



Islam

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The Middle East in AD 600

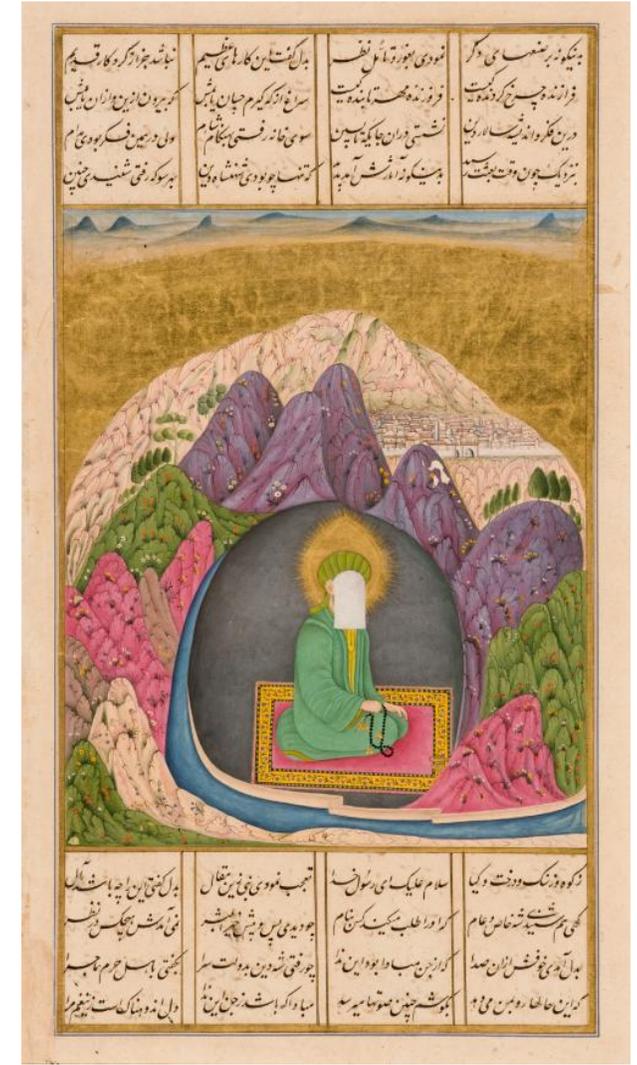
- In Arabia, Bedouin tribes and their livestock moved from pastureland to pastureland as they had done since the days of Abraham and Ishmael.
- In accordance with tradition, they raided, looted, burned, and murdered each other.
- Townsmen, who lived in settlements built near the rare oases in the desert, made a living from making and trading goods and services.
- Traditional Arab pagans worshipped many gods, of whom Allah was only one.
- Mecca was a site of pilgrimage, and the Kaaba in Mecca housed the holy black stone. Christianity, Judaism, and paganism shaped the thinking of men.



Bedouin
Camp

The Life of Mohammad (1)

- Mohammad had a practice of retiring to caves for prayer, and in 610, he reported receiving a revelation from God through the angel Gabriel.
- He began preaching his revelations, especially that God is One and that people must submit to Him. He slowly gathered followers, of whom Khadija was first.
- As the number of Muslims grew, persecution arose from Mohammad's relatives in Mecca.
- Part of Mohammad's message was social equality, which appealed to the lower classes of society
- In what is known as the Hijrah (622), he fled with his followers to Medina (*Yathrib*).
- Mohammad proved able to quell disputes between the Medinan Arabs, Jews, and Christians, becoming the leader of Medina.



The Life of Mohammad (2)

- Mohammad began raiding caravans from Mecca, 270 miles south, that were headed for the Levant.
- He and his followers became wealthy, which they took as a sign of Allah's blessing.
- The Qureshi of Mecca sent a force against him but were defeated at the Battle of Badr (624).
- Mohammad claimed to be Allah's final prophet, and his monetary and military success seemed to confirm his claim.
- Since Medina was on the main northern trade route out of Mecca, Mohammad could strangle the economy of his enemies, and he did. The sides traded military victories, but the Qureshi grew weaker.
- In 630, Mohammad marched his army into Mecca. He died two years later (632). Mohammad left behind what Muslims believe were revelations from Allah which they later assembled into the Muslim holy book, the Quran.
- Later, stories of Mohammad's sayings were compiled into other respected sources of Islamic truth called the Hadiths (Sahih al Bukhari, Sahih al Islam).



