

UNIT THREE: 600-1450

ISLAMIC WORLD

Lecture/Discussion Content Outline

DEMOGRAPHICS

Mixture of Arab, Persian, and Turkish influences

Addition of Persian and Turkish languages to Arabic

Migration of people

Pilgrims from all over Muslim world to Mecca (hajj)

Mansa Musa from the Mali Empire in 1324

Disparate groups with a common theme to life

Muhammed ibn Abdullah ibn Battuta

Traveler in the Muslim world, West/East Africa, much of Asia, 14th century

Sufi missionaries to convert people in the East

Conversion of wandering nomadic Turkish groups

Mamluk Turks to Egypt to serve in the military and in the bureaucracy

Later in control of political affairs

Muslim Seljuk Turk migration into Anatolia

Later Muslim Ottoman Turk migration into Anatolia

Population growth

Short life expectancy

High infant mortality

Decline with bubonic plague in the 14th century

Better diet with introduction of various crops from throughout the empire

Literacy

Increasing among upper class males

Low rate among the masses

DOMESTIC POLICY

Continuation of Roman Empire in the East as the Byzantine Empire

Center in Constantinople

Organization

Leaders in charge of army and church

Army central to existence

Hierarchical bureaucracy

Height of Arab unified Islamic Empire from the 8th to 12th century

Initial control with Umayyad Court after death of Mohammed

Model of Persian and Byzantine Dynasties

Caliph in Damascus leader of Empire

Introduction of bureaucracy for the state

Conversion to Islam for conquered peoples

Problems

Inconsistent on equality of non-Arabs

Uneven taxation

Revolts of Shi'as

Overextension of army

Central control with Abbasid Dynasty, 750-1258

Real power with Seljuk Turk Sultan after 945

Movement of capital from Damascus to Baghdad as home of Caliph

Rotation of provincial governors and other officials (no longer just Arabs)

Outlying districts to implement Caliph's directives

Islamic scholars in charge of local communities

Maintenance of a standing army and spies

Maintenance of a bureaucracy for one tax system and financial and postal services

One language, Arabic

Problems of Abbasid Dynasty

No clear succession scheme

Division over caliphate

Assassination of early Shi'a imams

Self interest of provincial governors

Too large a geographic area to control

Little contact of Caliphate with the people

No requirement to convert to Islam in conquered areas

Decline in Empire revenue

Tax base of Empire from non-Muslims

Corruption in the bureaucracy

Difficulty in recruiting a central army

Reliance on slave troops

Challenges from Persian and Turkish peoples

Divisions within Islamic Empire

Persia, Samanid Dynasty in Bukhara, 800

Major commercial and religious center

Caravan route for silks and spices from East Asia

Spain, Umayyad Dynasty

Rule in Egypt by Shiite Fatamid Empire from 969-1171

Conquest of much of North Africa

Mamluks in control from the 13th to the 16th century

Originally Turks from Caliph's army

Support from warrior slaves

Cairo the preeminent city in the 13th century

Centers of power in Egypt and Syria-Iraq, pre-Mongol Islamic world

Conquest of Persian Empire by Mongol army of Genghis Khan, 1219

Destruction of cities

Destruction of irrigation system

End of universal Islamic Empire with Il-Khans, successors to Genghis Khan, 1227

Capture and sack of Baghdad, 1258

Vacuum of leadership with execution of Abbasid Caliph

Replacement by Ottomans in Anatolia and Safavids in Persia

Control by Persians of tax payment to Mongols

General conversion of Mongols to Islam

Decline of Mongol rule in late 13th century

Attack by Tamerlane from Persia and Afghanistan with capital at Samarkand

Ottomans as successful empire builders

Attacks on Byzantine Empire

Promises of power and riches to supporters

Administrative positions to conquered peoples

Tolerance of other religions and languages

Collection of local taxes by local officials and then division with central government

Recruitment of young Christian males from Southeast Europe for army

Training in Islam and military matters

*FOREIGN POLICY***Expansion of Islamic Empire from the southern part of Spain to India and the borders of China**

Central and Eastern Asia

Southeastern Asia

Northern India, Delhi Sultanate

Sub-Saharan Africa

Mali with Timbuktu, center of Islamic studies

East coast city-states

Seizure of the lands of the Byzantine Empire and later the Safavid Empire by Ottomans

