



THE MUSLIM TRAVELLERS

The Haj and Beyond

The world known by Ibn Jubayr

Muslim geographer, Al-Idrisi
(b. 1099)
Palermo, Sicily,
King Roger II,
completed in 1154



2



The Book of Pleasant Journeys into Faraway Lands
(*Tabula Rogeriana*), 1154

<http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/d3/TabulaRogeriana.jpg>

3

Who were they?

- Ibn Jubayr (1145-1217), civil servant for the governor of Granada
 - 1183 Hajj, aged 38, by sea
- Ibn Battutah (1304-1368 or 9), family of Islamic legal scholars in Tangier, Morocco
 - 1325 Hajj, aged 21, by land

What was their perspective?

4

Muhammed (d. 632)

- Messages via Gabriel
- *Hejira* to Medina
 - 622 = year 1
- Jihad
- Conquers Mecca
 - 630



5

The Five Pillars of Islam

1. There is no God but Allah and Muhammed is his prophet.
2. Prayer 5 times daily toward Mecca
3. *Zakat*
4. Fasting during *Ramadan*
5. *Hajj*

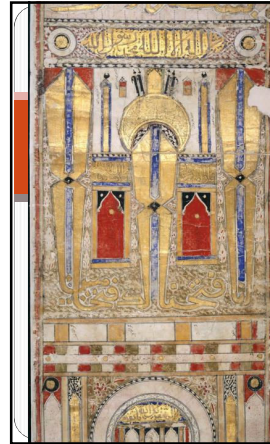
6

What's the Hajj?



Al-Ka'ba

7



Haj certificate, 1433

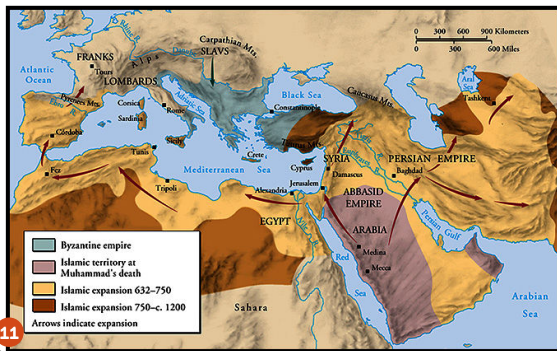
Islamic Law: *Shariah*

- *Qu'ran*: Divine revelation
 - taught by *Muhammed*
- *Sunna*
 - Muhammed's life
 - *Hadith*:
 - Traditions recorded later, attributed to Muhammed and other early scholars
- Theocracy

9



Spread of Islam Umyyad Caliphs, 661-750



11

Extension of Islam under Abbasids (749-1258)



12

Western emirs rule independently

Treatment of non-Muslims

- Different Policies
 - Polytheists
 - People of the “book”

13

What unified Dar al-Islam?

- Islamic Religion
 - Law of the Qur'an, the Hajj
 - Schools and wandering scholars
- Arabic Language
 - Koran only in Arabic
- Trade, Merchants

14

An Account of the Events that Befell upon Certain Journeys

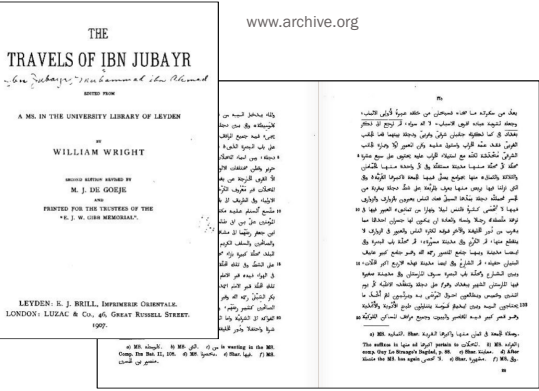
“Muhammed ibn Jubayr left Granada – may God preserve it – on their pilgrimage to the blessed Hejaz... at the first hour of Thursday the 8th of Shawwal 578 A.H., which fell, according to the foreigners on the 3rd of February.”

15

Ibn Jubayr

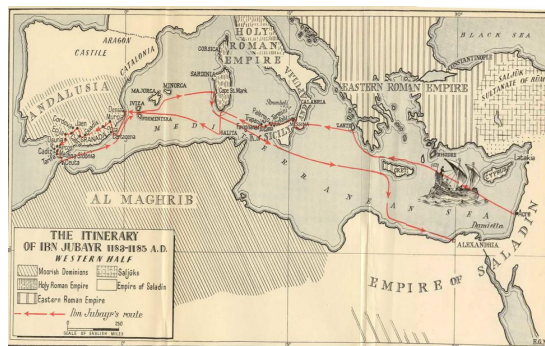
- *Abū l-Husayn Muhammad ibn Ahmad ibn Jubayr al-Kenani* (Arabic: أبو الحسين محمد بن أحمد بن جبیر الكنتاني)

16



17

Ibn Jubayr



18

Ibn Jubayr



19

Travelling in the twelfth century

- How did Ibn Jubayr feel about sea travel?
- On what ships did he travel?
- Who were his fellow passengers?
- What were his concerns?
- What difficulties did he face?
- What about the peril of seaports?
 - Slave Market in Sardinia, 27
 - Customs at Alexandria, 32
- What were the problems of travel by land?
- What do these experiences reveal about him?

