The death of Muhammad

- Muhammad died in 632.
- Set off a problem that exists today – the succession of the Islamic state
- Caliph – Islamic political and religious successor to Muhammad
- Eventually the Umayya clan seized leadership of Islam and set out to conquer all of the Middle East and north Africa.
Umayyad Caliphate
Abu Bakr

- The first of the four Rightly guided caliphs.
- Chosen to lead within 24 hours of Muhammad's death.
- Courageous, warm, and wise and an expert in Arab clans.
- Unified Bedouin tribes in the Ridda Wars to unite the tribes under Islam.
- Initial attacks were for booty – but they revealed the weakness of the Byzantine and Persian empires.
Arab Conquests

• Motives for conquest:
  ▫ Common Cause and Strength of Islam.
  ▫ United they could beat the groups that used to dominate them.
  ▫ Stopped wars between Bedouin tribes.
  ▫ They shared the booty from their raids.

• Lesser motive
  ▫ Glorify the new religion (not really a reason)
  ▫ If the Muslims converted Christians and Jews they had to share the booty with them and could not make them pay extra taxes.
Adversary Empires

• Sasanians – Old Persian Empire
  ▫ Elite were Zoroastrians and they persecuted peasants.
  ▫ When Islam attacked they won the support of the peasants and easily beat the elite.

• Byzantine – Eastern Roman Empire
  ▫ Orthodox Christians persecuted Copts and Nestorians in Egypt.
  ▫ Islam gained support of theses religions and defeated the Byzantine in Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Palestine
Umayyad Mosque Damascus
Umayyad Architecture
Sunni - Shi’a Split

656 – Uthman the third Caliph was murdered.
- He had been chosen by the Umayyad clan
- Muhammad’s biggest supporters hated Uthman and killed him.

Ali – Muhammad’s friend claimed to be the next Caliph
- Umayyad refused to follow Ali because he would not punish Uthman’s assassins.

War breaks out between Ali and the Umayyad
Ali’s victory

- Ali was about to defeat the Umayyad when they begged for mediation.
- Ali accepted.
- Umayyad’s regrouped and continued to battle Ali – eventually taking Egypt.
- Umayyad’s claimed Mu’awiya was the Caliph.
- One year later Ali was assassinated
- His son Hasan renounced his claim to the Caliphate.
Mu’awiya - Founder of the Umayyad

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QURAISH

BENU HASHEM

MUHAMMAD (pbuh)

FATIMA

AL-HASAN

ZAINAB

AL-HUSAIN

BENU UMAYYA

ABU SUFYAN

YAZID

MU'AWIYA

YAZID (Ibn Mu'awiya)
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Karbala Mosque
# Sunni Shi’a Split

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunni</th>
<th>Shi’a</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Backed the Umayyad</td>
<td>• Backed Ali</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Make up 85% of Muslims today</td>
<td>• Make up about 15% of Muslims today.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Mainly in Arabia, and Indonesia.</td>
<td>• Mainly found in Iran.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Osama bin Laden wants to bring back the Umayyad Caliphate.</td>
<td>• Mahmoud Amedinijad believes he is the Al – Mahdi.</td>
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</tbody>
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Umayyad conquests

- Middle East
- Persia
- North Africa
- Spain and Portugal
- Afghanistan and Pakistan
- Stopped by the Franks in 732 or they would have taken Europe.
- Damascus was the Capital
- Only Muslim Arabs were first class citizens
Inside the Mosque at Damascus
Conversion

- Didn’t really want converts but were forced to deal with the issue when Umayyads began having children with conquered people.
- Mawali – Muslim converts – had to pay property taxes
- Jizya – head tax on all nonbelievers
- Mawali were not full citizens and could not hold political office or share in booty.
- Conversion rates were low in the Umayyad era.
Dhimmi - People of the Book

- Jews and Christians made up most of the people in the Umayyad empire.
- They were considered Dhimmi because they believed in the Bible.
- Were allowed to worship as they pleased.
- Had to pay the jizya and property taxes.
- Made it easy for these people to accept Islam because they were not persecuted.
Family and Gender under the Umayyad

• **Strengthened women’s position in society**
  ▫ *Marriage was stressed as important*
    • Casual sex and adultery were condemned
    • Bonds between husband and wife were strengthened
    • Forbade female infanticide
    • Gave women the right to have a say in who they married.
    • Gave women legal rights in marriage and divorce.
    • Dowry would go to woman (not her family) after a divorce.
Family and Gender under the Umayyad

• Equality of all men and women
• Hadiths – traditions of the prophet
  ▫ WWMD – play a critical role in Islamic law and ritual.
  ▫ Women were allowed to participate in politics
  ▫ Women did not have to wear veils
  ▫ Women were allowed to go to school, pursue most occupations, participate in law and trade.
Damascus House
Damascus School
Decline of the Umayyad

• Became addicted to luxury and soft living.
  ▫ Started Harems
  ▫ Pleasure Gardens
  ▫ Royal Palaces
• Moved away from war.
• Abandoned the principles that Muhammad and Abu Bakr had started of being frugal and simple.
Umayyad Harem
Umayyad Luxury
Seeds of Rebellion

• 750’s 50,000 Muslim warriors had settled in Iran and intermarried with the local people.
• Damascus seemed very distant to them.
• They considered the Umayyan elite corrupt and decadent.
• They called themselves the Abbasid after Muhammad’s uncle al-Abbas – they picked up the support of Ali’s supporters and the Mawali.
Dealing with the Umayyad

- Abbasids won a major battle at the River Zab.
- Invited the Umayyad family to a banquet to reconcile the umma.
- Guards wrapped the family in carpets and assassinated them.
- Umayyad that were not at the banquet were hunted down.
- Only a few survived and moved to Spain founding the Caliphate of Corduba.