The Rise / Expansion of Islam

AP World History
Early Spread of Islam

- Muhammad tried to convince the people of Mecca of what he had learned from the revelations.
- They feared he would upset the established social and political order.
- His followers (only 30) were persecuted so he leaves on the Hegira (to Medina).
- He gains much more support in Medina and among the Bedouin tribes.
- The first Muslim community (Umma) is formed here.
Conquering of Mecca

- In 630 Muhammad and a force of 10,000 men return to conquer Mecca.
- He declares the Ka’bah a holy shrine.
- He removes the tribal idols, but keeps the Black Stone.
- Muhammad becomes the religious and political leader.
- Why attractive? equality, no intermediaries, end to vendettas & feuds, single authority, turned to violence against others.
Spread of Islam

- Muhammad dies in 632 A.D.
- Left no clear successor or heir
- The position of Caliph is established
- 1st four are called “the Rightly Guided Caliphs”
- Abu Bakr (1st Caliph) – close friend/1st to convert outside of family
- Sought to protect and spread Islam (Persia & Byzantine Empire were weak)
- Weakness of adversaries, unity of faith, warrior mindset (w/booty), need for taxes contributes to Arab conquest
Divisions Within Islam

• Rival groups begin competing for the Caliphate
• The 4\textsuperscript{th} Caliph (Ali) was assassinated
• Ali’s rival (Mu’awiyah) begins the Umayyad dynasty as the new caliph
• Capital is moved from Medina to Damascus
• Ali’s son (Husayn) refuses to accept, but dies in battle
• Led to a split in Islam – Sunnis, who supported Mu’awiyah - and Shiites, who supported Ali & Husayn
• Both desired control of booty & taxes
Sunnis & Shiites

- **Sunnis**
  - Believed the caliph was primarily a leader and any devout Muslim could serve in the office with the acceptance of the people
  - 90% of Muslims today are Sunnis

- **Shiites**
  - Believed the caliph was primarily a religious authority and should be held only by the descendants of Muhammad
  - 10% of Muslims today are Shiites (most are in Iran, Iraq, & Lebanon)
Eras of Islamic Civilization

• 570-632: Muhammad-Founder

• 632-661: First four Caliphs: - Expansion in Mideast—Sunni-Shia Split.

• 661-750: Ummayad Dynasty-(Centered in Damascus) Expansion in N. Africa & Spain
Eras of Islamic Civilization

• 750-1258: Abbasid Dynasty, Golden Age at Baghdad

• 1000s-1400s: Seljuks & Mongols

• 1453-WW I: Ottoman Empire & Fragmentation
Conquests

- Pushed east to borders of India & China
- 747 A.D. – anti-Umayyad dynasty is established (Abbasid)
- Abbasid capital is Baghdad
Umayyad Dynasty (661-750)

- Emphasized Arab ethnicity over adherence to Islam
- Converts to Islam were considered inferior
- Respect for Jews and Christians (allowed freedom of worship and self rule within their own communities). Sometimes required to pay taxes for charity and on property
- Ruling families lived excessively prompting riots and ultimately their downfall
Abbasid Dynasty (750-945)

- Succession disputes
- Converts were appreciated – education available and career advancement
- Shia dissention
- Civil violence drains imperial treasury
- Revolts and slavery increased
- Trade with the western Mediterranean to China
- Greek, Roman, and Persian learning was preserved. Greek logic, esp. Aristotle was valued.
- Arabic numbers (from India)
- Mathematics – algebra, geometry, & trigonometry
- Astrolabe – measured stars (used in navigation)
- Zenith of Islamic culture
Abbasid Dynasty (750-945)

- Excellled in astronomy, optic surgery, anatomy, & cartography
- Rise of urban centers: Baghdad, Cairo, and Córdoba with institutes of higher learning
- Arts, calligraphy, and arabesques in writing and on pottery
- Architecture: buildings w/patios, mosques w/minarets
- Literature: *The Arabian Nights*
- Position of women decline
- Sufis – mystics who focused on an emotional union with Allah – become missionaries
Islam in India

