

Background on Arabia

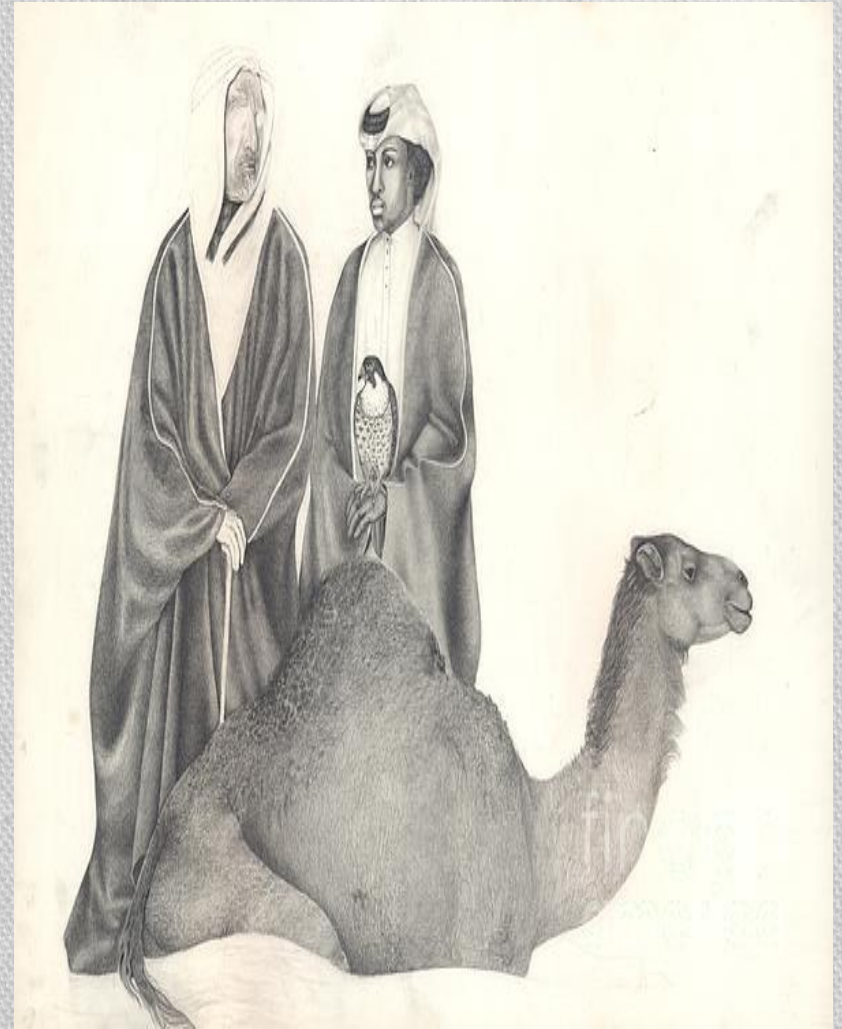


Arabia at the Time of Muhammad
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Page 475

- Arabia had NEVER been controlled by a single empire/civilization
- Nomadic herding and trading groups called Bedouin lived in Arabia
- Lived in fiercely independent clans and tribes

Background on Arabia

- Pastoral and trading groups
- Herded sheep and camels
- Often engaged in violent wars with each other
- Practiced polytheism and ancestor worship
- Valued personal bravery and group loyalty



