**ISLAMIC EMPIRES – Umayyad & Abbasid**

Umayyad
661-750 CE

Abbasid
750-1258 CE

**Social**Patriarchal Society, women had security, more rights but also male dominance (men could have four wives, women one husband)
Women began covering their heads with a veil

* Umayyad
Interests towards the Arab military
Those conquered forced to convert to Islam or pay a head tax (jizya) to those who practiced their own religion
Those that did convert, still discriminated against or no chance at wealth or positions of power
* Abbasid
No special favors towards Arab military, Persians, Egyptians, Mesopotamians, and other rose to positions of wealth and power
Not a conquering dynasty, but still expanded

**Political**Umayyad and Abbasid
Both Centralized

* Abbasid
1.Relied heavily on Persian techniques of statecraft
2.Central authority ruled from the court at Baghdad
3.Appointed governors to rule provinces
4.Ulama ("people with religious knowledge") and qadis (judges) ruled locally

**Interactions**Influenced by Persians (literary, administrative techniques, ideas of kingship) Indian (Hindu numerals, Algebra and trigonometry) and Greek (philsophers like Plato and Aristotle)
Also trade in the silk road (explained in the economic)

**Culture**Quran and sharia (Islamic Law)
Education
Hajj to Mecca- spread beliefs and values
Islam

**Economic**

New Crops from all around silk road (sugarcane, rice, wheat, vegetables like spinach, artichokes, and eggplants, fruits like oranges, lemons, limes, bananas, coconuts, watermelons and mangoes and crops like cotton, indigo and henna)
Growth of cities
Trade increased on silk roads
Trade over sea- use compass from Chinese, sail and astrolabe
Banks- letters of credit
Trade went to West Africa, Russia and Scandinavia

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|  | Pre-Islam (Bedouins) | Umayyad Dynasty | Abbasid Dynasty |
| **Dates** |  | 632-661 CE – 4 early caliphs 661-750 CE –Umayyads dynasty (only 89 years total) | (established/took over from Umayyads--750-1258 CE) 508 years  |
| **Religion**  | -polytheistic and animistic - a few Christians and Jews in the area -pilgrims worshipped at Ka’ba in Mecca (trade stop) -ethical system not based in polytheism or animism  | -Sunni Muslim -majority of the population non-Muslim: Christian, Jewish, and Zoroastrianism -religious toleration, particularly of “people of the book” = dhimmis (Jews and Christians-fellow monotheists) -conversion not a goal -large numbers of people did convert b/c of “equality of all Muslims” (paid less tax)  | -Shia Muslim -stressed conversion to Shia -80 % Muslim -religious toleration, particularly of “people of the book” (Jews and Christians were fellow monotheists)  |
| **Economics** – including trade networks  | -camel nomads - caravans linked trade between sedentary civilizations -many eventually settled areas that became market towns for trade (early 600s)  | -trade: Mediterranean and Silk Roads - artisans flourished in cities, so cities became centers for manufacturing: pottery, fabrics, rugs -minted their own gold/silver coins -Mecca important trade stop and pilgrimage site for Muslims  | -banks; coins -sakks (checks exchanged for cash)=credit through banks -manufacturing: textile, sugar, ropes, silk, paper, pottery, rugs -irrigation and reservoirs to aid agriculture -trade: Indian Ocean basin, Mediterranean, and Silk Roads -Mecca important trade stop and pilgrimage site for Muslims  |
| **Cultural**  | -not much art -oral poetry -standards of morality and proper behavior rooted in tribal customs and unwritten codes of honor  | -other cultures were tolerated as long as obeyed laws, pd taxes, and did not revolt -Arabic became language of admin, business, law, trade and religion -architecture - mosques, hospitals, schools, orphanages were built -written poetry -standards of morality and proper behavior written into sharia -experimentation and advances in: medicine (anatomy, diseases), technology, astronomy, astrolabe from Greeks -still emphasized written literature (poetry)  | -Persian influences: language took over the court and was used for literary expression, administration, and scholarship -Arabic language remained: religion, law, natural sciences -Golden Age of Islam (early/mid 800s) -architecture – lots of building -less tolerance of non-Shia Muslims and non-Muslims -standards of morality and proper behavior written into sharia -preservation and extension of knowledge (House of Wisdom in Baghdad where scholars translate texts from Greece, India, Persia into Arabic) -Persian scholar (al-Razi) wrote an encyclopedia -experimentation and advances in: medicine (anatomy, diseases), technology, astronomy, astrolabe from Greeks -still emphasized literature (poetry) -calligraphy -schools (madrasas) well established by 12th century  |
| **Political** – including response to government  | -clans -tribe membership based on birth -leader (shaykh) -inter-clan rivalries = less united against larger sedentary units  | -armies expanded empire -Umayyads took over after first four caliphs and transformed caliphate into hereditary monarchy -gov’t centralized in Damascus -bureaucratic w. locals governing the territories -non-Muslims could not hold highest public offices -expansion for land, not conversion -jizya tax – dhimmis taxed at a higher rate -used Byzantium as an example for government and military organization -fall – conquered by Abbasids, decrease in tax income due to conversions to Islam; inequality between Muslims leads to social unrest -supertribe based on religion  | -conquered Ummayads in 750 -capital to Baghdad -caliphs rule (theocratic ruler) -bureaucratic style learned from Persians -governors in the territories - diplomats sent to courts in Europe to conduct business -caliphs living in luxury -gave full citizenship to non-Arab Muslims -fall –governors of territories increased their power; governors cease paying tribute; invasions by Seljuk Turks  |
| **Social Structure** – including gender  | -wealth/status varied within clans -shaykh = wealthy -free warriors enforced decisions of shaykh (leader) -women higher status, more freedom than Sasanian and Byzantine empires -women’s role: milk camels, weave cloth, raise kids, infanticide okay -descent traced through female b/c male on the move (matrilineal) -male paid bride-price to female’s family for marriage -no seclusion or veils, but not = to men  | 4 social classes a. Muslim Arabs b. Muslim non-Arabs c. non-Muslim free (Christians, Jew, and Zoroastrians) d. slaves status of women (based on Quran) a. inherit property b. divorce husband c. engage in business ventures d. Qur’an said equality of all before Allah (only spiritually) e. outlawed female infanticide f. dowries kept by brides g. urban upper-class women more confined **by the 2nd caliph, these rights were being stripped away and women were being veiled and secluded (ideas from Persians)** -reinforced male dominance; Qur’an and shari’a recognized descent through male line (patrilineal) so they controlled sexual and social lives of women  | 4 social classes a. Muslims at birth b. second class (converts) paid higher tax than upper (jizya) c. non-Muslim free “protected people” – dhimmis (Christians, Jews, and Zoroastrians) d. slaves -status of women a. lost education and public life rights b. veils (borrowed from Persians), secluded in harems, served as concubines c. cities, upper class women worse off -slaves, concubines were needed more b/c of wealth of empire -some slaves gained freedom -more luxurious living for elite -majority of peasants were tenants to the land (rent)  |



Discuss the ways that Indian culture and society influenced the Islamic civilization. BE SPECIFIC.