

# The Umayyad Dynasty

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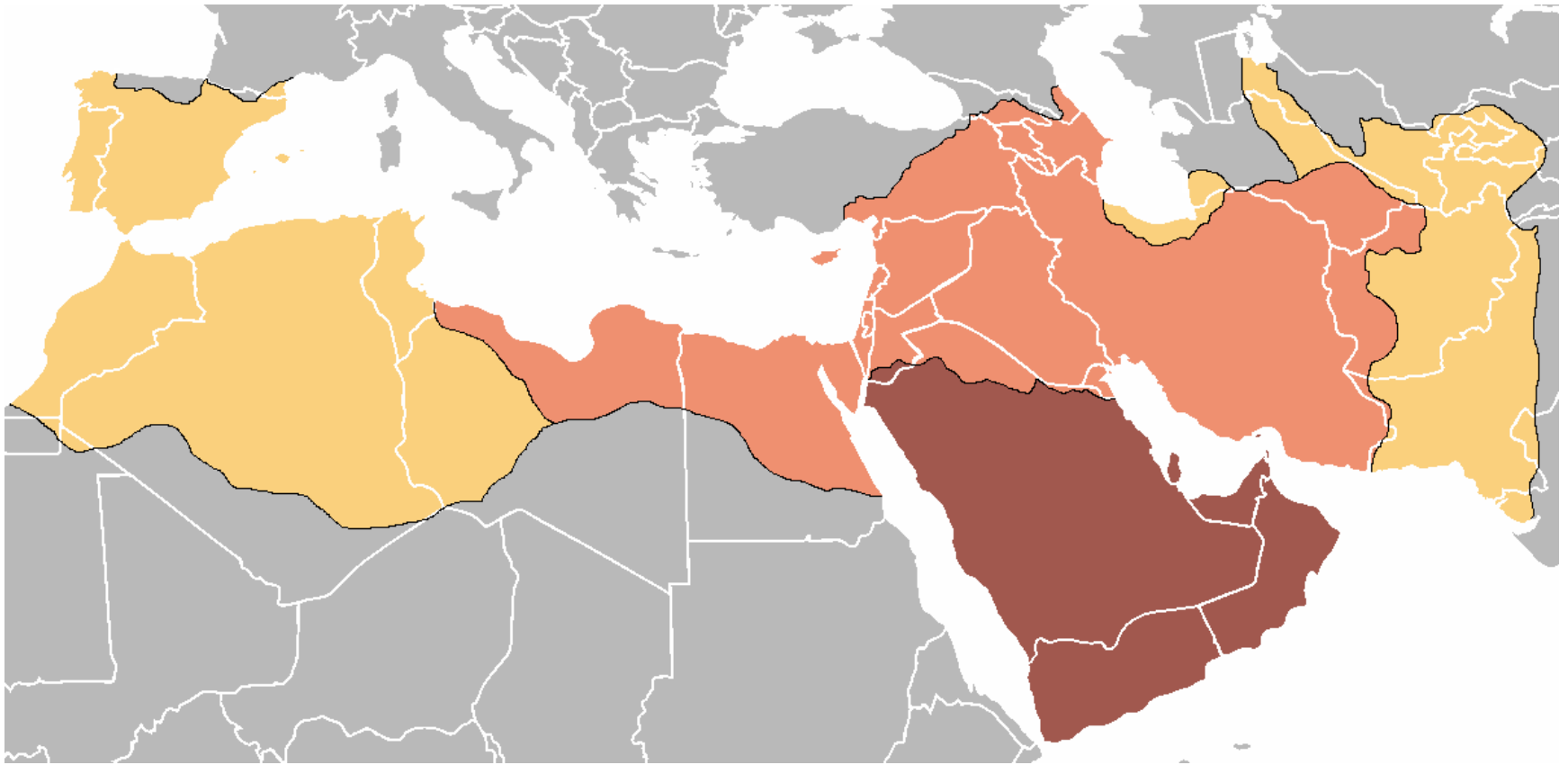
Liberty High School

