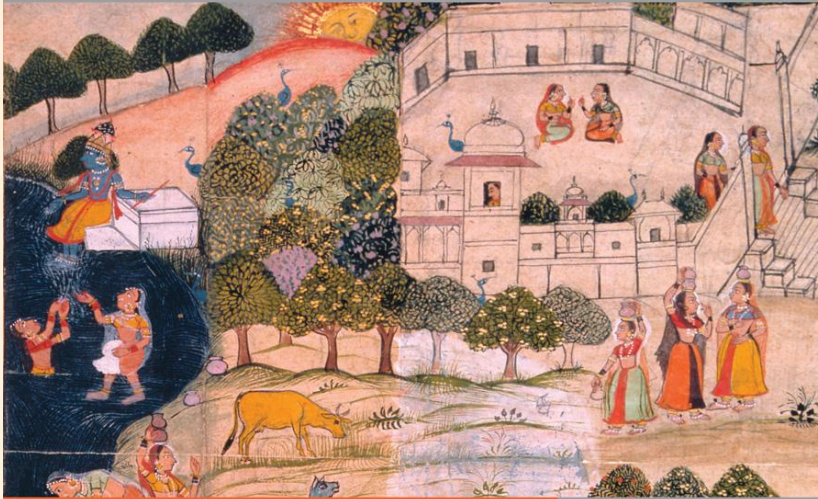


PHILIP J. ADLER / RANDALL L. POWELS

# WORLD CIVILIZATIONS



Seventh Edition

## Chapter 15 Islam

<b>c. 570–632</b>	Life of Muhammad
<b>640s</b>	Conquest of Persian Empire and Egypt completed
<b>661–750</b>	Umayyad Dynasty at Damascus
<b>711–733</b>	Conquest of Spain
<b>732</b>	Charles Martel and the Franks defeat Muslims at Tours
<b>750–1258</b>	Abbasid Dynasty at Baghdad



# Life of Muhammad, the Prophet

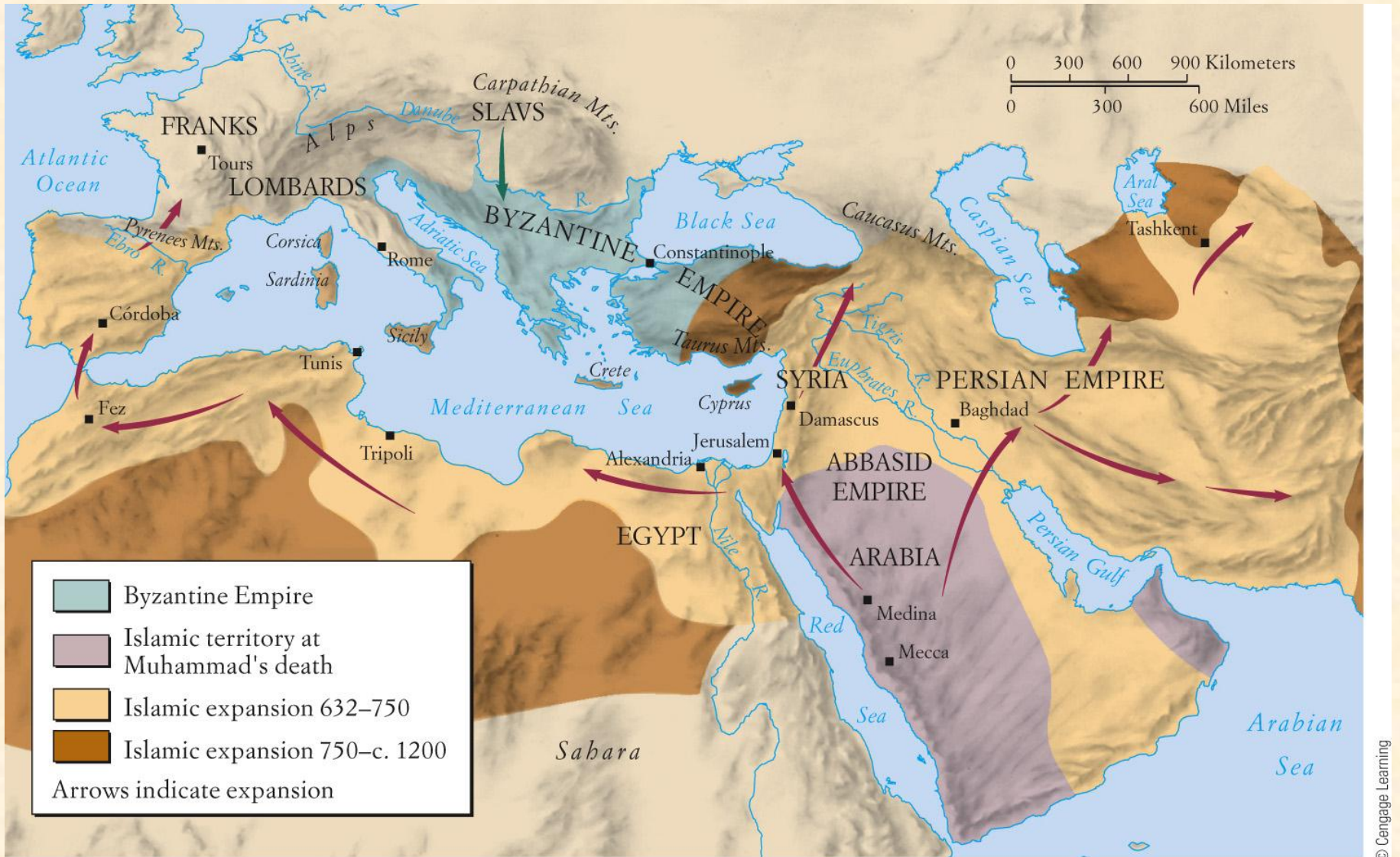
- Mecca
  - Important trade center
  - Inhabited by several tribes or clans
    - Quraysh – most important (tribe of Muhammad)
- Background of Muhammad
  - Born about 570 CE
  - Orphaned by age 6
  - Raised by uncle
  - Married Khadija
- Muhammad began having mystical experiences by 610
  - Visits from Archangel Gabriel
  - About single god, Allah, and coming Day of Judgment
  - First three years converted only relatives and close friends

