Economy and Society of the Early Islamic World (Pages 358-370)

- **NOTE:** *dar al-Islam* is an Arabic term meaning the “house of Islam” and it refers to lands under Islamic rule.
- The Umayyad and Abbasid empires created a zone of trade, exchange, and communication stretching from India to Iberia (modern-day Spain & Portugal) – served as an economic stimulus in cities and rural areas.

**New crops, agricultural experimentation, and urban growth**

- Spread of new foods and industrial crops
- Effects of new crops
  - Increased varieties and quantities of food
  - Richer and more varied diets
  - Industrial crops (cotton) became the basis for a thriving ____________ industry – indigo and henna dyes
- Agricultural experimentation
  - *What were some of the new agricultural experiments and what effect did they have on the Islamic empire?*

- Urban growth
  - Increasing agricultural production contributed to the rapid growth of cities
  - A new industry: ____________ manufacture
  - *From whom and how did the Arab gain this technology?*

  - *What were the effects of this new industry?*

  - *How did the growth of the realm of Islam contribute to agricultural, industrial, and urban development?*

**The formation of a hemispheric trading zone**

- Overland trade
  - Trade revived ____________ roads
  - Umayyad and Abbasid rulers maintained roads for military and administration
- Camels and caravans
  - Overland trade traveled mostly by camel caravan
  - Caravanserais in Islamic cities
  - *What is a caravanserais?*
Maritime trade
- Arab and Persian mariners borrowed the ________ from the Chinese
- Borrowed the ________ sail from southeast Asian and Indian mariners - improved ship maneuverability
- Borrowed ________ from the Hellenistic mariners - able to calculate latitude
- *Who was Ramisht and what did he do with his fortunes?*

Banks
- Operated on larger scale and provided extensive services
- Letters of credit, or ________, functioned as bank checks
- The organization of trade
  - Entrepreneurs often pooled their resources in group investments
  - *What were the advantages of these types of group investments?*

- Traders even went to West Africa, Russia, Scandinavia
  - *What factors contributed to the expansion of Islamic overland and maritime trade?*

Al-Andalus with its capital city Cordoba
- This area was Islamic Spain, conquered by Muslim Berbers
- Claimed independence from the Abbasid dynasty
- Products of al-Andalus enjoyed a reputation for excellence
- *What are some of the products of al-Andalus? Describe the capital city of Cordoba.*

The changing status of women
- Arab women (pre-Muhammad) – could inherit property, divorce husbands, engage in business ventures
- The Quran and women
  - The Quran enhanced security of women; they were not property of men but equal to men before Allah with their own rights and needs; Muhammad’s kindness to his own wives served as an examples (after his first wife died, it is believed he had more than 11 wives)
• However, the Quran and *sharia* also reinforced male domination
  — *In what ways did they reinforce a patriarchal society?*

• Veiling of women
  - Adopted veiling of women from Mesopotamia and Persia
    — *What was the purpose of veiling?*

• Women's rights provided by the Quran were reduced through later interpretations

❖ **Islamic values and cultural exchanges**

➤ **The formation of an Islamic cultural tradition**
  - The Quran and *sharia* were main sources to formulate moral guidelines
  - Promotion of Islamic values
    - Ulama, *qadis*, and missionaries were main agents
    - Education also promoted Islamic values
    - *What types of education were available for Muslims?*

• *Sufis*, or Islamic mystics
  - Most effective __________
  - Encouraged devotion to Allah by passionate __________ or dancing
  - __________ believed that human reason was too frail and confusing
  - Sufis led __________ and __________ lives, won respect of the people
  - Encouraged followers to revere Allah in __________
  - __________ those who associated Allah with other beliefs
  - *Why were Sufis sometimes mistrusted?*

• *How were Sufis able to attract many converts?*

• *What people and institutions helped to promote and spread the values of Islam?*
- **The hajj**
  - The __________ became the symbol of Islamic cultural unity
  - Pilgrims helped to spread Islamic beliefs and values
  - *What is the significance of the hajj to Islamic religion and culture?*

### Persian, Indian and Greek Influences on Islam

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>In what specific ways was each culture an influence on Islamic society?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Persia</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>India</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Greece</strong></td>
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*Who was **Ibn Rushd** and what impact did he have on the spread of Islam?*
The Geography of Islam

Holy Places:
- Mecca – the holiest site; Muhammad’s birthplace and home to the Ka’ba, or Black Rock
- Medina – the city to which Muhammad fled during the Hijra
- Jerusalem – according to Islamic tradition, Muhammad ascended to heaven from here

