
Islam and Al-Andalus



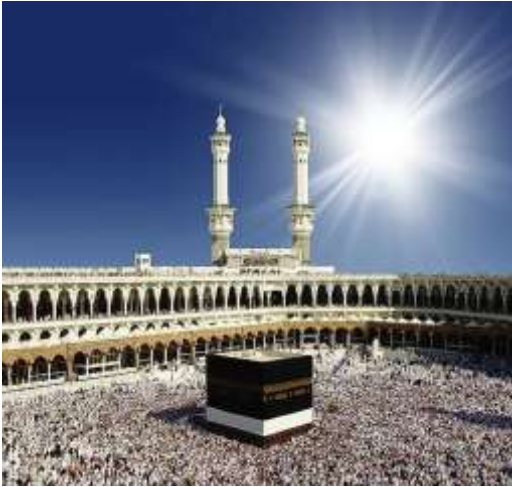
What is Islam?

Can anyone tell me about the Islamic religion?

What are some basic facts about Islam?



What is Islam?



Islam is a **monotheistic** religion that believes in one God.

The prophet Muhammad preached this religion during the **7th century** in Arabia.

The Muslims arrived on the Iberian Peninsula in 711, creating the Islamic Kingdom of **Al-Andalus**.

The Muslims occupied parts of the peninsula until 1492.

The Beginning of Islam



Muhammad was born in Mecca in 570. Legend says that the archangel Gabriel appeared to him and told him that he was the new **prophet** of Allah (God in Arabic).

Muhammad began **preaching** a new religion based on **submission** to one God: Islam.

The Hijra



Muhammad was persecuted for his teachings, and in **622**, he escaped to **Medina**.

This is known as the **Hijra** ('flight' in Arabic).

Muhammad then converted the people of Medina, and by his death in 622, the majority of Arabs had become **Muslims**.

Islam

The **Quran** is the sacred book of Islam. It contains the ideas that Allah revealed to Muhammad.

Muslims believe that Allah is the one and only God, and he is **all-powerful**. They believe that Allah sent the Prophet Muhammad to teach the **code of conduct** that all men should live by.

Imams: Preachers who spread the word of Allah

Ulamas: Other officials who interpret the Quran



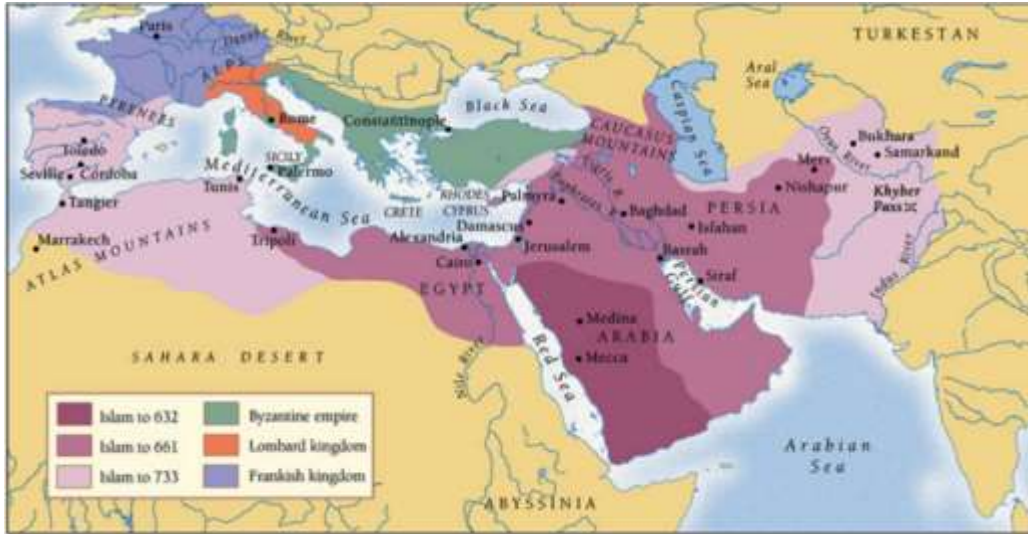
The Islamic Code of Conduct

Islamic society, economics and politics are based on the Quran and traditions. The main ideas are:

1. Allah is all-powerful, and the **caliphs** (Muslim rulers) represented him on Earth
2. Nothing is comparable to Allah, therefore Muslims **cannot represent** Allah or Muhammad in images
3. Muslims must **fast** during Ramadan
4. Allah is the **owner** of all goods and property
 - a. Muslims are required to give money to beggars and lend money without charging interest
5. Judges, or **qadis**, should apply justice as it is described in the Quran



The Expansion of Islam



Shortly after the death of Muhammad (622), the Muslims gained control of **Egypt, Syria and Iraq.**

In less than a century, the Muslims also seized **Afghanistan, central Asia, Pakistan, Northern Africa and the Iberian Peninsula.**

