

Rise of Islam

I. Muhammad 570-632 CE

A. Early life

1. Umayyad clan of the Quraysh tribe, Banu Hashim
2. Orphaned
3. Abu Talib- paternal uncle
 - a. Merchant
 - b. Muhammad- caravan journeys put him in contact with outside world & monotheism
4. Age 25
 - a. Married Khadijah
 - b. 610 1st revelation
 - c. 613 goes public
 - d. Converts-Khadijah & Ali

B. Persecution, Flight & Victory

1. Muhammad the Threat
 - a. Followers grew
 - b. Umayyad rulers viewed development as threat
 - c. Fear- Muhammad will supplant gods of the Ka'ba
 - d. Plot to kill / Muhammad flees
2. Muhammad's Flight to Medina
 - a. Clans on verge of civil war
 - b. Settle disputes
 - c. Umayyad rulers- fear rise of his power
3. Key Events / Growth of Muhammad's Followers
 - a. 624 Battle of Badr
 1. Muslims attack Quraysh caravan
 2. Outnumbered they win
 3. Emerge self confident with more converts
 4. Unites many tribes
 - b. 630 Muhammad's Hajj to Mecca
 1. 10,000 converts
 2. Smash idols
 3. Ka'ba – dedicated to Allah

II. Uniting Arabs

A. From polytheism to monotheism

1. Opportunities
 - a. Distinct indigenous religion
 - b. Supplant clan divisions
 - c. *Umma*- community of the faithful (transcend tribal boundaries)
 - d. Offered ethical system capable of ending social rifts
 - e. Equality
2. Universalistic Elements

- a. Monotheism, legal codes, egalitarianism, & sense of community
- b. 5 pillars
 - 1. Acceptance of Islam
 - 2. Prayer 5 times a day
 - 3. Fast- during month of Ramadan
 - 4. *Zakat* – tithe / charity
 - 5. *Hajj*- pilgrimage to Mecca

B. Consolidation and Division in the Islamic Community

- 1. Death of Muhammad 632
 - a. Did not establish successor
 - b. 632-634 Abu Bakr / Caliph- successor to Muhammad as head of the Islamic community
 - 1. Close friend & early convert
 - 2. Genealogical knowledge / avoid clan conflict
- 2. Ridda Wars
 - a. After Muhammad's death tribes broke away
 - b. Wars unite Arabia- break away prophets destroyed & Islamic unity restored
 - c. Begin raiding campaigns into Byzantine, Persian, & Sassanid empires
- 3. Motives for Arab Conquest
 - a. Common cause
 - b. Released martial spirit & suppressed clan conflict
 - c. Booty & tribute – reinforce conquest not the spread of Islam (converts exempt from taxes)
 - d. By 640s conquered:
 - Iraq
 - Syria
 - Palestine
 - Egypt
 - Naval supremacy in Mediterranean (conquest in North Africa & Europe)

C. The Problem of Succession

A. Sunni-Shi'i Split

- 1. Arab victories suppressed conflicts & divisions
- 2. Murder of Uthman 3rd Caliph – caused struggle for succession
 - a. Murdered by mutinous warriors returning from Egypt
 - b. 1st caliph chosen from Muhammad's enemies the Umayyad clan
- 3. Ali's claims to the Caliphate rejected by the Umayyads
 - a. 656 Battle of Camel- Ali wins and most Arabs shift to his side
 - b. 657 Battle of Siffin
 - 1. Ali- agrees to mediation & loses support of his followers
 - 2. 660 Mu'awiya (Umayyad) proclaimed caliph in Jerusalem directly challenging Ali's rule
 - 3. 1 year later he is assassinated & his son Hasan pressured to denounce claims to Caliphate

B. Division

- 1. Sunnis – backed Umayyads
- 2. Shi'is – supporter of Ali

3. Divisions remain today
 - a. Sunnis
 - orthodox
 - majority of Islamic peoples
 - accept ruler as anyone who grabs power & holds onto it
 - b. Shi'is
 - caliphate belongs to decedents of Muhammad
 - view caliph as religious ruler
 - militant

