CHAPTER 10

Muslim Civilizations
622–1629

Bibliography

EXPRESS™
Presentation

To introduce this chapter using PresentationExpress™ Premium, start by asking students which of the following statements do you most agree with? (A) Governments should have a policy of religious toleration. (B) Governments should give preference to the religion of the majority of the people. (C) Governments should restrict some religions. (D) Religion should not play a part in government. Take a class poll or record students' answers using the QuickTake feature and discuss their responses. Point out that in this chapter, they will read about the religion of Islam and Muslim civilizations. Continue introducing the chapter using the chapter opener slide show and Witness History audio.

Technology Resources

I Student EXPRESS CD-ROM, Chapter 10
I Teacher EXPRESS CD-ROM, Chapter 10
I Presentation EXPRESS™ Premium DVD, Chapter 10
I WITNESS HISTORY Audio CD, Chapter 10
I ExamView Test Bank CD-ROM, English and Spanish, Chapter 10
I Guided Reading Audio, Spanish, Chapter 10
I Student Edition Audio, Chapter 10
I Experience It! Multimedia Pack

For the Teacher

For the Student
Chapter 10

Page 303

WITNESS HISTORY

Muslims at the Kaaba

In the Arabian town of Mecca, the marketplace echoed with the sounds of buyers and sellers bargaining. One corner, though, was hushed. There, a husky man spoke to a handful of followers:

“The righteous man is he who believes in God and the Last Day, in the angels and the Book [Scriptures] and the prophets; who, though he loves it dearly, gives away his wealth to kinsfolk, to orphans, to the destitute, to the traveller in need, and to beggars. . . . Such are the true believers.” —The Qur'an

Some bowed their heads, moved by Muhammad's words. Many merchants were infuriated, however. Muhammad's words condemned the many gods that pilgrims came to worship in Mecca. The pilgrim trade would be disrupted, and profits ruined!

Listen to the Witness History audio to hear more about Muhammad.

A modern Muslim pilgrim in Mecca, the holy city of Islam

Chapter Preview

Chapter Focus Question Who was Muhammad, and how did his teachings lead to the rise and spread of Islam?

Section 1
The Rise of Islam

Section 2
Building a Muslim Empire

Section 3
Muslim Civilization's Golden Age

Section 4
India's Muslim Empires

Section 5
The Ottoman and Safavid Empires

Use the Quick Study Timeline at the end of this chapter to preview chapter events.
The Rise of Islam

The religion of Islam, whose followers are called Muslims, emerged in the Arabian Peninsula. This region of southwestern Asia is mostly desert, yet it was home to many Arab tribes in the A.D. 500s. Nomadic herders called Bedouins (BED oo inz) moved through the desert to reach seasonal pasturelands for their camels, goats, and sheep. Competition for water and grazing land often led to warfare. Bedouins also traded with settled Arab tribes in oasis towns and protected the caravan trading routes.

Muhammad Becomes a Prophet

Muhammad was born in the oasis town of Mecca around A.D. 570. Mecca was a bustling market town at the crossroads of several caravan routes. It was also a thriving pilgrimage center. Many Arabs came to pray at the Kaaba, an ancient temple that housed statues of pagan gods and goddesses. The pilgrims helped make Mecca’s merchants wealthy. All weapons had to be laid down near the temple, making Mecca a safe and peaceful place to do business.

Arabia’s deserts and trade centers shaped Muhammad’s early life. In his youth, he worked as a shepherd among the Bedouins. Later, he led caravans across the desert and became a successful merchant. When he was about 25, Muhammad married Khadija (ka DEE jah), a wealthy widow who ran a prosperous caravan business. Muhammad became known for his honesty in business and was a devoted husband and father.
Muhammad Becomes God’s Messenger  Muhammad was troubled by the moral ills of Meccan society, especially greed. He often went to a cave in the hills near Mecca to meditate. According to Muslim belief, when he was about 40 years old he heard the voice of the angel Gabriel calling him to be the messenger of God. Muhammad was terrified and puzzled. How could he, an illiterate merchant, become the messenger of God? Khadija encouraged him to accept the call. She became the first convert to the faith called Islam, from the Arabic word that means “to submit to God.” Muhammad devoted his life to spreading Islam. He urged Arabs to give up their worship of pagan gods and submit to the one true God. In Arabic, the word for God is Allah.

