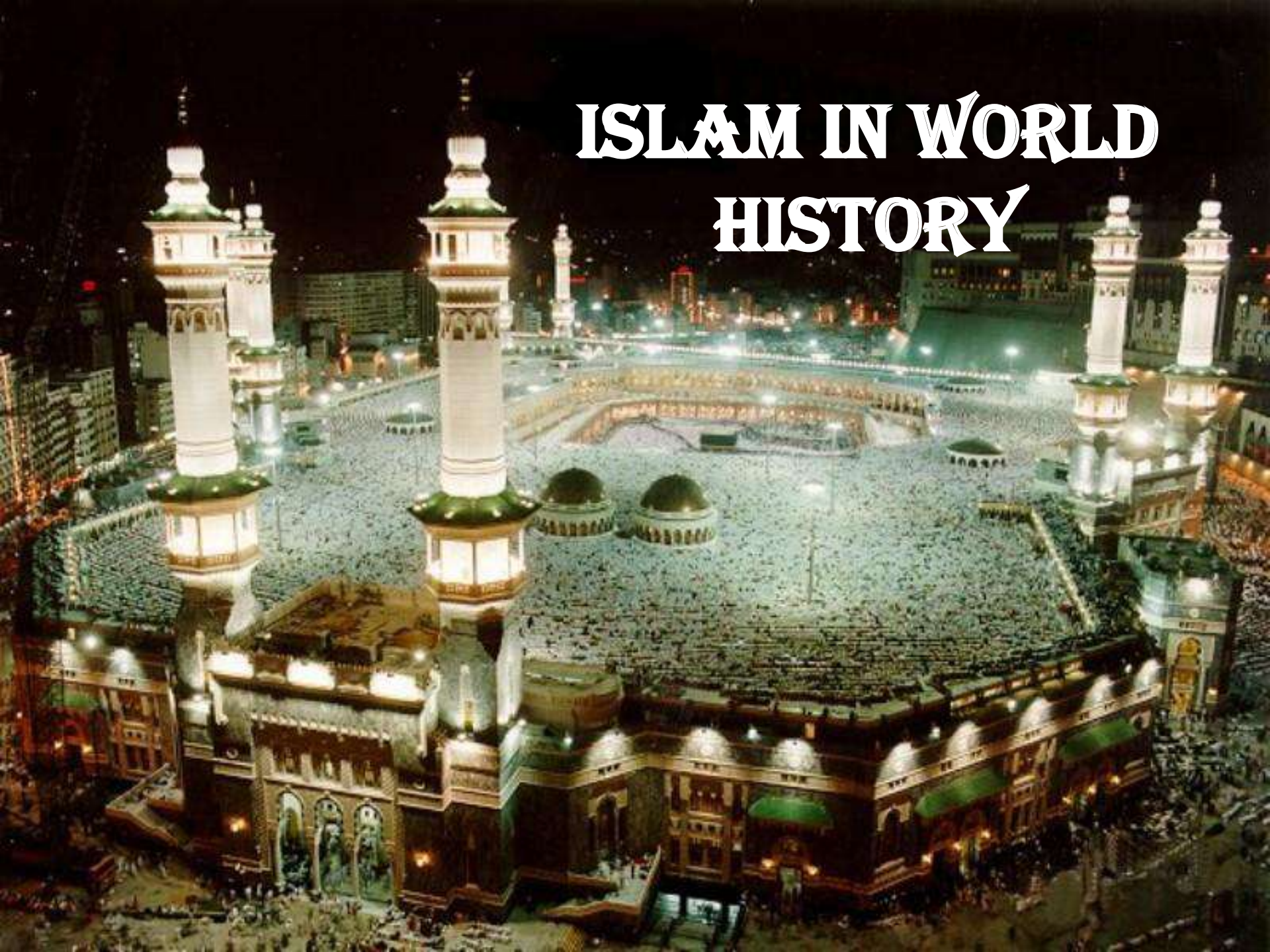


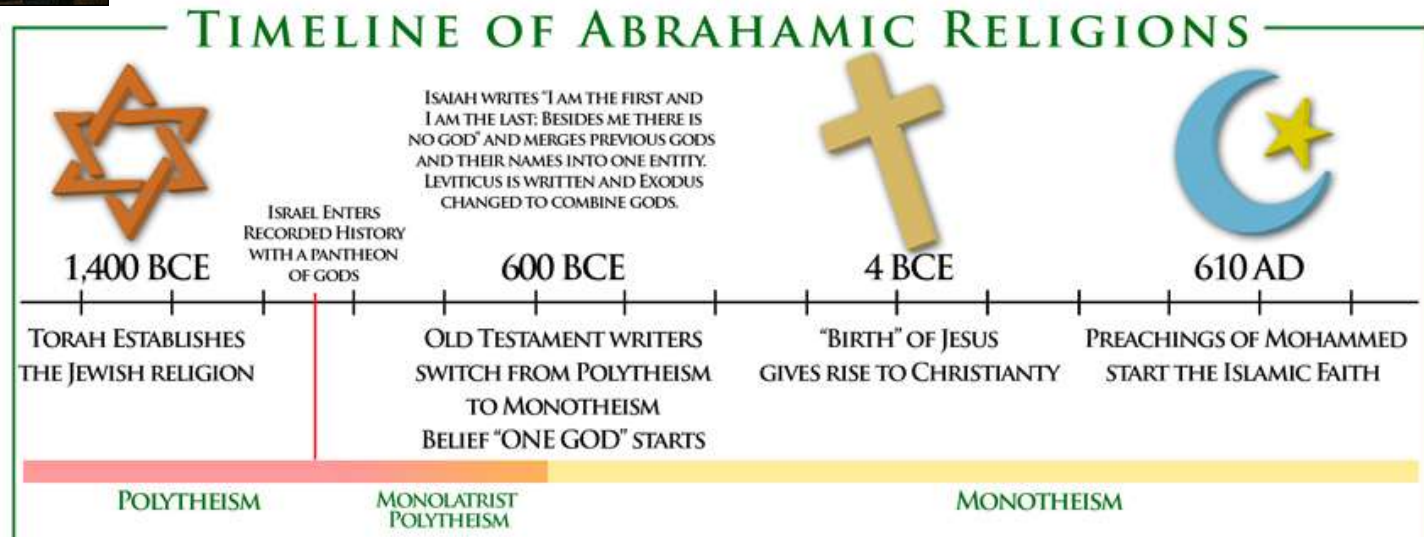
# ISLAM IN WORLD HISTORY





*"Hagar and Ishmael"*  
François-Joseph Navez  
(1820)

One of the markers, or historical turning points that defines the start of this new period was the founding and spread of Islam. More than any other world religion, Islam had political and economic mechanisms that led to its unparalleled rapid spread.