Conflicts

Christianity and the Crusades

Regaining of lands by Saladin originally lost to Europeans

Loss of control of Mediterranean

Attacks by nomadic Seljuk Turks and Mongols

Defeat of Mongols by Mamluks at Ain Jalut in Syria, 1260

Conquest of Anatolia by Seljuk and later Ottoman Turks

Holy War against Byzantium

Opening of southeastern Europe to Muslims

*ECONOMIC PRODUCTION***Basis of production in the agricultural society**

Some agricultural inventions

Wooden plow still in use

Irrigation systems and underground canals

Water wheel

Experimentation with transplanting

Labor force of slaves and peasants

Large landholdings often by urban absentee landlords

Credit system for long distance trade**Home industries**

Sugar, flour, iron, and wood

Importance of cotton and textiles

Introduction of indigo and henna dyes

Introduction of paper manufacturing from China

Pillows and carpets for home furnishings

Agriculture products

Wheat, rice, beans, cucumbers, celery, mint, sorghum, fruits, vegetables, and sugar cane

Introduction from other areas of Asia

Better diet for urban people

Cotton, indigo, and henna

Building materials

Oven baked bricks for religious and public buildings

Sundried bricks for housing

*ECONOMIC TRADE***Arab domination of trade in Eastern Hemisphere**

High esteem for merchants in the society

Camel caravans to and from India, China, Southeast Asia, and lands in between

Rubies and spices from India

Silk and porcelain from China

Spices from Southeast Asia

Incense, horses, and dates from Arabia and Persia

Sailing ships in Mediterranean Sea, Arabian Sea, and Indian Ocean

Use of lateen sails

Use of compass and astrolabe

Inroads to Europe

Silk, pepper, spices, rugs, pearls, and fruits to Europe

Loss of Mediterranean and European trade to Italians from the 13th century

Caravans to western Africa and ships to East African port cities

Gold, ivory and slaves for re-export to Europe as well as own use

Sale of salt, silver, copper, glass, and textiles

Growth of seaborne trade

Southern Europe to Arab/Seljuk/Ottoman and then on to China

Links to all areas of the Empire

Primary trade centers at Fez, Cairo, Isfahan, Delhi, Granada, Aleppo, and Babylon

Large important Jewish community in Babylon with connections in Asia and Europe

Construction of road networks

Establishment of *caravanserais* (inns)

Availability of money lenders and brokers

Establishment of banks and letters of credit

Creation of trade contracts

Benefits of trade routes through territories

Tax revenues

Charge for refreshment and lodging stations

Cash payments to local chieftains for protection

Expansion of army and navy for protection

SOCIAL STRUCTURE

Patriarchal families in all classes of society

Men's activities

Public baths and gymnasiums

Chess

Concubines for the wealthy

Special rights to these slaves

Limitation on polygamy

Only one husband for a woman

Up to four wives for men able to afford more than one wife

Place of women

Some power to women with Mohammed's wife in place of honor

Upper and middle classes

Definition of position as wife, mother, daughter, or sister

Early period more freedom

Later period, veiled and secluded

Lower classes

Part of husband's workforce

Responsible for home, children, and meals

Islamic law

Marriage a contract between a man and a woman

Prohibition on killing of female babies

Dowries to bride not husband

Relegation of women to special Mosque rooms

Equality before Allah

Carpets and cushions for household furnishings

CLASS STRUCTURE**Upper**

Royalty and aristocracy as the rulers

Palace intrigue and search for status among residents

10,000 to 12,000 women residents (harem)

Islamic scholars and clerics

Importance of merchants and traders since Mohammed a trader

Lower

Laborers and peasants

Slaves (non-Muslims)

Soldiers, servants, agricultural workers, and concubines

RELIGION**Expansion of Universal Islamic Empire to India, Southeast Asia, Central Asia, and Africa**

End of concept of Universal Islamic Empire with the rise of Abbasid Dynasty

Attempted revival by the Ottomans

Support of the clerics

Champions of the Sunni branch

Problems within Islam

Break off of Shi'as

Belief in a special relationship of imams with Allah

Line of descent through Ali

Emotional and mystical appeal of Sufism for poorer followers of Islam

Attempt to prohibit Sufism by scholars

EDUCATION**Translation of Greek works****No further true interpretations of the Qur'an (Koran)**