Arab
Bedouin
Caravan

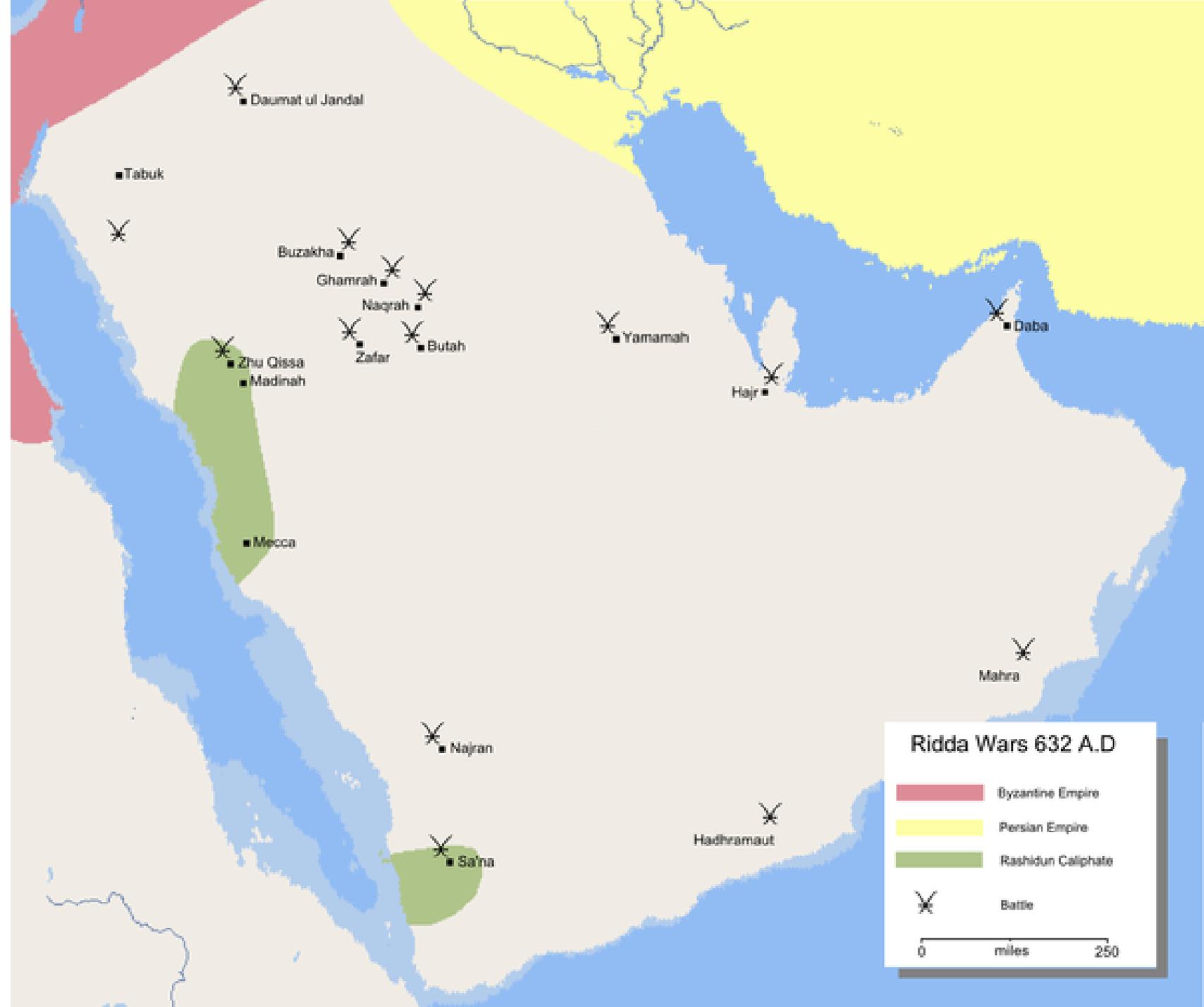
Islamic History (1) – Astounding Victory

- Mohammad's successors united the Arabian Peninsula under Islam in the Riddah Wars (632-633).
- The Rashidun (“Rightly Guided Caliphs”) Caliphate
 - Abu Bakr (573-634)
 - Umar (584-644)
 - Uthman (573-656)
 - Ali (600-661) - nephew of Mohammad
- Four years after Mohammad's death (636), the Muslims inflicted major defeats on the Byzantines (Yarmuk) and Persians (Qadisiya). This gave Muslims control over most of the Middle East.
- Muslims conquered Egypt (641) and the Persian Empire (654). Over the decades, both became majority Muslim.