# THE FOUNDING OF ISLAM

The Prophet Muhammad was born in **Mecca** around the year 570 CE.

He grew up as a shepherd among the **Bedouin**, and later became a merchant. He married **Khadija** at age 25 – she would become the first person to accept Islam.

Around the year 610, Muhammad began preaching about his revelations from God.



**Muhammad's  
Vision of Allah**

**At first Muhammad was rejected by Meccans who feared a disruption of profitable trade – Mecca was an important pilgrimage site for the polytheistic religions that existed among the Bedouin before Islam. (Even before Islam, the Kaaba was a shrine housing representations of about 360 various deities.)**



**This is an illustration of a traders' caravan outside Mecca. At center, a trader is bargaining with the Quraysh leader of the caravan.**



*Hulton Collection/Valueline/Getty Images*



In the year **622** (the first year of the Islamic calendar) Muhammad and his followers fled Mecca. They went to a nearby town called Yathrib (later renamed **Medina**.)

Thousands of Arabs quickly adopted Islam and helped Muhammad return to Mecca and defeat his opponents in 630, at which time he re-dedicated the Kaaba to Allah.

Muhammad united Arabs behind Islam, and they quickly became a powerful force.

Muhammad died in 632. He is buried in the city of Medina.





**“Muhammad  
hides in a cave  
and escapes  
Satan.”**

***Persian Illustration***

**“Muhammad and Abu Bakr visit poor Bedouins who have no sustenance to share until the Prophet makes their ewe give milk”**



***Persian Illustration***

**“Historical analysis indicates that many of the beliefs and practices of Islam were in reaction to the controversies sweeping Christianity in Muhammad's day. Indeed, many of the principal tenets of Islam deal with issues which had proven to be sources of crisis and upheaval within the early Christian community.”**





**“For instance, iconoclasm—Greek for “image-breaking”—the systematic destruction of artwork was a movement that swept the Byzantine world during and after the seventh century. Watching such pointless and self-destructive strife might very well have taught the young Muhammad the wisdom of not admitting realistic art into the religious arena. To this can be added the role of saints in the Christian church, which also caused great controversy because it appeared to distract from the worship of God and Jesus and, to some, smacked of polytheism. Thus, Muhammad permitted no humans to be seen as deities of any sort.”**





***"Gabriel shows the prowess of Ali to the Prophet Muhammad"***  
Shiraz, 1480

# Central Islamic Beliefs



**Islam** means submission – pertaining to submission to the will of Allah

**The Five Pillars of Islam are:**

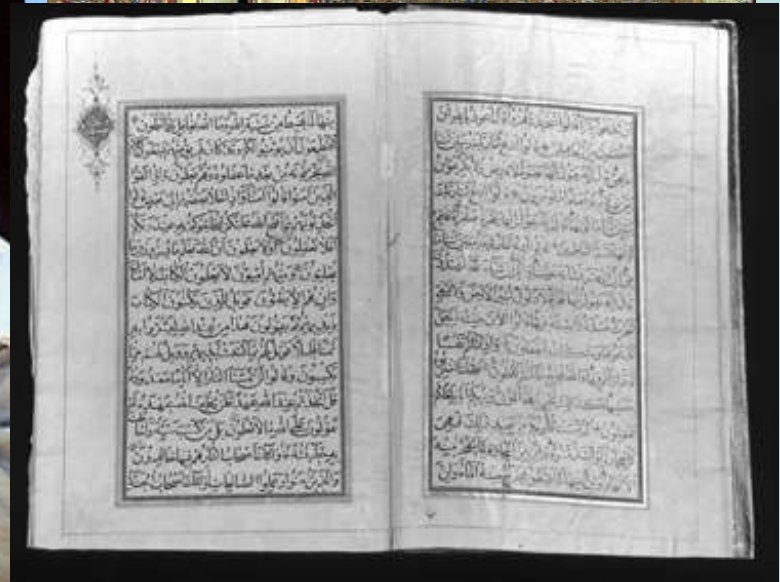
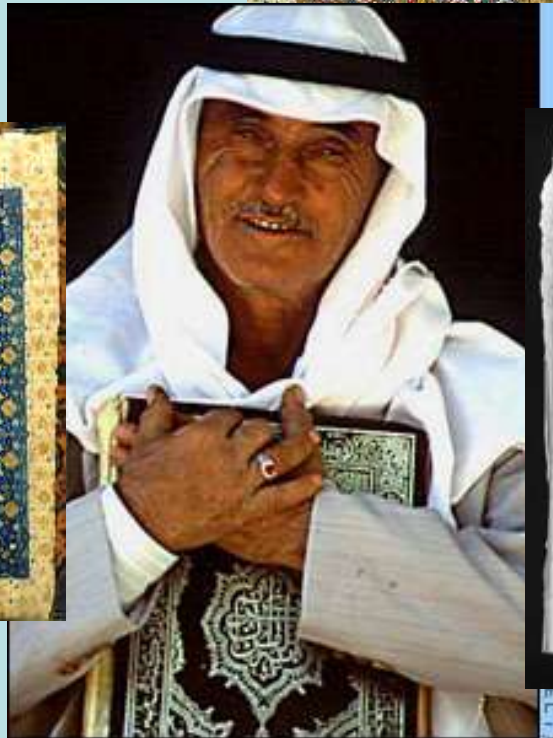
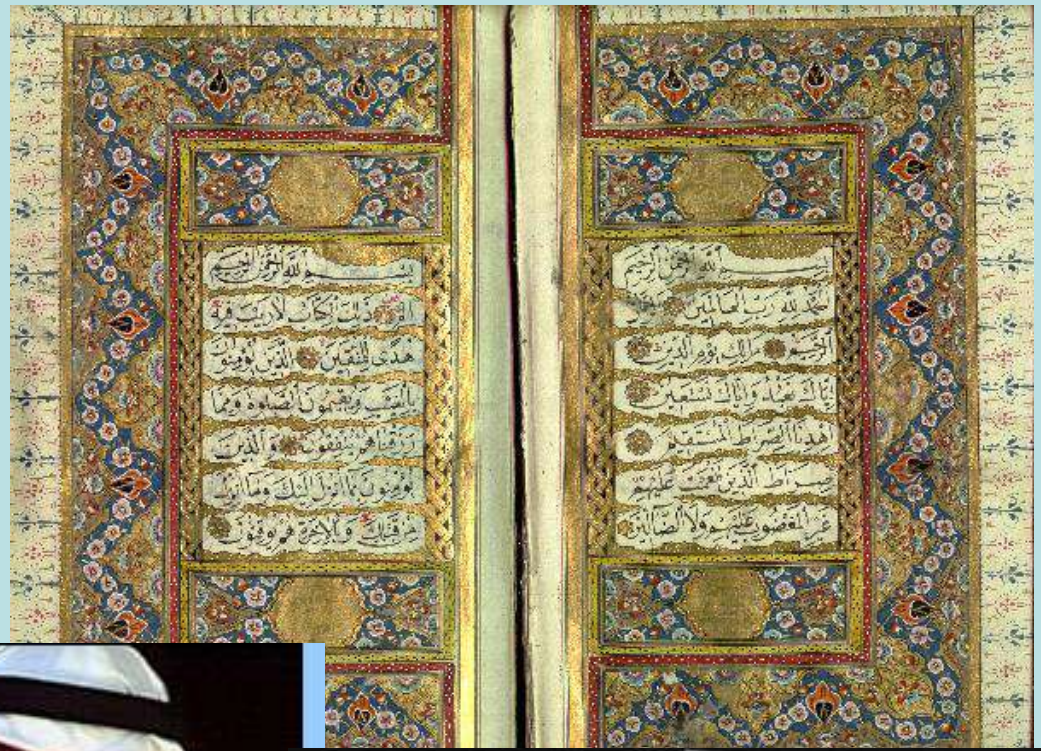
1. Faith – belief in one God
2. Daily prayer facing Mecca (5 times per day is standard, though this varies based on sect.)
3. Alms, or charity to the poor
4. Fasting from sunrise to sunset during the holy month of Ramadan
5. Pilgrimage to Mecca (hajj)

