Islamic Empires

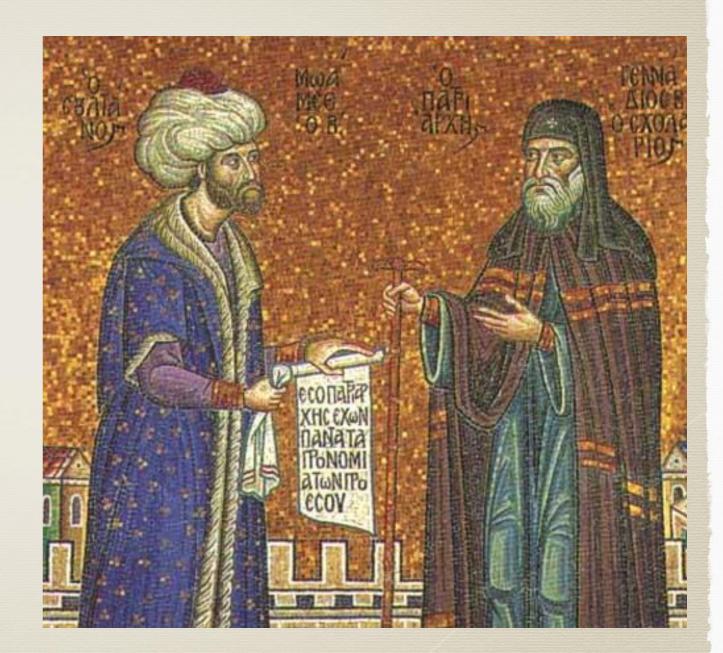
Expansion

- * Many clan fought each other
- * Clans were unified under Islam
- Began military attacks against neighboring people
 - * Defeated Byzantine area of Syria
 - * Egypt
 - Northern Africa
- * Qur'an permitted warfare through *jihad*-"struggle in the way of God"
- Muslim warriors were guarantied a place in paradise if died in battle



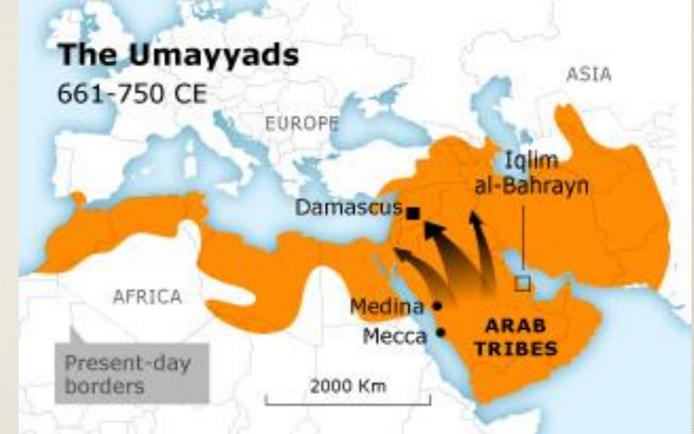
Political Rule

- *caliph*-"religious & political leader"
- After Muhammad's death, many of his next successors (caliphs) were assassinated.
- Conquered Christians and Jews were allowed to practice their religion because they were religious "People of the Book"
- According to Muslim rule, Christians and Jews had to pay taxes or convert to Islam



Abbasid Dynasty

- In 762 AD, created a new capital at Baghdad (near the Tigris River)
 - * Baghdad became a center of trade
- Conquered much of rich Roman provinces
- * Controlled trade routes to the East
 - * by ship & camel caravan
 - * From Africa=gold & slaves
 - * From China= silk & porcelain
 - * From India= sandalwood & spices
 - * From western India= textiles (cloth)
 - * From Egypt= grain
 - * From Iraq= Linens, dates, precious stones
- Hārūn al-Rashīd, most famous leader, encouraged learning, art and writing
- Dynasty decline due to fighting over successor, financial corruption, & land divided