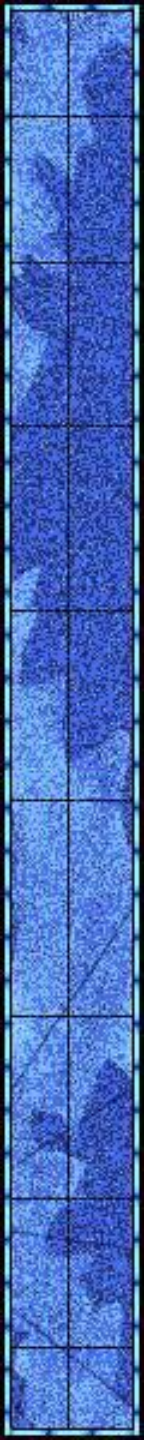




# Muhammad

- Began preaching about visions
  - Local worship based on nature deities, cult objects like the Kaba
  - Wife, uncle died in 620 CE
  - Forced to leave Mecca – Hijra (622)
  - First year of the Muslim calendar
  - Fled to Medina, made governor
  - Conflicts with Mecca
  - Gained support of Bedouins
  - Returns victorious to Mecca in 630
- Western Arabia under Islamic control by 632





# Patterns of Belief in Islamic Doctrine

- “Islam” means “submission to God (Allah)”
- Qur’an – most sacred scriptures
- Five Pillars of Islam
  - Belief in one God and Prophethood of Muhammad
  - Ritual prayer five times a day
  - Fasting during month of Ramadan
  - Alms to the poor
  - Pilgrimage to Mecca
- Attraction of Islam
  - Straightforward doctrine of salvation
  - Believers rewarded in the life to come; Unbelievers went to fiery Hell
  - Elevated but attainable moral and ethical code
  - Continuation of revelation given to Jews and Christians





# Arabia in Muhammad's Day

- Continual Bedouin tribal wars
- Local animist religion coexisted with Judaism, Christianity, Zoroastrianism
- Presence of Judaism, Christianity and Zoroastrianism on the coast
- Worship at Ka'ba (Ramadan) linked to growing importance of trade



