The Muslim World, 600-1250

Tolerance of other cultures and a focus on learning help Muslim leaders build an empire that includes parts of Asia, Africa, and Europe.
The Muslim World, 600-1250

SECTION 1  The Rise of Islam
SECTION 2  Islam Expands
SECTION 3  Muslim Culture
Section-1

The Rise of Islam

Muhammad unifies the Arab people both politically and through the religion of Islam.
The Rise of Islam

Deserts, Towns, and Trade Routes

The Arabian Peninsula

- A crossroads of three continents: Africa, Asia, and Europe
- Mostly desert with small amount of fertile land

Desert and Town Life

- Bedouins, Arab nomads, thrive in the desert
- Bedouins live in clans, which give support to members
- Some Arabs settle near oases or market towns
Deserts, Towns, and Trade Routes {continued}

Crossroads of Trade and Ideas

- Many sea and land trade routes pass through Arabia
- Trade extends to the Byzantine and Sassanid empires to the north

Mecca

- Pilgrims come to Mecca to worship at the Ka’aba, an ancient shrine
- Arabs associate shrine with Hebrew prophet Abraham and monotheism
- Some tribes worship many gods and spirits, bring idols to Ka’aba
- Some Arabs believe in one God—Allah in Arabic
The Prophet Muhammad

Early Life

- Around A.D. 570 Muhammad is born into a powerful Meccan clan
- Becomes a trader, marries wealthy businesswoman, Khadijah

Revelations

- By age 40, Muhammad spends much time in prayer and meditation
- He hears angel Gabriel tell him he is a messenger of Allah
- Muhammad founds religion of Islam—“submission to the will of Allah”
- Many join him and become Muslim—“one who has submitted”
The Prophet Muhammad {continued}

The Hijrah

- Muhammad’s followers are attacked; together they leave Mecca in 622
- Hijrah—the Muslim migration from Mecca to Yathrib (renamed Medina)
- Muhammad attracts many more followers, becomes great leader:
  - political leader—joins Jews and Arabs of Medina as a single community
  - religious leader—draws more converts to Islam
  - military leader—tackles growing hostilities between Mecca and Medina
The Prophet Muhammad \( \textit{continued} \)

**Returning to Mecca**

- In 630, Muhammad and 10,000 followers return to Mecca
- Meccan leaders surrender
- Muhammad destroys idols in Ka’aba
- Meccans convert to Islam
- Muhammad unifies Arabian Peninsula
Beliefs and Practices of Islam

Islam

• The main teaching of Islam is that there is only one god, Allah
• People are responsible for their own actions; there is good and evil
• Islamic monument in Jerusalem—Dome of the Rock
• Muslims believe Muhammad rose to heaven here to learn Allah’s will
• Jews believe Abraham was prepared to sacrifice son Isaac at same site
Beliefs and Practices of Islam {continued}

The Five Pillars

- Muslims must carry out five duties—the Five Pillars of Islam
  - statement of faith to Allah and to Muhammad as his prophet
  - pray five times a day, can use a mosque—Islamic house of worship
  - give alms, or money for the poor
  - fast between dawn and sunset during holy month of Ramadan
  - perform the hajj—pilgrimage to Mecca—at least once
Beliefs and Practices of Islam {continued}

A Way of Life

- Customs and traditions guide Muslim’s lives
- Scholar class, ulama, and teachers apply religion to life; no priests

Sources of Authority

- Original source of authority for Muslims is Allah
- Qur’an—holy book, contains revelations Muhammad received from Allah
- Muslims follow Sunna—Muhammad’s example for proper living
- Guidance of Qur’an and Sunna assembled in body of law—shari’a
Beliefs and Practices of Islam \{continued\}

**Links to Judaism and Christianity**

- To Muslims, Allah is same God worshiped by Christians and Jews
- Qur’an, Gospels, Torah—contain God’s will as revealed through others
- Muslims, Christians, and Jews trace their roots to Abraham
- All three religions believe in heaven, hell, and a day of judgement
- Shari’a law requires Muslim leaders to extend religious tolerance
Islam Expands

In spite of internal conflicts, the Muslims create a huge empire that includes land on three continents.
Islam Expands

Muhammad’s Successors Spread Islam

A New Leader

- In 632 Muhammad dies; Muslims elect Abu-Bakr to be first caliph
- Caliph, title for Muslim leader, means “successor” or “deputy”

“Rightly Guided” Caliphs

- First four caliphs guided by the Qur’an and Muhammad’s actions
- Jihad, armed struggle against unbelievers, used to expand Islam
- By 750, Muslim empire stretches from Atlantic Ocean to Indus River
Muhammad’s Successors Spread Islam \textit{continued}

