

Worlds of Islam

New religion

- Arabian Peninsula
  - Marginal region
  - Clans & tribes
  - Nomadic Arabs
  - East/West trade routes
  - Mecca as trade center
  - Kaaba religious shrine
  - Polytheistic
  - Judaism, Christianity & Zoroastrianism
  - Roman-like Byzantium north
  - Persian-like Sassanid east
- The Prophet
  - Orphan
  - Merchant
  - Khadijah
  - Divergence/sim Judaism
    - Monotheistic like Jews
    - Abraham-Moses-Jesus-Mohammed
    - Appeal for social justice
  - Differences from Christianity
    - Not a persecuted minority
    - No church/state separation
  - Meditated
    - Allah speaks 610 CE
      - Qu'ran
      - Arabic -divine
      - Monotheism
      - Key idea: submission to Allah (Muslim)
      - Creation of the umma
      - 5 Pillars of Islam

Revolutionary Islam

- Umma v. Clan, belief v. Birth
- A state, not just faith from beginning
- Mohammed a military & political leader, not just religious
- No separate religious organization
- No clergy mediating with God
- Religious law = civil law

Transformation of Arabia

- Alienation of Meccan elites
  - Reflection of Arab origins
    - Allah=Yahweh, children of Abraham
    - Return to older values of tribal society
    - Rejected clan structure for community
- The Hijra to Medina 622
- Spread thru Arabia, military success & alliances
- Islamic conversion/control Arabia by 632

Conquest

- Grew to include earlier civs
  - Most surrounding societies converted
  - New 3rd wave civ
  - Arabic culture & Lang spread widely
- Limits of conquest
  - Continuation of trading patterns
  - New political system highly mobile
  - Byzantium & Persia weakened by long conflicts
  - Defeated Sassanid, took 1/2 Byzantium
  - Most of Spain, attacked France
  - East to the Indus
  - Beat a Chinese army, battle of Talus
- Rapid conquest
  - Faith combined with political structure
  - Weak Byzantium & Persia
  - Merchants pushed for expansion of trade routes
  - Source of individual wealth & glory
  - Provided common cause for umma
  - Arabs motivated by religious mission
- Conversion
  - Similarities to earlier faiths
  - Association with powerful state
  - Conquest implied God's support
  - Social/political incentives
  - Merchants got favorable conditions
  - Social mobility

Arab empire

- Who to succeed Mohammad?
  - Rightly Guided Caliphs pals of M
    - Sunni: caliphs chosen by umma
      - Religious authority from ulama
    - Shia: decent from M
      - Shia imams over caliphs
      - Messianic element
  - Civil war split
    - Started as political, then religious
    - Shias as against privilege
  - Sufis v. Mainstream
    - Sharia doesn't bring believers to God
    - Many ulama corrupted by worldly government
  - Qu'ran gave rights
    - No female infanticide
    - Rights of property & inheritance
    - Marriage by consent
    - Divorce
    - Regulated polygamy
    - Men could have sex free female slaves
  - Lives of women
    - In practice in Arab empire
      - Pray @ home not mosque
      - Veiling & seclusion of women
      - Veiling/seclusion more M.E. Than Muslim
    - Tightening patriarchy
      - Honor killing
      - Some clitorrectomy
    - Negative views of women
      - Deficient & weak
      - Sexually charged threat to men & stability
      - Much of this from the hadiths
    - Opportunities in religious life
      - Sufi mysticism allowed greater role for women
      - Sufis had parallel groups for women
      - Shia female teachers called mullahs, like men
      - Islamic education allowed some literacy
      - Visits to tombs & public baths allowed interaction

Cultural encounters

- Arab empire nearly gone by 10th cent.
  - Islamic civilization still flourished
  - Abbasid Baghdad sacked by Mongols 1258
- Variations
  - Spread to India, Anatolia militarily
  - Spread to W. Africa by trade
  - Sufis converted by accepting local traditions
    - In India & Anatolia
    - But not in W. Africa until 18th c.
  - In India, W. Africa & Spain one of many faiths
    - In Anatolia, dominant faith
- India
  - Brought by Turkic invaders
  - Sultanate of Delhi 1206
  - Est. Muslim communities
    - Buddhists/low caste/agrarians liked Islam
    - Sufis like Indian holy men, converted people
    - Equality of believers v. Caste
    - Sexual modesty v. Eroticism
  - Hindu/Muslim interaction
    - Mystics blurred line between
    - Syncretic Sikhism 16th c.
    - Muslims remained minority
- Anatolia
  - Turks again, yo
  - 90% Muslim by 1500
  - Why diff from India
    - Smaller pop.
    - More Turkic speakers
    - Greater destruction of Byzantine society
    - Discrimination against Christians
    - Decentralized India absorbed invaders better
    - Fewer social barriers to conversion
    - Sufis replaced Christian institution in A.
  - By 1500 Ottoman Empire most powerful Islamic state
- West Africa
  - Traders not conquest
  - No real Arab immigration
  - Sufis played smaller role
  - More urban
    - Links to trading partners
    - Timbuktu had lots of schools
    - Libraries
    - Shared scholarship throughout Islam
- Spain
  - Arab & Berbers conquered
  - Did not overwhelm Christianity
  - Interaction Muslims/Christians/Jews
    - Mozarabs adopted Arab culture, not religion
  - Tolerance breaking down by 10th c.
    - Increasing war with Christian states
    - Stricter forms of Islam from N. Af.
    - Increased restriction on Christians
    - Reconquest complete by 1492