**The sacred Islamic text is the Quran (Koran)**

**The Hadith** are writings that contain the sayings and deeds of Muhammad (but not in Koran)

**Muhammad taught that Jews and Christians are “People of the Book,” meaning they believe in the same God. He taught they should be treated with respect and tolerance.**

**The Koran Itself is often an example of the best Arabic art: arabesques and calligraphy are beautifully detailed and ornate.**





# National Geographic Documentary

## *Inside Mecca*

Who are the three pilgrims, and where are they from?

How are their experiences different?

How are their experiences similar?



<http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/inside-mecca/>

# THE SPREAD OF ISLAM



## The Early Caliphs

**After Muhammad's death in 632, leadership of the growing Muslim faith was passed to Abu Bakr, Muhammad's father-in-law and close friend.**

**However, political ambitions, clan loyalties, and personal differences led to disagreement and conflict over succession to the position of *caliph*, the head of state of the new growing Muslim community.**



## **The early Caliphs played a major role in the early spread of Islam.**

The growing population of the new Islamic empire created a need for more agricultural resources, land, and wealth.

Neighboring Byzantine and Persian empires were long-time rivals for land and trade rights.

By 650 Arab armies controlled: Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Persia, and Egypt

### **Reasons for the success of Arab armies:**

United in a religious cause

Experience in warfare due to tribal/clan based wars

The weakened state of the Byzantine and Persian empires

Appeal to the poor and oppressed

Protection by Arab forces was also appealing



# The Sunni / Shia Split

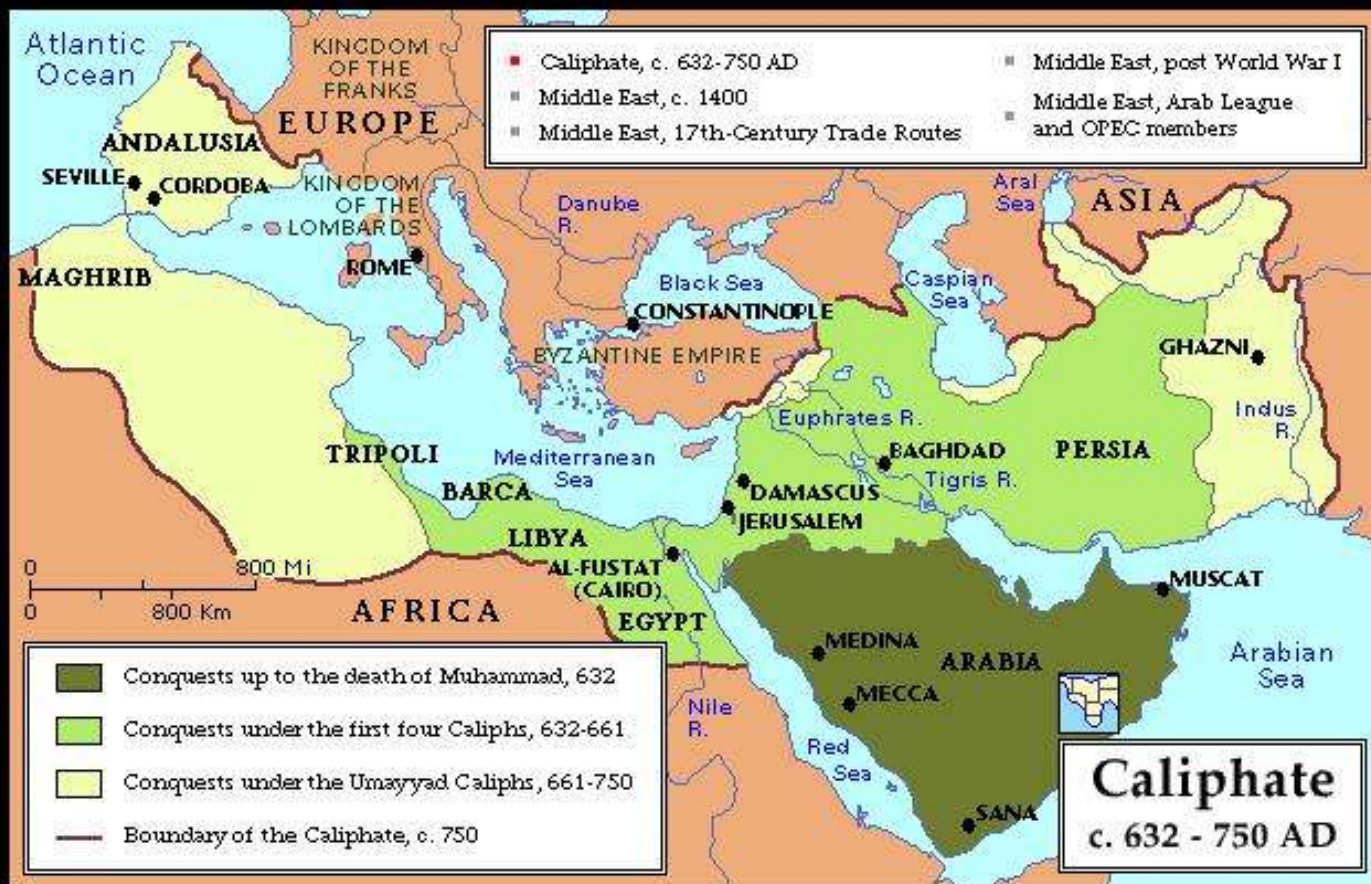


**Shia Muslims believe that Muhammad's cousin and son-in-law Ali was the first, rightful successor to Muhammad, and that spiritual leaders of the Islamic world should be descendants of Ali and his wife Fatima, Muhammad's daughter.**

**Sunni Muslims believe that the position of caliph could be held by any devout Muslim, and see the early caliphs that were chosen by clan leaders as legitimate (Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman). Sunnis tended to see the caliph as more of a political leader.**

**In 661 Ali was assassinated and the Umayyad dynasty began.**

**Ali's son, Husayn continued the struggle but was killed by Umayyad troops at the Battle of Karbala.**



Today, about 90% of Muslims are Sunni.



Modern countries with a high Shia population include Iran, Iraq, India, and Pakistan.

**Sufism** is a mystical form of Islam which uses meditation, prayer, fasting, and ritual to seek direct contact with God.

Sufis often lived ascetic lives and were missionaries, not unlike Christian monks.

Sunni **Umayyads** ruled the Islamic world from Damascus until they lost control to the **Abbassids**, who moved the political center of Islam to Baghdad.



Sufism and Sufi missionaries played a large role in the spread of Islam, especially in Central and South Asia.

One reason these wandering mystics were successful in converting people was their willingness to accept local religious traditions, and accommodate a “popular Islam” that reflected syncretism with established beliefs and practices.

