as wildly inaccurate and vicious.⁷ NOI published two volumes of the book and a third called *Jews Selling Blacks*.⁸ Writing on behalf of NOI, Farrakhan has accused Jews of maximizing their wealth to become “masters in every field of human endeavor.”⁹ On October 16, 1995, Farrakhan organized the Million Man March on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., one of the most prominent events in NOI history.¹⁰ Between 400,000 and 850,000 people attended the march, during which

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Farrakhan called white supremacy the root of America's suffering.¹¹ Nonetheless, Farrakhan has promoted a virulently anti-white and anti-Semitic ideology through NOI.¹² Farrakhan has used NOI's social media presence and his platform at NOI's annual Savior's Day rally to promote his positions.¹³ Despite widespread condemnation, Farrakhan and NOI have had widespread influence on celebrity followers,¹⁴ as well as individuals such as Noah Green, the alleged NOI follower who rammed a car into two Capitol Hill police officers on April 2, 2021.¹⁵

Farrakhan rose to prominence within the NOI under the tutelage of Malcom X in the 1960s. While Malcom X ultimately left and denounced the organization, Farrakhan's power in it increased.¹⁶ Longtime NOI leader Elijah Muhammad died in 1975 and was replaced by one of his sons, Warith Deen Muhammad. Warith and Farrakhan disagreed over the NOI's future. As leader, Warith tried to move the NOI away from preaching racial separatism and Black supremacism and adopt a more orthodox and inclusive Islamic theology, while Farrakhan wanted the NOI to remain true to Elijah's original teachings. Warith changed the group's name to the World Community of al-Islam in 1976, but Farrakhan created a new organization named the Nation of Islam that espoused the old NOI's longstanding theology and ideology.¹⁷ Farrakhan often refers to himself as the heir to Elijah Muhammad's legacy, but Warith accused him of presenting a "false image of Islam."¹⁸

The NOI's anti-Semitism and support for separation of white and Black Americans has garnered the group positive attention from neo-Nazis and other far-right organizations. In 1962, the NOI invited American Nazi Party head George Lincoln Rockwell to one of its conventions, during which Rockwell called Elijah Muhammad "the Hitler of Blacks."¹⁹ Shortly before his assassination by an NOI member, Malcolm X revealed that NOI and the [Klu Klux Klan](#) representatives had met with the aim of building a mutually beneficial relationship.²⁰ A 2017 tweet by Farrakhan saying, "Black People: We should be more convinced that it is time for us to separate and build a nation of our own," drew praise and re-tweets from white nationalist leaders like Michael "Enoch" Peinovich, Richard Spencer, and Jared Taylor.²¹

Farrakhan has also defended foreign dictators, such as Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq of Pakistan, Idi Amin of Uganda, and Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe.²² Most prominently, Farrakhan and the NOI received millions of dollars in donations from former Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi, and Farrakhan traveled to Libya in 1986 to meet personally with Gaddafi.²³ Farrakhan has also made multiple trips to Iran, most recently conducting media tours in 2016 and 2018.²⁴

Since 2012, Farrakhan has also pushed for a "long and beautiful relationship" with Scientology, with thousands of NOI members now studying the fringe ideology.²⁵ Though L. Ron Hubbard—the science fiction author around whose writings Scientology is based—specifically dismissed the existence of Allah, several members of the Nation of Islam began following the pseudo-religion in the early 21st century.²⁶

Doctrine:

The NOI purports to fight systemic oppression of, and discrimination against, Black Americans by preaching Black racial supremacy. The group also mixes tenets of traditional Islam with conspiracy theories and mythology deeply rooted in racism, anti-Semitism, and homophobia.²⁷ Since its foundation, NOI has characterized whites as "devils," claimed Jews control the government and perform chemical experiments on Black Americans, and forbidden interracial marriage.²⁸

While the NOI claims to be Islamic, many of its teachings contradict traditional, core Islamic doctrine.²⁹ Most glaring, the NOI claims that Allah "appeared in the Person" of the group's founder, Wallace D. Fard, and that Fard's appearance on Earth signaled the coming apocalypse which would overthrow the white "devil"—a battle the NOI would play a central part in.³⁰

The NOI's version of the *Shahada*—the central creed of Islam—states, "There is no God but Allah, who appeared in the person of Master [Wallace] Fard Muhammad, and I bear witness that the most honorable Elijah Muhammad is the exalted Christ, and that the honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan is our divine reminder, warner, and servant among us."³¹ By contrast, more orthodox schools of Islam hold that Allah does not assume human form, and the traditional *Shahada* simply states, "There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his messenger."³²

