

The Spread of Islam

Essential Question:

1. Analyze and compare hemispheric interactions and cross-regional developments such as communication, trade, and cultural exchange, during an era of increasing regional power and religious expansion. (4.2)

_____ I can identify and explain the origins and expansion of Islam and the creating of the Islamic Empire including (4.2.1):

_____ The extent of the empire

_____ The diverse traditions of Sunni, Shiite, and Sufi Muslims

_____ The role of the Islamic state as a cultural, political, and economic force in Afro-Eurasia

_____ The caliphate as both a religious and political institution, and the persistence of other traditions in the Arab world, including Christianity

_____ I can analyze the spread of religions and encounters between religious groups including (4.1.2):

_____ Islam and Christianity

_____ I can analyze the development and importance of interregional trading systems within and between societies including (4.1.3):

_____ Water based routes across the Indian Ocean, Persian Gulf, Red and Mediterranean Seas

<p>Islam after Muhammad's Death</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Died in 632 AD, question of who would lead • Companion Abu Bakr took over as successor or "Caliph" • Formed an army to bring back disloyal tribes, pushed army north • Umar, next ruler, continues to expand into Persia • Conquered the Byzantines in Syria, Jerusalem, and Egypt creating an empire • By 661, the caliphate or area ruled by caliph, covered Northern Africa to Iran • Conflict brewing dating back to Abu Bakr about leadership • Some leaders had supported Ali, a cousin of Muhammad • In 644, Ali lost again, and an Umayyad from Mecca won, but was killed shortly after • Ali became Caliph and civil war broke out; with Ali's defeat the Umayyads regained control • Sunnis (way of the prophet) accepted Umayyad leader • Ali's supporters became Shia (party of Ali) specially blessed by Muhammad • Shia Muslims believe only the leaders or imams can interpret the Qur'an • Conflict deepened after two leaders died • Muhammad's grandson, Husayn, led a rebellion against Umayyad leader and was shot in battle in Iraq while holding his baby son and became a martyr, remaining soldiers slaughtered or taken prisoner, and conflict raged on • Battle of Husayn legitimizes jihad as a violent fight for faith • Sufis emerge as a group seeking mystical, personal connection with God through breathing and meditation
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<p>The Umayyad Dynasty</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caliphs strengthened rule by making Arab the official language, creating a common currency, and building the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem • Borders extended to China, the Indus River, Northern Africa, and Spain • Efforts to take Constantinople and France failed • With conquest, came Islam, as non-Muslims were forced to pay heavy taxes and face restrictions, such as building synagogues underground • Central government strengthened, providing the Arab Muslims privilege and power of those conquered, going against Islamic belief of equality • Some Muslims believed too much emphasis had shifted to personal gain and power • Hoping to return to pure Islamic values, in 740 Muhammad's uncle led a group of Shia (Abbasids) and others against the dynasty and regained power
<p>The Abbasid Dynasty</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moved capital to Bagdad, Iraq, ending Arab domination • Persians governed while Islamic officials focused on making Islam a universal religion attractive to many cultures • Muslim traders exchanged goods and information, spreading Islam into West Africa and Southeast Asia • Caliph Harun al-Rashid supported scholarship and culture, bringing it to a height from 786-809
<p>The End of Unity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By the 900s, small states began breaking away, and the caliphate became a figurehead • Christian armies began to drive out the Muslims from Spain and later Jerusalem during the Holy Wars or the Crusades • Fatimid dynasty, claiming descent of Muhammad's daughter, controlled the Mediterranean and Red Seas, disrupting Abbasid trade and become more powerful • Non-Arab Sunni Turks, rose to power under the Seljuks and sided with the Abbasid to defeat the Fatimid's and then the Byzantines, creating their own empire • Mamluks or once enslaved soldiers, attacked Egypt and Syria, and in 1258, the Mongols arrived in Baghdad, destroyed the city and killed the caliph • Islam continued to spread into Africa, India, Central Asia, and Southeast Asia