Background on Arabia

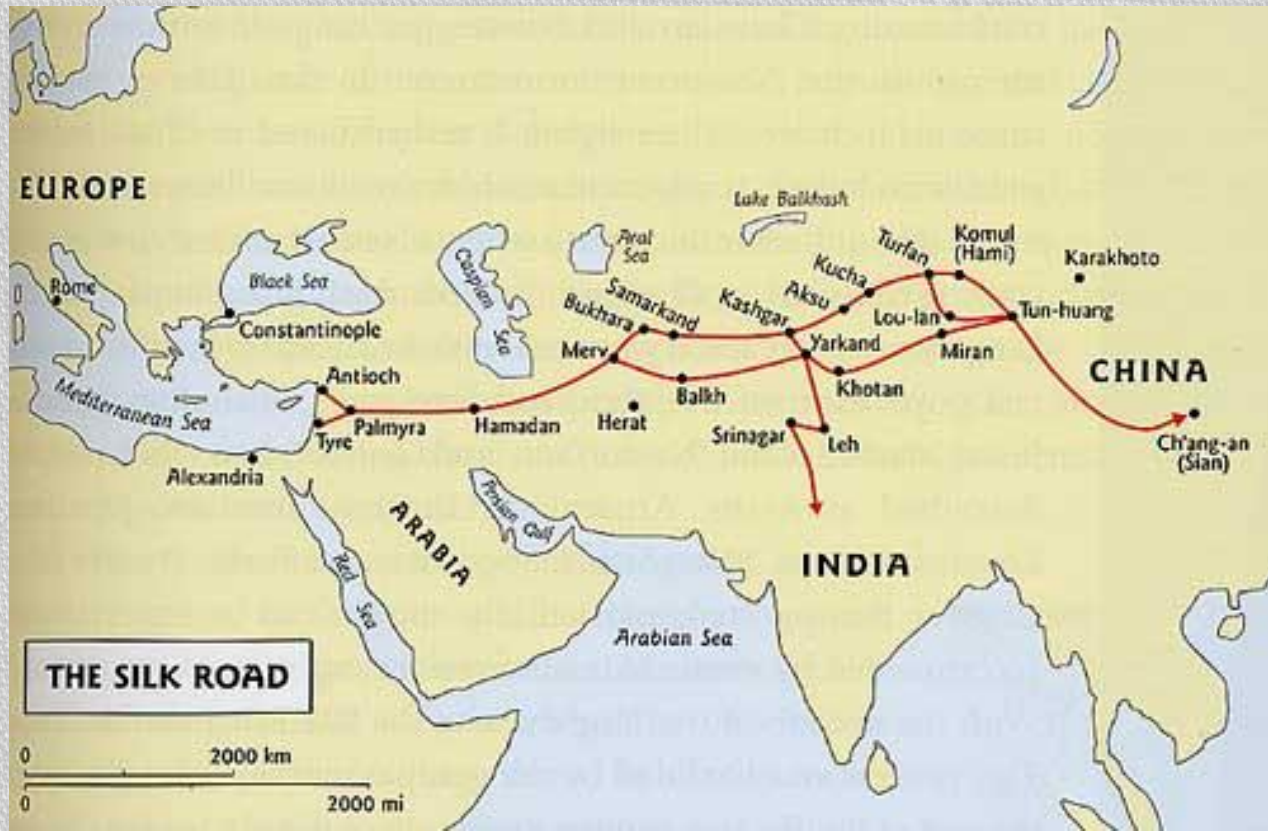


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- Participated in Silk Road Traded
 - Silk Road and Indian Ocean Trade especially
- Tribes often fought each other over control of trade routes and water sources
- Location between the Byzantine Empire (to the northwest) and the Persian Empire (to the northeast)

Background on Arabia

- Due to trade and interaction with Roman and Persian Empires, many Jews, Christians, and Zoroastrians lived among the Arabs in Arabia
- Many of their monotheistic ideas began to influence the Arabs



