

# THE WORLDS OF ISLAM

## AHRO-EURASIAN CONNECTIONS

600-1500



CHAPTER 9  
AP WORLD HISTORY  
WAYS OF THE WORLD  
2ND EDITION  
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# The birth of the new religion



- ∞ Confucianism and Daoism from China
- ∞ Hinduism and Buddhism from India
- ∞ Greek philosophy from the Mediterranean world
- ∞ Zoroastrianism from Persia
- ∞ Christianity and Islam by contrast emerged more from the margins of Mediterranean and Middle Eastern people. The Jews in a remote province of the Roman Empire while Islam took hold in the cities and deserts of the Arabian Peninsula.

# The Hometown of Islam

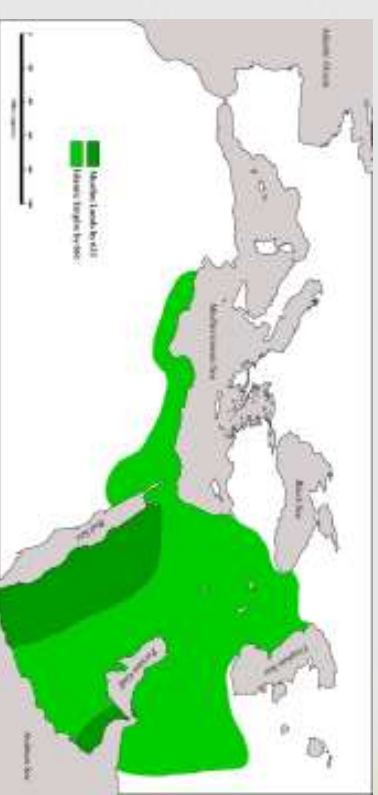
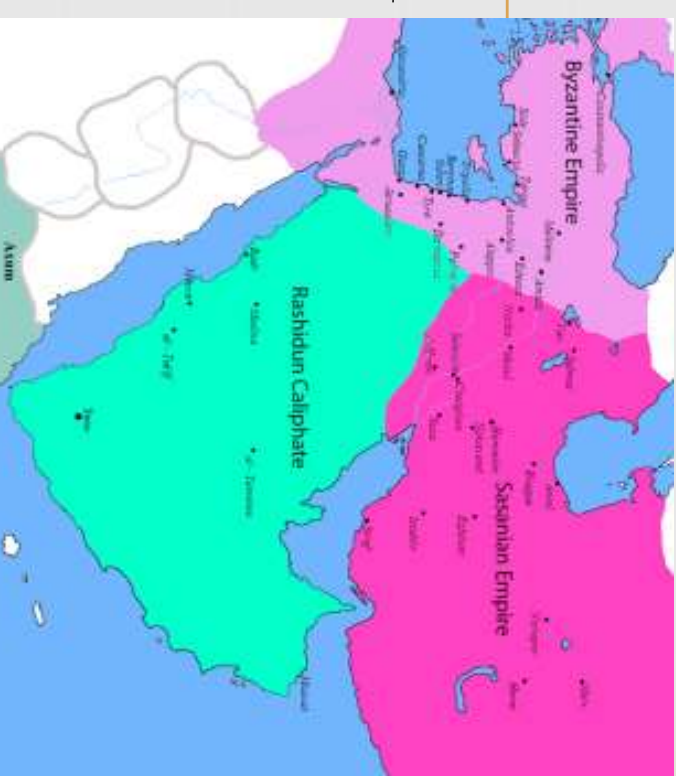


- ❧ Arabian Peninsula had long been inhabited by nomadic Arabs known as Bedouins (who herded sheep and camels in seasonal migrations) these people fiercely independent clans and tribes.
- ❧ They recognized a variety of gods, ancestors.
- ❧ Arabia also sat aside increasingly in important trade routes
- ❧ Important locations gave rise to cosmopolitan commercial cities, whose values and practices were often in conflict with those of traditional Arab tribes.