The Hijra: A Turning Point  At first, few people listened to Muhammad’s teachings. His rejection of traditional Arab gods angered Mecca’s merchants, who feared that neglect of their idols would disrupt the pilgrim trade. In 622, faced with the threat of murder, Muhammad and his followers left Mecca for Yathrib, a journey known as the hijra (hīh Jī ruh). Later, Yathrib was renamed Medina, or “city of the Prophet,” and 622 became the first year of the Muslim calendar.

The hijra was a turning point for Islam. In Medina, Muslim converts welcomed Muhammad and agreed to follow his teachings. They became a community of Muslims, or umma. Loyalty to the umma was based on Islam instead of old family rivalries. Muhammad created rules that governed and united Muslims and brought peace among the clans of Medina. As his reputation grew, thousands of Arabs adopted Islam. Meanwhile, Meccan leaders grew more hostile toward the Muslims. After Muslims attacked several caravans, the Meccans prepared for war.

After fighting battles with the Meccans, Muhammad triumphantly returned to Mecca in 630. He destroyed the idols in the Kaaba, the temple that he believed Abraham had built to worship the one true God. He rededicated the Kaaba to Allah, and it became the most holy place in Islam. For the next two years, Muhammad worked to unite the Arabs under Islam. Muhammad died in 632, but the faith that he proclaimed continued to spread. Today, Islam is one of the world’s major religions.

Checkpoint  How did Muhammad become the prophet of Islam?
Chapter 10, Section 1
Page 306

Teachings of Islam

Like Judaism and Christianity, Islam is monotheistic, based on belief in one God. The Quran (koo RAHn), the sacred text of Islam, teaches that God is all-powerful and compassionate. It also states that people are responsible for their own actions. Islam does not require priests to mediate between the people and God. Muslims believe that God had sent other prophets, including Abraham, Moses, and Jesus, but that Muhammad was the last and greatest prophet.

Muslims Study the Quran To Muslims, the Quran contains the sacred word of God as revealed to Muhammad. It is the final authority on all matters discussed in the text. The Quran teaches about God’s will and provides a guide to life. Its ethical standards emphasize honesty, generosity, and social justice. It sets harsh penalties for crimes such as stealing or murder. According to the Quran, each individual will stand before God on the final judgment day to face either eternal punishment in hell or eternal bliss in paradise.

Muslims believe that the Quran is the direct, unchangeable word of God. Because the meaning and poetic beauty of the Quran reside in its original language, all Muslims, including converts to Islam, learn Arabic. This shared language has helped unite Muslims from many regions throughout the world.

Muslims Follow Duties All observant Muslims perform five basic duties, known as the Five Pillars of Islam. The first is to make a declaration of faith. The second is to pray five times daily. After a ritual washing, Muslims face the holy city of Mecca to pray. Although Muslims may pray anywhere, they often gather in houses of worship called masjids or mosques. A mosque official called a muezzin (myoo EZ in) calls the faithful to prayer.

The third pillar is to give charity to the poor. The fourth is to fast from sunrise to sunset during the holy month of Ramadan—the month in which Muhammad received his first revelations from God. The fifth pillar is to make the hajj, or pilgrimage to Mecca, if a person is able. Pilgrims participate in ceremonies commemorating the actions of Muhammad, Abraham, and Abraham’s family. Their simple attire symbolizes the abandonment of the material world for the sake of God.

Another duty is jihad, or struggle in God’s service. Jihad is usually a personal duty for Muslims, who focus on overcoming immorality within themselves. At other times, jihad may be interpreted as a holy war to defend Islam and the Muslim community, much like the Crusades to defend Christianity. However, just holy war may be declared only by the community, not by an individual Muslim or small group.

“People of the Book” Muslims, Jews, and Christians worship the same God. The Quran teaches that Islam is God’s final and complete revelation, while Hebrew scriptures and the Christian Bible contain portions of earlier revelations. Muslims consider Jews and Christians to be “People of the Book,” spiritually superior to polytheistic idol worshipers. Although there have been exceptions, the People of the Book have historically enjoyed religious freedom in many Muslim societies.

✔ Checkpoint What are the duties required of Muslims?
A read about the Five Pillars of Islam. These are based on Muhammad’s example. The photograph below shows pilgrims praying at the Kaaba, the most important temple of Islam. Whenever Muslims pray, they face the Kaaba, which is located in Mecca. Find Mecca on the map and then read about the Five Pillars of Islam.