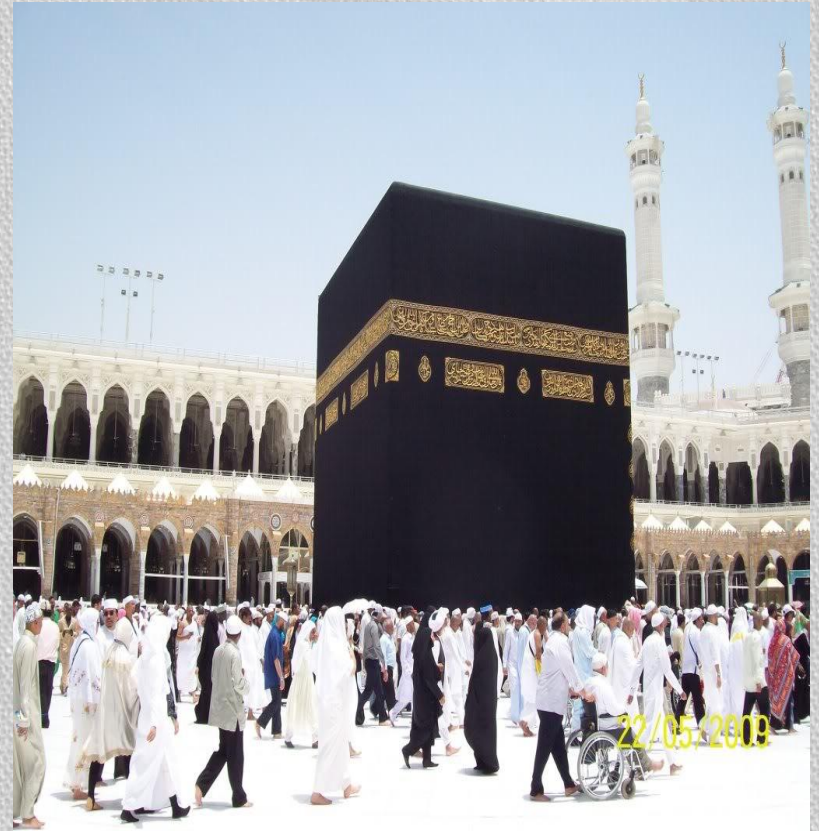
Core Beliefs

- Mecca(Makkah) was the most important religious and trading city in Arabia

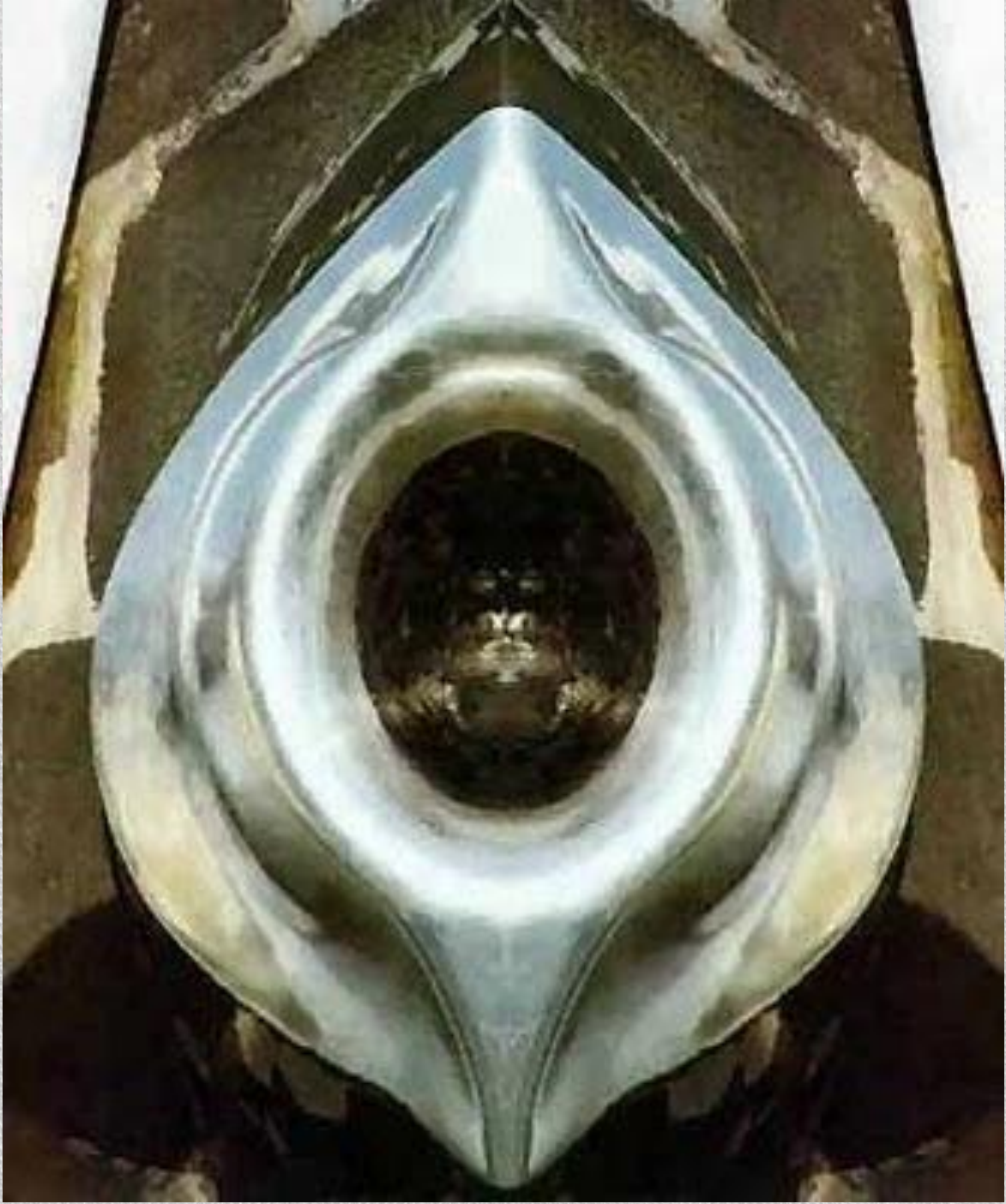


Core Beliefs

- Makkah was the location of the Kaaba = most important religious shrine in Arabia
- Housed representations of about 360 deities