# Importance location: Mecca



- ❧ Mecca came to occupy a distinctive role in Arabia. Mecca was the site of Kaaba, the most prominent religious shrine in Arabia.
- ❧ Mecca´s dominant tribe – Quraysh.
- ❧ Quraysh had come to control access to the Kaaba and grew wealthy by taxing the local trade that accompanied the annual pilgrimage season.
- ❧ Mecca was home to people from various tribes and clans.
- ❧ Arabia was located on the periphery of two established and rival civilizations of that time (Byzantine empire and Sassanid Empire)



# The Messenger and the Message



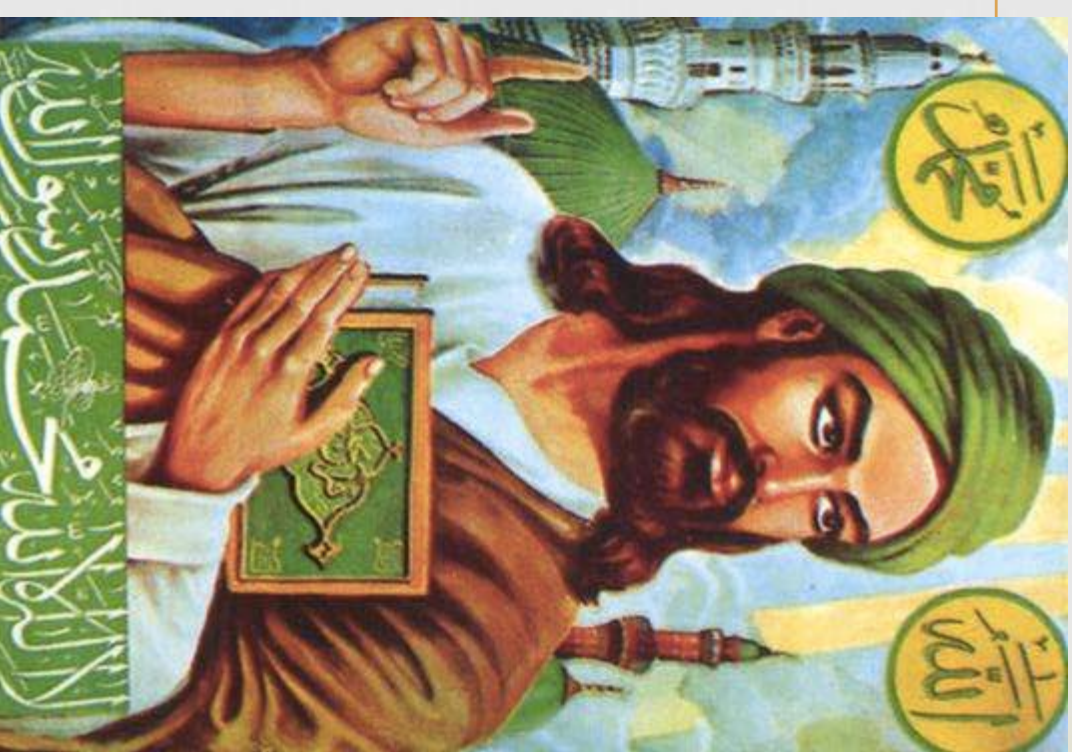
- ❧ Muhammad Ibn Abdullah, was born in Mecca to a Quraysh family. Lost his parents, cared by an uncle, worked as shepherd (traveled). At 25 he married wealthy widow had 6 children.
- ❧ Muhammad had powerful overwhelming religious experience that left him convinced, that he was Allah's messenger to the Arabs.
- ❧ Those revelations recorded in the Quran, became the sacred scriptures of Islam, which is to most Muslims regard as the very own words of God and the core of their faith.



# Messenger



- ❧ Quran´s message delivered through Muhammad. The messenger of God, Muhammad presented himself in the line of earlier prophets (Abraham, Moses, Jesus).
- ❧ Christians made their prophet into a God, Arabs submitted to Allah.
- ❧ Muslim = one who submits
- ❧ Submission was not only individual but a creation of a whole new society. Quran demanded social justice (solidarity, equality, concern for the poor).



# UMMA



- ☞ The just and moral society of Islam was the UMMA (the community of all believers, replacing tribal, ethnic or racial identities) – Such society would be a “witness over the nations”
- ☞ Umma was to be a new just community, bound by a common belief rather than by territory, language or tribe.
- ☞ The core message of the Quran – 5 pillars.

# 1st Pillar: Profession of Faith (Shahada)

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☞ TWOFOLD:

☞ God (Allah) is One

☞ Muhammad is the final prophet

For Muslims, the Qur'an is the  
ultimate proof of this declaration.