The NOI's hybrid theology claims Black people were the original human beings and lived in an earthly paradise. Then, an evil scientist named Yakub (the same person as the Biblical character Jacob) created the white race through selective breeding of Black people to produce humans with increasingly lighter skin, and those whites then subjugated the Black people.³³ The impending apocalypse will return the world to that earlier state of paradise.³⁴ According to the *New York Times*, the NOI also does not observe sharia (Islamic law), which is derived from the Quran and the prophet Muhammad's reported statements.³⁵

Following Elijah Muhammad's death in 1975, his son, Warith, attempted to moderate NOI's rhetoric and adjust its teachings to reflect more orthodox Islamic practices.³⁶ In 1976, he changed the group's name to the World Community of al-Islam.³⁷ In 1977, however, Farrakhan

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split off from the renamed organization and created a new Nation of Islam that espoused Elijah Muhammad's views.³⁸

Farrakhan frequently refers to Judaism as the “dirty religion” and claims that Black people, not Jews, are God’s “chosen people.”³⁹ In 1991, Farrakhan commissioned a purported study by the NOI’s Historical Research Department that falsely claimed Jewish merchants were the main perpetrators of the Atlantic slave trade.⁴⁰ Farrakhan also describes the LGBT community, Catholics, and whites as “potential humans ... [who] haven’t evolved yet.”⁴¹ He has also pushed anti-LGBT conspiracy theories, claiming homosexuality is the result of a chemical reaction and part of a government conspiracy to chemically castrate the Black American population.⁴²

For years, the NOI has warned Black people against getting vaccines, spreading anti-vaccination conspiracy theories such as that the shots cause autism.⁴³ In its messaging opposing vaccinations, the Nation’s exploits distrust among Black people of the government’s motives and claims. For example, the NOI cites the example of the 40-year-long Tuskegee experiment, in which the U.S. Public Health Service studied the effects of syphilis on hundreds of black men but did not give them suitable treatment or enough information to provide informed consent.⁴⁴ Recently, the Nation has also strongly opposed receiving vaccinations for COVID-19. Farrakhan has described vaccination as “toxic waste” and a “vial of death.”⁴⁵ He has also accused infectious-disease expert Dr. Anthony Fauci and philanthropists Bill and Melinda Gates of seeking to use vaccinations “to depopulate the earth.”⁴⁶

Organizational Structure:

Across the United States, the NOI operates places of worship called mosques or temples.⁴⁷ Farrakhan oversees a Council of Leaders, which he has claimed will take over the NOI following his death.⁴⁸ The NOI further consists of ten “ministries”: Spiritual Development, Agriculture, Health, Education, Information, Trade and Commerce, Defense, Justice, Arts and Culture, and Science and Technology.⁴⁹ Each ministry is reportedly headed by a “minister,” although the current ministers remain unlisted on the official NOI website.

NOI’s militant branch, the “Fruit of Islam” (FOI), was designed by Fard to protect followers from police and to patrol low-income Black neighborhoods, where it has been credited with reducing crime rates.⁵⁰ In a 2017 interview, NOI expert Professor Zain Abdullah referred to the group as a “self-defense organization.” He added, “They believe in self-defense, they don’t believe in turning the other cheek,” indicating the group believes in using violence when its members feel threatened.⁵¹ In 1990, NOI founded a subset of FOI, the Nation of Islam Security Agency, in Washington, D.C. This group was specifically tasked with guarding low-income housing projects in an effort to help lower crime rates, and received multi-million-dollar contracts from cities, including Baltimore, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, and Chicago.⁵²

The Fruit of Islam has so successfully achieved its aims that in 2012, Chicago’s then-mayor, Rahm Emanuel—himself Jewish—said, “They have decided, the Nation of Islam, to help protect the community. And that’s an important ingredient, like all the other aspects of protecting a neighborhood.”⁵³ The NOI has also worked with local police to develop anti-drug plans for low-income housing complexes.⁵⁴

The NOI’s anti-crime and rehabilitation efforts have long been its major draw for African American activists. Many anti-violence groups have also partnered with the NOI due to its extensive presence in prisons, where it uses its ideology to reform violent inmates and preaches a strict anti-drug, pro-traditional family ethos.⁵⁵

The NOI has also produced several in-house newspapers dedicated to spreading the NOI’s message and to the “survival of the Black nation.”⁵⁶ From 1960 to 1975, the NOI ran a popular tabloid called *Muhammad Speaks*.⁵⁷ When Warith left NOI in 1975 he took *Muhammad Speaks* with him, changing its name first to *Bilalian News* and then to *Muslim Journal*.⁵⁸ Farrakhan established a new NOI newspaper in 1979, the *Final Call*, dedicated to spreading the NOI’s message and to the “survival of the Black nation.”⁵⁹