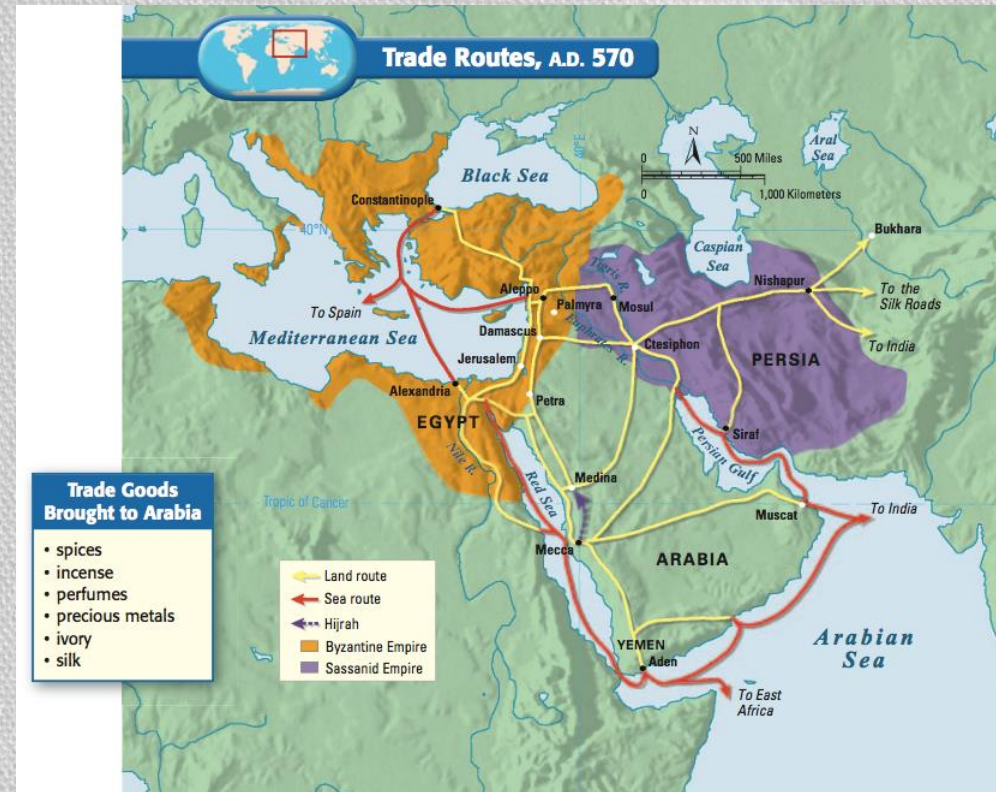


Life and Teachings of Muhammad

- Though some sources contain exaggerations on Muhammad's life, there is MUCH more known about the Historical Muhammad than previous religion leaders(Siddhartha, Jesus, Abraham, ect)
- Born in Mecca in 570 CE to a Quraysh family
- Orphaned by age 8
 - Father died before he was born
 - Mother died at age of 6
 - Grandfather died at age 8
- Lived and worked with merchant/tribal leader uncle

Core Beliefs

- Muhammad Learned about teachings of Monotheistic religions, such as Judaism, Christianity, and Zoroastrianism while travelling as a merchant
- At 25, he married a wealthy merchant, named Khadijah
 - They had 2 sons who died in infancy and at least 4 daughters



Core Beliefs

- Troubled by the corrupt religious and political leaders, poverty, and inequalities of Mecca
- Often withdrew into the mountains to meditate
 - 610 CE he had a revelation that he was a had an overwhelming religious experience an
 - Similar to the Buddha and Jesus

Core Beliefs

- God began communicating FINAL revelations and new teachings in 610 CE (continued for the next 22 years)
- Brought to him by the angel Gabriel