# 2<sup>nd</sup> Pillar: Praying (Salat)



- ☞ Salat is the ritual of prayer
- ☞ Muslims pray five times a day (dawn, noon, afternoon, sunset, evening) in the direction of Mecca.



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Pillar: Zakat (Charity)

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☞ Piety and charity are important aspects of Islam. All Muslims are required to be charitable to those who are less fortunate than themselves.



# 4<sup>th</sup> Pillar: Ramadhan (Fasting)

- ☞ Ramadhan is the ninth month of the Islamic Lunar Calendar.
- ☞ During this month, Muslims will refrain from all food, drink, tobacco, etc., during daylight hours
- ☞ Pregnant women, the elderly, and young children do not have to fast.



HAPPY RAMADAN

# 5<sup>th</sup> Pillar: The Hajj (Pilgrimage to Mecca)

- ☞ Muslims are required to travel to Mecca at least once during their life time. The Pilgrimage is done during July and August.
- ☞ At Mecca, they will perform a variety of rituals involving the Kaaba (Black Stone).
- ☞ The Pilgrimage was performed by Muhammad at the end of his life.





# 6th Pillar? Jihad and Conquest

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- ∞ **Jihad: The struggle**
- ∞ Interior personal effort of each believer against greed and selfishness, spiritual striving toward God-counscious life.
- ∞ Quran authorized armed struggle against forces of unbelief and evil as means of establishing Muslim rule and of defending the UMMA from the threats of aggressors.



# Islam: Empire of Faith - prophet Muhammad the rise of Islam



☞ <https://youtu.be/yX3UHNhQ1Zk>

# Hijra - Journey



- ☞ Christians had made their prophet into god. Muslims “the one who submits”
- ☞ Submission was not merely an individual or spiritual act, for it involved the creation of a whole new society.
- ☞ Quran demanded social justice
- ☞ Muhammad – Messenger of Allah
- ☞ The migration to Yathrib – HIJRA (the journey) was a momentous turning point in the early history of Islam, marked the beginning of new islamic calendar.
- ☞ The new community or Umma in Medina was king of “super tribe”





# Muhammad as authority

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- ☞ All authority, both political and religious, was concentrated in the hands of Muhammad.
- ☞ He declared his movements independence from its earlier affiliation with Judaism. (Jews & Christians based on common monotheism and prophetic tradition).
- ☞ Jews allied with enemies – Muhammad suppress them and exiled them.
- ☞ Prophet now redirected his followers prayer toward Mecca, declaring ISLAM the Arab religion.

محمد ﷺ



# Islamic state: new faith



From its base in Medina, the Islamic community rapidly extended its reach. Growing numbers converted.

Muhammad had periodic military actions to other tribes against him. = he won and therefore the consolidation of Islamic control throug hout Arabia. Muhammad triumphantly entered Mecca. Declaring the Kaaba shrine to Allah.

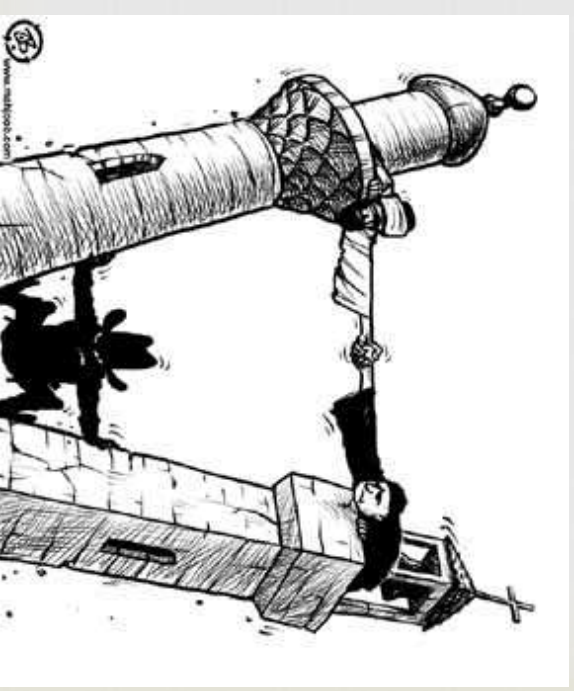


# Christians and Muslims

✧ In contrast with Christianity. Jesus' teachings "give to Caesar what is Caesar's and God to what is God" reflected the minority and subordinate status of the Jews within the Roman Empire.