Under Farrakhan, the NOI also established the Nation of Islam Research Group, which ostensibly collects and writes articles on current topics related to the NOI’s activities.⁶⁰ The Research Group has been used to lend credibility to the NOI’s anti-Semitic claims. In 1991, for example, it published a study titled, “The Secret Relationship Between Blacks and Jews,” which falsely claimed Jewish merchants were the main proponents of the Atlantic slave trade.⁶¹

Financing:

The NOI began building a massive financial base in the 1940s, when Elijah Muhammad purchased farmland and founded businesses in several U.S. states that would be worth millions.⁶² Under Farrakhan’s leadership, the NOI further invested in economic self-sufficiency, and established

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shops and health products.⁶³ The group also owns farms in Michigan and Georgia, selling its food at its own grocery store in Atlanta. Farrakhan himself is worth more than \$3 million.⁶⁴ NOI goods, including its teachings and speeches by its leaders, are available for sale at all major online retailers, as well as in stores such as Walmart and Barnes and Noble.⁶⁵

The NOI also received \$8 million in donations from Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi in the 1970s and 1980s.⁶⁶ Gaddafi had a close relationship with the group, and the NOI believed Gaddafi was “a friend of the struggle of Black people all over the World for true liberation.” The group saw his regime as part of NOI’s same fight against white Western oppression.⁶⁷ Gaddafi explicitly stated that this money was intended to aid Farrakhan in establishing his economic vision for the NOI, and these funds indeed supported many NOI-operated businesses.⁶⁸ A final donation from Gaddafi of \$1 billion was blocked by the Clinton administration in 1996 due to increased U.S. sanctions against Libya.⁶⁹

Recruitment:

The violent reaction by some U.S. state governments to the civil rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s helped push Black Americans to join the NOI. The new recruits were drawn to the group’s hardline stance against the oppression of Black Americans by the “white devil.”⁷⁰ Many prominent civil rights leaders joined the Nation in the 1950s, including Malcolm X and boxing champion Muhammad Ali, which also helped expand the NOI’s membership.⁷¹ Membership surged again in the 1960s as a new generation of civil rights activists adopted more militant positions and found common ground with the NOI and its ideology.⁷² As urban riots erupted in northern states, Black Americans were increasingly drawn to the language of racial separatism espoused by the Nation.⁷³

In recent decades, the NOI’s rehabilitation and anti-crime work among Black American prisoners and low-income communities has attracted broad support, including new followers and allies within the civil rights movement.⁷⁴ These allies have historically been wary of criticizing the racist and anti-Semitic aspects of the NOI, claiming the organization is the only group helping destitute Black Americans.⁷⁵ Despite this, NOI membership figures have fallen drastically under Farrakhan’s leadership, standing at approximately 35,000 today compared to its peak of 100,000 followers in 1995.⁷⁶ Black American Muslim converts, once the core of the NOI’s membership, have turned increasingly to traditional Islamic sects in the twenty-first century.⁷⁷

Training:

The NOI conducts education and training programs in prisons, aimed at recruiting new members and rehabilitating convicts.⁷⁸ New converts study under an NOI leader, taking classes and completing an oral exam before being given a new last name and officially joining the group.⁷⁹ Men who join the FOI are taught physical fitness, receive self-defense and martial-arts training, and learn “how to be a good husband and father, how to become employed and stay employed, career development and salesmanship.”⁸⁰

In a 2019 video, U.S. Army veteran and FOI member Minister Abdullah Tahama claimed that FOI training was modeled after the Army’s bootcamp and was intended to separate trainees from society to remove material urges.⁸¹ A 2014 ad for the FOI posted on YouTube showed members boxing and weightlifting while a voice-over spoke about the importance of spiritual strength.⁸²

The all-female counterpart to the FOI, known as the Muslim Girls Training and General Civilization Class, teaches women “how to take care of themselves, their families and their husbands,” and offers classes on physical fitness, Arabic, Islamic history, and spiritual lessons.⁸³

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³ “Nation of Islam,” Southern Poverty Law Center, accessed September 6, 2020, <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/group/nation-islam>.