III. Umayyad Imperium

A. Umayyad / Sunnis emerge as dominate group

1. 7th & 8th Century Conquest
 - a. Central Asia
 - b. Northwest India
 - c. Southwestern Europe
 - d. 732 Poitiers- Franks stopped their advance
2. 9th Century
 - a. Dominate Mediterranean
 - b. Dominate Iberian Peninsula
 - c. Damascus- political capital

B. Converts & “People of the Book.”

1. Umayyad policy didn't prohibit interaction, intermarriage or conversion
2. *Malawi*- Muslim converts:
 - paid taxes
 - did not receive share of booty
 - blocked from important positions in army & bureaucracy
3. *Dhimmi*s- “People of the book” initially Christians & Jews, but latter applied to Zoroastrains & Hindus:
 - paid taxes
 - allowed to retain religion
 - allowed to retain social organization

C. Family & Gender Roles in the Umayyad Age

1. Muhammad's teachings had granted women a great deal of equality & rights
 - a. Muslim society was not initially male dominated
 - b. Bedouin society- work & daily tasks dictated equality
2. Connections to the historical record:
 - a. China, India, Greece
 - b. Moved to political centralization & urbanization was accompanied by a decline in the position of women
 - c. Gender relations altered as Muslim community expanded
 - d. Islamic religion & left women of all classes in better conditions
 - e. Regardless, in cultural areas with decentralized authority & unstratified social organization women retained stronger positions

3. Quran: Moral & Ethical Dimensions of Marriage
 - a. Adultery of both partners denounced
 - b. Female infanticide forbidden
 - c. Women allowed one husband
 - d. Men allowed four wives, but all had to be treated equally
 - e. Women had legal rights in inheritance & divorce
 - f. Both sexes were equal before Allah

IV. Umayyad Decline

A. Expansion & Opulence

1. Umayyads indulge in luxury
 - a. Many Muslims view behavior as retreat from values
 - b. Revolts occur throughout empire
2. Merv
 - a. Frontier town Iran
 - b. Muslims intermarried & developed local loyalties
 - c. Did not receive share of booty
3. Abbasidian Rebellion
 - a. Abbasid clan led rebellion
 - b. Allied with Shi'ite & mawali
 - c. 750 Abu al-Abbas- defeated Umayyads & assassinated their clan leaders

V. From Arab to Islamic Empire: The Early Abbasid Era

1. Fundamental changes in Islamic world
 - a. Increased size of Muslim empire made cohesion difficult
 - b. Abbasid victory caused increased bureaucracy, absolute rule, & luxury
 - c. Championed conversion
 - d. Turned against Shi'i to less tolerant Sunni
 - e. New Capital Baghdad:
 1. Acceptance of Persian ruling concepts
 2. *Wazir*- chief administration official
 3. Increased bureaucracy
 (Persians become real source of power in imperial system)
2. Conversion Under Abbasid: Mawali Experience
 - a. Fully integrated into Muslim community
 - b. Most conversion peacefully
 - c. Benefits:
 1. Exemption from taxes
 2. Advancement
 3. Education
 4. Commerce
3. Commercial Boom & Growth
 - a. Growth of merchant & landlord classes
 - b. Revival of Afro-Eurasian trade networks
 - c. Muslim merchants moved goods from Mediterranean to South China Sea
4. Flowering of Islamic Learning
 - a. Receptive to accomplishments of many civilizations
 - b. Mosque & palace construction

- c. Religion, law, philosophical discourse, science, & mathematics
- d. Greek writings were saved and later passed to Europe
- e. Introduction of Indian numbers (Arabic numerals)

Conclusion: The Measure of Islamic Achievement.

By the ninth century Abbasid power had waned before the rise of regional states and the incursion of non-Muslim peoples. The Turks converted to Islam and became a major component of the Muslim world. The Arabs had created the basis for the first global civilization, incorporating many linguistic and ethnic groups into one culture. They created Islam, one of the great universal religions. Religion and politics had initially been joined, both the Umayyads and Abbasids used religious legitimacy to govern their vast empires. In both religion and politics they absorbed precedents from earlier civilizations. Muslims did the same in arts and sciences, later fashioning their own innovative thinking influenced by other societies in Europe, Africa, and Asia.