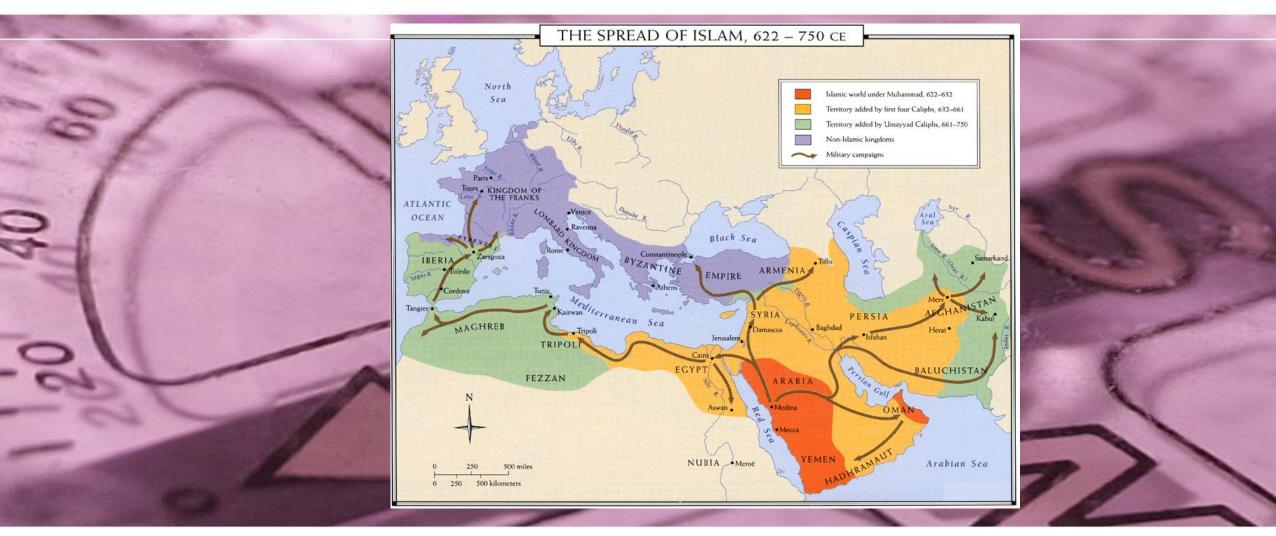
# MUSLIM WORLD 600-1200 CE (Rise and Spread of Islam)



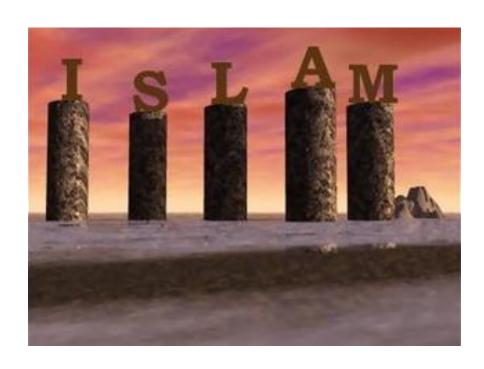
#### 1. Religious Beginnings



#### A. Muhammad (570-632)

- Early life: trader, businessman
- -Roots in **Bedouin** culture
- Age 40: meditates outside city of Mecca, hears voice of angel Gabriel
- -Convinced:
  - He is last of the prophets
  - Allah = one and only god

## 2. Basic Beliefs and Practices



A. Monotheistic

 Five Pillars of Islam (duties all Muslims have to perform)

Faith: in Allah and believe
 Muhammad is the one true prophet

 Prayer: towards the direction of Mecca five times a day Alms: responsibility to support those less fortunate

Fasting: during the holy month of Ramadan, do not eat between sunup and sunset

Pilgrimage: if physically and financially able, perform the Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca)

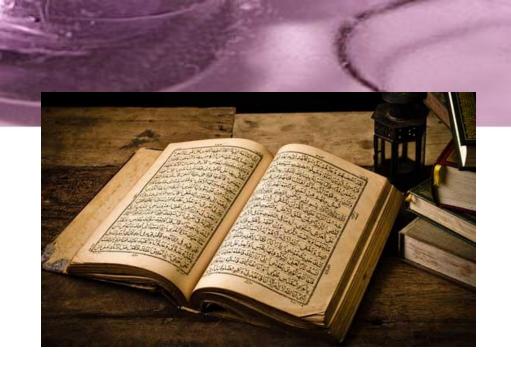




#### B. Other beliefs/practices

–Qur'an (or Koran): holy book, Arabic version is considered only true version, originally written by Muhammad's wives

-Hadiths: traditions and sayings of Muhammad

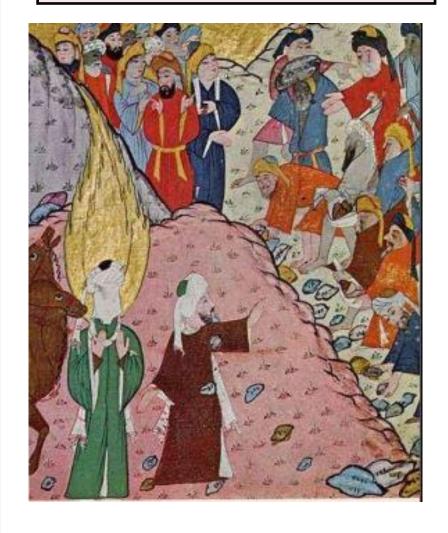


"Kindness is a mark of faith, and whoever is not kind has no faith."