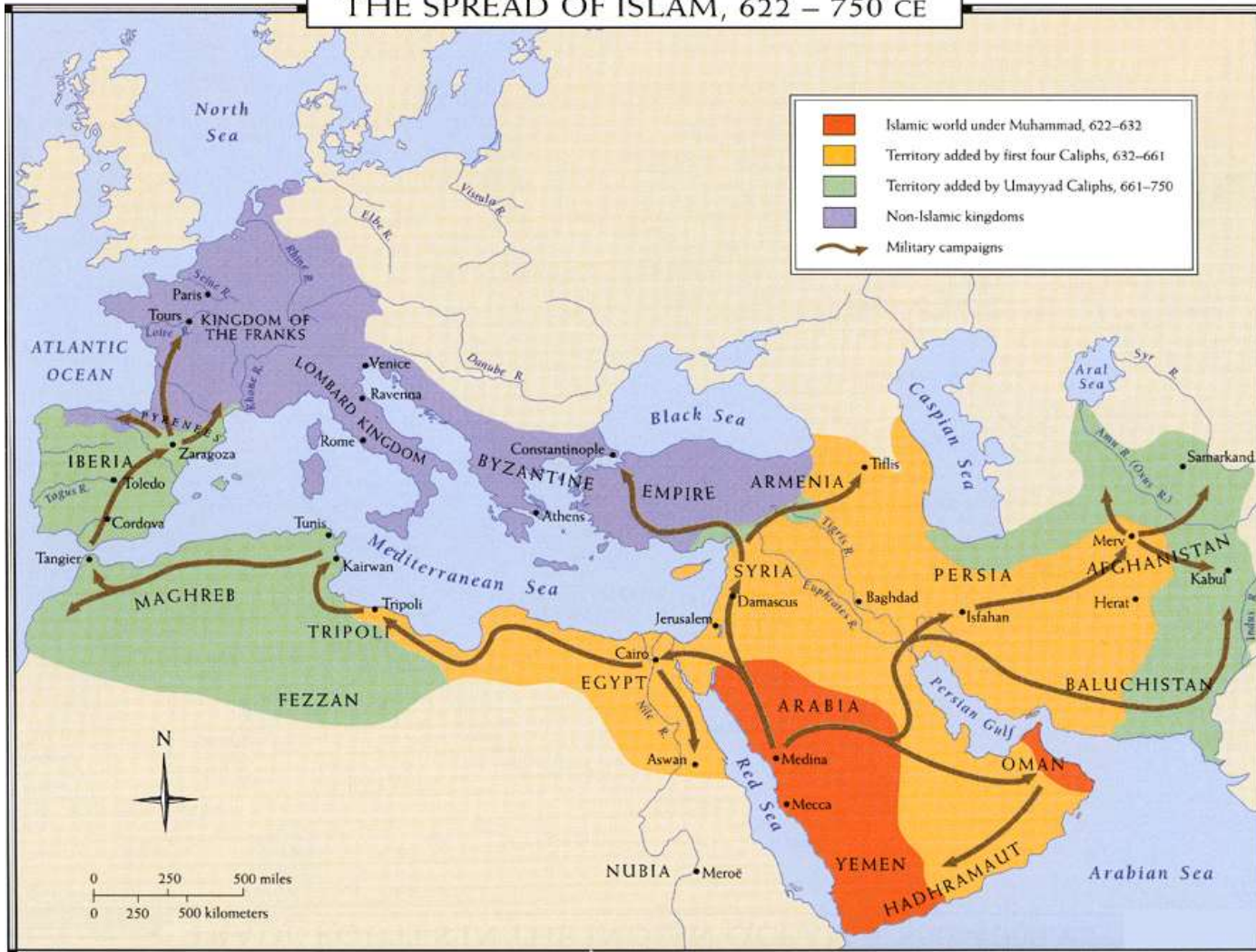
The Umayyad Caliphate of Damascus



Until 750, this large empire was ruled from **Damascus** (Syria) by caliphs from the **Umayyad family**.

The caliphs had absolute political and religious power, but they delegated duties to the **vizier** (prime minister) and the **emir** (governor).

THE SPREAD OF ISLAM, 622 – 750 CE



The Consolidation of Islam



In 750, the **Abbasids** of Baghdad (Iraq) took control from the Umayyads of Damascus. From then on, Islam was spread by **sailors** and **traders** who travelled the world.

Little by little, the Abbasids lost control of parts of their territory, such as Al-Andalus.

The Consolidation of Islam



Peoples conquered by the Muslims could **continue to practice their own religion**, but they had to pay **taxes**.

Being Muslim had social and economic advantages. Therefore, most residents of the territory **converted to Islam**.

Vocabulary

Preaching: Delivering a religious message

Spread: Extend over a large area

Fast (verb): Go for a certain length of time without eating

Engage: Participate in

Beggars: Poor people who ask for money in the street

Gained: Got, achieved

Seized: Took with force

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=TpcbfxtDol8>

Islamic Art and Culture



The Golden Age of Islamic Culture



The Islamic civilization was very important between the 8th and 12th centuries. Islam encouraged learning a single language, **Arabic**, which facilitated cultural exchange.

