Chapter 10
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.

Section 1: The Rise of Islam

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

Section 1: 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

Continued Deserts, Towns, and Trade Routes

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

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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”

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Continued The Prophet Muhammad

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

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Continued The Prophet Muhammad

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

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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

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Continued Beliefs and Practices of Islam

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

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Continued Beliefs and Practices of Islam

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

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Continued Beliefs and Practices of Islam

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

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Section 2: Islam Expands
In spite of internal conflicts, the Muslims create a huge empire that includes land on three continents.

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Section 2: 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
- Muslims control all of Arabia, armies conquer Syria, lower Egypt
- By 750, Muslim empire stretches from Atlantic Ocean to Indus River

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Continued Muhammad's Successors Spread Islam

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

Treatment of Conquered Peoples
- Muslim invaders tolerate other religions
- Christians, Jews receive special consideration as “people of the book”

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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
Control Extends Over Three Continents

Fall of the Umayyads
• Abbassids 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

Continued Control Extends Over Three Continents

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

Muslim Trade Network
• Muslims trade by land and sea with Asia and Europe
• Muslim merchants use Arabic, single currency, and checks
• Córdoba, in al-Andalus, is dazzling center of Muslim culture

Section 3: Muslim Culture

Muslims combine and preserve the traditions of many peoples and also advance learning in a variety of areas.

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

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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

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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

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Continued Art and Sciences Flourish

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

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

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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