

## Islam and Arabia during the Era of Muhammad the Messenger

### ✧ Arabia

#### ✧ People

- Semitic: Arab, Hebrew, Aramaric
- Turkic: Turks, Uzbecs
- Indo-European: Persian, Kurdish, Armenian

#### ✧ Religion

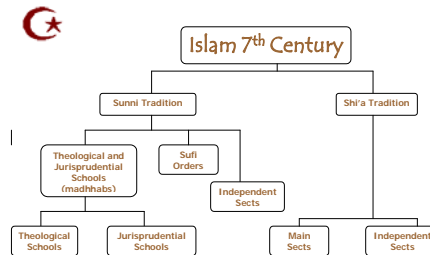
- Judaism
- Christianity
- Zoroastrianism
- Polytheism

### Muhammad Time Line

Time Period (all circa, AD)	Event
circa 570 AD	Birth of Muhammad
610	Muhammad receives the Revelation
613	Muhammad begins spreading the word of Islam
619	Muhammad's uncle and protector, abu-Talib, dies as does Muhammad's wife, Khadija
622	The Hegira of Muhammad and approximately 70 of his followers make the journey from Mecca to Medina. This also begins the first year of the Islamic calendar known as Anno Hegirae.
624	Muslim victory over a much larger Meccan force at Badr
628	End of the war between the Byzantine and Sasanid Empires caused the great expansion of Islam at their expense
630	Muslims occupy Mecca
632	Muhammad dies

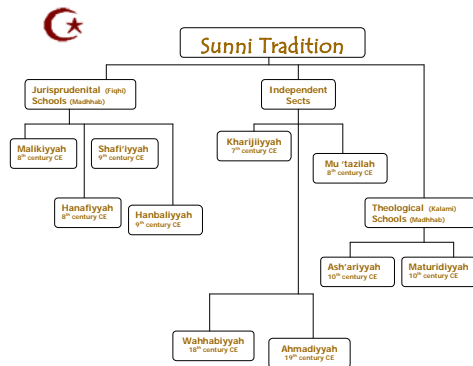
### ✧ Islam

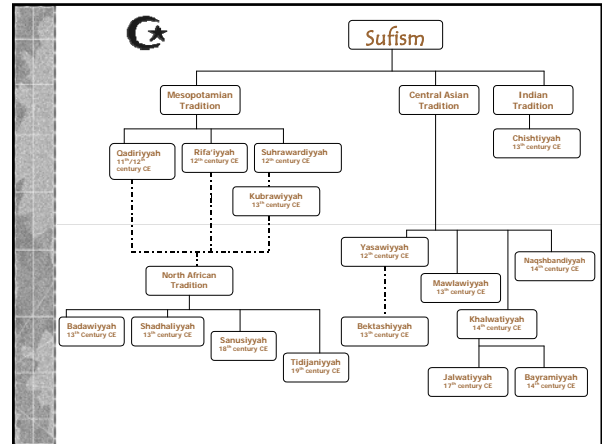
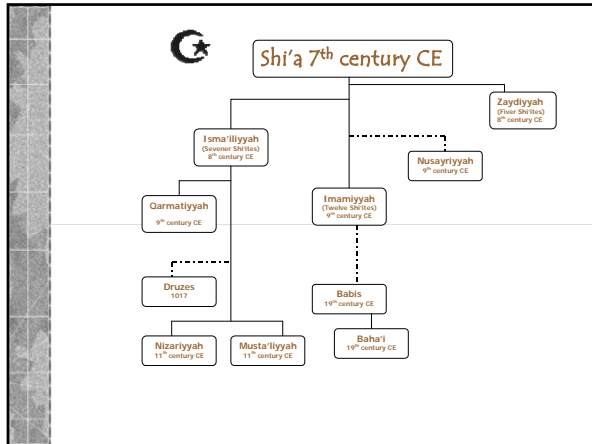
- ✧ Sunni - Orthodoxy
- ✧ Shia - Heterodoxy
- ✧ Sufi - Mysticism



## The Pillars of the Faith

- ✧ Shahada-confession of faith
  - ✧ There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is the Prophet
- ✧ Salat
  - ✧ Prayer, five times a day facing Mecca and must attend mosque on Friday (Holy Day)
- ✧ Sakat
  - ✧ Charity, alms for the poor
  - ✧ Donate 2.5% of income to the mosque as a tithe
- ✧ Ramadan
  - ✧ Fast during daylight hours for the entire month
- ✧ Hajj
  - ✧ Pilgrimage to Mecca, if able





**Islamic Civilization**

- ✧ The Wealth of Arabia: Trade and Cities in the Middle East
  - ◆ Trade flourished during this period
  - ◆ Development of banking, currency, and letters of credit
  - ◆ Urbanization
    - Several centers flourished throughout this period
    - Exquisite palaces built for the caliph and great mosques
    - Eating habits varied according to economic class
- ✧ All equal in the eyes of Allah
- ✧ Upper class
  - ◆ Senior officials, tribal elites, wealthiest merchants

- ✧ Slavery: came from non-Muslim peoples, but the Muslims quickly adapted it.
- ✧ They would become some of the largest slaves traders in the world.
- ✧ Only non-Muslims could be taken as slaves. This helped many make the decision to convert.
- ✧ Women
  - ◆ To be treated with respect
  - ◆ Had right to own and inherit property
  - ◆ Polygamy permitted
  - ◆ Right of divorce restricted to the husband
  - ◆ Adultery and homosexuality strictly forbidden
  - ◆ Women were cloistered in their homes nor permitted social contacts with males outside their own family
  - ◆ Covering all parts of the body common in urban areas

**Philosophy and science**

- ◆ The Arab Empire was responsible for preserving the spreading ideas & achievements of many ancient civilizations, i.e. Greece, Rome, Persia, etc.
- ◆ Ibn Rushd - helped reintroduce Europe to Greek works
- ◆ Manufacturing of paper begin in the 8th century
- ◆ Adopted numerical system from India; Iranian system of Algebra
- ◆ Set up observatory to study the stars; were aware that the earth is round
- ◆ Advanced medicine using Galen's (c. 180-200) ancient texts
- ◆ Ibn Sina - 980-1037, compiled a medical encyclopedia

**Islamic Literature**

- ◆ Koran was considered the greatest literary work
- ◆ Omar Khayyam - a major poet, most known for the Rubaiyat & The Tales from 1001 Nights (Arabian Nights)
- ◆ Rumi in the 13th century adopted beliefs of Sufism to his poetry

- ✧ Islam is not only a set of beliefs, but a way of life
- ✧ Ulama (Muslim scholars)
  - ◆ Shari'ah (law code)
  - ◆ Hadith (collection of saying from the Prophet)
- ✧ Abu Bakr, Muhammad's father-in-law succeeds Muhammad
- ✧ Creation of an Empire
  - ◆ After Arabs united, a Jihad directed at neighboring peoples
  - ◆ Possible explanations for rapid expansion
    - Prolonged drought on the Arabian peninsula
    - Desire of Islam's leaders to channel the energies of their new converts
    - Planned by the ruling elites of Mecca to extend their trade routes and bring surplus-producing regions under their control
    - Administration was generally tolerant