

ISLAM 3:
SUCCESSION CRISES and CONQUESTS

Diocletian (r. 284 - 305 AD)

- the division of the Roman Empire

Constantine (r. 307 - 337 AD)

- the founding of the city of CONSTANTINOPLE (Konstantinoupolis / 330 AD)
(situated at Byzantium, at the juncture of the Bosphorus and the Golden Horn)

The “Fall of the Roman Empire” (c. 380 - 480 AD)

BYZANTIUM / The EASTERN ROMAN EMPIRE

- combined Roman political traditions, administration and law
with Hellenistic culture and Christian beliefs
- Byzantine Emperors traced their authority back through Constantine to Octavian
Augustus himself
- the Senate of Constantinople continued the ancient traditions of the Senate of Rome
- the Byzantine army was a continuation of the great and powerful Roman legions

- capital at CONSTANTINOPLE

- Emperor Justinian (483 / r. 527 - 565)
 - San Vitale in Ravenna (Italy)
 - Hagia Sophia (Holy Wisdom) in Constantinople (built 532 - 537 AD)
 - the Basilica Cistern

The SASSANID EMPIRE (Sasanian Empire / 224 - 651 AD)

- considered the peak of ancient Persian civilization

 - Ctesiphon on the Tigris River
 - a capital to both the Parthian and Sassanid Empires
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ABU BAKR (Abdullah ibn Abi Quhaafah / 573 - 634 AD)

| *al-Siddiq* / “the Truthful”

|
A'isha oo Muhammad (c. 570 - 632) oo [Khadijah]

|
FATIMA oo ALI

Death of Muhammad (632 AD)

-the Muslim community and alliances begin to splinter

-Medina

-*Ansari* -the residents of Medina

-*Muhajir* -the immigrants of Mecca who had moved to Medina

-the Companions (*Sahaba*) - the advisors, main disciples,
scribes, and family of Muhammad

Contenders for succession / CALIPH = the successor

-advisors to Mohammed: Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman

> SUNNI / “traditionalists”

-the *caliph* (successor) should be the wisest, most **faith-filled**

-family of Mohammed: Ali (married to Fatima / they have 2 sons)

> SHIA (*Shiat Ali*) or Shi'ites / the “partisans of Ali”

-the *caliph* (successor) should be a **kinsman**

-the death of Fatima (632) = *al-Zahra* (“the Shining One”), *al-Batul* (“the Pure One”),
Umm-ul-Aaima (Mother of Imams)

-descendants: the *Sayyid* (“lord”) or *Sharif* (“noble”)

The First CALIPHS / The RASHIDUN Caliphs
("the Righteously Guided")

> The CALIPHATE

ABU BAKR (573 / r. 632 – 634)

- the Ridda Wars (the Wars of Apostasy)
- the Muslim invasion of Mesopotamia (Iraq) in the Sassanid Empire
- the Muslim invasion of Syria in the Eastern Roman Empire (Byzantine Empire)
 - capture of Damascus (632)

-KHALID ibn al-Walid (592 - 642)

UMAR (Omar / Umar ibn al-Khattab / c. 580 / r. 634 – 644)

- continued invasion of the Sassanid Empire
 - capture of Ctesiphon (636) and western Persia (640)
 - destruction of the Academy at Gundishapur
- continued invasion of the Eastern Roman Empire (Byzantine Empire)
 - Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Jericho; etc. (639)
 - Syria (640)
 - Alexandria and Egypt (642)
 - founding of CAIRO

UTHMAN (Othman / Osman / Uthman ibn Affan / c. 577 / r. 644 – 656) UMAYYAD clan

- invasion of North Africa and Libya (651)
 - conquest of the Vandal (Germanic) Kingdom
- the compilation of the basic text of the Qur'an
- assassination of Uthman
 - the Battle of the Camel (656)
 - A'isha (c. 613 - 678) vs. Ali

ALI (Ali ibn Abi Talib / c. 600 / r. 656 – 661)

- Mu'awiya Umayyad (related to Uthman) proclaims himself Caliph (660)
- assassination of Ali (661)

The Umayyad Dynasty (661 – 750)

Mu'awiya Umayyad (r. 661 – 680) from the Quraysh tribe

-leader of the Sunnis

-moves capital of the Caliphate from Medina to DAMASCUS

-the DOME of the ROCK in Jerusalem

-“Mohammed’s Night Journey”

The Division of Islam

SUNNI / the “Traditionalists”

-they honor the first 3 caliphs (Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman) and accept Ali as the least of the 4 caliphs

-if the Qur’an does not provide a solution to a problem, consult the practice (the traditions) of Mohammed in Medina (the Hadith) as a guide
> hence, the “Traditionalists”

-for the Sunni, the *imam* is a leader of prayer

SHIA / SHI’ITES (*Shiat Ali*) = “partisans of Ali”

-they reject the first 3 caliphs and honor Ali

-if the Qur’an does not provide a solution to a problem, consult the *IMAM*

-they believe that Mohammed designated Ali as his heir,
and that Mohammed passed on divinely inspired knowledge to his heir

-they believe that the true caliph and imam carried both Mohammed’s blood
and the mantle of spiritual authority

-the *IMAM* is a descendent of the Prophet and has the highest spiritual authority
-he is empowered to interpret the Prophet’s message and faith
without the possibility of error [infallibility]

Other cults such as SUFI

-charismatic, mystic Muslims

-seek ecstatic union with God (as Divine Love)

-in part by losing themselves (going into a trance) through dance

-pacifists