Four Great Doctors of Islam

Mosque schools with open enrollment for males seven and older at a small cost

Curriculum

Memorization of verses of Qur'an

Classical literature of Islam

Study of philosophy, arithmetic, geometry, astronomy, optics, grammar, and music

Institutions of higher learning, madrasas, in urban centers for selected males

Knowledge of Islamic law and theology

Example of Al-Azhar in Cairo

INTELLECTUAL: CULTURAL**Construction of cities, palaces, and mosques****Support for artists and intellectuals by rulers****Spread of ideas**

Near universal use of Arabic language

Mathematics

Algebra, Arabic numerals, Euclid's geometry, place-value system, and trigonometry

Sciences

Height of scientific work in Arab Spain

Beginnings of astrology

Geography with maps of known world

Compilation of known medical diseases

Chemical compounds of nitric and sulpheric acids

Manufacture of paper

Literature and the arts

Philosophy with translations of Plato and Aristotle

Arabesques

Calligraphy

Translations of Rubaiyat Chronicles and Arabian Nights

Establishment of House of Wisdom in Baghdad

Meeting place for Muslim, Christian, and Jewish scholars

Writing of histories

Collection of materials and known ideas

Keepers of Hellenistic tradition

General Glossary

Allah: Name for God in Islam

alms: Something (as money, clothing, or food) to help the poor; one of five pillars of Islam

arabesques: Complex designs of intertwined floral, foliate, and geometric figures

bazaar: Marketplace usually in the Middle East with shops and stalls along a street

Berbers: People of North Africa predating the arrival of the Arabs; leaders of the Almoravid and Almohad Dynasties of the 11th to 13th centuries in Spain

Caliph: Title of successors of Mohammed as temporal and spiritual heads of Islam

caravanserai: Inns along the roads in Islamic Empire

Christian Crusades: Holy wars (11th-13th centuries) to recapture the Holy Land from the Muslim Seljuk Turks; call for crusades by Pope Urban II in 1096

Dar al-Islam: Name for Islamic world; areas where Muslims can worship freely

ghazals: Short lyric love poems in Islamic Empire

Hadith: Collection of sayings of Mohammed and early followers

hajj: Pilgrimage to Mecca which is a religious duty for Muslims

House of Wisdom: Place in 9th century Baghdad where scholars translated Greek, Persian, Sanskrit and other ancient documents

Imam: Prayer leader who is thought to be descended from Ali by the Shiite sect

jihad: Holy war on behalf of Islam

Kaaba: Most sacred shrine of Islam in Mecca; small cube-shaped building containing sacred stone; black from the tears of repentant Muslim pilgrims or by those who have touched it

Khan: Medieval ruler of a Mongol, Tartar, or Turkish tribe

madradas: Islamic schools which are often attached to a mosque

minaret: Tall, slender tower of a mosque with balconies from which the muezzin calls Muslims to prayer

mosaic: Surface decoration made by inlaying small pieces of different colored materials to make pictures or patterns

mosque: Place of public worship for Muslims

muezzin: Person who calls Muslims to prayer five times a day

mystic: Person who thinks they have insights into life's mysteries beyond what other people know

Nasrid Dynasty: Muslim kings of Granada in southern Spain from 1231 to 1492

nomads: People who move from place to place in search of food, water, and grazing land

Ottoman Turks: Islamic Turkish group who ordered the first Turkish invasion of Europe in 1356; by 1387 military predominance on the Balkan peninsula

Qadia: Muslim judges

Qur'an: Same as Koran; Holy book of the Muslims in which revelations come to Mohammed from Allah through the angel Gabriel

Ramadan: Ninth month of the Islamic year in which Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset

Seljuk Turks: Islamic Turkish group; defeat of Byzantine Empire; control of eastern Anatolia; control of Abbasid Dynasty in Baghdad in 1050s; Seljuks real power with Abbasid caliphs as figureheads

Shari'a: Muslim legal system

Shiite: Muslim of the Shia branch of Islam; follower of Islam who believes that only descendants of Ali, Mohammed's son-in-law, are to be rulers of the Islamic world

sufi: Muslim mystic; missionaries for Islam to the common people

Sufism: Muslim mysticism; emotional appeal to the common people

Sultanate of Delhi: (1206-1526) Five Muslim dynasties who ruled Northern India

Sunni: Muslim branch that acknowledges the first four caliphs as rightful successors of Mohammed