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Nation of Islam (NOI)

Key Leaders



Louis Farrakhan
Leader



Ishmael Muhammad
National assistant minister



**Abdul Hafeez
Muhammad**
Student minister



Richard B. Muhammad
Editor-in-chief of Final Call



**Mustapha Farrakhan
Sr.**
Supreme Captain

Nation of Islam (NOI)

History:

- **February 26, 2023:** NOI holds its annual Saviours' Day conference in Chicago, during which Farrakhan makes multiple antisemitic remarks and declares America's doom is approaching.
Antisemitism watchdogs criticize Ticketmaster for selling tickets to the conference. Sources: Maya Zanger-Nadis, "Ticketmaster under fire for selling tickets to Louis Farrakhan event," *Jerusalem Post*, March 7, 2023, <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-733548>; Nation of Islam, Facebook post, March 14, 2023, <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=608704807310560>; Louis Farrakhan, "THE HISTORIC SAVIOURS' DAY 2023 KEYNOTE ADDRESS: 'THE WAR OF ARMAGEDDON HAS BEGUN,'" *Final Call*, February 28, 2023, <https://new.finalcall.com/2023/02/28/the-historic-saviours-day-2023-keynote-address-the-war-of-armedgeddon-has-begun/>.
- **July 19, 2021:** Twitter suspends NOI's account, reportedly over NOI's anti-vaccination tweets.
In response to a Nation of Islam Facebook post announcing the suspension, multiple followers declare they are at war. The account is later restored. Sources: "Nation of Islam Twitter account suspended," *Jerusalem Post*, July 22, 2021, <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/nation-of-islam-twitter-account-suspended-674542>; Nation of Islam, Facebook post, July 19, 2021, <https://www.facebook.com/OfficialNationOfIslam/photos/a.498218784450004/855218808749998/?type=3>.
- **July 4, 2020:** Farrakhan gives a Fourth of July speech livestreamed on NOI's website after Fox Soul TV cancels his scheduled appearance following a widespread backlash.

Farrakhan claims Jews are responsible for the majority of the world's problems and Jews are trying to poison him because he revealed "their wickedness." He guarantees Jews' "destruction" if they succeed." The speech is broadcasted by Revolt TV cable network, owned by rapper Sean "Diddy" Combs. The Combat Anti-Semitism Movement launches a campaign to have YouTube remove the speech. Sources:
Ben Sales, "What is Fox Soul TV? And is it broadcasting a speech by Louis Farrakhan?," Jewish Telegraphic Agency, June 29, 2020, <https://www.jta.org/2020/06/29/culture/what-is-fox-soul-tv-and-is-it-broadcasting-a-speech-by-louis-farrakhan/>; "Minister Louis Farrakhan's July 4th Address: The Criterion," YouTube video, 3:55:56, uploaded July 4, 2020, by "The Nation of Islam," <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8cmdGOUumVY>; Cody Levine, "Jewish org. launches campaign to remove antisemitic Farrakhan speech," *Jerusalem Post*, July 9, 2020, <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/jewish-org-launches-campaign-to-remove-antisemitic-farrakhan-speech-634500>; Cassie Da Costa, "The Disturbing Rise of Anti-Semitism Among Black Celebs," *Daily Beast*, <https://www.thedailybeast.com/the-disturbing-rise-of-anti-semitism-among-black-celebs-from-diddy-and-nick-cannon-to-ice-cube?ref=scroll>.
- Twitter accidentally deletes Farrakhan's account only to reinstate it shortly after.
Source: "Twitter suspends and later reinstates Louis Farrakhan's account," *Jerusalem Post*, January 19, 2020, <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/twitter-suspends-and-later-reinstates-louis-farrakhans-account-614594>.
- Farrakhan visits Iran, where he tries to lead a crowd in chanting "Death to Israel" and gives a speech warning President Trump against starting a war with Iran.
Source: "Louis Farrakhan, in Iran, Warns Trump a Mideast War Possible," *Associated Press*, November 8, 2018, <https://apnews.com/article/4ae5da0bc7534bab9d7a9a03f3def50c>.
- Farrakhan visits Iran to celebrate the 37th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, in which an authoritarian Islamist regime seized power.
Source: "Minister Farrakhan's Full Iran TV Interview with Nader Talebzadeh," Nation of Islam, December 6, 2016, <https://www.noi.org/farrakhan-iran-tv-interview/>.
- NOI newspaper the *Final Call* reports that 1,000 NOI members have become Scientology auditors and another 4,000 are studying Scientology.
Source: Eliza Gray, "Thetans and Bowties," *New Republic*, October 5, 2012, <https://newrepublic.com/article/108205/scientology-joins-forces-with-nation-of-islam>.
- Farrakhan gives a speech offering his aid to embattled Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi as a popular revolution swept Libya, during which Gaddafi was later killed.
Source: David Lepeska, "Farrakhan Using Libyan Crisis to Bolster His Nation of Islam," *New York Times*, April 9, 2011, <https://www.nytimes.com/2011/04/10/us/10cncfarrakhan.html?pagewanted=1>
- Farrakhan addresses a small Scientology crowd, claiming that the next leader of NOI must be someone who is "Clear" (Scientology's highest status), and that he hopes for a "long and beautiful relationship" with the group.
Source: Eliza Gray, "Thetans and Bowties," *New Republic*, October 5, 2012, <https://newrepublic.com/article/108205/scientology-joins-forces-with-nation-of-islam>.
- Hundreds of NOI members meet near the NOI headquarters in Illinois for a Scientology seminar.
They are taught how to "audit"—described by the *New Republic* as a combination of hypnosis and confession—after which Farrakhan urges all those present to become certified Scientology auditors. Source: Eliza Gray, "Thetans and Bowties," *New Republic*, October 5, 2012, <https://newrepublic.com/article/108205/scientology-joins-forces-with-nation-of-islam>.
- Los Angeles police officers beat NOI minister Tony Mohammad while he oversees a vigil.
Mohammad converts to Scientology while recovering and later introduces Farrakhan to the ideology. Source: Eliza Gray, "Thetans and Bowties," *New Republic*, October 5, 2012, <https://newrepublic.com/article/108205/scientology-joins-forces-with-nation-of-islam>.
- Farrakhan visits foreign leaders in Libya, Sudan, Syria, Iran, Nigeria, and Malaysia, espousing anti-America rhetoric and fundraising for the NOI.
Meeting with Sudanese dictator Omar Hasan al-Bashir, Farrakhan defends him against "unjust plots" from the West. The International Criminal Court later charges Bashir with committing genocide in Darfur. Sources: Steven Holmes, "Farrakhan's Angry World Tour Brings Harsh Criticism at Home," *New York Times*, February 22, 1996, <https://www.nytimes.com/1996/02/22/world/farrakhan-s-angry-world-tour-brings-harsh-criticism-at-home.html>; "Farrakhan Said to Pledge Support to Sudan," Reuters, February 10, 1996, <https://www.nytimes.com/1996/02/10/world/farrakhan-said-to-pledge-support-to-sudan.html>; Associated Press, "Omar al-Bashir Charged with Darfur