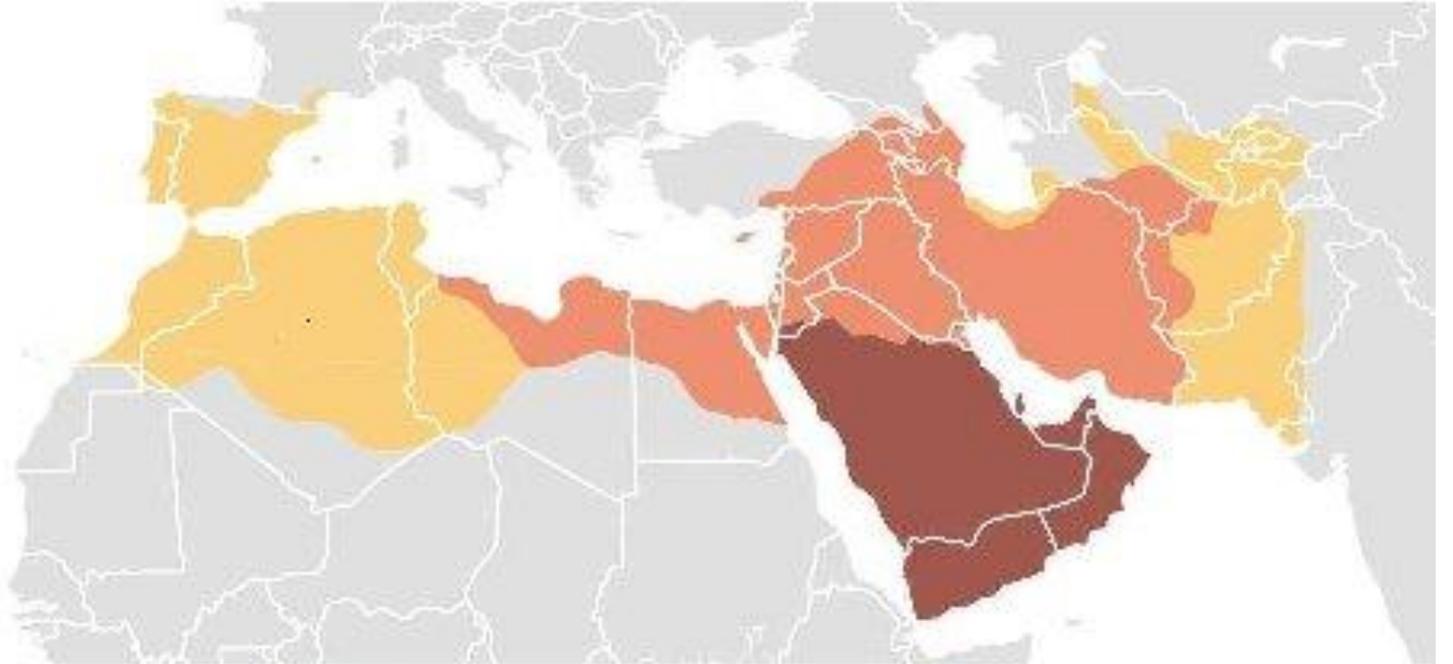
Islamic History (2)

- Umayyad Caliphate (661-750)
 - The rest of north Africa fell
 - Muslim armies including Arabs, Persians, Berbers, and others captured Spain (Guadalete 711).
 - The Anatolian peninsula resisted Islamic expansion for centuries, but Muslim armies besieged Constantinople several times.
 - Islam had conquered most of the territory which was once Christian
 - Only the Frankish victory at Tours (732) protected Western Europe from Muslim domination.