✧ The answer lay in the development of a separate church hierarchy and the concept of two coexisting authorities, one religious and one political.

✧ Islamic community; Muhammad was not only a religious figure but also unlike Jesus or Buddha a political authority and military leader able to implement his vision of an ideal Islamic society



# The Sharia and the Arabian Peninsula



- Teachers, religious, scholars, and judges within the islamic state did not have the religious role as priests held in christianity. NO distinction between religious law and civil law.
- For Islam only ONE law as the SHARIA regulated ALL aspect of life. (legal system bas in Islam)
- Sharia = path to water (source of life)
- Profound transformation for the Arabian peninsula, became a new religion a new state order. = bringing peace to the warring tribes of Arabia.



# Making of the Arab Empire



- ☞ The Islamic faith spread widely within and outside that empire. - from the mixing and blending of these new peoples emerged the new and distinctive third-wave civilization of Islam bounded by the ties of faith.
- ☞ The Byzantine and Persian empires weakened by decades of war between each other and internal revolts.
- ☞ The Sassanid Empire had been defeated by Arab forces. Muslim forces, swept across North Africa and conquered Spain.
- ☞ Arab armies reached up to Indus River and central Asia (Turkic speaking people).

# TOLERANCE



- ☞ The new merchant leaders of the new Islamic community wanted to capture profitable trade routes and wealthy agricultural regions. – military expansion a route to wealth and social promotion.
- ☞ Even though they conquered, this did not mean imposing a new religion.
- ☞ After Muhammads death – followers called themselves BELIEVERS (not muslims).
- ☞ New rulers were tolerant of established Jewish and Christian faiths. – Agreements and treaties recognized Jews and Christians as “PEOPLE OF THE BOOK” giving status of DHIMMIS. (freely practice their own religion as long as they paid tax known as JIZYA.

# CONVERSION



- ⌘ After Muhammad's death, millions of individuals and many whole societies within the Arab Empire found their cultural identity bound up with a belief in Allah and the message of his prophet.
- ⌘ Major elements of Islam: Monotheism, ritual prayer, cleansing ceremonies, fasting, divine revelations, ideas of heaven -> (peace) and final judgement. = familiar to Jews, Christians.
- ⌘ Islam was associated with a powerful state, living in an Islamic governed state provided a variety of incentives for claiming Muslim identity.

# Conversion



☞ Converts could avoid the Jizya, the tax imposed on non Muslims and aid social mobility.

☞ A small group of jealous Spanish Christians in the 9th century provoked their own martyrdom by publicly insulting the prophet.

☞ In persia 80% of population made the transition to Muslim identity. Also, Iraq, Syria, Egypt, and North Africa.





# Divisions and Controversies



- ❧ The ideal of unified Muslim community, so important to Muhammad, proved difficult to realize as conquest and conversion vastly enlarged the Islamic Umma. A central problem of leadership and authority in the absence of Muhammad.
- ❧ Who should hold the role of caliph, the successor to Muhammad as the political leader of the Umma (protector and defender of the faith)?
- ❧ That issue led to emerging conflicts within the Islamic world.



# The Caliphs



- ∞ The first 4 caliphs, known to most Muslims as the RIGHTLY GUIDED CALIPHS, (close companions of the prophet). Selected by Muslim elders of the Medina.
- ∞ Division surfaced almost immediately, a series of Arab tribal rebellions and new “prophets” persuaded the first caliph (Abu Bakr).
- ∞ 3rd and 4th Caliphs (Uthman and Ali) were assassinated. = civil war. (656 C.E)

# THE EXPANSION OF ISLAM DURING THE MIDDLE AGES

After Muhammad's death, in 632, a caliph ruled Islam

A caliph was the political, religious and military leader of Islam

At the beginning, caliphs were descendants of Muhammad and they conquered the entire Arabian Peninsula, Egypt, Syria, Persia and Armenia

This time was known as the Orthodox Caliphate. The first four caliphs were:



Abu Bakr  
(632-634)



Umar  
(634-644)



Uthman  
(644-656)



Ali  
(656-661)