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Genocide,” *Guardian* (London), July 12, 2010, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2010/jul/12/bashir-charged-with-darfur-genocide>.

- Between 400,000 and 850,000 people participate in the NOI-sponsored Million Man March in Washington, D.C.
Source: “Nation of Islam (NOI),” USC Center for Religion and Civic Culture, April 16, 2019, <https://crcc.usc.edu/report/national-association-of-real-estate-brokers-nareb-religious-literacy-primer-2019/nation-of-islam-noi/>.
- Washington, D.C., police partner with the NOI in an anti-narcotics campaign in low-income housing in the city.
Source: Sari Horwitz, “Police to Cooperate with Muslims in Mayfair Mansions Drug Patrols,” *Washington Post*, April 21, 1988, https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/1988/04/21/police-to-cooperate-with-muslims-in-mayfair-mansions-drug-patrols/8b3c2439-66d9-4f5e-8d6b-0ecadba35259/?utm_term=.c0faf6f13cd3.
- Farrakhan attends an “anti-America” conference in Tripoli, Libya, where he personally meets with Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi.
Source: Douglas Frantz and George de Lama, “Farrakhan Probed on Libya Visit,” *Chicago Tribune*, April 13, 1986, <https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-xpm-1986-04-13-8601260849-story.html>.
- Farrakhan breaks away from the World Community of al-Islam and creates a new organization under the Nation of Islam name that espouses Elijah Muhammad’s ideology.
Sources: “Several Black Muslims Denounce Farrakhan,” *New York Times*, July 5, 1984, <https://www.nytimes.com/1984/07/05/us/several-Black-muslims-denounce-farrakhan.html>; “Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan,” Nation of Islam, accessed July 10, 2020, <https://www.noislam.org/minister-louis-farrakhan/>.
- Warith Deen Muhammad changes NOI’s name to the World Community of al-Islam.
Source: Malise Ruthven, “Obituary: WD Mohammed,” *Guardian* (London), September 11, 2008, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2008/sep/12/islam.religion>.
- Warith Deen Muhammad, son of Elijah Muhammad, takes over as leader of NOI following his father’s death.
Warith attempts to reform the movement by moderating NOI’s rhetoric and adjusting its teachings to reflect standard Islamic practices and stop preaching Black separatism and Black supremacy. Sources: “Nation of Islam (NOI),” USC Center for Religion and Civic Culture, April 16, 2019, <https://crcc.usc.edu/report/national-association-of-real-estate-brokers-nareb-religious-literacy-primer-2019/nation-of-islam-noi/>; “Nation of Islam,” Southern Poverty Law Center, accessed September 6, 2020, <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/group/nation-islam>.
- Farrakhan becomes national spokesman of NOI.
Source: “Nation of Islam,” Southern Poverty Law Center, accessed September 6, 2020, <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/group/nation-islam>.
- Malcolm X leaves the NOI, denouncing the group’s hatred and racism.
Source: “Nation of Islam,” Southern Poverty Law Center, accessed September 6, 2020, <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/group/nation-islam>.
- Martin Luther King Jr. warns the civil rights movement about the growing power and racism of the NOI.
Source: “Nation of Islam,” Southern Poverty Law Center, accessed September 6, 2020, <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/group/nation-islam>.
- Louis Farrakhan joins the NOI.
Source: “Nation of Islam,” Southern Poverty Law Center, accessed September 6, 2020, <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/group/nation-islam>.
- Fard disappears and Elijah Muhammad takes over as leader of the NOI.
Source: “Nation of Islam (NOI),” USC Center for Religion and Civic Culture, April 16, 2019, <https://crcc.usc.edu/report/national-association-of-real-estate-brokers-nareb-religious-literacy-primer-2019/nation-of-islam-noi/>.
- **July 4, 1930:** Wallace D. Fard founds the NOI.
Source: “Nation of Islam (NOI),” USC Center for Religion and Civic Culture, April 16, 2019, <https://crcc.usc.edu/report/national-association-of-real-estate-brokers-nareb-religious-literacy-primer-2019/nation-of-islam-noi/>.