Ulama: Group of Islamic scholars; interpretation of Islam's doctrines and laws

Umayyads: (661-750) Dynasty following the death of Mohammed; rule of the Islamic world for 90 years

umma: Community of the faithful in Islam

vizier: Name for Minister of State in Muslim countries

People/Groups

Almoravids: People from North Africa who destroyed the Kingdom of Ghana; establishment of Islam in Ghana

Abu'ubayd Al Bakri: 11th century Muslim geographer who lived in Cordoba, Spain

bedouin: Nomad living in the desert regions

Abu Arrayhan Al-Biruni: (c. mid 11th century) Author of a book on astronomy

dhimmis: Protected non-Muslims in the Islamic Empire; poll tax on non-Muslims for freedom to practice own religion and traditions

Al-Ghazali: (c. 1058- 1111) Persian Sufi theologian

ghazis: Warriors for Islam who believed it a sacred mission to extend Islam by attacking non-believers

Hülegü Khan: (c. 1217-1265) Grandson of Genghis Khan and conqueror of Baghdad in 1258; end of Abbasid Dynasty and beginning of Mongol rule

Ibn Battuta: (1304-1369) Muslim scholar and traveler who recorded observations of different areas of the Islamic world and beyond for posterity

Ibn Khaldun: (1332-1406) Muslim from Tunis who wrote about cyclical patterns in history; author of *Universal History*

Ibn Rushd (Averroes): (1126-1198) Muslim philosopher in Cordoba; use of reason from Islam, Christianity, and Greeks to understand the world

Ibn Sina: (980-1037) Muslim philosopher and author of *Canon of Medicine*, a basis for all Arab medical research

Ata-Malik Al-Juvaini: (1226-1283) Muslim author of *History of the World Conquerors*, a book about Genghis Khan's conquests

Alauddin Khalji: 13th and 14th century Muslim ruler of the Delhi Sultanate; defeat of the Mongol invaders; often cruel to his Hindu subjects

Mahmud of Ghazni: (971-1030) Muslim leader of seventeen expeditions to conquer North India; known as "Sword of Islam"

Mamluks: Rulers of Egypt, 1250-1517; previously slaves who served as professional soldiers to the Turks

Mansa Musa: (14th century) African Muslim ruler of Mali (1312-1337) who extended his kingdom from Atlantic Ocean to take Chad, southern Nigeria and Morocco; pilgrimage to Mecca in 1325 on which he amazed people en route with his treasures of gold

Moors: Muslims in Spain

Moses Maimonides: (1135-1204) Jewish philosopher and physician at the court of Egypt

Omar Khayyam: (11th and 12th centuries) Poet and mathematician in Baghdad; author of *The Rubaiyat*

Osman I: (1299-1326) Founder of Ottoman Dynasty in Turkey

Ottomans: Turkish group independent of Seljuk Turks; conquest of Anatolia and Balkan peninsula (late 14th century); defeat by Tamerlane in early 15th century; return to expansion in 1440s

Rashid al-Din: (1247-1318) Muslim author of *World History*

Saadi: (1215-1292) Muslim author of the anecdotal advice books, *The Orchard* and *The Rose Garden*

Saladin: (c. 1138-1193) Muslim Sultan of Syria and Egypt; re-conquest of Palestine and Jerusalem from the Crusaders in 1187

Shems-ed-Deen Hafiz: (c. 1325-1390) Muslim author of many well-known *ghazals* (Muslim lyric love poems)

Sundiata: (13th century) African Muslim religious leader and king of the Mandingos (1230-1255); founder of the Kingdom of Mali

Tamerlane: (1336-1405) Conqueror of Chagatai Khanate, parts of Russia and West Asia; sacking of Delhi; ruler of territories indirectly through bureaucracies already in place; defeat of Ottoman army near Ankara in 1402

Places

Acre: City northwest of Jerusalem and south of Tyre; last Palestinian stronghold of Christian crusaders; loss of city to Muslims in 1291

Ain Jalut: Place in modern day Jordan where Egyptian forces stopped the westward march of the Mongols in 1260

Al-Andalus: Name for Muslim Spain

Aleppo: City in northwest Syria; important stopover on the caravan route across Syria to Baghdad; major Christian city in the Middle East