20

Storms at the Straits of Messina, Scylla and Charybdis



21

Ayyubids Reassert Sunni control

- Abu 'l-Muzaffar Yūsuf ibn Ayyūb Ṣalāḥ ad-Dīn
- Salah al-Din: Kurd (Saladin)
 - Jihad: Jerusalem 1187
 - Ended Fatimid caliphate in Egypt
 - Fatimids: Isma'ili Shi'a Muslims
 - Successful Jihad legitimizes upstarts
- Third Crusade to recapture Jerusalem



Citadel in Cairo, built after 1171 attack by Crusaders



"The forced labourers on this construction, and those executing all the skilled services and vast preparations such as sawing the marble, cutting the huge stones, and digging...with pickaxes from the rock were the foreign Rumi prisoners whose numbers were beyond computation." (43)

Mamluks

- **Abbasid personal armed force = > Sultan of Egypt**
 - Enslaved males from Caucasus
- **Muslim upbringing**
 - Cavalry training
 - Loyal only to sultan or emir
- **Bahri Mamluk dynasty founded in Egypt**
- Battle of Ain Jalut 1261

Sicily

- Norman Conquest of Sicily,
- What does Ibn Jubayr say about William II king of Sicily?
- How does he respond to being in a city of



25



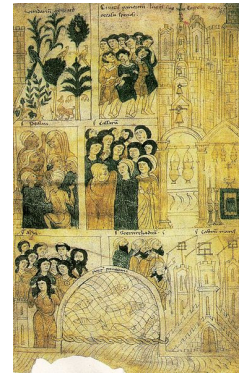
Church was begun in 1174 by William II who dedicated it to the Assumption of the Virgin Mary

26



27

Palermo
mourns the
death of
William II,
1189



28

The Travels of Ibn Battudah

"A Gift to Those Who Contemplate the Wonders of Cities and the Marvels of Travelling," by Ibn Battudah

29

How had the world changed?

- No more Crusader states
- Mongols had conquered Asia
- Western Mongols had converted to Islam.
- The Mamluks were governing Egypt

30

Ibn Battutah

- 14th/ C Arab Islamic scholar
- Sunni
- Account recorded by Ibn Juzayy
- Travelled across Dar-al-Islam
- Qadi (qazi), judge (Maliki school)
 - applied Islamic law to disputes
 - applied Islamic law to society

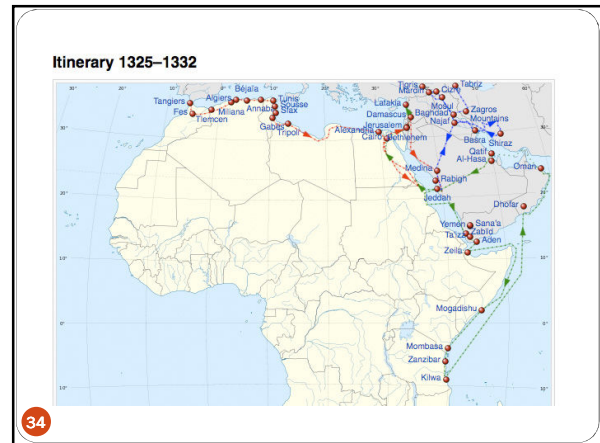
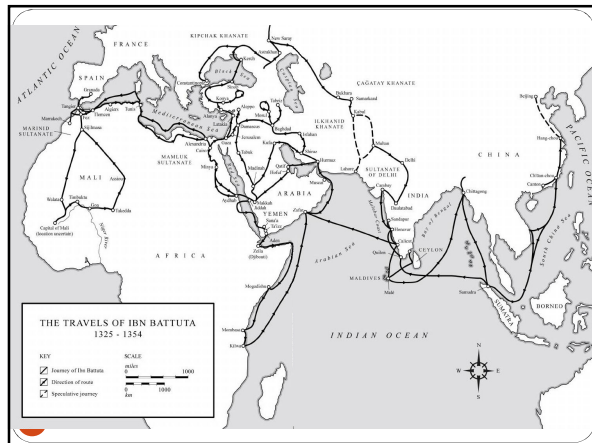
31

Ibn Battutah

- What does he tell us about himself?
- What else does his account reveal?

“In the year 725 with the object of making thr Pilgrimage to the Holy House at Mecca and visiting the tomb of the Prophet... I set out alone, having neither fellow-traveller in whose companionship I might find cheer, nor caravan whose party I might join... My parents being yet in the bonds of life, it weighed sorely upon me to part from them.”

32



34

What does he notice?