\textbf{Reasons for Success}

- Muslim armies are well disciplined and expertly commanded
- Byzantine and Sassanid empires are weak from previous conflict
- Persecuted citizens of these empires welcome Islam
- Attracted to Islam’s offer of equality and hope

\textbf{Treatment of Conquered Peoples}

- Muslim invaders tolerate other religions
- Christians, Jews receive special consideration as “people of the book”
Internal Conflict Creates a Crisis

Rise of the Umayyads

- Struggles for power end the elective system of choosing a caliph
- Wealthy family, Umayyads, take power; move Muslim capital to Damascus

Sunni—Shi’a Split

- Shi’a—“party” of Ali—believe caliph should be Muhammad’s descendant
- Sunni—followers of Muhammad’s example—support Umayyads
- Sufi followers pursue life of poverty, spirituality; reject Umayyads
- In 750, a rebel group—the Abbasids—topple the Umayyads
World History: Patterns of Interaction

Chapter 10

Abbasids Consolidate Power

- In 762, Abbasids move Muslim capital from Damascus to Baghdad
- Location provides access to trade goods, gold, information
- Abbasids develop strong bureaucracy to manage empire

Control Extends Over Three Continents

Fall of the Umayyads

- Abbasids murder Umayyad family; one prince escapes, Abd al-Rahman
- Flees to Spain; establishes new Umayyad caliphate in al-Andalus
- **al-Andalus**—Muslim state in southern Spain settled by North Africans

Abbasids Consolidate Power

- In 762, Abbasids move Muslim capital from Damascus to Baghdad
- Location provides access to trade goods, gold, information
- Abbasids develop strong bureaucracy to manage empire
Control Extends Over Three Continents \textit{(continued)}

Rival Groups Divide Muslim Lands
\begin{itemize}
\item Independent Muslim states spring up; Shi’a Muslims form new caliphate
\item \textbf{Fatimid} caliphate—claim descent from Fatima, daughter of Muhammad
\item Begins in North Africa; spreads to Red Sea, western Arabia and Syria
\end{itemize}

Muslim Trade Network
\begin{itemize}
\item Muslims trade by land and sea with Asia and Europe
\item Muslim merchants use Arabic, single currency, and checks
\item Córdoba, in al-Andalus, is dazzling center of Muslim culture
\end{itemize}
Muslims combine and preserve the traditions of many peoples and also advance learning in a variety of areas.
Section-3

**Muslim Culture**

**Muslim Society**

The Rise of Muslim Cities

- Leading cities include Damascus, Baghdad, Córdoba, Cairo, Jerusalem
- Baghdad, impressive Abbasid capital; population around one million

Four Social Classes

- Muslim society: Muslims at birth, converts, protected people, slaves
- “Protected people” were Jews, Christians, Zoroastrians

Role of Women

- Women enjoy some rights but expected to submit to men
- Women’s responsibilities vary with husbands’ income
Muslim Scholarship Extends Knowledge

Muslims Support Learning

- Muslims use scientific knowledge to help fulfill religious duties
- Muhammad valued power of learning, study, scholarship
- Muslim scholars preserve and translate scientific, philosophical texts
- **House of Wisdom**—Bagdad institute: library, academy, translation center
Art and Sciences Flourish

Muslim Literature

• Qu’ran is standard for Arabic literature; praise for Muhammad, Islam
• Abbasid caliphate poets write of nature, life, and love
• Popular literature includes The Thousand and One Nights

Muslim Art and Architecture

• Islam discourages images of living things, artists turn to calligraphy
• Calligraphy—art of beautiful handwriting
• Architecture of Muslim mosques is blend of many cultures
Art and Sciences Flourish \textit{(continued)}

\textbf{Medical Advances}

- Persian al-Razi is greatest physician, from 500 to 1500
- Al-Razi writes encyclopedia of medical knowledge

\textbf{Math and Science Stretch Horizons}

- Muslim scientists solve problems through experimentation
- Al-Khwarizmi develops algebra and writes textbook
- Mathematician Ibn al-Haytham changes ideas about vision
Philosophy and Religion Blend Views

Scholars Promote New Ideas

• Ibn Rushd is criticized for blending Greek philosophy with Islam
• Jewish philosopher Maimonides faces opposition for his ideas
• Blends philosophy, religion, science in The Guide for the Perplexed

The “Ideal Man”

• Muslims recognize values of many cultures; enjoy a blended culture
• Emerging Ottoman, Safavid, Mughal empires reflect Muslim culture
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