# SUNNIS AND SHIAS



- ☞ Out of that conflict emerged one of the deepest and most enduring rifts within the Islamic world.
- ☞ One side: SUNNI Muslims who held that the caliphs were rightful political and military leaders, selected by the Islamic community.
- ☞ On the other side, SHIA (fraction) branch of Islam, they felt strongly that the leadership in the Islamic world should derive from the line of ALI and his son HUSAYN, (blood relatives of Muhammad)



# Sunni Muslims and Shia

## Muslims

- ☞ In the beginning, this was only political conflict with religious meaning, but over time, their split grew deeper.
- ☞ For SUNNI Muslims, religious authority emerged from the larger community, from religious scholars known as UJLAMA.
- ☞ SHIA Muslims, invested their leaders, known as IMAMS, with religious authority that the caliphs lacked, allowing them to infallibly interpret divine revelations and laws.
- ☞ Shia muslims saw themselves as the minority opposition within the Islam.
- ☞ The Sunni and Shia became a lasting division in the Islamic world, reflected in conflicts among various Islamic States, (further splits among the Shia) these divisions still echo in the 21st century.



# Umayyad Caliph



- œ From modest Caliphs to absolute monarchs.
- œ The first dynasty, following the era of the Rightly Guided Caliphs, came from the Umayyad family (hereditary rulers) and the capital moved to Damascus in Syria).
- œ Ruling class – Aristocracy military,
- œ The SHIA viewed the Umayyad rule as illegitimate usurpers.
- œ Arabs protested the luxurious living and impiety of their rulers.



# Umayyad Caliphate



# ABBASID & SULTANATES



- ❧ The Umayyads charged “God’s servants slaves, Gods property something to be taken by turns among the rich, and God’s religion a cause of corruption”
- ❧ Umayyad overthrow in 750. = new dynasty ABBASIDS.
- ❧ Presided over prosperous Islamic civilization in which non arabs played (Persians) played a prominent role. (local commanders).
- ❧ Long before the Mongol conquest put an end to the Abbasid Empire in 1258, the Islamic world fractured politically into a series of SULTANATES, many ruled by Persian or Turkish military dynasties.





# What does it mean to be Muslim, to submit wholly to Allah?



One answer lays in the development of the SHARIA, the body of Islamic society, providing detailed guidance for prayer and ritual cleansing, marriage, divorce, and inheritance, business and commercial relationships, political life and much more.

Debates amongst the ULAMA led to the creation of 4 schools of LAW among SUNNIS Muslims and still others in the lands of SHIA ISLAM.

To the Ulama and their followers living as a Muslim meant following the SHARIA and participating in the creation of the Islamic society.



# SUFIS



- ☞ A second quite different understanding of the faith emerged among those who saw the worldly success of Islamic civilization as a distraction and deviation from the purer spirituality of Muhammad's time. Known as SUFIS, they represented Islam's mystical dimension, in that they sought a direct and personal experience of the Divine.
- ☞ Through renunciation of the material world, meditation on the words of Quran, the use of music and dance. Sufis pursued an interior life seeking to tame the ego and achieve spiritual union.



# Sufis and the world of Islam



- ☞ Sufis often charted their own course of God, challenging the religious authority of the Ulama.
- ☞ Despite their differences, the legalistic emphasis of the Ulama and Sufi spirituality never became irreconcilable versions of Islam.
- ☞ Though Sufism entered mainstream Islamic thinking, and Sufi spiritual practices long served as an element of popular Islam, their emphasis remained an element of tension and sometimes discord with the world of Islam.



# How did the rise of Islam change the lives of women?



# Men and Women in Islam



- ❧ Quran was quite clear and explicit: men and women were equal.
- ❧ In social terms, like all written texts of almost all civilizations, viewed women as inferior and subordinate: "Men have the authority over women because of Allah has made the one superior to the other, and because they spend their wealth to maintain them. Good women are obedient."
- ❧ Female infanticide, practiced in many cultures as a means of gender selection – was now forbidden to Muslims
- ❧ Women were able to own property, inheritance, divorce was possible -> polygamy permitted for men (4 wives)
- ❧ Men possible to have sexual relations with female slaves

- ☞ Muslim women upper class experience growing restrictions as Islamic civilization flourished culturally. Women prayed in Mosques (besideback men)
- ☞ Umar (2nd caliph) women to offer prayers at Home, veiling and seclusion became a standard practice among upper and ruling class, removing them from public life. Separate quarters within homes.
- ☞ Caliph Mansur carried this separations of sexes even further, he ordered a separate bridge for women to cross (Euphrates River)