Nation of Islam (NOI)

Violent history:

- **April 2, 2021:** Alleged NOI follower Noah Green drives a sedan into two U.S. Capitol police officers at a barricade outside of the Capitol Building, wounding both officers. Green then emerges from the car brandishing a knife and is shot by Capitol police. Both Green and one of the officers die from their wounds after they are transported to a nearby hospital. Shortly after the attack, the acting chief of the Metropolitan Police Department says the attack did not appear to be terrorism related but an investigation is ongoing. Green’s social media reveals he was a follower of the NOI and Farrakhan, though it is unclear if he was a member of NOI. Green’s family and friends say prior to the attack he was suffering from issues such as hallucinations, heart palpitations, headaches, and suicidal thoughts, which could have stemmed from drug use or mental illness. On April 6, NOI issues a statement calling Green a “brother” but disavowing the attack. NOI says Green’s alleged use of an automobile as a weapon and the alleged possession of a knife violates the group’s teachings. NOI acknowledges Green may have attended the February 2020 Saviours’ Day convention in Michigan, and he made a donation to the Saviours’ Day Gift fund.⁸⁴
- **1973:** Five NOI members are convicted of killing seven Hanafi Muslim converts, including five children, in Washington, D.C. The murders are believed to have been a response to a local Hanafi leader’s public denouncement of NOI.⁸⁵
- **1965:** A NOI member assassinates Malcolm X less than one year after Malcolm X had denounced the organization.⁸⁶

⁸⁴ “Car rams into police at Capitol barricade; officer killed,” Associated Press, April 2, 2021, <https://apnews.com/article/car-rams-capitol-barricade-add0fea76244f1755344aa856ee64ecd>; “Acting Metropolitan Police chief says attack doesn’t ‘appear to be terrorism related,’” CNN, April 2, 2021, https://www.cnn.com/politics/live-news/capitol-security-threat-04-02-21/h_db1848a70d35ed305c50a8b8134a3d01; Ben Decker, Adam Goldman, and Zolan Kanno-Youngs, “Suspect in Capitol attack appears to have been a follower of Louis Farrakhan,” *New York Times*, April 2, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/02/us/noah-green-farrakhan.html>; Emily Davies, Justin Jouvenal, and Michael E. Miller, “Family and friends concerned Noah Green was unraveling before Capitol attack,” *Washington Post*, April 2, 2021, https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/public-safety/noah-green-capitol-attack/2021/04/02/74f75802-93fe-11eb-a74e-1f4cf89fd948_story.html; “THE NATION OF ISLAM OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON THE U.S. CAPITOL ASSAULT IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, THE BENEFICENT, THE MERCIFUL.,” Nation of Islam, April 6, 2021, <https://noi.org/nation-of-islam-statement-capitol-assault/>.