For Sufis, religious experience and communion with the divine was more important than established teachings, correct behavior and Sharia law.

Raise your words,  
not your voice.  
It is rain that  
grows flowers,  
not thunder.

-Rumi

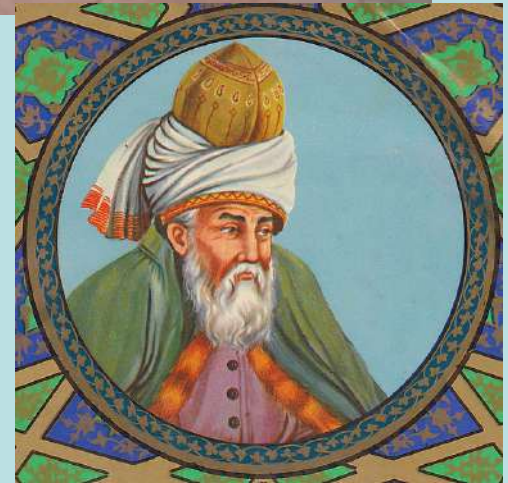
# Inscription on Rumi's Tomb

*“Come, come, whoever you are,  
Wanderer, worshipper, lover of leaving,  
It doesn't matter.*

*Ours is not a caravan of despair.  
Come, even if you have broken your vow  
a thousand times,  
Come, yet again, come, come.”*



Each December 17th, Turkey, and in particular, the city of Konya, celebrates the life and teachings of the Sufi philosopher, Rumi.



**Rumi was a 13<sup>th</sup> century Persian Sufi poet and mystic. He was born in what would today be Afghanistan, raised in the Persian culture, and spent most of his life in Anatolia (modern day Turkey.) Therefore, he is a great example of the trans-regional world of Islam - as well as being one of the greatest Sufi writers.**



"Come, come again, whoever you are, come!  
Heathen, fire worshipper or idolatrous, come!  
Come even if you broke your penitence a hundred times,  
Ours is the portal of hope, come as you are."

*Mevlana Celaleddin Rumi*

# Rumi Poem

## 13<sup>th</sup> Century

I searched for God among the Christians and on  
the Cross and therein I found Him not.  
I went into the ancient temples of idolatry; no trace  
of Him was there.  
I entered the mountain cave of Hira and then went  
as far as Qandhar but God I found not...  
Then I directed my search to the Kaaba, the resort  
of old and young; God was not there even.  
Turning to philosophy I inquired about Him from  
ibn Sina but found Him not within his range...  
Finally, I looked into my own heart and there I  
saw Him; He was nowhere else.





## Why did conversion happen so quickly as Arab political control spread?

1. Similar, familiar beliefs and traditions (Jews, Christians, and Zoroastrians shared many beliefs and practices with the new religion of Islam.)
2. Success in conquest was often attributed to the power of the conquerors' god(s), or the weakening of the old gods
3. The oppressed, slaves, prisoners of war, etc. were among the earliest converts – especially within Persia
4. There were economic and social incentives to conversion

**Important note: full *Arabization* did not take place in Persia – language, literary and artistic styles remained distinctly Persian. In fact, some historians cite the process of *Persianization* of many aspects of the Islamic world, especially during the Abbasid empire.**



# MAJOR ISLAMIC DYNASTIES AND EMPIRES



The **Umayyads** ruled from Damascus until 750. Islam expanded through the Middle East, North Africa, and into Spain under Umayyad rule.

The **Abbasids** ruled from Baghdad until Mongols invaded the region in 1258. Many of the Mongols eventually adopted Islam.

-Abbasid Empire represents an Islamic golden age, with great advancements in art, literature, technology and political organization.

# Gold Coins of Abd al-Malik

How did the coins of Abd al-Malik signify change for the people of Damascus – and those living throughout the growing Umayyad empire?

Who was Abd al-Malik? When were these coins issued?

Describe the first coin. What message was it meant to convey?

What did Abd al-Malik understand about gold coins and the money supply?

Describe the 2<sup>nd</sup> coin. How was it different from the first one? Why the change?