1. Declaration of Faith
   The Muslim profession of faith is called the shahada. It states, “There is no god but God, Muhammad is the messenger of God.” Muslims believe that God had sent other prophets, including Abraham, Moses, and Jesus, but that Muhammad was the last and greatest prophet.

2. Daily Prayer
   Muslims pray five times each day. After a ritual washing, they face Mecca and perform specific actions as they pray.

3. Alms for the Poor
   Muslims care for others by giving charity to the poor. In some Muslim countries, money is collected in the form of a tax called the zakat. Other Muslims give individual donations.

4. Fast During Ramadan
   Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset during the holy month of Ramadan. The sick and very young children are not required to fast. The children below are celebrating the end of Ramadan.

5. Hajj
   Muslims who are physically and financially able must make a pilgrimage to pray at the Kaaba in Mecca at least once. More than two million Muslims visit Mecca each year for this purpose. Pilgrims wear simple garments that erase cultural and class differences so that all stand equal before God.

Thinking Critically
1. Summarize Describe the Five Pillars of Islam.
2. Draw Inferences Why do Muslims perform the Five Pillars?
Chapter 10, Section 1

Islam: A Way of Life

Islam is both a religion and a way of life. Its teachings shape the lives of Muslims around the world. Islamic law governs daily life, and Muslim traditions determine ethical behavior and influence family relations.

Sharia—Islamic System of Law

Sharia, a body of law that includes interpretation of the Quran, examples of behavior from Muhammad’s life, and Muslim traditions. Similar to Jewish law, the Sharia regulates moral conduct, family life, business practices, government, and other aspects of individual and community life. It does not separate religion from criminal or civil law, but applies religious principles to all legal situations. Just as the Quran unifies Muslim beliefs, the Sharia unites Muslims under a common legal framework.

Impact of Islam on Women

Before Islam, the position of women in Arab society varied. In some communities, women were active in religion, trade, or politics. As in most societies at that time, however, most women had limited rights. Arab women could not inherit property and had to obey a male guardian. Among a few tribes, unwanted daughters were sometimes killed at birth.

Islam extended rights and protection to women by affirming the spiritual equality of all Muslims. The Quran teaches that “Whoever does right, whether male or female, and is a believer, all such will enter the Garden.” The Quran prohibited the killing of daughters, granted women an inheritance, and allowed women to reject a marriage offer. Islam also encouraged education for men and women so that all Muslims could study the Quran.

Although spiritually equal under Islam, men and women had different roles and rights. For example, women inherited less than men and had a more difficult time getting a divorce. As Islam spread, Muslims adopted practices of conquered peoples. For example, the practices of veiling upper-class women and secluding them in a separate part of the home were Persian customs. The Quran says that women should dress modestly, which has been interpreted in multiple ways. Still, women’s lives varied according to region and class. In rural areas, peasant women often needed to work and did not wear a veil, but took care to dress modestly.

Checkpoint How did Islam affect Muslim women?

Vocabulary Builder

affirm (uh FURM) v. to judge as valid

Terms, People, and Places

1. For each term, person, or place listed at the beginning of the section, write a sentence explaining its significance.

Reading Skill: Recognize Sequence and Identify Main Ideas

2. Use your completed timeline and web diagram to answer the Focus Question: What messages, or teachings, did Muhammad spread through Islam?

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

3. Why were merchants in Mecca at first opposed to Muhammad’s teachings?

4. Why do Muslims consider Mecca sacred?

5. How do the Quran and Sharia guide Muslims?

6. Which aspects of Islam would have appealed to the poor, enslaved, and isolated—many of the first Muslim converts? Explain.

Progress Monitoring Online

For: Self-quizzes with vocabulary practice
Web Code: naa-1011

Quick Write: Choose a Topic. Compare and contrast one tradition of Islam (religious holidays, for example) to a similar tradition within Judaism and/or Christianity. First, choose a topic to compare and contrast. To do so, write a list of the categories from which you can choose a topic to research for both religions. Refer to this list as you collect the facts and details you need to write a compare-and-contrast essay.

Writing About History
The Quran

The Quran, the holy scriptures of Islam, contains 114 suras, or chapters, which are divided into verses. Muslims believe that the Quran is the word of God as revealed to Muhammad. They also believe that God instructed Muhammad to arrange the chapters into the order in which they appear. The following excerpts from the Quran tell Muslims how to be righteous and faithful. They also encourage believers to fast and observe the holy month of Ramadan.