- For first three years he told very few people of his revelations



Core Beliefs

- Muslims believe that Muhammad was NOT divine, they believe that he was a man and a messenger of God
- Meant he was the last in a long line of prophets, including Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and others
- Wasn't trying to start a new faith
 - More of an invitation to return to the old and pure religion of Abraham

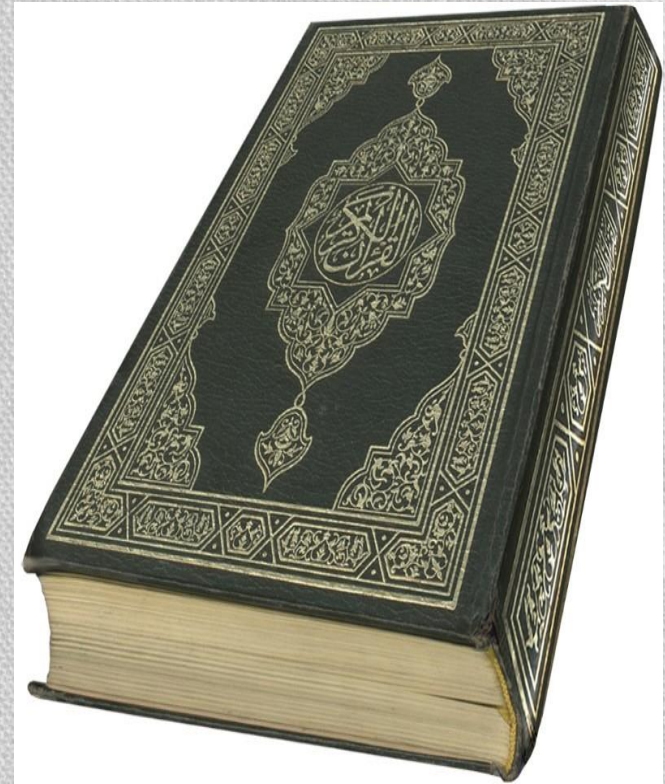
Core Beliefs

- Islam is **Monotheistic** and worships the same god as **Judaism and Christianity**
- There is only one God
 - God has no children, no parents, and no partners
 - God was not created by a being
 - There are no equal, superior, or lesser Gods
 - God is beyond human representation
 - Allah is the Arabic word for God



Core Beliefs

- Recorded revelations/teachings in text called the Quran
- The Quran rejects:
 - Hoarding of wealth and materialism
 - Exploitation of the poor
 - Corrupt business practices
 - Neglecting widows and orphans
 - Abuse of women



Core Beliefs

- The Quran/Islam teaches:
 - All people are equal in eyes of God
 - Charity/Aid to the poor
 - Living by the 5 Pillars of Islam

These are the duties of Islam, the religion of Muslims.