- Muslim invasions of the 7th century began incursion
- Sufis were the central factor in spread of Islam
- Muslims were generally open, tolerant, and inclusive of Hindus
- Umayyad general Muhammad conquered & annexed Sind
- Indians treated as people of the book
- Centered government (Delhi Sultanate) in Delhi (1206-1526)
- Monotheistic beliefs were not as popular
- Some Buddhists accepted and lower caste Hindus and untouchables found appealing
Islam in Southeast Asia

- 8th century Muslims gain control of Indian commerce
- Peaceful entry as a result of 13th century collapse of Shrivijaya (Buddhist trading empire)
- Peaceful contacts (from traders) and voluntary conversion
- City of Malacca was very influential
- Coastal cities were more receptive
- Mass was open to Islam because Buddhism was mainly for the elite
- Mystical quality of Islam had appeal
Islam in Southeast Asia

- Capacity for accommodation - Muslims were tolerant of indigenous beliefs; pre-Muslim beliefs were incorporated into Islamic ceremonies
- Women held stronger familial & societal position
- Islam did not become popular in Buddhist areas of SE Asia, but it did spread to islands of the Indian Ocean (Malaysia, Indonesia, and southern Philippines)
Women In Islam

- Early days of Islam: women were not required to wear the veil & not secluded
- Up to four wives allowed since the time of Muhammad; women - only one husband
- In general Islamic women had more rights than other women of the same time
  - Equal with men before Allah
  - Female infanticide forbidden
  - Could own property (before & after marriage)
  - In some cases could divorce husband
- Eventual isolation created barriers to acceptance of Islam, especially in Africa
The Crusades

- Christian feudal kingdoms established after 1st Crusade – most were recaptured under Saladin
- Sophisticated Muslim technology, architecture, medicine, mathematics, science, and culture borrowed by Europeans
- Europeans recovered Greek learning lost after the fall of Rome
- Italian merchants were more important as carriers of Islamic advanced knowledge than Christian warriors
- Muslims had little interest in European civilization
- Surprise, Sunni/Shiite differences, & assassinations all lead to initial Crusader success
Al-Andalus (Islamic Spain)

- Berbers of North Africa spread Islam into Europe by conquest
- Stopped at the Battle of Tours/Poitiers (France) in 732
- Allies of the Umayyad Dynasty
- Preserved Greco-Roman culture
- Interregional trade flourished
- Muslim architecture in Spain
Islam in Africa

- *Jihad* spread Islam to Africa (8th century)
- Caravan trade helped spread Islam into Sub-Saharan Africa (Ghana, Mali, & Sudan)
- Traditional beliefs blend with Muslim beliefs in some areas
- Sudan – matrilineal societies resisted Islam
- Ocean traders spread Islam to coastal areas, islands, & east African cities (Mogadishu, Mombasa, & Kilwa)
- Little success in interior Africa
- Ibn Battuta – Arab traveler who documented the Islamic world (1300s)
- Mamluks – originally a military caste that took seized power; dynasty that makes Egypt a center for Muslim culture and learning; were converts to Islam
Ottoman Empire (1300-1918)

- The Ottoman Empire would rival that of China in size and economic power.
- But over time the Ottoman Empire would be weakened until the twentieth century.
- Yet under Suleiman the Magnificent (1520-1566) the Ottoman Empire expanded into North Africa and Syria.
Growth of the Ottoman Empire

- For nearly 300 years the Ottomans expanded into the Balkans and to Persia.
- By 1683 the Turks controlled Hungary in Europe to the Persian Gulf.
- Initial Ottoman conquest and expansion was under their able leader Osman (1299-1326).
- Osman was a ghazi, or warrior, who was determined to spread the faith.
Why Did The Ottomans Succeed?

- Ottomans tolerated other faiths—didn’t fight wars of religious exclusivism
- Many in Old Byzantine Empire were weary of corruption in Byzantine state
Key Events of the Ottoman State

- 1389 – Defeat the Serbs at Battle of Kosovo.
- 1396 – Crushed the Hungarians and foreign knights at Nicopolis.
- 1402 – Tamerlane defeats the Ottomans near Ankara.
- 1453 – Turks capture Constantinople by Mohammed II.
- 1517 – Turks captured Cairo.
- 1529 – First siege of Vienna.
- 1683 – Second siege of Vienna.