# Reformist Religious Message: Status of Women

- Condition of women in pre-Islamic Arabia
  - No legal or economic rights
  - No limit on number of wives a man could have
- Muhammad's reforms
  - Number of wives limited to four
  - Given rights over inheritance, dowries
  - Legal rights not equal but greater than elsewhere in Europe and Asia
  - Men responsible for women's protection





Ullstein - Archiv Gerstenberg/Ullstein Bild/Glow Images

# The Jihad

- War for establishment of God's law on earth
- Term means "to strive"
- Qur'an on *jihad*
  - "Fight in the Cause of God against those who fight against you, but begin not hostilities. Surely God loves not the aggressors"
  - "Do not account those who are slain in the cause of God dead. Indeed they are living in the presence of their Lord"
- Motivations for *jihad* after Muhammad
  - Bedouins were warlike people
  - Economic crisis due to overpopulation – people willing to risk lives for better future
  - Exhaustion and division of Persian and Byzantine Empires
  - Christian sects persecuted by Byzantines in Egypt, Syria and N. Africa not willing to defend Empire
- As result, all of Persia, most of Byzantine territory in Asia fell under Muslim control





Mecca, Saudi Arabia/Bildarchiv Steffens/The Bridgeman Art Library



# The Caliphate

- Muhammad seen as direct link to God
  - His community (Umma) acted under command of God
  - No division between religious and secular affairs
  - His sudden death caused crisis of leadership
- First Period 632-661
  - Division between those who believed Ali (Muhammad's son-in-law) had been appointed head of the community, and those who believed giving the position to the best qualified.
  - Committee chose Abu Bakr as first caliph
  - Wars waged to reunite Islamic community
  - Successor Umar real founder of early Muslim Empire
  - Persia, Byzantine, N. Africa invaded
  - Arab Islamic theocracy
  - Arabs restricted to garrison cities, receive pensions from booty
  - Non-muslims subject to *jizya* (poll tax)

# Umayyad Dynasty 661-750

- Third Caliph Umar
  - Compiles Qur'an
  - Appoints relatives (Umayyads) to key posts
- Ali becomes fourth Caliph
  - Assassinated
- Governor of Syria, Muawiya seizes Caliphate
- Changed from election of caliph to dynastic succession
- Shi'ites
  - Significant minority within Islam
  - Supporters of Muhammad's son-in-law, Ali
  - Believed only lineal descendants of the Prophet should be caliph
- Kharijites believed only Muslim free from all sin was fit to lead
- Sunni
  - By far largest majority of Muslims
  - Agreed to legitimacy of caliph dynasties



# Umayyad Dynasty

- Minorities were always counterweight to Sunni policies
- Muawiya was skillful organizer, statesman
  - Moved capital to Damascus
  - Made office of caliph more powerful
  - Forced tribal leaders to accept his son as successor
- Umayyads continued to expand to east and west
- Expansion of Empire to western China, Afghanistan, Spain
- Converts must become muwalis or clients to Arab tribes
  - Second-class status
- 749 CE – Umayyads overthrown



# Abbasid Dynasty 750-1258

- Caliphs who claimed descent from, Abbas, uncle of Muhammad
- Moved capital Baghdad
- Opened faith to all comers on essentially equal basis
- Incorporated foreign models of government
- Non-Arab converts made Islam into cosmopolitan, multi-ethnic religion and civilization
- Empire was too big and diverse to survive
  - Spain, Egypt, Afghanistan become independent
- Gradual but severe decline
- Muslim faith was strong enough to survive as religion and culture



# Conversion to Islam

- Islam did not force conversions
- No effort made to convert peasants or urban masses
- Dhimmis, or “Peoples of the Book”
  - Jews, Christians, Zoroastrians
  - Considered special because they believed in one god
  - Not taxed as severely
  - Had legal, business rights
  - Could worship as they pleased
  - Elected own community leaders
  - Own courts of law



# Everyday Affairs

- At first, Muslims were minority outside of Arabia
- Dhimmi merchants, artists able to live and work without disturbance
- Only Muslims could hold high office, but dhimmis could hold lesser positions
- Definite social pyramid
  - Umayyads: Bedouin descendants, mawali converts
  - Abbasids: Muslims, dhimmis, other non-Muslim freemen, slaves
  - Each class had own rights and duties
  - Little friction, but non-Muslims were second-class citizens: subject to heavier taxes