- In Cairo?
- In Damascus?
- In Mecca?
- In Baghdad?
- In Constantinople?
- In the Maldives?
- In Timbuktu?

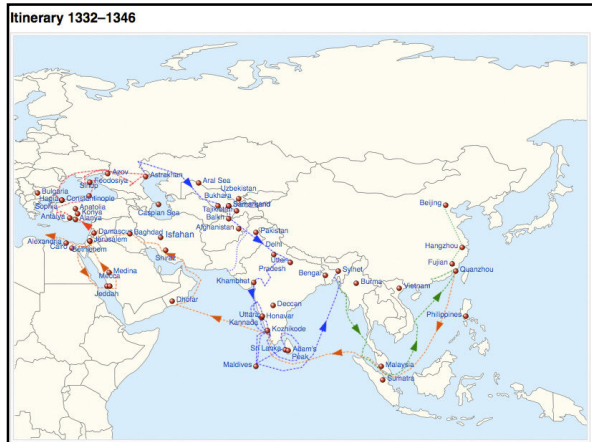
What problems does he have?

35

What is his attitude about non-Muslims?

- The Christians?
- The Jews?
- The Chinese?
- The Indians?
- Others?

36



Ibn Battutah in the Maldives

“The people of these islands are upright and pious, sound in belief, and sincere in purpose; the keep to lawful foods, and their prayers are answered. When one of them sees a man he says to him, “God is my Lord and Muhammed my Prophet, and I am an ignorant and miserable creature.” Their bodies are weak, they are unused to fighting and warfare, and their armour is a prayer. Once when I ordered a thief’s hand to be cut off, a number of those who were in the room fainted.” (232)

38

Ibn Battutah in the Maldives

“The women do not cover their heads, not even at one side. Most of them wear only one apron from the navel to the ground, the rest of their bodies being uncovered. It is thus that they walk abroad in the bazaars and elsewhere. When I was qadi there, I tried to put an end to this practice and ordered them to wear clothes, but I met with no success.”

“When ships arrive the crews marry wives and when they want to sail they divorce them; it is really a sort of temporary marriage, and the women never leave their country I have never found in the world any women more agreeable to consort with than they are....I married several woman there.”

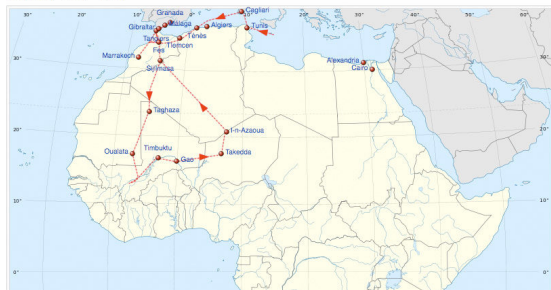
(234)

39

How did Ibn Batutah react to non-Arab societies?

40

Itinerary 1349–1354



41

Ibn Battuta states:

“The condition of these people is remarkable, and their way of life is strange. The men have no jealousy. No one takes the name from his father, but from his maternal uncle. Sons do not inherit, only sisters’ sons!

Nevertheless, these people are Muslims. They are strict in observing the prayers, studying the religious law, and memorizing the Qur’an. Their women have no shame before men and do not veil themselves, yet they are punctilious about their prayers.

...Women there have friends and companions among men outside the prohibited degrees for marriage, and in the same way men have women friends in the same category. A man goes into his house, finds his wife with her man friend, and does not disapprove.” (284-5)

1375 Catalan Map



42

Ibn Battuta states:

"He is the Mansa Sulaiman; *mansa* means sultan and Suliaman is his personal name. He is a miserly king and a big gift is not to be expected from him." (286)

"We stopped by the channel in a big village whose governor was a black Hajji, an excellent man named Farba Magha. He was one of those who had accompanied the Sultan Mansa Musa when he went on pilgrimage." (291)

1375 Catalan Map



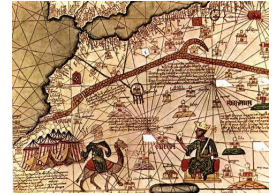
43

This Negro lord is called **Musa Mali**, Lord of the Negroes of Guinea. So abundant is the gold which is found in his country that he is the richest and most noble king in all the land.

Through this place pass the **merchants** who travel to the land of the negroes of Guinea, which place they call the valley of the Dra'a.

All this region is occupied by **people who veil their mouths**; one only sees their eyes. They live in tents and have caravans of camels. There are also beasts called Lemp from the skins of which they make fine shields."

1375 Catalan Map



Kingdom of Mali

Mansa Musa

- 1312-1337
- Hajj to Mecca
- "Golden" Age of Mali
- mosques
- scholars



45

The travellers

- What do we learn about the travellers through their opinions of "others"?
- How do their accounts compare to Marco Polo's?
- How is their pilgrimage compare to Margery's?
- How do they compare to each other?

46

More Maps from 1000-1300

- A very nice collection discovered by Prof. Kreisel
- <http://retronaut.com/2012/10/maps-before-maps/>

47