⁸⁵ Eugene L. Meyer, Joseph D. Whitaker et al, “Tiny Hanafi Sect’s Followers Devoted, U.S.-Born Converts,” *Washington Post*, March 11, 1977, https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/politics/1977/03/11/tiny-hanafi-sects-followers-devoted-us-born-converts/b91a8c84-3f42-45f5-a09f-f2088120cbfc/?utm_term=.923347efdfec; Adam Serwer, “Why Tamika Mallory Won’t Condemn Farrakhan,” *Atlantic*, March 11, 2018, <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2018/03/nation-of-islam/555332/>.

⁸⁶ “Nation of Islam,” Southern Poverty Law Center, accessed September 6, 2020, <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/group/nation-islam>.

Nation of Islam (NOI)

Designations:

None.

Nation of Islam (NOI)

Associations:

Ties to Extremist Entities:

- **White Nationalists**

NOI's anti-Semitism and support for racial separatism has attracted positive attention from neo-Nazis and other far-right groups. In 1962, NOI invited American Nazi Party head George Lincoln Rockwell to one of its conventions, during which Rockwell called Elijah Muhammad "the Hitler of Blacks."⁸⁷ Shortly before his assassination by an NOI member, Malcolm X made public a meeting between NOI and the Ku Klux Klan aimed at building a mutually beneficial relationship.⁸⁸

A 2017 tweet by Farrakhan saying, "Black People: We should be more convinced that it is time for us to separate and build a nation of our own," drew support and retweets from white nationalist leaders, who retweeted Farrakhan and spoke positively of NOI.⁸⁹ Michael "Enoch" Peinovich, founder of the white nationalist blog "The Right Stuff," said, "I've always been a fan of Farrakhan [to be honest]," while white nationalist Richard Spencer offered to meet with Farrakhan "for a real dialogue."⁹⁰

Political Ties to U.S. or Global Leaders

- NOI has found common ground with multiple U.S. political leaders, both Black and non-Black. Several U.S. politicians have met with Farrakhan. In 2005, then-Senator Barack Obama met with Farrakhan during a Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) meeting on Capitol Hill. Journalist Askia Muhammad took a photo of Obama and Farrakhan, but reportedly had questioned whether to release it in 2005 because of the controversy around Farrakhan and the potential of hurting Obama's chances at a future presidential bid. In the end, the photo was turned over to Farrakhan's chief of staff. However, Muhammad published the photo in a 2018 book, *The Autobiography of Charles 67X*.⁹¹ Also in the photo were Democratic Representatives Charles Rangel and Cynthia McKinney. Upon the photo's release, the Anti-Defamation League called on Obama to denounce Farrakhan's antisemitism.⁹² In June 2018, U.S. Representative Keith Ellison defended his past association with Farrakhan on CNN. Ellison had previously said he had no association with Farrakhan, but CNN claimed the pair had held a meeting at a hotel in 2016. Ellison had earlier denounced Farrakhan's antisemitism and bigotry in 2006 during his initial run for Congress.⁹³

President Donald Trump did not meet with Farrakhan personally while in office, but Farrakhan made multiple statements seemingly praising Trump. After then-candidate Trump told a group of Jewish Republicans, in December 2015, he didn't want their money and they couldn't control him, Farrakhan praised Trump for standing up to the Jewish community. Though Farrakhan said he still didn't like Trump, he praised the candidate for telling "those who control the politics of America, 'I don't want your money,' that means you can't control me. And they can't afford to give up control of the presidents of the United States."⁹⁴ In 2017, Farrakhan condemned what he called Trump's attempts to remove any traces of the first Black president from the White House, but he also claimed God had chosen Trump.⁹⁵ In September 2020, Farrakhan claimed Trump would help further NOI's goal to break Black Americans away from "white America."⁹⁶ While the Republican Party has largely condemned Farrakhan for his antisemitic and racist rhetoric, far-right Representative Marjorie Taylor Green posted a series of tweets in November 2021 claiming "common ground" with NOI and lauding its anti-vaccine position.⁹⁷

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⁸⁸ "Nation of Islam," Southern Poverty Law Center, accessed September 6, 2020, <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/group/nation-islam>.

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Nation of Islam (NOI)

Media Coverage:

Social media

The NOI has utilized multiple media platforms to connect its members and spread its messages, though several social-media companies have taken down extremist posts by the group and/or Farrakhan, and, in some cases, have removed the NOI's official accounts.