Comparison of Shia, Sunni and Sufi Factions of Islam

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Succession</th>
<th>Muhammad</th>
<th>Abu Bakr</th>
<th>Umar</th>
<th>Uthman</th>
<th>Ali</th>
<th>Hasan</th>
<th>Husayn</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>570-632 CE</td>
<td>First Caliph, principle leader of prayer selected by Muhammad, friend and father of Muhammad’s youngest wife, assassinated.</td>
<td>Second Caliph, assassinated.</td>
<td>Third Caliph, assassinated.</td>
<td>Fourth Caliph, ruled for 7 years, Muhammad’s cousin, husband of his favorite daughter Fatima.</td>
<td>Eldest son of Ali, renounced his rights to the caliphate but was poisoned anyway</td>
<td>Second son of Ali, fought against Umayyad control, was beheaded after losing battle of Karbala (680 CE), considered heroic martyr by Shia Muslims.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Shia Faction of Islam</th>
<th>Sunni Faction of Islam</th>
<th>Sufis/Sufism</th>
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<tr>
<td>10-15% of all Muslims</td>
<td>Majority of Muslims</td>
<td>Suf means “wool,” a “devotional movement,” considered the Mystics of Islam.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shia means “faction,” refers to “faction of Ali.”</td>
<td>Sunni means “tradition,” adheres to orthodox tradition</td>
<td>Developed in reaction against the excesses of the Sultans and Caliphs (who wore silks, satins), specifically the Caliphate of Damascus in the Umayyad dynasty, Sufis wore course wool garments in protest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran center and home of most Shia, 88% of Iranians are Shia (Shi’i). In Iraqi 96% are Muslim and over 50% of them are Shia (Shi’i), though Iraq was, until the 2nd Gulf War, ruled by the minority Sunnis. President Saddam Husayn was a Sunni.</td>
<td>Grew out of Umayyad dynasty. World-wide most Muslims are Sunni.</td>
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</tbody>
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Succession and Leadership

<p>| Believe in Ali and the Imams as rightful successors of Muhammad, but not in first 3 Caliphs (listed above). Ali was first of 12 successive legitimate Imams. Succession was to be hereditary. | Acknowledge each of the first four Caliphs as rightful successors to Muhammad. | Value deliberate simplicity, sought involvement of the emotions rather than just a formalistic following of the rules. |</p>
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<th>Look forward to Messianic return of the last recognized Imam. Muhammad al-Mahdi, last Imam, disappeared 900 CE, went into “hidden realm”, was sinless. Ayatollah Khomeini (1900-1989) believed by many to be the return of the last Imam.</th>
<th>Through the ages, Caliphs rule “in God’s name.”</th>
<th>Sufis gathered around shaikhs (masters) and formed faqirs (orders or communities). Rabi’a (1717-1801 CE) was a Sufi poet whose poetry spoke of God’s Love as the center of the universe and God as her Lover. Rumi, another Sufi poet. Al-Ghazzali (1058-1111) first Sufi to bring the faction into the mainstream.</th>
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<td>Imam holds an exalted position, Ayatollah refers to most important Imams.</td>
<td>Imam is a prayer leader. Sunnis approach God directly, there is no clerical hierarchy.</td>
<td>Sufi Shaikhs are the masters.</td>
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### Teachings and Scripture

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<th>Characteristic is the continual exposition and reinterpretation of doctrine by the clerics.</th>
<th>Believe in entire body (canon) of life and teachings of Muhammad as found in Qur’an and hadiths (sayings and traditions of Muhammad). Sayings and traditions are interpreted by scholars in Islamic schools.</th>
<th>Qur’an is full of symbolism, each verse has from 7 to 70 meanings. Believe in three approaches to the divine: mysticism of Love (heart knowledge), Ecstatic (visionary knowledge) and intuitive discernment (mental knowledge)</th>
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<td>Both Sunni and Shia factions believe in the Sharia, the comprehensive law derived from the Qur’an (revelations of Muhammad) and the Sunnah (sayings or interpretations of Muhammad).</td>
<td>Scholars carry on debate in Islamic Schools. Science of Tradition refers to Islamic scholarship and the determination of the value of specific writings (rated sound, good, weak, or infirm)</td>
<td>Believe in fana (extinction) of separateness from God and “remembering” that “there is nothing but God.”</td>
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<td>Fundamentalist approach to Islam, interpretation by clerics</td>
<td>Qur’an applies to everyday life, public life is shaped by the Qur’an. Saudi Arabia considered model of proper Islamic state</td>
<td>Called “the Heart of Islam,” highest experience in life is experience with Allah, can get face to face with Allah/God</td>
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| Qur’an (rated 70) | Ayatollah (canon) | Qur’an is full of symbolism, each verse has from 7 to 70 meanings. Believe in three approaches to the divine: mysticism of Love (heart knowledge), Ecstatic (visionary knowledge) and intuitive discernment (mental knowledge) | Qur’an is full of symbolism, each verse has from 7 to 70 meanings. Believe in three approaches to the divine: mysticism of Love (heart knowledge), Ecstatic (visionary knowledge) and intuitive discernment (mental knowledge) |

| Solar state | Hindu Mysticism | Influenced by Gnosticism (life is a spiritual journey—want to know God/Allah now not just after death), The Enneads (from Egypt, e.g. believed the Cosmos emerged from the One and life is the Soul’s journey back), and Hindu Mysticism | Influenced by Gnosticism (life is a spiritual journey—want to know God/Allah now not just after death), The Enneads (from Egypt, e.g. believed the Cosmos emerged from the One and life is the Soul’s journey back), and Hindu Mysticism |