Riddah Wars: consolidating the Arabs under Islam



Early Conquests



-  Before the Caliphate
-  First Four Caliphs
-  Umayyad Caliphate

Islamic History (3) – the Dar al Harb

- Abbasid Caliphate (750-1517)
 - The high point of Arab Muslim history is considered to be during the reign of Harun Al Rashid (763-809).
 - He was a contemporary of the Frankish Emperor Charlemagne (748-814)
 - The Byzantines lost most of their inland provinces in Anatolia after the Battle of Manzikert (1070).
 - In the east, Muslim armies with Arabs, Persians, and Mongols conquered most of central Asia and modern-day India (12th-13th century).

ISLAMIC CONQUEST BETWEEN 7th AND 9th CENTURY



- under Muhammad 622 - 632
- under Abu Bakr until 634
- under Ali (Rashidun Caliphate) until 661
- Umayyad Caliphate until 750
- Abbasid Caliphate c. 800
- Cyprus ran jointly with the Byzantines 688 - 693
- New city
- ✕ New city
- borders of the Byzantine Empire c. 800
- borders of the Sassanid Empire c. 600

Islamic History (4) – Apogee of the Dar al Islam

- Arab traders spread Islam to Southeast Asia and Indonesia.
- The Christian Crusades pushed the Muslim Seljuk Turk armies back for two centuries (1096-1290)
- Mamluks push back Mongols at Ain Jalut (1260)
- Mongols conquered Damascus (1401), devastating the Muslim Mameluke Caliphate.
- Mongols crushed Ottomans in the Battle of Ankara (1402)
- Ottomans defeat Christian Europeans at Kosovo (1389), Nicopolis (1396), and Varna (1444).
- Ottoman Turks conquered Constantinople (1453) and the European Balkans (Belgrade 1521, Mohacs 1526).
- Muslim Mughals conquer India (1526)



Fall of
Constantinople

Islamic History (5) – 1000 years later, the tide turns

- Muslim Ottomans twice besieged Vienna, but were driven back (1529, 1683).
- Ottomans lost the siege of Malta (1565) and a pivotal naval battle at Lepanto (1571).
- Muslims of the Crimean Khanate lost to Russia (Molodi 1572, Chigirin 1677, Cahul 1770)
- Beginning in the 18th century, Western Christians began to decisively turn back the Islamic tide.
 - Britain in India (Anglo-Mughal War 1686-1690)
 - Napoleon in the Middle East (1798-1801)
 - World War 1 (1914-1918)

The Pillars of Islam



- *Shahada* – Muslims must say, “There is no God but Allah and Mohammad is his prophet.”
- *Salah* – Muslims must pray five times per day. Fajr is the dawn prayer, Zuhr is the noon prayer, Asr is the afternoon prayer, Maghrib is the sunset prayer, and Isha is the night prayer.
- *Zakat* – Muslims must pay taxes, which are traditionally considered alms to help the poor. Zakat is a wealth tax, targeting 2.5% of an individual’s total wealth annually.
- *Sawm* – Muslims must fast during the daylight hours during the month of Ramadan. Muslims consume a meal before Fajr and may eat again after the Maghrib prayer.
- *Hajj* – At least once in a Muslim’s lifetime, he or she must make a pilgrimage to Mecca, in the first 5 days of Dhul-Hijah, the 12th month of the Islamic calendar

Branches of Islam

- Sunni (85%) – Arabia, India, Indonesia, Africa, most of Muslim world. Leadership of the Umma is not a birthright.
 - Only Sunni (not Shia) imams have the authority to teach the Quran
- Shia (12%) – Iran, large minorities in Iraq and Syria
 - Imam is sinless by nature and his authority is infallible. The caliph must come from Mohammad's descendants.
 - Caliph Ali assassinated (661)
 - Mohammad's grandson Husayn was killed at Battle of Karbala (680). With Husayn, Mohammad's direct line was ended.
- Sufi (<1%) – mystics
- Nation of Islam and others (2%)

The Great Mosque of Kufa, where 4th Rashidun Caliph Ali was assassinated in 661 during morning prayers



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Islamic Beliefs (1)