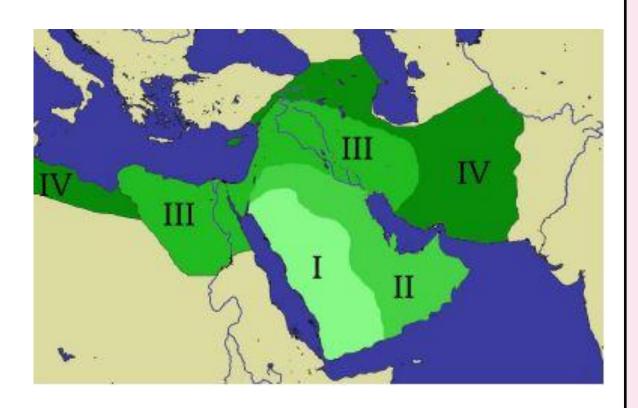
Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) (Muslim)

- After death of Muhammad (632) Muslim community expands beyond Arabia
  - Early caliphs (successors) face problems:
    - People abandoning Islam, refusing to pay taxes, false prophets
    - Caliphs call for *jihad* (inner struggle against evil or armed struggle to defend yourself against unbelievers)
    - Used as justification for territorial expansion

#### 3. Muslim Empire



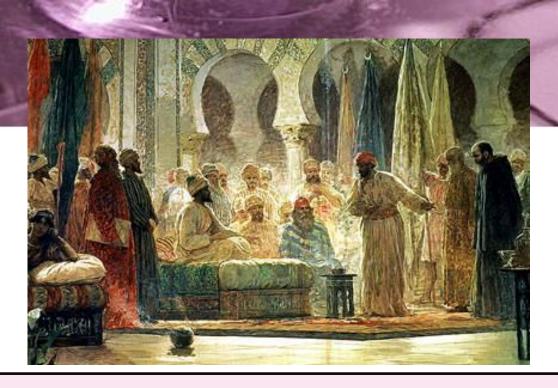
## 4. Imperial Expansion



- A. Why so successful so quickly?
  - Armies well disciplined, expert commanders, united by faith
  - Byzantine and Sassanid
    Empires in north weak from fighting each other
  - Persecuted welcome Muslim armies as liberators
    - Many convert to Islam, those who do not still treated well

### 5. Islam's Split





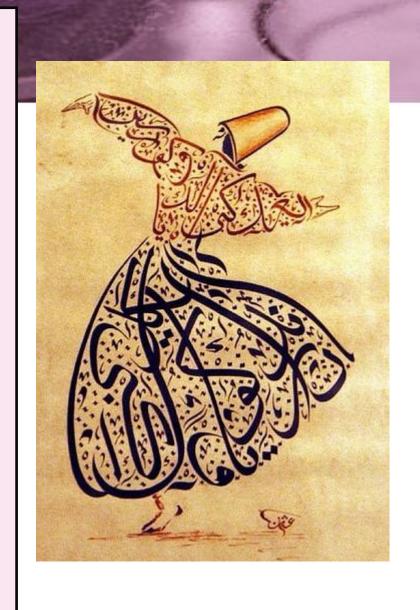
- A. Most religions have denominations/divisions so does Islam
- 661 CE: Ali (cousin and son-in law of Muhammad, last of elected caliphs) is assassinated
- Powerful Meccan family called *Umayyads* take over

### B. Umayyads

- -Move capital from Mecca to *Damascaus*
- Embrace wealth and luxury (seen as the opposite of Islamic beliefs)
- -Further territorial expansion
- –Most accepted Umayyad's rule called Sunnis "followers of Muhammad's example"

- C. The *Shi'a* (Shi'ittes, or party of Ali):
  - believed that calpihs had to be descendants of Muhammad; did not follow Umayyads

- D. Third group called **Sufi** 
  - Reject luxury
  - Pursue life of poverty and devotion to spiritual path
  - Became missionaries and travelers,
    spread Islam into S and SE Asia



## 6. Continued Imperial Expansion

- A. A rival family, the Abbasids, seize control in 750 CE
  - Move capital to Baghdad
    - Center for trade and culture
  - Expanded trade from Mediterranean Sea to South China Sea
    - Merchant and landlord classes grow in wealth/social status

#### B. By 13th century of Abbasid rule begins to crumble

- Political divisions, disorder, over taxation, poor leadership
- Irrigation projects fall into disrepair, leads to food shortages

## 7. Early Muslim Culture



- Early culture combination of many (Arabic, Persian, Jewish, Christian, Hellenistic)
- A. Social classes mostly based on religion, also wealth
  - Upper Class: Muslims by birth, originally Arabian
  - Second Class: converts(mawali)
  - Third Class: dhimmi included
    Christians, Jews, Hindus,
    Zoroastrians and others, just pay tax!

#### B. Urbanized society

- Only China rivaled Muslim Empire in number of large urban areas
- Ex. Baghdad, Damascus, Cordoba, Cairo all populous and all centers of learning and trade

#### Intellectual Contributions

- Muhammad stressed the importance of learning in original writings
- Led to Muslim Empire being most sophisticated in world for its time