AP World History

# 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 Umayyad 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.



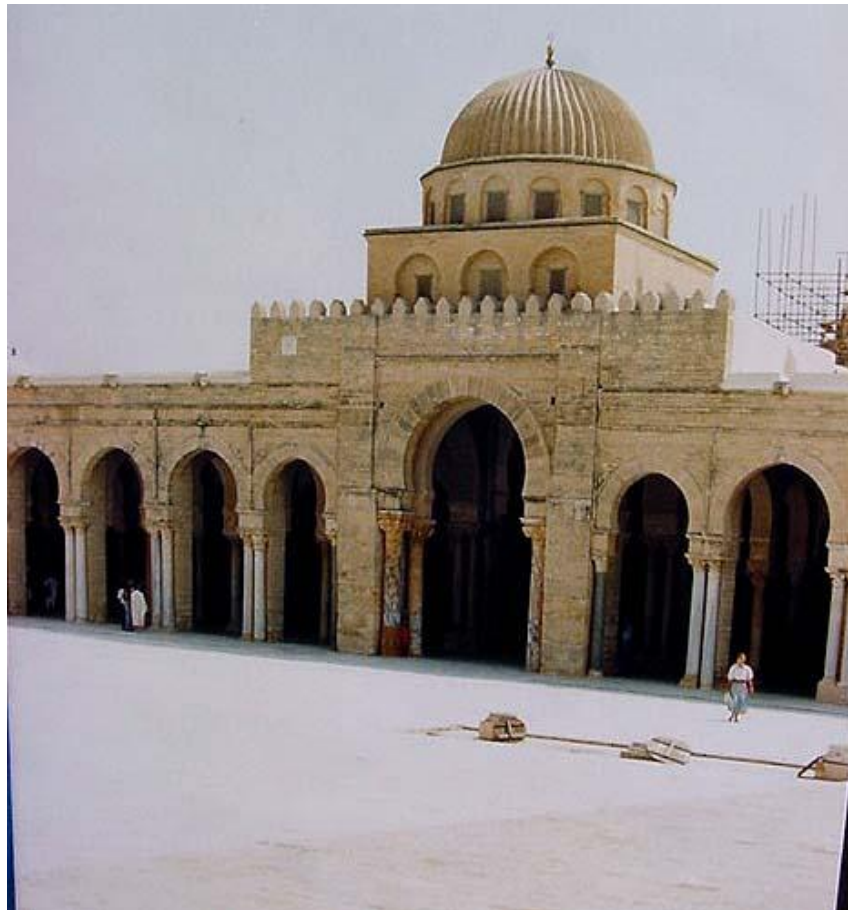
# Adversary Empires

- 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





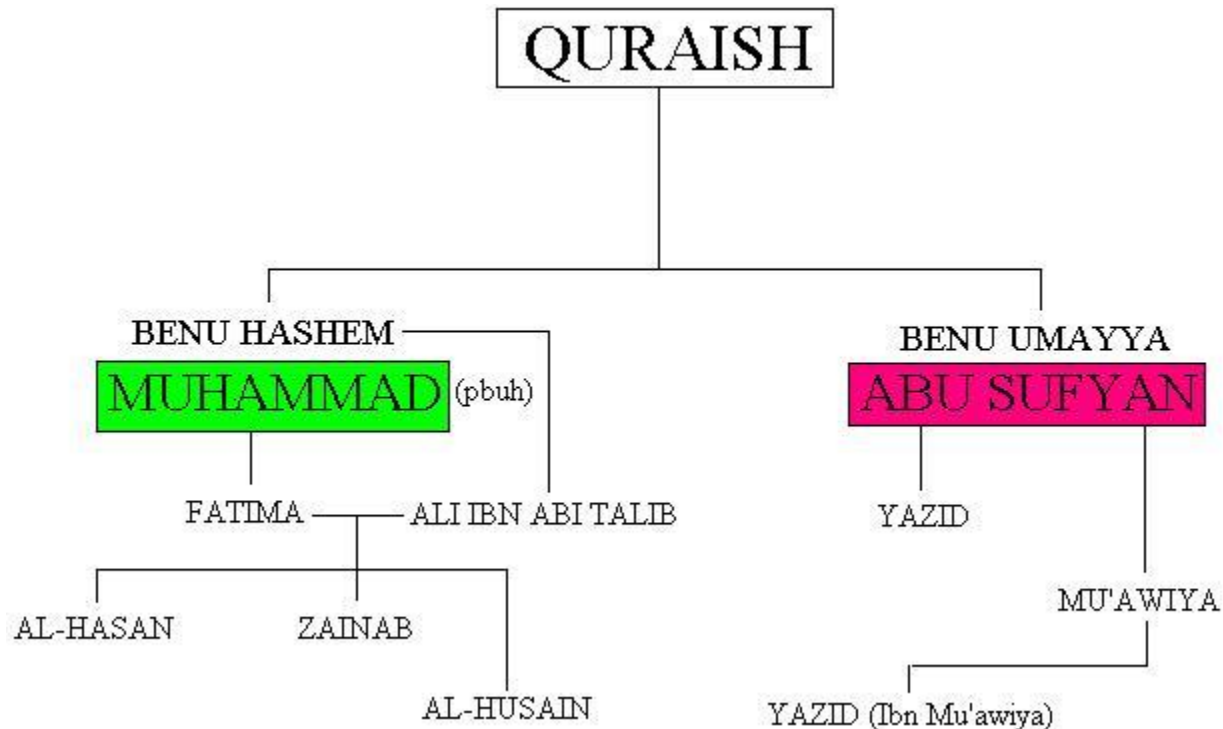
# Sunni - Shi'a Split

- 656 – Uthman the third Caliph was murdered.
  - He had been chosen by the Umayyad clan
  - Muhammads 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



# Karbala Mosque



# Sunni Shi'a Split

## Sunni

- Backed the Umayyad
- Make up 85% of Muslims today
- Mainly in Arabia, and Indonesia.
- Osama bin Laden wants to bring back the Umayyad Caliphate.

## Shi'a

- Backed Ali
- Make up about 15% of Muslims today.
- Mainly found in Iran.
- Mahmoud Amedinijad believes he is the Al – Mahdi.

# 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

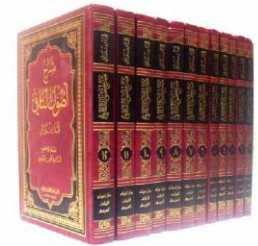
- Jews and Christians made up most of the people in the Umayyad empire.
- They were considered Dhimmi because they believed in the Bible.
- Were allowed to worship as they pleased.
- Had to pay the jizya and property taxes.
- Made it easy for these people to accept Islam because they were not persecuted.

# 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 Umayyad 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.