Righteousness does not consist in whether you face towards the East or the West. The righteous man is he who believes in God and the Last Day, in the angels and the Book [Scriptures] and the prophets; who, though he loves it dearly, gives away his wealth to kinsfolk, to orphans, to the destitute, to the traveller in need and to beggars, and for the redemption of captives; who attends to his prayers and renders the alms levy; who is true to his promises and steadfast in trial and adversity and in times of war. Such are the true believers; such are the God-fearing.

—The Quran 2:177

Believers, fasting is decreed for you as it was decreed for those before you; perchance you will guard yourselves against evil. Fast a certain number of days, but if any one among you is ill or on a journey, let him fast a similar number of days later; and for those that cannot endure it there is a penance ordained: the feeding of a poor man. He that does good of his own accord shall be well rewarded; but to fast is better for you, if you but knew it.

In the month of Ramadan the [Quran] was revealed, a book of guidance for mankind with proofs of guidance distinguishing right from wrong. Therefore whoever of you is present in that month let him fast. But he who is ill or on a journey shall fast a similar number of days later on.

God desires your well-being, not your discomfort. He desires you to fast the whole month so that you may magnify God and render thanks to Him for giving you His guidance. —The Quran 2:183–185

**Thinking Critically**

1. **Summarize Information**  According to the excerpt above, to whom should righteous people give their wealth?
2. **Analyze Information**  In which situation can a righteous person avoid fasting during Ramadan?
3. **Apply Information**  How does this passage from the Quran support the Five Pillars of Islam?

---

1. **redemption** (ahmz) *n.* freedom from enslavement or captivity by payment of ransom
2. **alms** (ahmz) *n.* charity given freely to the poor
Chapter 10, Section 2

Building a Muslim Empire

Objectives

• Explain how Muslims were able to conquer many lands.
• Identify the divisions that emerged within Islam.
• Describe the rise of the Umayyad and Abbasid dynasties.
• Explain why the Abbasid empire declined.

Terms, People, and Places

Abu Bakr  Umayyads
caliph  Abbasids
Sunni  Baghdad
Shiite  minaret
Sufis  sultan

Note Taking

Reading Skill: Recognize Sequence  Copy the timeline below. As you read, fill in the timeline with major events concerning the spread of Islam and the rise and fall of Muslim empires.

711  Arabs reach Spain.

600  800  1000  1200  1400

WITNESS HISTORY

Nomadic Raids

"...for centuries nomadic Arab tribes had been in the habit of making raids or razzias on other tribes. The usual aim was to drive off the camels or other livestock of the opponents. The favorite plan was to make a surprise attack with overwhelming force on a small section of the other tribe. In such circumstances it was no disgrace to the persons attacked if they made their escape; and so in many razzias there was little loss of life... From the standpoint of the Muslims, the crossing of the straits of Gibraltar in 711 was... one more in a series of raiding expeditions which had been pushing ever farther afield... After experiencing one or more such raiding expeditions the inhabitants of the countries traversed usually surrendered and became protected allies.”

—from The Influence of Islam on Medieval Europe, by W. Montgomery Watt

Focus Question  How did Muhammad’s successors extend Muslim rule and spread Islam?

The death of Muhammad plunged his followers into grief. Muhammad had been a pious man and a powerful leader. No one else had ever been able to unify so many Arab tribes. Could the community of Muslims survive without him?

Early Challenges to Islam

Muslims faced a problem when Muhammad died because he had not named a successor to lead the community. Eventually, they agreed that Abu Bakr (uh BAK ur), Muhammad’s father-in-law and an early convert to Islam, should be the first caliph, or successor to Muhammad. Abu Bakr sternly told the faithful, “If you worship Muhammad, Muhammad is dead. If you worship God, God is alive.”

Arabs Unite Under Islam  Abu Bakr faced an immediate crisis. The loyalty of some Arab tribal leaders had been dependent on Muhammad’s personal command. They refused to follow Abu Bakr and withdrew their loyalty to Islam. After several battles with the wavering tribes, Abu Bakr succeeded in reuniting the Muslims, based on their allegiance to Islam. Once reunited, the Muslims set out on a remarkable series of military campaigns. They began by converting the remaining Arab tribes to Islam, which ended warfare between Arabs and united them under one leader.