- Creation – Allah created the universe ex nihilo
- Five types of revelation in the Quran
 - Inanimate objects
 - Animals lower than man
 - Direction to humans
 - Direction to prophets
 - Direction to angels
- Three periods of revelation
 - Meccan (611-615)
 - Meccan 2 (616-622)
 - Medinan (623-632)

Islamic Beliefs (2)

- God – strict monotheism, with Allah as the only God. There are no lesser deities. Allah is omnipotent, omnipresent, eternal, and merciful.
 - Four of Allah's 99 names - Lord (Rabb), Beneficent (Rahnam), Merciful (Rahim), Master (Malik)
- Man
 - Humans are not made in the image of God.
 - Composed of a body and a soul.
 - Worship means to follow Allah's commandments in every circumstance.
- Sin
 - People are sinless until they rebel against Allah. No original sin.
 - Idolatry is the worst of all sins. Man can choose to sin or not.
 - People atone for their sins by keeping the 5 pillars of Islam and through good works.

العَلِيُّ

Al-Āliyyu

The High

الشَّكُورُ

As-Shakoor

The Greatful

الْغَفُورُ

Al-Ghafoor

The Ever
Forgiving

الْحَفِيزُ

Al-Hafeez

The Guardian

الْكَبِيرُ

Al-Kabeer

The Most Great

Islamic Beliefs (3)

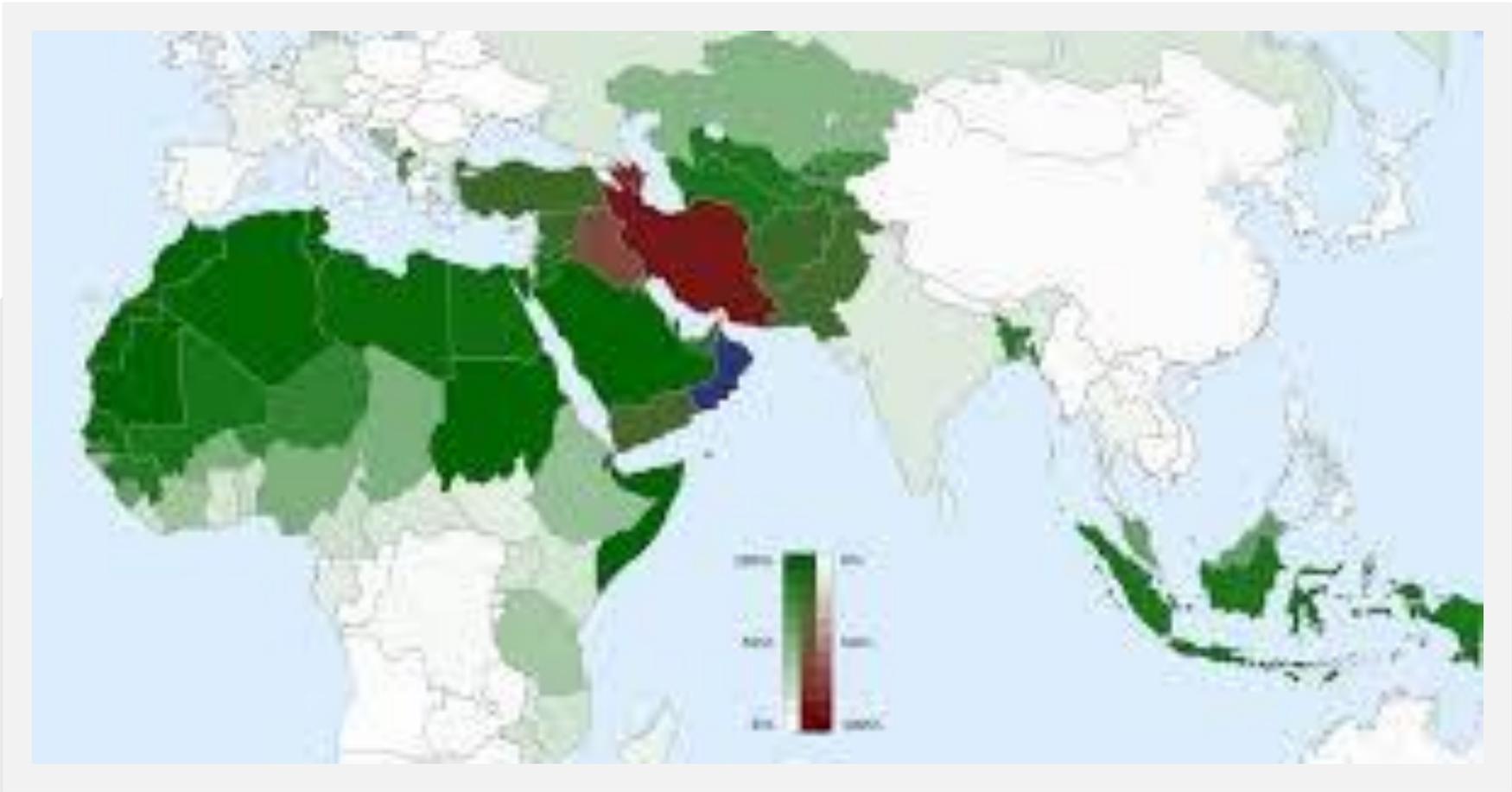
- The Quran includes the actual words of Allah.
- Afterlife
 - At the moment of death, the angel of death possesses a person's soul. The angel travels through the realm of Isthmus, and then brings the soul to angels Munkar and Nakir, who interrogate the person about his life and knowledge of Islam.
 - Muslims may make it to heaven if Allah allows based on their works. For example, martyrs killed in jihad (holy war) immediately go to heaven. Everyone else goes to eternal hell (*Jahannam*).
 - In the garden of heaven, all needs are met. Men get 72 houris (virgins) to grant their every desire.