First Coin



Second Coin

# Each group must turn in a thesis statement for the following prompt:

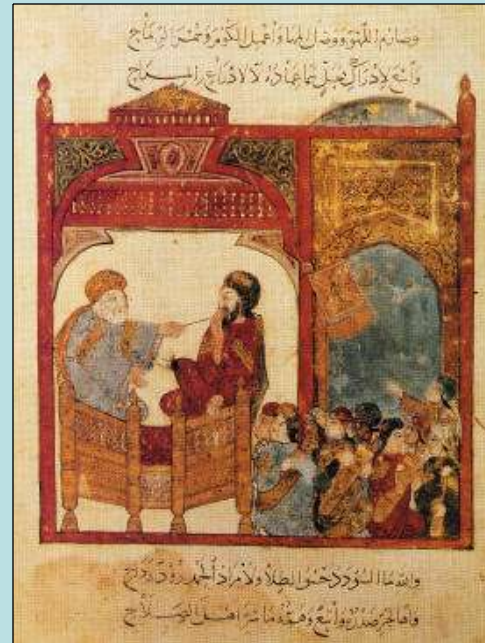
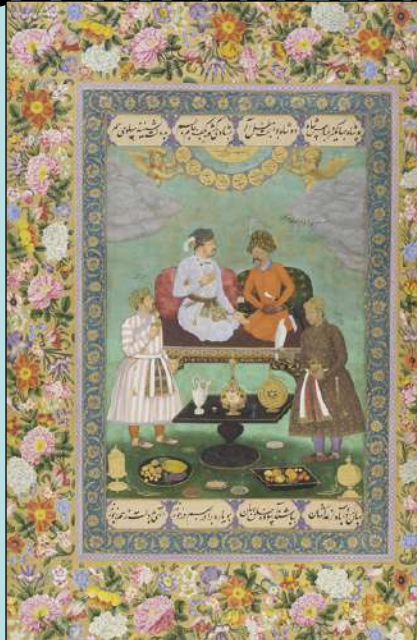
Compare the methods used by the Umayyad empire to establish and maintain control with ONE of the following empires:

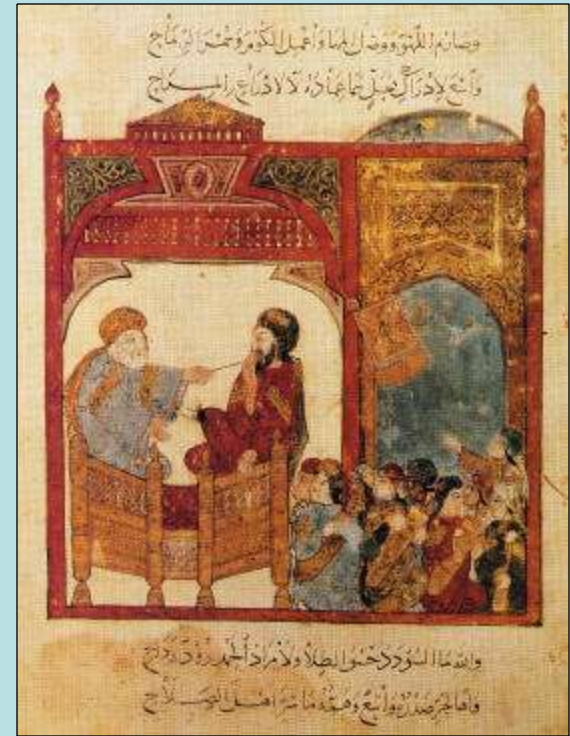
- Mauryan empire
- Alexander's empire
- Han empire
- Roman empire

**During the Abbasid period, the dar al-Islam (literally means 'the house of Islam') flourished in the areas of science, math, medicine, astronomy, and literature.**



**Muslim scholars translated ancient Greek and Hellenistic works into Arabic, and an extensive trade network connected the Islamic world from southern Spain and Morocco in the west to the Islands of Southeast Asia.**



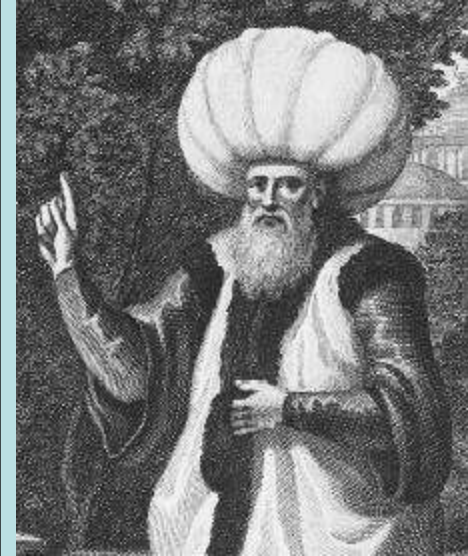


**“ MUSLIM  
DEBATE ”**

**“MUSLIM  
ASTRONOMERS”**

In Baghdad, at the beginning of the Abbasid period, intellectual life went through a phase of extraordinary development. The caliphs were, so to speak, 'enlightened autocrats', giving their protection to groups of scholars and sometimes even heading such groups themselves. The names of at least two of these cultivated Abbasid caliphs have passed into legend: **Harun Al-Rashid** (ruled 786-809 CE), the sovereign of the *Arabian Nights*; and his son, **Ma'mun** (813-833 CE), founder of first great Arab center of translation and thought, the *Bayt Al-Hikma* ('the house of wisdom').

The Abbasids were brought to power by Persian converts to Islam. They transferred the center of power, hitherto at Damascus, eastwards, founding Baghdad as their new capital. Baghdad was also known as *Madinat Al-Salam* (the 'city of peace').





**The Abbasid Palace in Baghdad, built in the 13th century.**



# The Decline of the Abbasid Dynasty

In the late 9<sup>th</sup> century, problems began to plague the Abbasid dynasty

Causes for decline included:



\*Court excesses

\*political divisions

\*Shia opposition to Sunni Abbasid rule

\*the problem of succession – no clear process often led to civil strife, assassinations, and the development of imperial factions

\*uprisings of mercenary forces (such as the Seljuk Turks)

\*high taxes on the peasantry

\*periodic food shortages and civil violence

\*increasing crime and banditry

\*loss of territory in late decline

# Major Islamic Dynasties and Empires



## Continued...

The **Seljuk Turks** migrated into the Middle East from Central Asia around 900; they built an empire and adopted Islam. They never officially overthrew the Abbassids, but did make some rulers pay tribute.