The NOI's YouTube channel posted and hosted videos until YouTube terminated it on October 2, 2020, for violating the platform's "[s]trict policies prohibiting hate speech on YouTube."⁹⁸ However, YouTube has not taken down the YouTube channels of the NOI's European Headquarters, several NOI Temples, and numerous supporters of the group.⁹⁹

On May 2, 2019, Facebook declared Farrakhan's rhetoric dangerous and shut down his account, as well as accounts belonging to related Facebook groups.¹⁰⁰ Farrakhan's account on Facebook-owned Instagram was also terminated.¹⁰¹ However, there are dozens of official and unofficial Nation of Islam pages and groups on Facebook.¹⁰² Some of those groups attempted to skirt the ban by changing their names.¹⁰³

NOI leaders are also active on Twitter, which continues to leave up Farrakhan and the NOI's accounts.¹⁰⁴ Twitter removed its verified-status checkmark from Farrakhan's account in June 2018 after his account posted a tweet about "unmasking the Satanic Jew and the Synagogue of Satan," along with a YouTube link to a three-hour sermon from that May.¹⁰⁵ On October 16, 2018, Farrakhan posted on Facebook and Twitter a video of his speech in honor of the anniversary of the Million Man March. In the video Farrakhan declared, "[W]hen they talk about Farrakhan, call me a hater, call me anti-Semite. Stop it. I'm anti-termites."¹⁰⁶ Facebook removed the post for violating its hate-speech policies, but Twitter left the post online, claiming its policy against dehumanizing speech had not yet been implemented.¹⁰⁷

On July 9, 2019, Twitter introduced a new rule prohibiting the dehumanization of religious groups and called on Farrakhan to delete his 2018 tweet of the video of his "anti-termites" speech.¹⁰⁸ On January 18, 2020, Twitter briefly suspended Farrakhan's account, but later reinstated it and said the suspension was a mistake caused by an error in the company's spam filter.¹⁰⁹

With these far-reaching platforms, Farrakhan has continued to inspire celebrities. In June 2020, comedian Chelsea Handler posted to her Instagram account a clip of Farrakhan on "The Phil Donahue Show." Handler later apologized and removed the clip after initially defending it.¹¹⁰ Actress Jessica Chastain also shared the Farrakhan clip, while celebrities Jennifer Aniston, Michelle Pfeiffer, and Jennifer Garner liked the posting on Instagram. Chastain later deleted the clip from her account.¹¹¹ In July 2020, Madonna posted to her Instagram account a video featuring Farrakhan declaring that the United States is "unraveling," "cascading downward," and "coming to an end."¹¹²

Farrakhan had been scheduled to give a Fourth of July speech on Fox Soul TV, part of Fox Corporation, but the channel canceled his appearance after a widespread backlash.¹¹³ Farrakhan's speech was instead livestreamed on the NOI's website and uploaded to the group's YouTube channel.¹¹⁴ Rapper Sean "Diddy" Combs also broadcasted Farrakhan's speech on his Revolt TV cable network.¹¹⁵

Several professional athletes have also praised Farrakhan in 2020, eliciting widespread denunciation. That May, retired National Football League player Donovan McNabb shared on Twitter a picture of Farrakhan and a quote about seeking justice.¹¹⁶ On July 5, Desean Jackson of the Philadelphia Eagles football team praised Farrakhan on his Instagram account and shared a quote about Jews controlling the world that has been falsely attributed to Hitler. The owners of the Eagles swiftly condemned his comments and Jackson later apologized.¹¹⁷ On July 8, former National Basketball Association player Stephen Jackson defended Desean Jackson's comments and accused "the Jews" of trying to divide the Black community while controlling the world's wealth. Stephen Jackson went on to declare his "love" for Farrakhan.¹¹⁸ Since then, several prominent Black Americans have come out in defense of this "quote" and the sentiments behind it, including rapper and actor Ice Cube, comedian Nick Cannon, rapper Sean "Diddy" Combs, and author Alice Walker.¹¹⁹ All have quoted Farrakhan in defending Jackson's initial post.¹²⁰

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Rhetoric:

Louis Farrakhan, April 17, 2023

“America has become the dwelling place of devils.” (tweet)¹²¹

Louis Farrakhan, April 5, 2023

“The Synagogue of Satan has destroyed the country.” (tweet)¹²²

Louis Farrakhan, March 28, 2023

“This blessed Ramadan, I want to remind us that the War of Armageddon has already started. The War of Armageddon is a holy war. It is a war that God Himself is very much a part of.” (tweet)¹²³

March 14, 2023

“The War of Armageddon Has Begun: America’s Doom Is Set” (Facebook post)¹²⁴

Louis Farrakhan, March 5, 2023

“Somebody has to take on the Synagogue of Satan and here we are.” (tweet)¹²⁵

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