Comparing Muslim and Hindu Afterlife



Islamic Distinctive Beliefs (1)

- Theophanies
 - The Distant One – Allah is merciful but not benevolent and not intimate
 - The Cold Judge – At death, a Muslim has no certainty of his destiny. Allah decides.
 - The Hater – Islam conquers the physical world and sets up Islamic governments.
- Jihad – Holy war, both against one's badness and also physical enemies



Sunni-Shia

Islam Distinctive Beliefs (2) - Sunni

- Hadith
 - Oral accounts of Mohammad's beliefs and practices.
 - Part of the Sharia but not holy like the Quran (Sahih al Bukhari and Sahih al Islam)
- Nabuwwhat – Allah has sent prophets starting with Hazrat Adam and extending through Mohammad. Prophet (nabi) and apostle (rasul)
- Al Ummah – all believers in Islam
- Qiyamat – Doomsday
- Kiraman Katibin – angels who record human behavior

Islam Distinctive Beliefs (2) – Shia

- Allah created 7 races of intelligent beings before humans
- Present day Shia imams can interpret the Quran since they are holy, sinless, authoritative, and infallible.
- Creation – God placed a seed in moist soil and Adam grew.
- Salvation – Allah is obligated to provide grace to His human creatures.
- Afterlife – the soul of the dead enter an intermediate stage where they are pleasant or miserable until final judgment.
- End times – The 12th and last Imam, Muhammad al Mahdi (born 868) was taken to Ghaibah by Allah. He will return with Jesus Christ.

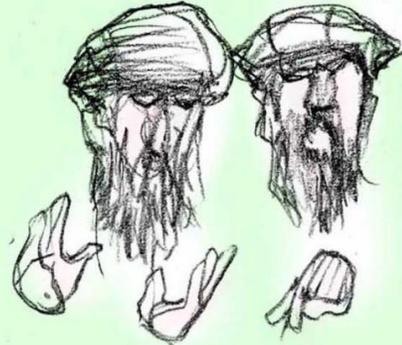
Battle of Karbala



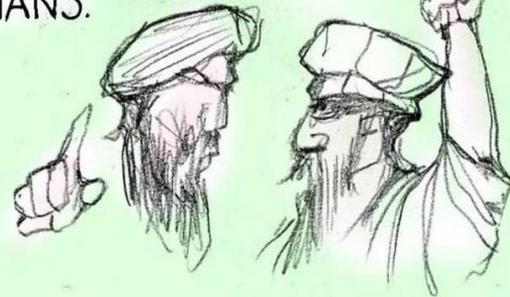
IN THE MIDEAST TODAY
WE HAVE THE SUNNIS
WHO HATE THE SHITES.