**Ottoman Turks** built an empire beginning in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. They expanded throughout Asia Minor and eventually took control of Constantinople (which they re-named Istanbul.)

# Other Regional Islamic States

- **Africa**

- Fatimids in Egypt
- Mamluks in Egypt
- Almoravids in Morocco (Berbers)
- Sudanic trading empires Ghana, Mali, Songhay
- East African trading states such as Kilwa

- **South Asia**

- Delhi Sultanate
- Timurid Empire
- Bengal Sultanate

- **Central Asia**

- Several Khanates, or Mongol successor states such as the Chagatai Khanate and the Ilkhanate

# The Spread of Islam to South Asia



In the late 7<sup>th</sup> century, Muslim merchants, traders, and missionaries from Arabia, Persia, and Central Asia began to arrive in the Indian subcontinent.

In the early centuries of this process, periodic conflict arose, but over time assimilation and syncretism took place – for example Hindu officials and elites often held positions in Muslim governments.

Hindu culture also influenced the Islamic world; for example Middle Eastern scholars began using the Hindi numeral system, which they in turn eventually transmitted to Europe (thus “Arabic” numerals). *It has been suggested that this advancement in Europe made the Renaissance and Scientific Revolutions possible because of the potential for complex mathematical and scientific computations.*

# The Spread of Islam to South Asia, Continued...



**In addition, circa 1000 CE, a new wave of Muslim Turks and Afghans began to push into India from central Asia. (The second major invasion/migration into India...what was the first?)**

**The **Delhi Sultanate** was a resulting polity in north India that lasted from 1206 – 1526.**

**Muslims were successful in part because Indian rajahs were not united; they spent resources fighting each other and could not unify to defeat Muslim invaders.**

Cont....



**Also, Islam appealed to Indians of lower castes.**

**Turks, Persians, and Arabs settled in India during this period.**

**Trade increased in India with Muslim influence.**

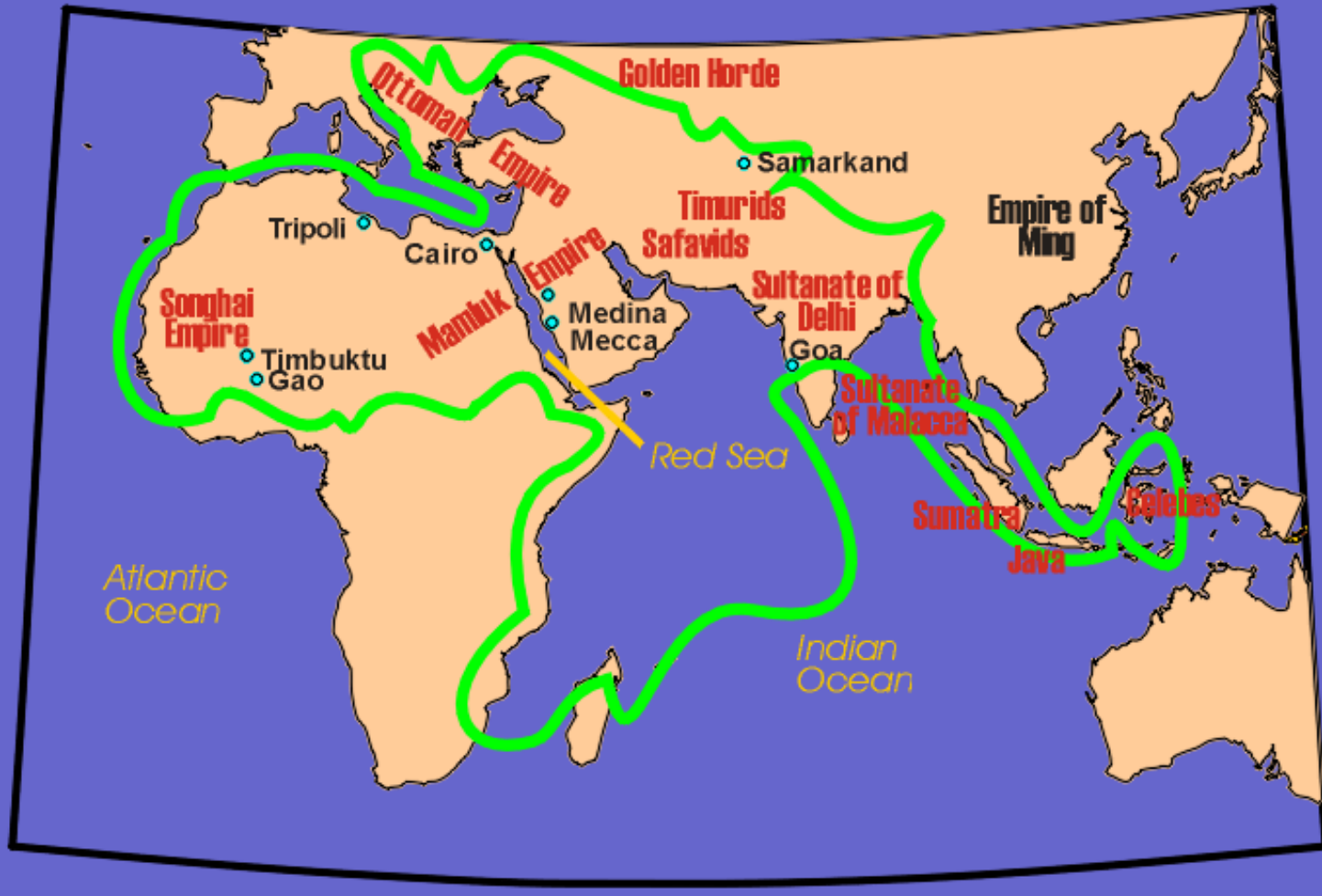
**During this period, Buddhism continued to decline in India.**

**Muslim and Hindu culture blended.**

**Urdu**, a language which blended Persian, Arabic, and Hindi, eventually developed in northern India.

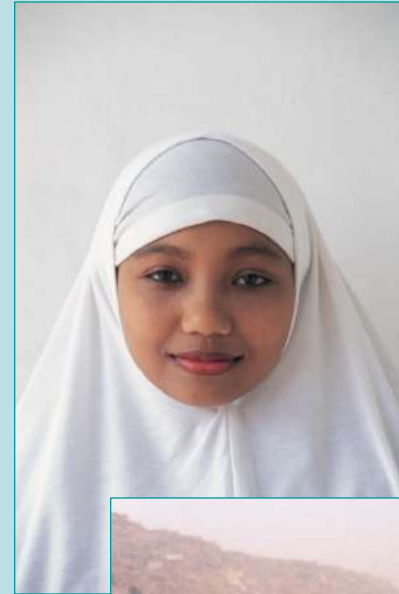
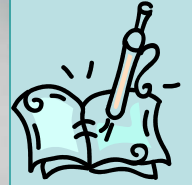
**Sikhism** also eventually developed, a religion influenced by both Hindu and Muslim beliefs and practices.