Audio

Building a Muslim Empire

Pre-Reading

Preview

Read the selection and the terms, people, and places. Ask yourself the following questions: What do you already know about the spread of Islam? What questions do you have about the spread of Islam?

Preteach

Teach

Step-by-Step

Building a Muslim Empire

Witness History Audio CD

Vocabulary Builder

mystic, p. 312
schism, p. 312

Terms, People, and Places

• Explain why the Abbasid empire declined.
• Describe the rise of the Umayyad and Abbasid dynasties.
• Identify the divisions that emerged within Islam.

Focus Question  How did Muhammad’s successors extend Muslim rule and spread Islam?

The death of Muhammad plunged his followers into grief. Muhammad had been a pious man and a powerful leader. No one else had ever been able to unify so many Arab tribes. Could the community of Muslims survive without him?

Early Challenges to Islam

Muslims faced a problem when Muhammad died because he had not named a successor to lead the community. Eventually, they agreed that Abu Bakr (uh BAK ur), Muhammad’s father-in-law and an early convert to Islam, should be the first caliph, or successor to Muhammad. Abu Bakr sternly told the faithful, “If you worship Muhammad, Muhammad is dead. If you worship God, God is alive.”

Arabs Unite Under Islam  Abu Bakr faced an immediate crisis. The loyalty of some Arab tribal leaders had been dependent on Muhammad’s personal command. They refused to follow Abu Bakr and withdrew their loyalty to Islam. After several battles with the wavering tribes, Abu Bakr succeeded in reuniting the Muslims, based on their allegiance to Islam. Once reunited, the Muslims set out on a remarkable series of military campaigns. They began by converting the remaining Arab tribes to Islam, which ended warfare between Arabs and united them under one leader.

Audio

Building a Muslim Empire

Pre-Reading

Preview

Read the selection and the terms, people, and places. Ask yourself the following questions: What do you already know about the spread of Islam? What questions do you have about the spread of Islam?

Preteach

Teach

Step-by-Step

Building a Muslim Empire

Witness History Audio CD

Vocabulary Builder

mystic, p. 312
schism, p. 312

Terms, People, and Places

• Explain why the Abbasid empire declined.
• Describe the rise of the Umayyad and Abbasid dynasties.
• Identify the divisions that emerged within Islam.

Focus Question  How did Muhammad’s successors extend Muslim rule and spread Islam?

The death of Muhammad plunged his followers into grief. Muhammad had been a pious man and a powerful leader. No one else had ever been able to unify so many Arab tribes. Could the community of Muslims survive without him?

Early Challenges to Islam

Muslims faced a problem when Muhammad died because he had not named a successor to lead the community. Eventually, they agreed that Abu Bakr (uh BAK ur), Muhammad’s father-in-law and an early convert to Islam, should be the first caliph, or successor to Muhammad. Abu Bakr sternly told the faithful, “If you worship Muhammad, Muhammad is dead. If you worship God, God is alive.”

Arabs Unite Under Islam  Abu Bakr faced an immediate crisis. The loyalty of some Arab tribal leaders had been dependent on Muhammad’s personal command. They refused to follow Abu Bakr and withdrew their loyalty to Islam. After several battles with the wavering tribes, Abu Bakr succeeded in reuniting the Muslims, based on their allegiance to Islam. Once reunited, the Muslims set out on a remarkable series of military campaigns. They began by converting the remaining Arab tribes to Islam, which ended warfare between Arabs and united them under one leader.

Audio

Building a Muslim Empire

Pre-Reading

Preview

Read the selection and the terms, people, and places. Ask yourself the following questions: What do you already know about the spread of Islam? What questions do you have about the spread of Islam?

Preteach

Teach

Step-by-Step

Building a Muslim Empire

Witness History Audio CD

Vocabulary Builder

mystic, p. 312
schism, p. 312

Terms, People, and Places

• Explain why the Abbasid empire declined.
• Describe the rise of the Umayyad and Abbasid dynasties.
• Identify the divisions that emerged within Islam.

Focus Question  How did Muhammad’s successors extend Muslim rule and spread Islam?

The death of Muhammad plunged his followers into grief. Muhammad had been a pious man and a powerful leader. No one else had ever been able to unify so many Arab tribes. Could the community of Muslims survive without him?