Alexandria: Great port city; constructed by Alexander the Great in 332 BCE in the Nile delta of Egypt; a major trading and intellectual center

Baghdad: North of Persian Gulf on the Tigris River; capital of the Islamic Abbasid Dynasty; destruction by the Mongol armies in 1258; important trade and intellectual center

Bukhara: City in central Asia directly east of southern Caspian Sea; important trade center; regional capital of Islam

Bursa: City in northwestern Anatolia; first capital of Ottoman Empire

Cairo: Egyptian port on the Nile River near the head of its delta; capital of Egypt; one of largest cities in the world

Constantinople: City on crossroads of Asia and European Bosphorus Straits; former name Byzantium which Constantine made the capital of the Roman Empire in the 4th century CE; change of name and center of Byzantine Empire

Cordoba: City in center of southern Kingdom of Castile; seat of Muslim Caliphate in Spain; sack of city by Berbers in 1013

Damascus: In western Syria; location of capital of Islamic Umayyad Dynasty; important trade center

Ghazni: West of the Khyber Pass and southwest of the Kabul Valley; one of the culturally rich cities of the Islamic world

Granada: Muslim state on southern Spanish coast that became home to the Muslims who fled from the Spanish areas re-conquered by the Christians; site of Alhambra fortress

Isfahan: City south of Caspian Sea in Persia; regional capital of Islam

Jedda: Also Jidda; a port city on the Red Sea on the central-western part of the Arabian peninsula; landing place for pilgrims going to Mecca

Jerusalem: City on the West Bank of the Jordan River; desire of Christian Crusaders to retake this holy city after conquest by Muslims

Manzikert: Midway between the southern edge of the Black and Caspian Seas; conquest by the Seljuk Turks in 1071; loss of eastern Anatolia and Armenia to the Seljuk Turks by the Byzantine Empire

Marrakesh: City of west-central Morocco in the foothills of the Atlas Mountains; commercial center and capital of Almoravid Empire

Mecca: In central-western Arabian peninsula; birthplace of Mohammed the Prophet (c. 570); holiest city of Islam and site of the annual Muslim hajj

Medina: City north of Mecca in the center of the western part of Arabian Peninsula; place to which Mohammed fled in 622 (hegira)

Nicopolis: Quick defeat of Europeans in this Greek city by Ottoman leader Bayezid I in 1396

Ormuz: City on the important Strait of Hormuz; center for traffic entering the Persian Gulf

Samarkand: City southeast of the Aral Sea and north of Kabul; capital of Tamerlane's Empire; trading center

Silk Roads: Reference to roads connecting Asia to Europe and to North Africa; Chinese silk a major trading product, thus the name; also sometimes reference to sea routes

Siraf: Port city on Persian Gulf

Tabriz: Commercial city of northwest Persia; conquest by Genghis Khan

CHINA

Lecture/Discussion Content Outline*DEMOGRAPHICS***Population growth**

Short life expectancy

High infant mortality

Increase in population until bubonic plague

Ability to feed larger population with intensive rice production

Location

Foreign merchant population in urban areas

More population in the south

Vast majority in rural agricultural settlements

Assimilation of peoples into Empire structure**Diversity of religions**

Buddhism

Daoism

Confucianism

Combinations of Buddhism, Daoism, and Confucianism

Some Christian missionaries

Some Islamic converts

Construction of urban centers particularly under the Sung Dynasty

Hangzhou with 1,000,000 people the largest city in the world, 13th century

Literacy

Variety of language dialects

More literacy for bright males of all classes

Little literacy among the masses

*DOMESTIC POLICY***Reunification and centralization by the Sui Dynasty from 581 to 618**

New powerful peasant army

New centralized law code

Rotational three year appointments for officials to preside over local areas

Rule of the Tang Dynasty from 618 to 907

Strong central government

New Tang law code

Bureaucracy with Confucian principles

Aristocracy as the bureaucrats

Localized revolts in 9th and 10th centuries

Increase in power of local leaders in prefectures and counties

Loss of power for warlords

Centralization of the Sung Dynasty from 968 to 1279

Power to the emperor

Increase in bureaucracy

Prestigious to be a government official

Scholars in government service around the emperor

Increase in number of commoners

Military under civilian control

Use of gunpowder

Use of compass