# The Islamic World, 1500



# WOMEN AND ISLAM

- 1. Historically, what has been the role of women in the Islamic World?**
- 2. What was the role of women in the founding and early years of Islam?**
- 3. Does the role of women change as Islam spreads? How?**
- 4. What is meant by “the politics of the veil”?**





## WOMEN AND ISLAM

### Some of Muhammad's teachings regarding women:

Muhammad eliminated many pre-Islamic discriminatory practices (including female infanticide.)

Women were given more rights (including greater inheritance rights.)

The number of wives a man could marry was limited to four.

Muhammad emphasized treating women with kindness and respect, as well as their equality before God.

Modest dress should apply to both women and men equally (from Quran and Hadiths).

Women are required to cover their bodies so that their figure is not revealed.

Women are not required to cover their faces. (The hijab or head scarf is optional, and depends on family traditions and community norms.)

# WOMEN AND ISLAM



- During the Abbasid period, Muslim women (mainly in the upper class) were increasingly confined to the household and subjected to patriarchal authority.
- The Abbasid caliphs maintained *harems*, in which both wives and concubines were secluded in the imperial chambers.
- The prosperity of the later Abbasid period allowed the Muslim elite to obtain numerous slaves, many of which were taken or purchased from the non-Islamic regions that surrounded the empire. Female slaves were not secluded and may have had greater freedom than Muslim wives.
- Another custom that developed during the Abbasid period was the veiling of free (non-slave) females. Elite, upper class women were cut off from any occupation other than running a household.



# ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE





Malaysian Mosque



Interior of a Mosque in  
Cordoba, Spain



Bandar Seri Bagawan  
Mosque in Brunei, one of  
the largest in Asia

The Al-Azhar Mosque in Cairo, Egypt  
built by the Fatimid Dynasty in 970



The *Alhambra* in Granada, Spain  
built in the 15th century





Copyright © 2003 Mike Masee - [www.pro-photography.net](http://www.pro-photography.net)

**The Blue Mosque, Istanbul, Turkey**



**Shia (Shiite) Mosque Outside the City of Baghdad**

# FYI...

The prefix “abd” in Arabic means “servant of” thus Abdullah is a name meaning the servant of Allah.

The prefix “abu” means “father of” and is sometimes taken by parents after the birth of their first son.

The Arabic prefix “ibn” means son of; “bint” means daughter of.



**Abu Abdullah  
Muhammad Ibn  
Battuta**





**Abu Abdullah  
Muhammad Ibn  
Battuta – famous  
Islamic traveler of  
the 14<sup>th</sup> century**

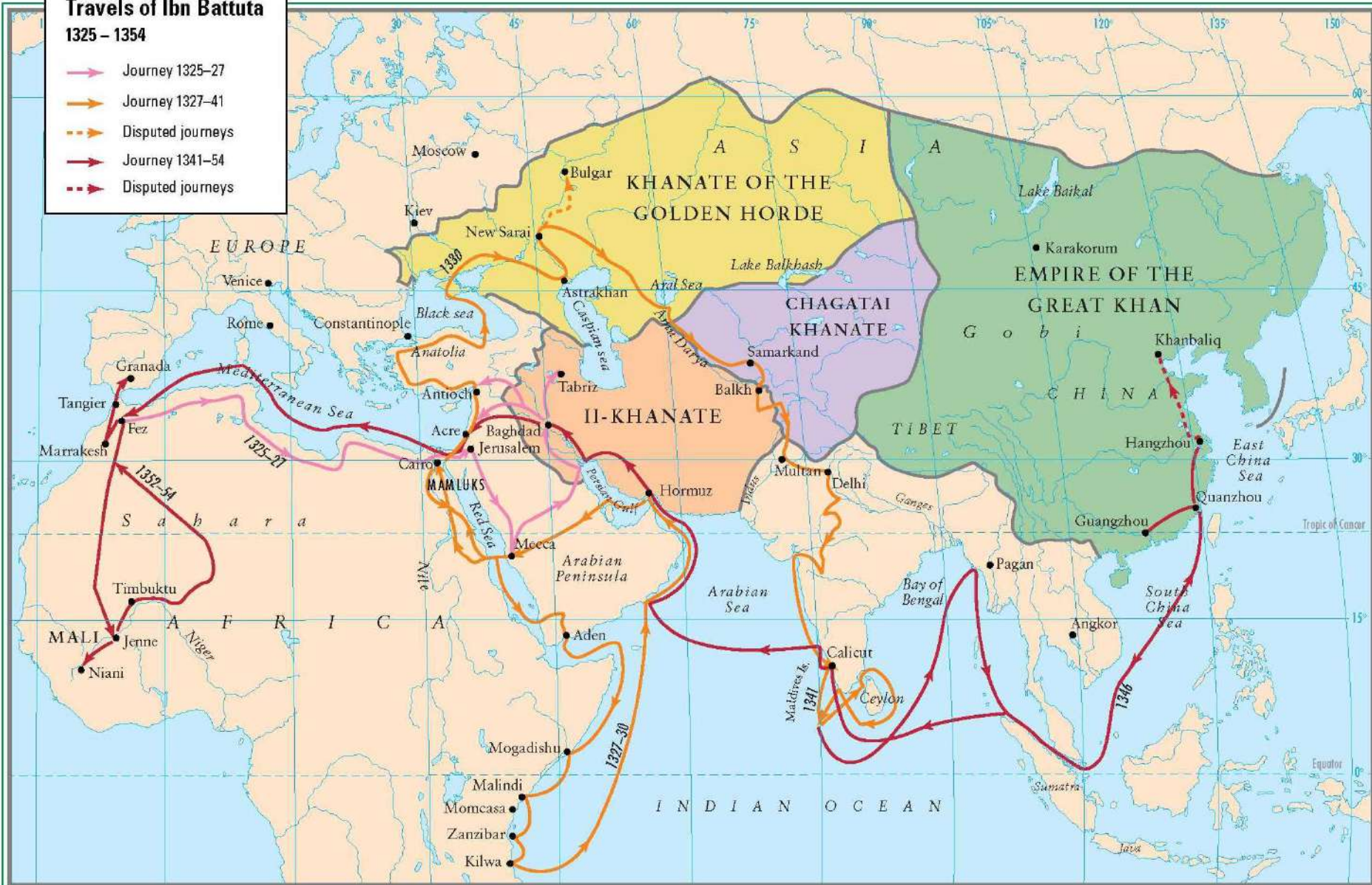


**The Kurdish Muslim leader  
Saladin (Salah al-Din), whose  
forces fought Christian  
Crusaders at the end of the 12<sup>th</sup>  
century**