Early Challenges to Islam

Muslims faced a problem when Muhammad died because he had not named a successor to lead the community. Eventually, they agreed that Abu Bakr (uh BAK ur), Muhammad’s father-in-law and an early convert to Islam, should be the first caliph, or successor to Muhammad. Abu Bakr sternly told the faithful, “If you worship Muhammad, Muhammad is dead. If you worship God, God is alive.”

Arabs Unite Under Islam  Abu Bakr faced an immediate crisis. The loyalty of some Arab tribal leaders had been dependent on Muhammad’s personal command. They refused to follow Abu Bakr and withdrew their loyalty to Islam. After several battles with the wavering tribes, Abu Bakr succeeded in reuniting the Muslims, based on their allegiance to Islam. Once reunited, the Muslims set out on a remarkable series of military campaigns. They began by converting the remaining Arab tribes to Islam, which ended warfare between Arabs and united them under one leader.
Early Victories Under the first four caliphs, the Arab Muslims marched from victory to victory against two great empires on their borders. The Byzantines and Persians had competed with each other over control of lands in the Middle East. Once the Arabs united, they surprised their neighbors, conquering great portions of the Byzantine empire and defeating the Persians entirely. First, they took the provinces of Syria and Palestine from the Byzantines, including the cities of Damascus and Jerusalem. Then, they captured the weakened Persian empire and swept into Byzantine Egypt.

Divisions Emerge Within Islam

When Muhammad died, Muslims disagreed about who should be chosen to be the leader of the community. The split between Sunni (SOO nee) and Shiite (SHEE ye) Muslims had a profound impact on later Islamic history.

Sunnis and Shiites One group of Muslims felt that Muhammad had designated his son-in-law, Ali, to be his successor. They were called Shiites, after shi’at Ali, or followers of Ali. Shiites believe that the true successors to Muhammad are the descendants of Ali and Muhammad’s daughter, Fatima. They believe that these descendants, called Imams, are divinely inspired religious leaders, who are empowered to interpret the Quran and the actions of Muhammad. Another group felt that any good Muslim could lead the community, since there could be no prophet after Muhammad. This group soon divided and fought among themselves as well as with others over issues of who could be defined as a “good” Muslim.

The majority of Muslims eventually compromised around the view that the successor to Muhammad should be a pious male Muslim from Muhammad’s tribe. This successor is called a caliph and is viewed as a political leader of the religious community, without any divine or prophetic functions. The compromise group, which forms the majority of Muslims in the world today, are known as Sunnis, since they follow the custom of the community, or sunna. The Sunni believe that inspiration comes from the example of Muhammad as recorded by his early followers.

The Dome of the Rock

The Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem is the oldest surviving Islamic building. Construction began soon after Muslims captured Jerusalem. According to Muslim teaching, Muhammad ascended to heaven from the rock inside this building. Why was it important to Muslims to build in Jerusalem?
Chapter 10, Section 2
Page 312

Vocabulary Builder

schism—(SIZ um) n. a formal division or separation

In both the Sunni and Shiite branches of Islam, a group called the Sufi emerged. Sufis are Muslim mystics who sought communion with God through meditation, fasting, and other rituals. Sufis were respected for their piety and some were believed to have miraculous powers.

Like Christian monks and nuns, some Sufis helped spread Islam by traveling, preaching, and being good examples to others. They carried the faith to remote villages, where they blended local traditions and beliefs into Muslim culture.

Checkpoint
Describe differences between Sunni and Shiite Muslims.

Umayyad Caliphs Build an Empire

After the death of Ali, a powerful Meccan clan set up the Umayyad (oo MY ad) caliphate, a dynasty of Sunni caliphs that ruled the Muslim empire until 750. From their capital at Damascus in Syria, they directed the spectacular conquests that extended Arab rule from Spain and Morocco in the west to the Indus River Valley in the east. Their conquests enabled the spread of Islam and Muslim civilization.

Expanding the Muslim Empire From Egypt, Arab Muslim armies moved west, defeating Byzantine forces across North Africa. In 711, Muslim forces crossed the Strait of Gibraltar and conquered Spain. In 731, a Muslim army moved north into France to settle new areas. There, Frankish forces defeated the Muslims at the battle of Tours. Muslims ruled parts of Spain for centuries, but advanced no farther into Europe. Elsewhere, Muslim forces besieged the Byzantine capital of Constantinople, but failed to take the well-defended city.