Seljuk Turks

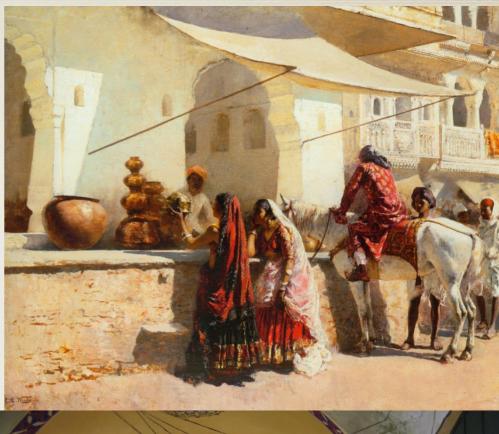
- * Nomadic group from Asia
- Cairo, Egypt became center of trade
- Converted to Islam
- * Conquered Baghdad, ruler became *sultan* (ruler)
- Tried to conquered the Byzantine Empire (Eastern Roman Empire)
 - * This began the Crusades





Living in Islamic Empires

- The bazaar, or covered market, was an important part of every Muslim city/town
- A place to buy, sell & bargain.
 Trade routes often passed through the cities with large bazaars





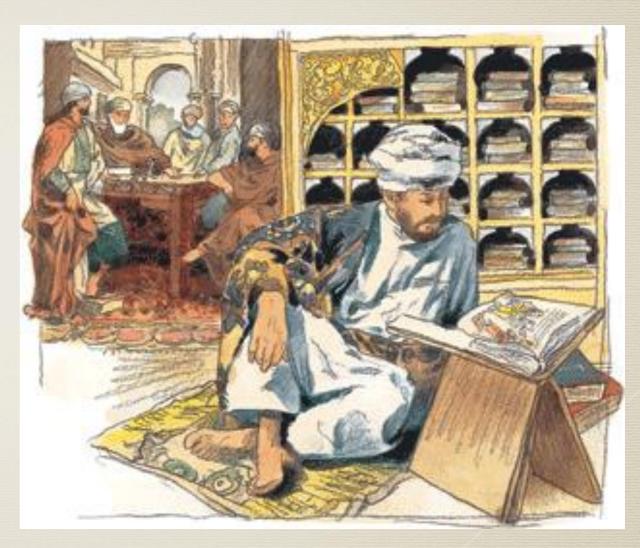
- Muslims were considered equal
- * Non-muslims were not considered equal
- * Women
 - * could own property and were to be protected by men
 - * Every woman was to have a male guardian
 - Women covering their whole bodies with clothing was common
 - Arranged marriages were common
 - Qur'an allows men to have more than one wife but not more than 4
 - Wives were expensive because they had to pay a dowry (gift, money or property) to the bride. So many did not have multiple wives
 - Women could divorce
 - * Adultery was forbidden
 - Eventually women lost many rights and were treated like slaves in some areas. The treatment of women is still under debate by Muslims today
- Many male slaves were used in the military. Many women slaves were used for domestic work
 - * Some slaves could purchase freedom. It was considered a good act to free them
 - * By law, slaves were treated fairly



Social System

Education

- Familiar with Greek philosophers and translated works of Plato and Aristotle into Arabic
- * Preserved much of Greek & Roman culture by translating works
 - These texts were put into a library "House of Wisdom" in Baghdad for scholars to study
 - It is because of the Muslim world that we have the writings of Plato and Aristotle today....and thanks to the Chinese for the process of paper making!
 - * Mathematics were also brought from India
 - Studied medicine and how diseases could be spread with contaminated water
 - * These texts were written and used by medieval Europe!
 - * Set up observatories in Baghdad to study astronomy.
 - * Knew the earth was round
 - * Named many of the stars
 - Perfected the astrolabe, that helped sailors determine their locations using the stars
 - * This will later help discoveries find the Americas!
 - * Literature was written such as "Arabian Nights", a collection of folktales, fables and romances... which led to the story of Aladdin!



Art and Architecture

- * Art was a mixture of Arab, Turkish & Pertain traditions
- Mosques were built
- Palaces had protective walls, gates and baths
- Castles resembled a fortress and had holes over the entrance gate to pour boiling oil over the heads of attacking forces
 - * This was later used in medieval Europe!

