

## The Caliphates

Ch. 8 Part II

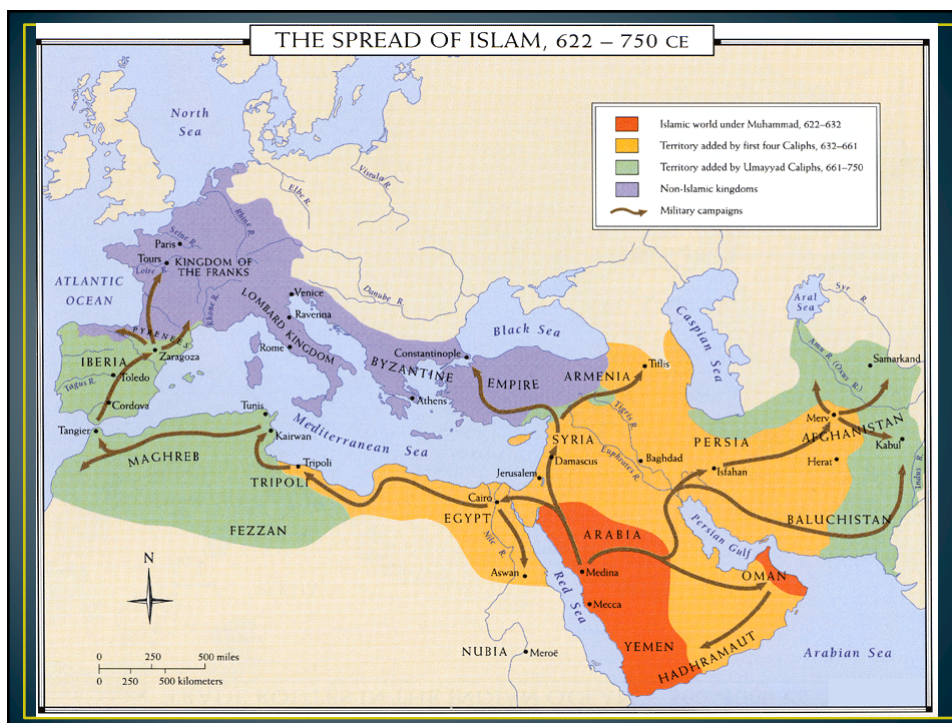
### Caliphs and Caliphates

- Caliphs become religious AND political leaders
- Caliphate = dynasty of Islamic caliphs
  - Rashidun or Rightly Guided Caliphs (632-661)
    - Abu Bakr; Umar; Uthman; Ali
  - Umayyad (661-750, centered in Damascus)
  - Abbasid (750-1258, centered in Baghdad)
  - Córdoba (756-1031, Iberia)
  - Fatimid (909-1171, North Africa, Shi'a)
  - Almohad (1145-1269, North Africa, Iberia)
  - Ottoman (1517-1922)

## Spread of Islam

- Conquest
  - Umar (2<sup>nd</sup> Caliph)
    - Syria and Egypt from Byzantines
    - Defeat of last Sasanid shah
  - Tunisia
  - Spain
  - India, Anatolia (11<sup>th</sup> century)
- 1 million Arabs +/- involved in conquering
  - Ruling minority
- Peaceful conversion/trade
  - Sub-Saharan Africa
- Conversion
  - “There is no God but God, and Muhammad is the Messenger of God”
  - Move to Arab/Muslim center
    - Discrimination in Jewish/Christian centers
    - Arab cities flourish
    - Christian cities shrink





## Umayyad Caliphate (661-750)

- Political realm rather than religious empire
- Ruled from Damascus, Syria
  - Syria and Egypt had been taken from Byzantine under first caliphs
- 711: Expanded empire with conquest of Spain
  - Army of North African Berbers
- 732: Battle of Tours
  - Umayyad troops stopped by Frankish king Charles Martel in France
- Gradually replaced non-Muslim officials with Muslims
  - Instituted Arabic as administrative language
  - Silver and gold coins in 8<sup>th</sup> century (Morocco to China)



## Fall of Umayyads (750)

- Few converts
  - No incentive for conversion
  - Inferiority to born Muslims
- Resentment toward Arab domination of society
- Corruption among caliphs
  - Luxurious lifestyle
  - abandonment of Muhammad's lifestyle
- Battle of the River Zab
  - Modern Iraq
  - Abd-ar-Rahman escapes to Spain
    - Founds Cordoba (an extension of the Umayyad caliphate) in 755
- Supported by Shi'ites
  - Thought they would get a Shi'ite in power

## Abbasid Caliphate (750-1258)

- Early Abbasid
  - Good leadership
  - Emphasis on piety, religious law and theology
  - Interpretations of the Quran
- Golden Age
  - Persanization
  - Paper from China = literary works
    - Compilations of Arabic grammar
    - Translations of Greek, Persian works into Arabic
    - Arabian Nights







## Abbasid Decline

- Baghdad
  - Cosmopolitan
  - Greek, Iranian, Central Asian, African influences
  - Did not spread to entire caliphate
- Increase in converts
  - No distinction between converts and natural Muslims
  - Population/territory explosion
  - Military response to riots could take months
- 9<sup>th</sup> Century
  - Islamic principalities formed within caliphate
  - Took taxes away from Baghdad
- Mamluks
  - Central Asian Turkic slaves
  - Standing army of caliphate
  - Took control of caliphs
  - Samarra
- Buyids (945)
  - Iranian warriors
  - Shi'ites

## Fall of Abbasids

- Turkish mamluks
- 1030s: established Turkish Muslim state
  - Took title of Sultan
  - Control of the Abbasids rather than the Buyids
- 1071: Battle of Manzikert
  - Defeat of Byzantines
  - Occupation of Anatolia
- Turkish rule
  - Cities shrank
  - No money spent on irrigation, canals
  - Baghdad in ruins