Reasons for Muslim Success Several factors can explain the series of Muslim victories. One factor was the weakness of the Byzantine and Persian empires. The longtime rivals had fought each other to exhaustion. Many people also welcomed the Arabs as liberators from harsh Byzantine or Persian rule. Another factor was the Arabs' bold, efficient fighting methods. The Bedouin camel and horse cavalry mounted aggressive and mobile offensives that overwhelmed more traditional armies.

Under the first four caliphs, Muslims knitted a patchwork of competing tribes into a unified state. Belief in Islam and the desire to glorify the new religion spurred the Muslim armies to victory. As the empire expanded, the rulers created an orderly system of administration.
Treatment of Conquered People  The advancing Arabs brought many people under their rule. These Arabs imposed certain restrictions and a special tax on non-Muslims, but allowed Christians, Jews, and Zoroastrians to practice their own faiths and follow their own religious customs within those restrictions. Early Umayyads did not attempt to convert these “People of the Book,” because the tax supported the Arab troops who settled in conquered areas. As Muslim civilization developed, many Jews and Christians played key roles as officials, doctors, and translators. Muslim leaders wisely prohibited looting and destruction of conquered lands, ensuring continued wealth and prosperity for the empire in the form of tribute and taxes. However, the rulers also urged Arab settlers to stay separate from the native populations, which created an Arab upper class throughout the empire.

In time, many non-Muslims converted to Islam. Some converted to gain political or economic advantages. However, many were drawn to Islam’s simple and direct message, and they saw its triumph as a sign of God’s favor. Many of the nomadic peoples in North Africa and Central Asia chose Islam immediately. Unlike some religions, Islam had no religious hierarchy or class of priests. In principle, it emphasized the equality of all believers, regardless of race, gender, class, or wealth. In later centuries, Turkish and Mongol converts helped spread Islam far across Asia.

Decline of the Umayyad Caliphate  As military victories and negotiation expanded the Muslim empire, the Umayyads faced numerous problems. First, Arabs had to adapt from living in the desert to ruling large cities and huge territories. In many ways, the caliphs ruled like powerful tribal leaders, rather than kings with large bureaucracies. To govern their empire, the Umayyads often relied on local officials. Although they helped govern the empire, non-Arabs often did not have the same privileges that Arabs had, even if they converted to Islam.

While conquests continued, vast wealth flowed into Umayyad hands. When conquests slowed in the 700s, economic tensions increased between wealthy Arabs and those who had less. In addition, more and more resources were used to support the caliphs’ luxurious lifestyle. By the eighth century, many Muslims criticized the court at Damascus for abandoning the simple ways of the early caliphs. Shiites considered the Umayyad caliphs to be illegitimate rulers of the Islamic community.
Chapter 10, Section 2
Page 314

Unrest also grew among non-Arab converts to Islam, who had fewer rights than Arabs.

**Checkpoint** What are three reasons for the success of Muslim conquests?

**Rise of the Abbasids**
Discontented Muslims found a leader in Abu al-Abbas, descended from Muhammad’s uncle. With strong support from Shiite and non-Arab Muslims, he captured Damascus in 750. Soon after, he had members of the defeated Umayyad family killed. Only one survived, escaping to Spain. Abu al-Abbas then founded the Abbasid (uh BAS id) dynasty, which lasted until 1258.

**Changes Under the Abbasids** The Abbasid dynasty tried to create an empire based on the equality of all Muslims. The new rulers halted the large military conquests, ending the dominance of the Arab military class. Under the early Abbasids, the empire of the caliphs reached its greatest wealth and power, and Muslim civilization flourished. Under the Abbasids, Islam became a more diverse religion because discrimination against non-Arab Muslims ended. Official policy encouraged conversion to Islam and treated all Muslims equally. The Abbasids created a more sophisticated bureaucracy and encouraged learning.

The Abbasids also moved the capital from Damascus to Baghdad, a small market town on the banks of the Tigris river. This move into Persian territory allowed Persian officials to hold important offices in the caliph’s government. It also allowed Persian traditions to influence the development of the caliphate. Although these traditions strongly influenced Arab culture, Islam remained the religion of the empire and Arabic its language. The most important official was known as the vizier, or the head of the bureaucracy, a position that had existed in Persian government.