## Rights of Women in Islam

- ☐ Equality of reward for their deeds
- ☐ The right and duty to obtain education
- ☐ The right to obtain provisions from her father or brothers until she gets married
- ☐ The right to have their own independent property
- ☐ The right to provisions from the husband for all her needs and more.
- ☐ The right to work to earn money if they need it or want it
- ☐ The right to keep all her own money
- ☐ The right to express their opinion and be heard
- ☐ The right to negotiate marriage terms of her choice
- ☐ The right to obtain divorce from her husband
- ☐ The right to have custody of their children after divorce
- ☐ And more...



# Women in Islam

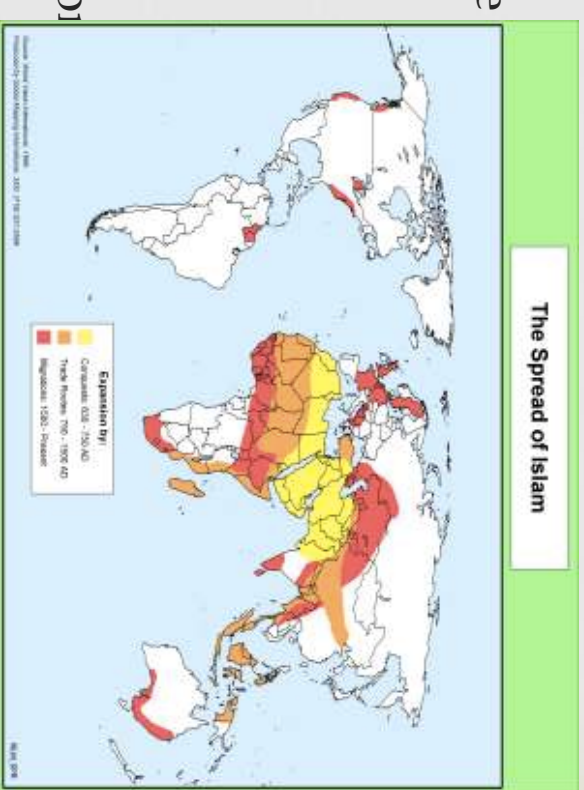


- ❧ A tightening patriarchy such as “honor killing” of women by their male relatives for violating sexual taboos, and in some places CLITORRECTOMY (female genital cutting) with NO sactions in the Quran or Islamic Law. In some cultures, concern with family honor linked to womens sexuality dictated harsh punishments for women who violated sexual taboo.
- ❧ Negative views of women, presenting them as weak, deficient and sexually charged threat to men, emerged in the HADITHS- traditions about sayings or actions of Muhammad, which became an important source of Islamic law.
- ❧ Quran attaches equal blame to both Adam and Eve for yielding to the temptation of Satan – blamed Eve



# The case of India

- ❧ Turks became the 3rd major carrier of Islam, after the Arabs and Persians.
- ❧ Turkic and Muslims regimes that governed much of India until the British takeover in the 18 and 19th centuries.
- ❧ Turkic rule became the establishment of the Sultanate of Delhi in 1206, but internal conflicts allowed only a very modest penetration.
- ❧ Substantial Muslim communities emerged in India particularly in regions less tightly integrated into Hindu.
- ❧ Low caste Hindus found more egalitarian Islam attractive.
- ❧ The conversion to Islam also – to avoid tax imposed on non muslims.
- ❧ Sufi holy men, willing to accommodate religious festivals helped to develop a “popular Islam” with devotional forms of Hinduism.
- ❧ India was never more than 20-25% of Muslim. Only in Punjab and Sind regions (northwest India and Bengal).





# India and Islam

❧ Islam was the most radically monotheistic of the worlds religions, forbidding any representaion of Allah, while Hinduism was surely among the most prolifically polytheistic (images of divine in many forms).

❧ The sexual modesty of Muslims was deeply offended by the open eroticism of some hindu religious art.

❧ Mystical seekers . Blurred the distiction between Hindu and Muslim, suggesting God was to be found not in a temple or a mosque.

❧ SIKHISM – which blended elements of Islam, such as devoting to one universal God, with Hindu concepts, such as KARMA and REBIRTH.