الشهادة

Shahadah
(Faith)



To believe in no God but Allah and that Muhammad is his prophet and the

الصلاة

Salah
(Prayer)



To pray five times each day:
Fajr - Before Sunrise
Zuhr - Early Afternoon
Asr - Late Afternoon

الصوم

Sawm
(Fasting)



To give up food and drink during daylight hours in the

الزكاة

Zakah
(Almsgiving)



To give a share of personal wealth to help people in need and support the Muslim

الحج

Hajj
(Pilgrimage)



To perform a pilgrimage to Makkah at least once in





Core Beliefs

- Islam teaches a belief in an afterlife, both a paradise and hell like punishment
- Those who hope to achieve this afterlife must submit to the will of God
- Usually described as a beautiful garden

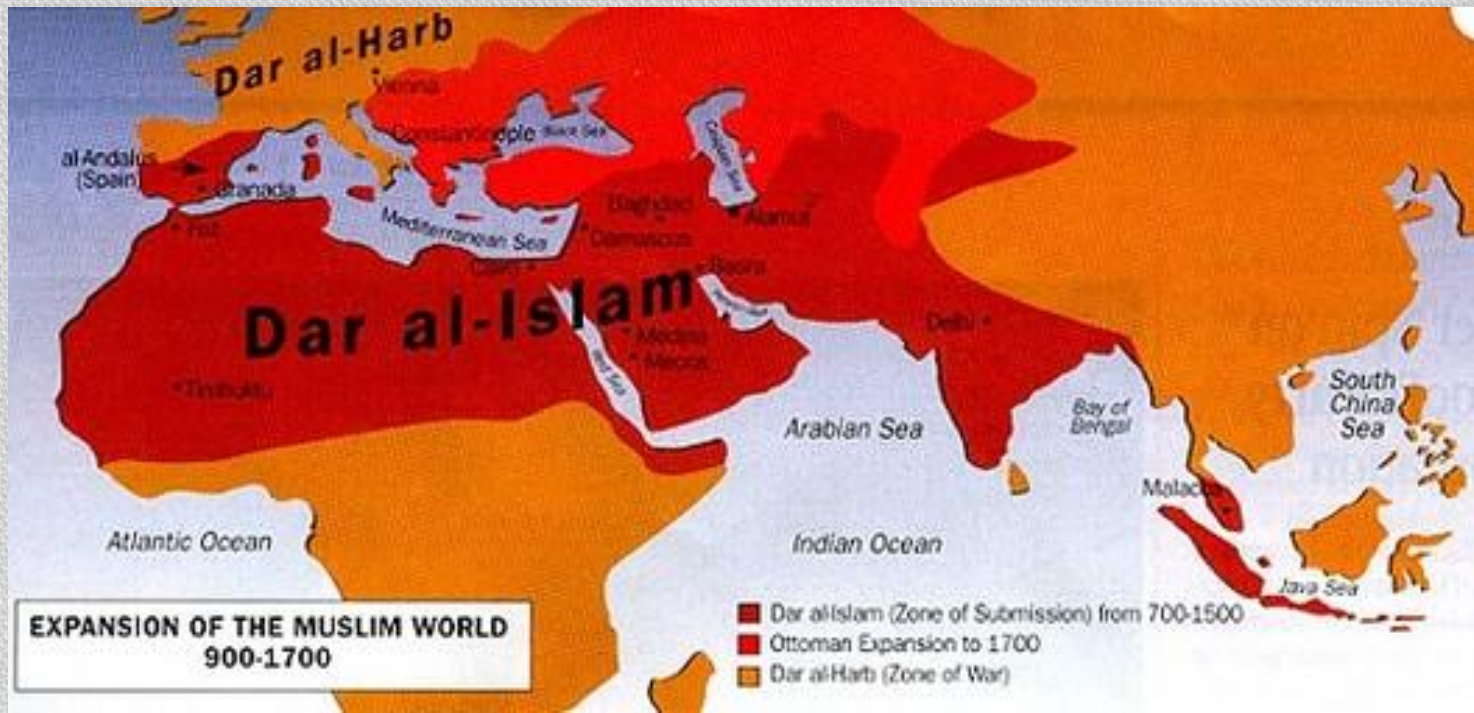


Core Beliefs

- Muhammad's monotheistic and social justice message threatened the power and wealth of polytheistic tribal leaders
- Muhammad and his follower moved to Medina in 622 CE & **Muslims built Umma** (*ummat al-Islamiyah* or ummah), **community of believers**
 - Called the Hijrah
 - Marks year ZERO in the Islamic calendar
- **Muhammad was a political and military leader** in addition to his position as a religion leader/prophet

Method of Expansion

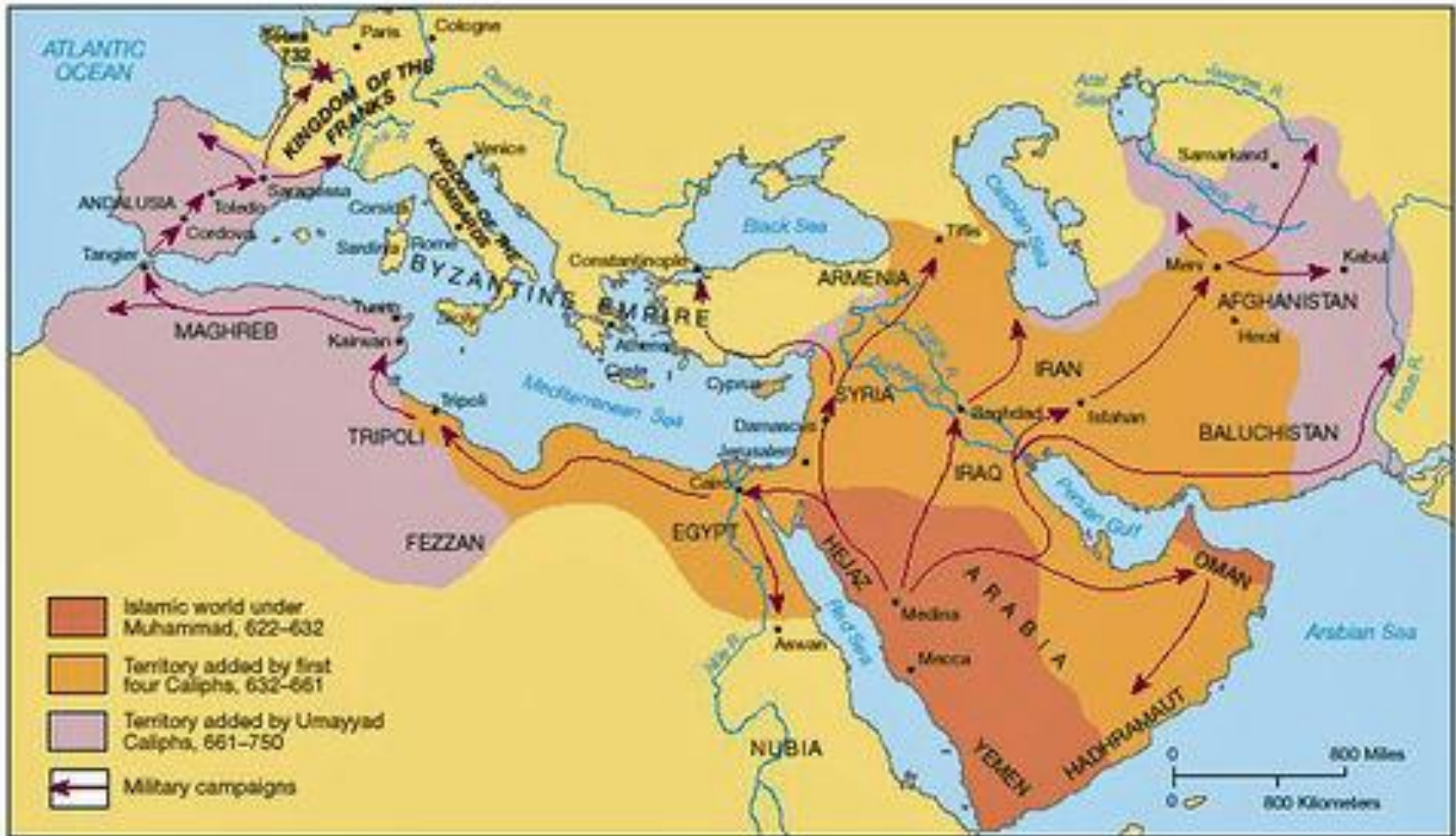
- Common faith in one god replaced tribal divisions & unified Muslims into the Dar al-Islam or Islamic civilization
- Literally means the house of Islam