## Islamic Africa

- Berbers
  - North Africa
  - Sijilmasa and Tahert
    - Northern Sahara
    - First regular trade across Sahara
  - Trade salt for gold
- Ghana
  - “land of gold”
  - Peaceful conversion



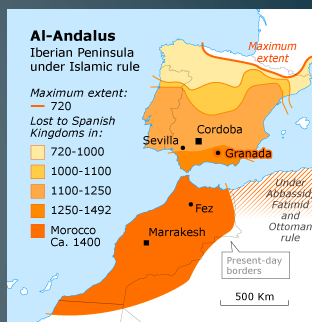
## Fatimid Caliphate

- Shi'ite
- 909: Tunisia conquered and gains control of African city-states
- 969: conquer Egypt
- Challenged Abbasids by claiming title of "caliph"
- Fustat (Cairo) (Egypt becomes center of Islamic culture, politics, economy)



## al-Andalus (Islamic Spain)

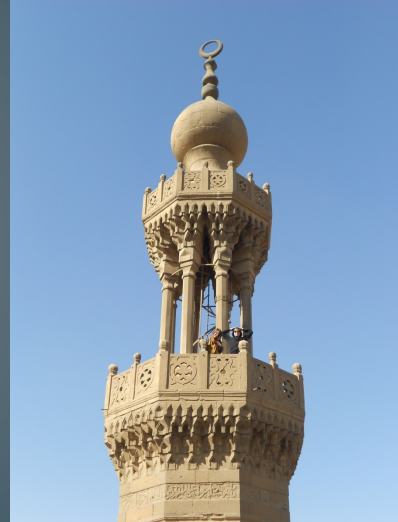
- Cordoba Caliphate (755-1061)
  - Umayyad extension
- 929: rulers take title of "caliph"
  - Response to Fatimid Caliphate
- Cut off from Islamic world
  - Creation of distinctive Islamic culture
    - Fusion of agricultural practices
      - New crops (citrus) and new irrigation
  - Roman, Germanic, Jewish, Arab, Berber influences





## Architecture

- Developed in Cordoba
- Focused on mosques with minarets
- Intricate designs and patterns
- Calligraphy





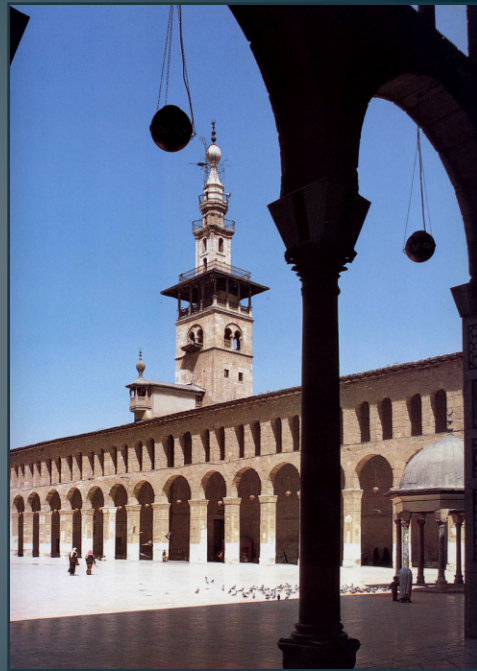




Great Mosque of  
Damascus (Syria)  
706-715

Umayyads  
2<sup>nd</sup> Caliphate

preexisting Roman  
square towers/  
minarets



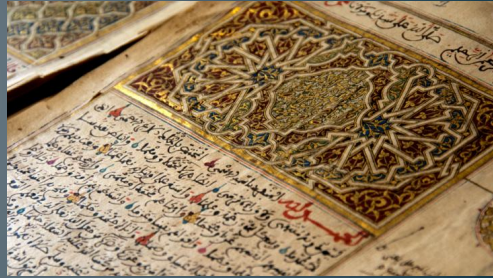
Left: Main entrance to the  
prayer hall of the Great  
Mosque of Damascus

Below: Spandrel mosaic  
from the Great Mosque of  
Damascus



## Literature

- Al-Andalus
  - Jewish, Muslim, Christian writers
    - 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> century
    - Arabic and Hebrew
    - Judaic law
    - Aristotelian philosophy
    - Love
    - Mysticism
  - Ulama
    - “people with religious knowledge”



## Fihrist

- Descriptive catalog of books sold in Baghdad
  - Most informative manuscript of time period
- Abu al-Faraj Muhammad al-Nadim
  - Al-Nadim = “book companion”
  - Comments on contents of works
- 10 books
  - Language and sacred texts (Quran, Torah, Gospel)
  - Arabic grammar
  - Arabic poetry
  - Muslim sects
  - Islamic law
  - Greek philosophy, science, medicine
  - “Stories” (The Arabian Nights)
  - Foreign works
  - Other philosophical works

## Technology

- Science flourishes
  - More advanced than Europe
- Ibn al-Haytham
  - Milky Way's location
  - Travel of light
  - Celestial objects and size
- Chemistry
  - Pottery glaze
  - Rosewater
  - Hard soap
  - Gunpowder
  - Glass



## Society

- Women
  - No travel/leaving homes
  - Burkas
  - No public role
  - Could inherit
  - Private property
  - Remarriage
  - Divorce
  - Testimony in court





## Society and Education

- Slavery
  - People of the Book
    - Jews, Christians, Zoroastrians
    - Could not be slaves
  - Women
  - Not hereditary
  - Conversion = freedom (?)
- Prohibition of alcohol and pork
- Madrasas
  - Religious college
  - Iranian religious scholars
  - Arabic and Persian
- Sufism
  - Mysticism
  - First extensive Islamic organization
  - Union with God through rituals

