

## ISLAM 7

### The CALIPHATE : DISINTEGRATION and CHAOS

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#### The ABBASID Dynasty (750 – 1258 AD)

The Abbasid family descended from Abbas, an uncle of Mohammed

- BAGDAD (near Babylon)
- great Shia / Shi'ite center

The height of Islamic civilization (800s to early 900s AD) = “the Islamic Golden Age”

- great advances in mathematics, astronomy, medicine and the arts
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Map of SUNNI and SHIA (dark) regions :



<http://www.columbia.edu/itc/mealac/pritchett/00maplinks/overview/sunnishia/sunnishia.html>

## The RISE of the SELJUK TURKS in the ABBASID CALIPHATE

Oghuz tribes from Central Asia brought into Abbasid service (late 800s)

TOGHRUL BEG (c. 990 / r. 1037 – 1063)

- captures Bagdad (1055)

- proclaims himself

  - sultan* (“holder of power” / prince) and *shahan-shah* (“king of kings” / emperor)

- proclaims the SELJUK Dynasty (named after his grandfather)

  - > SELJUK TURKS

MALIK SHAH (1055 / r. 1079 – 1092)

- capture of Jerusalem -- and the Holy Land (1079)

The CRUSADES (1096 – 1272)

  - > the response of Europe to the Seljuk capture of the Holy Land

- Pope Urban II at the Council of Clermont (1095)

- the **FIRST CRUSADE** (1096 – 1099) = the LATIN KINGDOMS

- the Military orders

  - Knights of St. John (the Hospitalers)

  - Knights of the Temple of Solomon (the Templars)

  - the Teutonic Knights

- the **Second Crusade** (1147 – 1149)

  - Louis VII and Queen Eleanor of France

  - the plundering of Constantinople

SALADIN (c. 1137 – 1193 / member of a KURDISH tribe)

- Salah ad-Din Yosuf ibn Ayyub (“Righteous of Faith, Joseph, son of Job”)

- dramatic struggle between Amalric I, Latin King of Jerusalem

  - vs. Shawar, Vizier of the Egyptian Fatimid Caliph

  - vs. Shirkuh, the Seljuk governor of Syria

- Saladin takes over forces of his uncle, Shirkuh (1169)

- Saladin takes over as Sultan of Egypt (1171) > the Ayyubite Dynasty (1171 – 1250)

- Saladin unites Mesopotamian, Syrian, Palestinian and Egyptian Moslem lands

  - (1174 – 1186)

- attacks upon Crusader kingdoms and their collapse (1187)

  - the Battle of Hattin (near Tiberius)

**-Third Crusade (1189 – 1192)**

-Richard the Lion Heart, King of England (r. 1189 – 1199)

-Philip Augustus, King of France (r. 1180 – 1223)

-Friederich Barbarossa, Holy Roman Emperor (r. 1152 – 1190)

-concessions and conclusion (1192)

-death of Saladin (1193)

The final Crusades

-Fourth Crusade (1202 – 1204) / led by the Republic of Venice

-Children's Crusade (1212)

-the Fifth through Ninth Crusades (1217 – 1272)

-the Fall of Acre (1291)

“The OLD MAN of the MOUNTAIN” (ALAOUDIN)

Invasion of Central Asia and Europe by the Mongols (mid 1200s)

-Genghis Khan or Jenghiz Khan (Temujin / c. 1167 – 1227)

-grandsons:

-Khublai Khan (c. 1215 – 1294) / conquest of Song China

-Hulagu Khan (c. 1256 - 1265)

-siege of Bagdad (1258) and end of the Abbasid Dynasty

The great MONGOL EMPIRE / the 4 KHANATES

-gradual spread of Islam into Southeast Asia

-the SULTANATES

TAMERLANE and SAMARKAND

-TIMUR > TIMUR-I-LENG (1336 - 1405)

Timurlenk / Tamerlane / Tamburlaine

“As there is only one God in Heaven,  
so there should be only one King on Earth.”

-Isfizar (Persia) / 1383

-The Golden Horde (on the Volga River) / 1395

-Delhi / 1398

-the Ottoman Sultan, Bayezid the Thunderbolt / 1402

-Byzantine Smyrna / 1402

SHAHROUKH / Shahrokh (1377 - 1447) / rules at Harat

ULUG BEG (1394 – 1449) / Viceroy of Samarkand  
“Religions dissipate like fog, kingdoms vanish,  
but the works of scientists remain for eternity.”

-the Observatory  
-Abd al-Latif

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#### BRIEF READING LIST:

Karen Armstrong      *Islam: A Short History*      Modern Library Chronicles / 2002

Tom Holland      *In the Shadow of the Sword: The Birth of Islam and the Rise  
of the Global Arab Empire*      Anchor / 2013

John L. Esposito      *The Oxford History of Islam*      Oxford University Press / 1999

Marshall G.S. Hodgson      *The Venture of Islam*      University of Chicago Press / 1977

Books by: Bernard Lewis (b. 1916) and Patricia Crone (1945 - 2015)

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For Islam Today:

Seyyed Hossein Nasr      *Islam: Religion, History, and Civilization*

Vali Nasr      *The Shia Revival: How Conflicts within Islam Will Shape the Future*

Bernard Lewis      *The Crisis of Islam: Holy War and Unholy Terror*

Suggestions by Fromm students:

Book:      *American Qur'an* (personal artistic interpretation of the Qur'an)

Film:      *THEEB* (set in 1916 in the land of Lawrence of Arabia)

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