AND THE TURKS
WHO HATE THE KURDS.



AND THE SAUDIS
WHO HATE THE
IRANIANS.

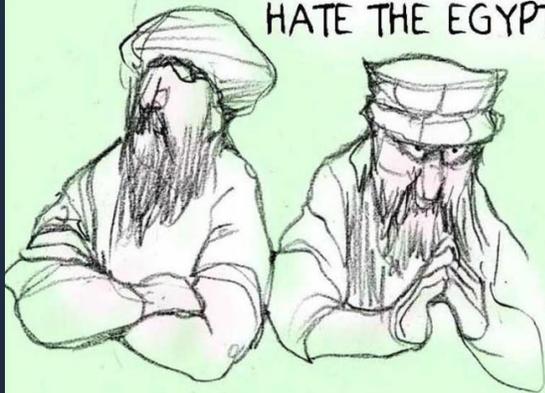


AND THE PALESTINIANS
WHO HATE THE ISRAELIS.

AND THE YEMENIS
WHO HATE THE
SAUDIS.

AND THE IRAQIS WHO
HATE THE IRANIANS.

AND THE LIBYANS WHO
HATE THE EGYPTIANS.



SO... THE CAUSE OF
TENSION IN THE
MIDEAST IS CLEAR!



COULD NOT
BE CLEARER!

FAILURE OF
AMERICAN
LEADERSHIP!

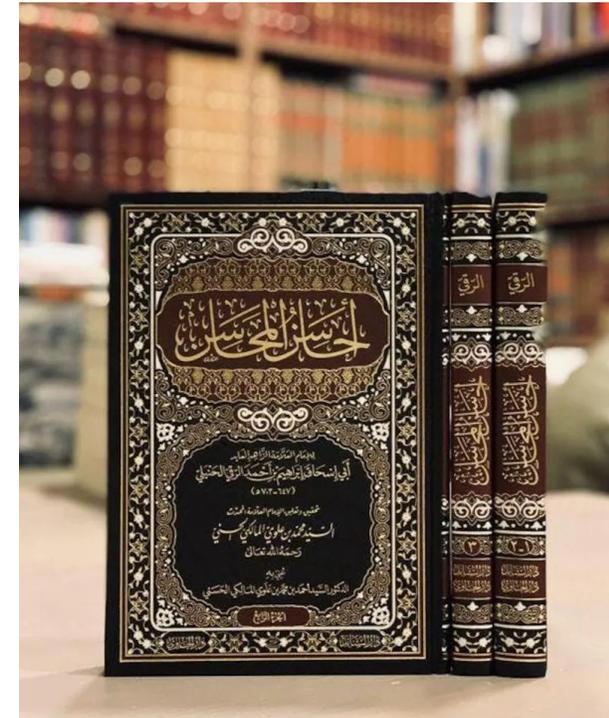
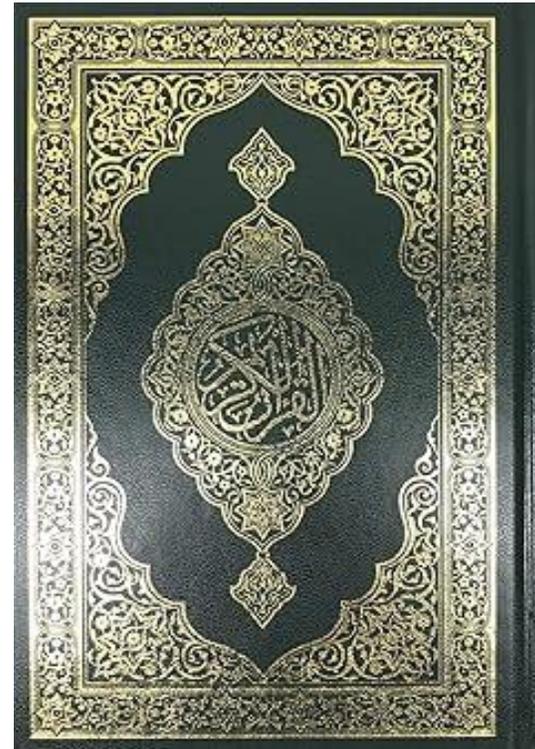
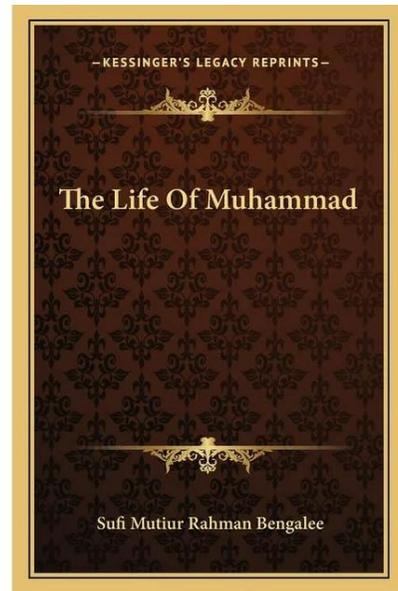
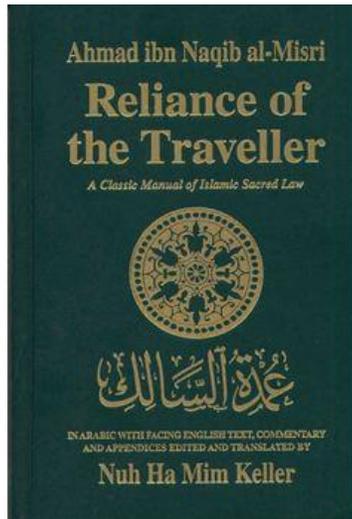
LUNCH!



