

The Islamic World and Africa

Chapter 9

Rise of Islam

- Due to warfare between the Byzantine and Persian empires trade land routes were changed.
- Sea routes were now used, connecting India with Arabian Peninsula and the Red sea
- Land caravans traveled along the coast of the Red Sea
- Cities developed along these trade routes
- Mecca was one of those cities
 - Islam was created in 600 A.D.
 - Arabic for submission
 - Within 100 years it grew to control a large area of the Roman Empire

Mohammed: Prophet of Islam

- Islam was founded by Mohammed
 - Born 570, was a merchant and a shepherd
- While meditating in the hills, the Angel Gabriel visited him and revealed to him that he was the next and final prophet.
- Allah is the proper name for Almighty God

- He began to preach but attracted few followers; many enemies feared he would upset the political and social order.
- So in 622, Muhammad and his followers fled to Medina (the Hegira), it is also the start of the Muslim Calendar
- In 630 he gathered an army to retake Mecca in a Jihad “holy war”
- 632 Mohammed became ill and died
- At the time of his death most Arabian tribes were now Muslims

The Quran (Koran)

- The Quran is the sacred text of Islam.
 - God spoke to Mohammed the records
 - Mohammed memorized them and told them
 - Scribes wrote them in the Quran
- It has 114 chapters
 - Discusses: forms of worship, proper conduct, and the treatment of women, etc...
- The fundamental doctrine is “there is no God but Allah; Mohammed is his prophet.

Fiver Pillars of Islam

- As part of the Islam religion, all true Muslims must perform 5 duties, called the Five Pillars of Faith.

Shahada

(affirmation)

- The duty to recite the creed:
"There is nothing worthy of worship save Allah, and Muhammad is the Messenger of God"



- ***Salat***
- ([prayer](#))

The duty to worship the One God in prayer five times each day



- ***Zakat***
- (almsgiving)

The duty to give away alms and to help the needy



- ***Siyam***
- (fasting)
The duty to keep the Fast of Ramadan
- ***Hajj***
- (pilgrimage)
The duty to make the pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in a lifetime



Islam Spreads

- Islam united various Arab tribes with the same language
- Strengthened their newfound unity
 - Set out for a “holy war” against non-believers
 - Fought to gain entry to heaven
- Byzantine and Persian Empires were weak because of centuries of fighting each other
 - Allowed Muslim to spread to the Indus valley and to Spain
 - Was stopped at the Battle of Tours

The Caliphates

- When Mohammed died, Muslim leaders chose a new leader- “Caliph” “Successor to Mohammed”
- Two early caliphs were murdered
 - A new caliph founded the Umayyad Caliphate
 - Created a division in the Muslim religion
- **SUNNIS**
 - Most Muslims followed the new caliph
- **SHIITE**
 - Only Mohammed’s descendents could be caliphs

- The Umayyad caliphs moved the capital to Damascus
- After 750, a new family Abbasids took over the caliphate
 - Focused on trade and not war
 - Built a new capital in Baghdad
 - Was an absolute ruler
 - Surrounded himself with riches

- Caliphs converted or enslaved other peoples they found worshipping other gods
- Non-Arab converts had less rights
 - Later all Muslims are equal
- Muslim rulers treated Christians and Jews with respect
 - Because they worship the same god
 - Allowed self-governing communities
 - Had to pay a special tax
 - Could not hold some public offices

Golden Age of Muslim Culture

- A period of great advances in culture and technology
- Absorbed the achievements of the Greeks, Romans, Jews, Byzantines and Persians
- Arabic became the language of the Quran and the empire
- In the 12th century, Muslims engaged in a war with Christians over control of the Holy Land
 - Christians captured Jerusalem in 1099 but was taken by Saladin.
 - A Muslim leader and warrior, remains a hero in the Islamic World