The Muslims introduced **Arabic numerals**, which differed from the Roman system because they included zero. They also introduced **paper, gunpowder** and **irrigation systems**.



The Golden Age of Islamic Culture

The Islamic civilization made important **advances** in the fields of medicine, philosophy, engineering, chemistry, mathematics and astronomy.

Al-Andalus was a great cultural center where many scientists worked. It produced important historical figures such as the philosophers **Averroes** and **Maimonides**.

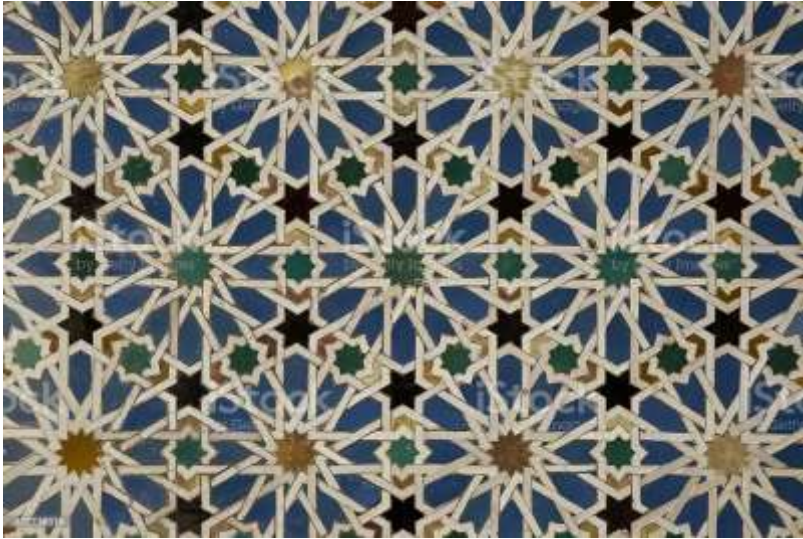


Medicine



Muslim doctors performed surgery and used instruments that are still used today. They **dissected** corpses to understand how the human body works. They also invented new medicines with vegetable substances and used belladonna as an anaesthetic.

Diverse and Homogenous Art



As it was forbidden to represent the sacred in pictures, sculpture and painting, the Muslims specialized in architecture and decorative art.

Islamic **architecture** used bricks and included many **arches** and **domes**. The buildings were decorated using **marble** and **mosaics**.

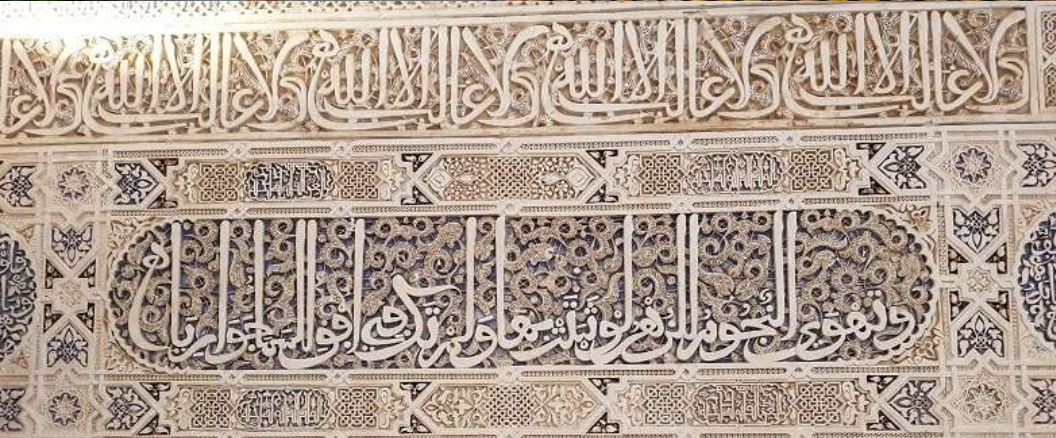
Diverse and Homogenous Art



Mosques are the most representative buildings from this period, but the Muslims also built palaces, markets and public baths.

The **Great Mosque of Cordoba** is one of the most important works of architecture in Al-Andalus. Other important buildings include the Aljaferia Palace, the Alhambra in Granada, the Giralda and the Torre del Oro in Seville.

Islamic **decorative arts** included **ceramics** with geometric designs and **miniatures**, which were used to decorate books.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FFfXDZvvmrg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EQbY8xIAQuo>

Discussion Questions

Can someone summarize what the video is talking about?

What two visions or depictions of Spain are highlighted in the video? (the far-right versus the historians/Muslims in Spain)

What are the risks of denying or downplaying the legacy of Islam in Spain?

Can a country be a true democracy, with freedom of religion, if the government or political parties oppose the existence of a certain group within the nation?