Islam and the State

- The community of Muslims is called the Umma. Ideally, the Umma elects its own supreme leader, known as the Caliph (or in Turkish use, the Sultan).
- The Caliph is the military and religious leader, thus the umma have unified secular and religious governance. All sources of temporal power belong to him, and in Muslim thought, religious power also rests on him.
- In a Muslim-controlled society, there is no “separation of church and state.”
- The earliest Caliphs (Leaders) after Mohammad have been labeled the Rashidun or “rightly guided” caliphs. They are Abu Bakr (AD 573-634), Umar (AD 582-644) Uthman (AD 573-656), Ali (AD 600 – 661).
- Sunni and Shia Muslims differ on their approach to the Caliphate.

Sharia Sources



Dhimmi (1)

- People who are not Muslim in societies controlled by Muslims are called Dhimmi (protected persons).
- Dhimmi are required to pay jizya (tax). Muslim apologists contend that jizya was and is only required from adult, free males and exempts women, children, elders, the handicapped, the ill, the insane, monks, hermits, and slaves.
- Dhimmi do not pay zakat, so the argument goes that jizya is a fee for the protection that the local ruler provides to non-Muslims. It is also material proof of the non-Muslims' subservience to the Muslim state.



Dhimmi (2)

- Distinguished from Muslims in dress, wearing a wide cloth belt.
- Must keep to the side of the street.
- Must not build higher than or as high as Muslim buildings.
- Are forbidden to openly display wine or pork, to ring church bells, display crosses, recite the Torah or Evangel aloud, or make a public display of funerals or feastsdays.
- Are not greeted with “as-Salamu alaykum.”



Dhimmi
slave girls

Jihad

- Jihad includes the greater jihad (striving against sin) and lesser jihad (holy war).
- When combined with *quitab* (as it often is in the Quran, it means war).
- When people say that Islam is a religion of peace, the truth is that the Quran promises peace to Muslims (dar al Islam – house of Islam), not to infidels (dar al harb, house of War).
- The historical Islamic understanding is that Islam brings peace to the world only when all the world is controlled by Islam.
- Islam is a political system more than it is a religion.



JIHAD

[ji-hahd]

“to war against
non-Muslims”

Islam Today

- Islamic armies are no longer able to trample non-Muslim states.
- Muslim scholars are trying to interpret old texts in non-traditional, and less militant, ways. But the texts still say what they say. Softening violent teachings is hard and temporary, as the next generation may reverse what the prior generation did.
- As evidenced by the current war between Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis and Israel, the historical militancy of Islam is alive and well.



Conclusion

- Discussion



References

- H. Wayne House, Charts of World Religions, Zondervan, 2006