**Splendors of Baghdad** The second Abbasid caliph, al-Mansur, chose Baghdad as the site of his new capital. The walls formed a circle, with the caliph’s palace in the center. Poets, scholars, philosophers, and entertainers from all over the Muslim world flocked to the Abbasid court. Under the Abbasids, Baghdad exceeded Constantinople in size and wealth. Visitors no doubt felt that Baghdad deserved its title “City of Peace, Gift of God, Paradise on Earth.”

The city was beautiful, with many markets, gardens, the palace, and mosques. Domes and minarets (min uh rets), slender towers of the mosques, loomed overhead. Five times each day, muezzins climbed to the tops of the minarets and called the faithful to prayer. Merchants sold goods from Africa, Asia, and Europe. The palace of the caliph bustled with activity.

**Muslim Culture in Spain** The surviving member of the Umayyad family had fled to Spain and established an independent Muslim state. There, Muslim rulers presided over brilliant courts, where the arts and
Arabs conquer Morocco

Map Skills  In less than 150 years, Muslim rule spread from Arabia across southwest Asia and North Africa and into Europe.

1. Locate (a) Damascus (b) Baghdad (c) Persia (d) Cairo (e) Constantinople (f) Córdoba (g) Tours

2. Region  During what period did Spain come under Muslim rule?

3. Apply Information  How might the spread of Islam have contributed to Muslim success in trade?

The Great Mosque and town of Kairouan, Tunisia

Interior view of the Great Mosque of Córdoba, Spain

Courtyard of the Umayyad Mosque in Damascus

Web Code: nap-1021
learning thrived. In general, they were more tolerant of other religions than were Christian rulers of the time. At centers of learning, such as the city of Córdoba, rulers employed Jewish officials and welcomed Christian scholars to study science and philosophy. Architects built grand buildings, such as the Alhambra, a fortified palace in Granada. Its lovely gardens, reflecting pools, and finely decorated marble columns mark a high point of Muslim civilization in Spain. Muslim rule endured in parts of Spain until 1492.

**Checkpoint**  How did Islam become a more universal faith?

### The Muslim Empire Declines

The Abbasids never ruled Spain, and starting about 850, their control over the rest of the Muslim empire fragmented. In Egypt and elsewhere, independent dynasties ruled states that had been part of a unified empire. As the caliph's power faded in some regions, Shiite rulers came to power. Between 900 and 1400, a series of invasions added to the chaos.

**Seljuk Turks Take Control**  In the 900s, Seljuk Turks migrated into the Middle East from Central Asia. They adopted Islam and built a large empire across the Fertile Crescent. By 1055, a Seljuk *sultan*, or ruler, controlled Baghdad, but he kept the Abbasid caliph as a figurehead. As the Seljuks pushed into Asia Minor, they threatened the Byzantine empire. The conflict prevented Christian pilgrims from traveling to Jerusalem, leading Pope Urban II to call for the First Crusade in 1095.

**Mongols Sweep Across Central Asia**  In 1216, Genghis Khan led the Mongols out of Central Asia across southwest Asia. Mongol armies returned again and again. In 1258, Hulagu, the grandson of Genghis, burned and looted Baghdad, killing the last Abbasid caliph. Later, the Mongols adopted Islam as they mingled with local inhabitants. In the late 1300s, another Mongol leader, Timur the Lame, or Tamerlane, led his armies into the Middle East. Though he was a Muslim, Tamerlane's ambitions led him to conquer Muslim as well as non-Muslim lands. His armies overran southwest Asia before invading Russia and India.

**Checkpoint**  What caused the Abbasid dynasty to decline?

### Assessment

**Terms, People, and Places**
1. For each term, person, or place listed at the beginning of the section, write a sentence explaining its significance.

**Note Taking**
2. Reading Skill: Recognize Sequence
   Use your completed timelines to answer the Focus Question: How did Muhammad’s successors extend Muslim rule and spread Islam?

**Comprehension and Critical Thinking**
3. Recognize Ideologies  How did the issue of heredity cause the division of Islam into Sunni and Shiite Muslims?
4. Analyze Information  How did the Umayyads’ treatment of non-Muslims and non-Arabs affect their empire?
5. Recognize Cause and Effect  Why did the empire of the Abbasid caliphs decline and eventually break up?

**Writing About History**

Quick Write: Explore a Topic  Many Bedouins visited Baghdad during the reign of Harun al-Rashid. Write a paragraph through their eyes in which you describe how life in Baghdad differs from nomadic life in the desert. Give details about each point of comparison to make your essay more accessible to readers.