## Travels of Ibn Battuta

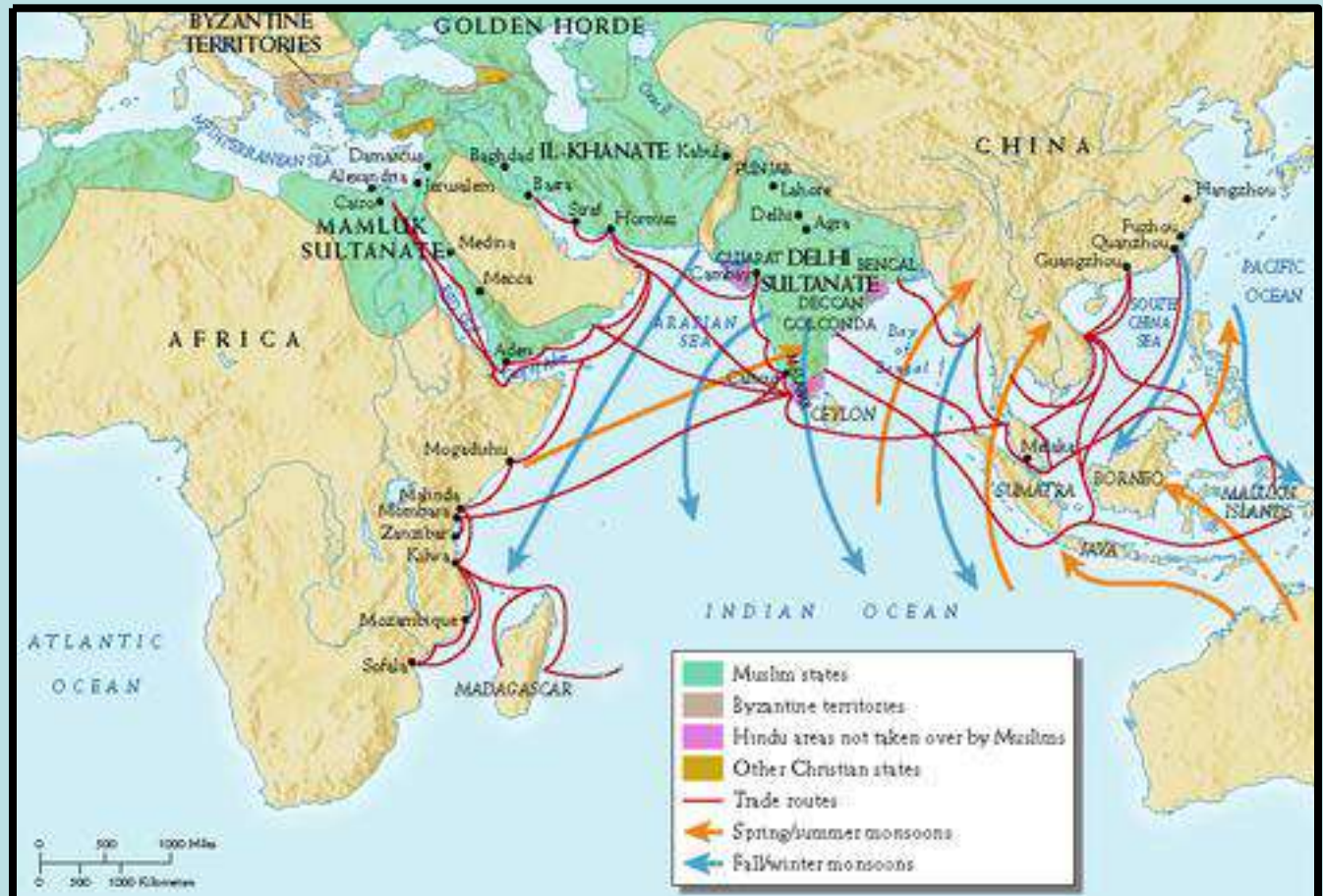
1325 – 1354

-  Journey 1325–27
-  Journey 1327–41
-  Disputed journeys
-  Journey 1341–54
-  Disputed journeys



# ECONOMICS

What major trade networks were part of the *dar al-Islam*?



Trading networks facilitated the spread of Islam – and at the same time, new ties in the growing Islamic world fostered trade, making networks even more complex.

# MYSTICISM



The term "mysticism" is often used to refer to beliefs which are outside of a mainstream religion, but related to or based in a mainstream religious doctrine. For example, Sufism is the mystical sect of Islam.

- Which region(s) are heavily influenced by the Islamic proselytizing mystics?
- What social and intellectual methods did the mystics use to attract followers?
- What was the attraction for the indigenous populations of the region?



# The Complex Meaning of *Jihad*

---

Islam is not inherently warlike, and jihad is not one of its "pillars"

Jihad in Arabic does not mean "holy war". It means "struggle" or "strive".

It is the difficult effort needed to put God's will into practice at every level

The "greater jihad" in the Quran is that of the soul, of the tongue, of the pen, of faith, of morality, etc. The "smaller jihad" is that of arms.

When studying the Koran as a historical source, it is important to keep in mind the context in which it was created: during a war between Muslims and the leaders of the city of Mecca - - and of course a long history of war between Bedouin clans.

Regarding jihad, there are many directives in the statements of Muhammad (Hadiths):

➤ He told his companions as they go home after a battle *"We are returning from the lesser jihad [the battle] to the greater jihad, at home"*

➤ Three levels:

Personal: That of the soul

Verbal: Raising one's voice in the name of Allah on behalf of justice.

*"The most excellent jihad is the speaking of truth in the face of a tyrant"*  
(Hadith)

Physical: Combat waged in defense against oppression and transgression.