Method of Expansion

- Islamic civilization encouraged and protected trade
- Muslim merchants spread religion along profitable trade routes and in search for wealthy agricultural regions
 - Merchants traveled farther than armies and took their religion to remote areas of Eurasia.
 - Individuals wanted to gain wealth and social promotion

Expansion/Conquest unified & provided a common task for the **umma** that was on the verge of falling apart after Muhammad's death



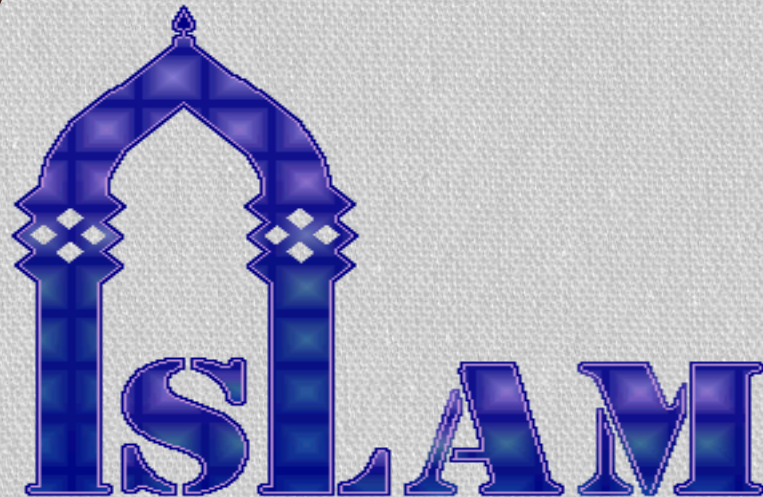
 *The Spread of Islam. The rapid spread of Islam created within a century a unified cultural and economic zone from India to the Atlantic Ocean within.*





Method of Expansion

- Conversion to Islam **not forced on anyone** in the Arab Empire
- In fact: **Zoroastrians, Jews, and Christians** all considered “people of the book” and **were given the special status of dhimmis (protected subjects)**
- In the 400s years following Muhammad’s death, millions of individuals and many whole societies with the Arab Empire adopted Islam



Method of Expansion

- Not such a dramatic change for Monotheistic people such as Zoroastrians, Jews, and Christians
- Already familiar with ideas of: monotheism, heaven, hell, final judgment, divine revelation, fasting, ritual prayer, etc.
- Islam sponsored by a powerful state lead to wealth and prestige of Arab Empire attracted people
- Successful conquest called into question the power of old gods; perhaps God really is all-powerful

Interactive Notebook Setup

- 8/19/2019
- Major World Religions
- This will be one page