- Math
 - Borrowed zero from India
 - Developed Arabic numerals
 - Great advances in Geometry and Algebra
- Medicine
 - Discovered blood moved to and from the heart
 - Learned to diagnose many diseases, including measles and smallpox

- Arts & Crafts
 - Forbids images of God or people
 - Islamic art is mostly geometric designs, flowers, and stars
 - Textiles, leather works, and rugs are highly prized
- Architecture
 - Muslim rulers built beautiful palaces and mosques, richly decorated with mosaics, calligraphy, geometrical designs

Kingdoms of Africa

- Anthropologists believe humanity first arose in East Africa
- The Kush civilization was an early iron-producing center;
 - Became rich selling iron, ivory, ebony, wood, and slaves
- Kingdom of Ethiopia
 - Developed its own form of Christianity

Gold-Salt Trade

- The Sahara desert was a barrier for trade between the Mediterranean world and South Africa.
 - Travelers found oasis and developed paths to cross the Sahara Desert
- Merchants were motivated to cross the Sahara because of the gold and other riches in West Africa.
- West Africa lacked salt
 - Salt is needed for human survival

- Merchants traveled on camels caravans across the desert with blocks of salt to exchange for gold.
- A thriving trade developed based on salt-gold.
- Ideas were also exchanged such as the Islamic beliefs

Kingdom of Ghana

750-1200

- Developed in the region between the Senegal and Niger River
- Made iron swords, spears, and lances to take control of trade routes
- The kings of Ghana taxed the routes used for the salt-gold trade
- With this money they created an army with a large cavalry

- Ghana built a capital city and governed a large area with officials and nobles
 - Kings appointed nobles
 - Nobles had to make sure their land paid taxes
- 1076 Muslims from north Africa invaded Ghana
- Ghana never fully recovered
 - Ghana became several smaller states

Kingdom of Mali

1240-1400

- 1240 the people of Mali conquered the old capital of Ghana and created a new empire
- The Kings took control of the salt and gold mines
- Mali's rulers converted to Islam
 - Most of the people did not, stayed with their traditional beliefs

- Mansa Musa, Mali's most famous ruler, expanded the kingdom greatly
 - Brought Muslim Scholars and architects back to Mali
- Ordered a palace and mosque to be built in Timbuktu
 - It was a thriving trading center on the Niger river
 - Became an important center for several universities
 - Many individuals came from Europe, Asia and Africa to learn
- Because of the importance of the Koran, many people learned how to read and write

- Ibn Battuta, an Arab traveler, did extensive traveling in Africa
 - Because of Ibn scholars know much about the life in Africa and the Middle East.
 - Rulers after Mansa Munsa were not as good, therefore the kingdom collapsed in the 1400's

Kingdom of Songhai

1464-1600

- In 1464, Sultan Sunni Ali, ruler of the Songhai people, captured Timbuktu.
- The Kingdom of Songhai became the largest of West Africa's Kingdoms
 - Grew rich from trade across the Sahara
 - Expanded trade to Europe and Asia
- Created an elaborate system of taxation and communication

- The Kingdom of Sanghai only lasted 130 years
- Morocco invaded West Africa for its riches
 - Was able to defeat Sanghai because they used gunpowder and the Kingdom used spears and arrows
- Morocco was unable to govern from long distance
 - The kingdom split up into independent areas
 - Was the last great West African kingdoms

Other African States

- Ife and Benin
 - Famous for their copper and bronze statues
 - 16th century, became involved in the slave trade
 - Traded captured people for guns and iron goods with Europeans
- Zimbabwe
 - One of the best trading kingdoms
 - Large gold deposits
 - Traded gold, copper and ivory
- Coastal Cities of East Africa
 - Merchants from Arabia and India would buy gold from these cities

Family Roles in Africa

- Many African societies, boys and girls would be separated at puberty and have special ceremonies
- Marriages arranged by families
 - Groom paid a dowry
 - Under Islam, women could only do household chores