❧ “There is no Hindu and no Muslim, all are children of God”. (Guru Nank 1469-1539)



# The case of West Africa



- ❧ Islamic expansion prevailed in West Africa.
- ❧ Islam accompanied by Muslim traders across the Sahara.
- ❧ Gradual acceptance in the civilization – peaceful and voluntary. By Muslim merchants – accepted primarily in the urban centers of West Africa empires: Ghana, Mali, Songhay, Kanem-bournu and others.
- ❧ Islam provided a link to muslim trading partners
  - ❧ Prestige conferred by pilgrimage to Mecca
  - ❧ Religious appeal: people with economic horizons expanded in trading.
- ❧ West African cities become major centers of Islamic religion



# West Africa and Islam



- œ Monarchs subsidized construction of mosques and West Africa became an integral part of the larger islamic world.
- œ Arab became an important language for religion, education, administration and trade.
- œ Scholars and merchants initially established Islam in west Africa in contrast than preachers for Europe.
- œ They made few efforts to evolve a new religion (Islam) Ibn Battuta described how women appear in public almost naked and mingle freely.

# The case of Spain: Islam



- ❧ Conquered by Arab Muslim forces: Al Andalus during the first Islamic expansion in the 8th century.
- ❧ Capital Cordoba was a brilliant high culture in which Muslims, Christians and Jews contributed: astronomy, medicine, architecture and arts.
- ❧ By 1000 75% converted to Islam, many Christians learned arabic and veiled their women ; stop eating pork, to fit and. Even married Muslim women.
- ❧ Bishops complaint that Spanish Christians knew rules of Arabic grammar better than Latin.
- ❧ GOLDEN AGE for Muslim Spain -> limited and brief
- ❧ The Cordoba based regime fragmented into numerous rival states. Warfare with remaining Christians in North Spain picked up in 10 and 11th centuries.
- ❧ Under the rule of Al Mansur an official policy turned into one of poersecution against Christians, which included plundering churches and seizure of their wealth. = social life changed. (priests forbidden to carry a bible, or cross)

# Spain: Christian triumph



- ❧ That intolerance end in 1200 when Ferdinand and Isabella the Catholic monarchs of Spain unified it and took Granada. The last Muslim stronghold on the Iberian peninsula = Christian triumph.
- ❧ Muslims were forced to emigrate, replaced by Christian settlers.
- ❧ Jews were also expelled from the country, about 200,000.
- ❧ Some Muslims convert to christianity.
- ❧ The translation of Arab texts into Latin continued under Christian rule, while Christian churches were constructed on the sites of older Mosques.
- ❧ Muslim Spain was its role in making the rich heritage of Islamic learning available to Christian Europe.

# Newtworks of Faith



- ❧ No group was more important in the transmission of those beliefs and practices than the Ulama. (scholar, authority in the religious hierarchy)
- ❧ No person could stand between believer and Allah.
- ❧ They served as preservers and teachers of Sharia( The basic Islamic system derived from the religious precepts of Islam).
- ❧ The Ulama passed on the core teachings of the faith. Beginning in the 11th century, formal colleges called MADRASSAS offered more advanced instruction in the Quran and the sayings of Muhammad.
- ❧ The Ulama were an International Elite, and the system of education they created served to bind together an immense civilization.
- ❧ Common texts were shared widely across the world of Islam.
- ❧ Paralleling the educational network of the Ulama, were the emerging religious orders of the SUFIS or SHAYKHS (teachers) teach and were eager to learn their unique devotional practices and techniques of personal transformation. = larger associations of Sufis (baghdad, to Subshaharan Africa)
- ❧ Personal experience of the Divine, rather than on the Law = veneration of deceased Sufi Saints. (friends of God) = another thread of web of Islamic civilization



# Networks of Exchange



- ❧ The world of Islamic civilization cohered not only as network of faith but also as an immense arena of exchange in which goods, technologies, food products, and ideas circulated widely.
- ❧ Commerce was valued positively within Islamic teaching, Muhammad himself had been a trader.
- ❧ Pilgrimage to Mecca, as well as urbanization that accompanied the growth of Islamic civilization, fostered commerce.
- ❧ The vast expanses of Islamic civilization also contributed to ecological change as agricultural products and practices spread from one region to another.

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