

Chapter 10 Notes: The Muslim World

Rise of Islam

- Location: The Middle East or Southwest Asia
- Crossroads of three continents: Africa, Asia, and Europe
- Center for trade and cultural diffusion on the Silk Roads

The Prophet Muhammad

- The revelations of Muhammad form the basis of Islam
 1. Convinced that Muhammad is last and greatest of the prophets
 2. Taught Allah was the one & only God: all others must be abandoned (monotheistic faith)
- Islam means submission to the will of Allah
- Muslim means one who has submitted
- Muhammad and his followers spread Islam

Mecca & Medina on the Arabian Peninsula: early Muslim cities

Beliefs, traditions, and customs of Islam developed over centuries and created a distinctive Muslim culture.

1. Monotheism: Allah (Arabic word for God)
2. Qur'an (Koran): The word of God (Holy Book)
3. Acceptance of Judeo-Christian prophets, including Moses and Jesus
4. Five Pillars of Islam (demonstrate Muslims' submission to the will of Allah)
 1. Confession of faith
 2. Prayer five times a day
 3. Charity to the needy
 4. Fasting during the month long holiday Ramadan
 5. Pilgrimage to Mecca at least once during one's life

Islamic Way of Life

- Muslims do not separate personal or political life from religious life
- Forbidden to eat pork or drink alcohol
- No priests or central religious authority: worship God directly

Links to Judaism & Christianity

1. To Muslims, Allah is same God that is worshipped by Christians and Jews
2. Muslims view Jesus as a prophet, not the son of God

3. Believe in heaven, hell, and a day of judgment
4. Trace ancestry to Abraham, as do Jews & Christians
5. Religious tolerance to Christians and Jews: “people of the book”

Spread of Islam

- In the 1st three centuries after Muhammad’s death, Muslim rule expanded rapidly, facilitated by weakened Byzantine and Persian Empires.
- The religion spread across Africa, Asia, into Spain by warfare

Geographic Influences on Development of Islam

- Geography influenced rapid expansion of territory under Muslim rule
 1. Diffusion along trade routes from Mecca & Medina
 2. Expansion despite geographic barriers: great distances, desert environments and mountains
 3. Spread into Fertile Crescent, Iran, & Central Asia
- Arabic language spread with Islam and facilitated trade across Muslim lands (Arabic language united Muslim world)
- Muslim empire spread from the Arabian Peninsula to North Africa into Europe
- Political unity of the 1st Muslim Empire was short-lived

Sunni-Shi’a Division

- Caused by the death of Ali (Son-in-law of Muhammad)
- Disagreement over who should succeed Muhammad as leader of the faith
 1. Shi’a
 1. Minority
 2. Felt caliph needed to be a relative of the prophet
 2. Sunni: Felt caliph was qualified if was faithful

Historical Turning Points

- Muslims conquered Jerusalem and Damascus
- Islamic capital moved to Baghdad
 1. Became capital during “Golden Age”: Key trade routes
 2. Population reached around one million
- Muslims defeated at the Battle of Tours
 1. Tours is in France (Charles *The Hammer* Martel)
 2. Retreated back to southern Spain
- Fall of Baghdad to the Mongols

Muslim Achievements

- Early Islamic Civilization was characterized by achievements in science and the arts that transformed the Islamic world and contributed to civilization
- Islamic Civilization preserved & extended Greek, Persian, and Indian learning
- Four Social Classes
 1. Upper Class: Muslims at birth
 2. Second Class: Converts
 3. Third Class: “protected people”: Jews, Christians
 4. Fourth Class: Slaves: Slavery not based on race

Cultural Contributions and Achievements

Architecture:

1. Dome of the Rock
 1. Earliest surviving Islamic Monument
 2. Located on site where it is believed Muhammad ascended to Heaven

Art:

1. Forbade the depiction of living beings: believe only Allah can create life
2. Calligraphy: art of beautiful handwriting
- Mosaics: art of creating images with small pieces of colored glass (religious buildings)
- Arabic alphabet

Universities:

- Translation of ancient texts into Arabic:
House of Wisdom: Translation Center
- Mathematicians & astronomers
calculated time for prayer & direction Mecca

Scientific contributions and achievements

- Arabic numerals (adapted from India, including zero)
- Algebra (al-jabr)
- Medicine: al-Razi: cleaner air & recommended location for 1st hospital
- Conducted experiments rather than depending on logic: different from Greeks