

Timeline of Islam, a Glossary of Terms with maps and a video link.

The start of Islam is marked in the year 610, following the first revelation to the prophet Muhammad at the age of 40. Muhammad and his followers spread the teachings of Islam throughout the Arabian Peninsula. Soon after the death of the prophet Muhammad, there were military expeditions, called "futuhat," or literally "openings," into what is now Egypt and other parts of North Africa. In other parts of the world, Islam spread through trade and commerce.

570 C.E. Muhammad is born in Mecca. He comes from a noble family and is well-known for his honesty and upright character.

610 C.E. According to Muslim belief, at the age of 40, Muhammad is visited by the angel Gabriel while on retreat in a cave near Mecca. The angel recites to him the first revelations of the Quran and informs him that he is God's prophet. Later, Muhammad is told to call his people to the worship of the one God, but they react with hostility and begin to persecute him and his followers.

622 C.E. After enduring persecution in Mecca, Muhammad and his followers migrate to the nearby town of Yathrib (later to be known as Medina), where the people there accepted Islam. This marks the "hijrah" or "emigration," and the beginning of the Islamic calendar. In Medina, Muhammad establishes an Islamic state based on the laws revealed in the Quran and the inspired guidance coming to him from God. Eventually he begins to invite other tribes and nations to Islam.

630 C.E. Muhammad returns to Mecca with a large number of his followers. He enters the city peacefully, and eventually all its citizens accept Islam. The prophet clears the idols and images out of the Kaaba and rededicates it to the worship of God alone.

633 C.E. Muhammad dies after a prolonged illness. The Muslim community elects his father-in-law and close associate, Abu Bakr, as caliph, or successor.

638 C.E. Muslims enter the area north of Arabia, known as "Sham," including Syria, Palestine, Lebanon and Iraq.

641 C.E. Muslims enter Egypt and rout the Byzantine army. Muslims consider their conquest as the liberation of subjugated people, since in most instances they were under oppressive rule.

655 C.E. Islam begins to spread throughout North Africa.

661 C.E. Imam Ali is killed, bringing to an end the rule of the four "righteous caliphs": Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman, and Ali. This also marks the beginning of the Umayyad rule.

711 C.E. Muslims enter Spain in the west and India in the east. Eventually almost the entire Iberian Peninsula is under Islamic control.

732 C.E. Muslims are defeated at Poitiers in France by Charles Martel.

750 C.E. The Abbasids take over rule from the Umayyads, shifting the seat of power to Baghdad.

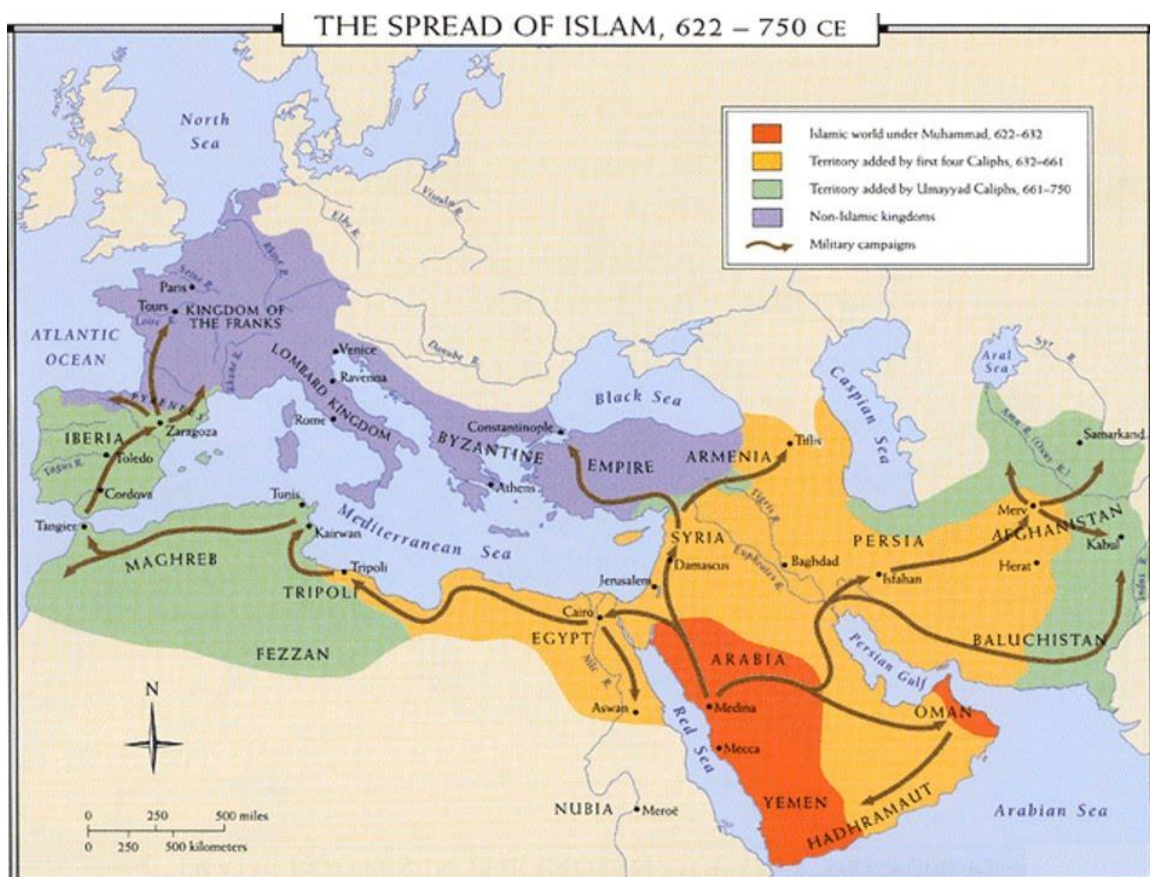
1000 C.E. Islam continues to spread through the continent of Africa, including Nigeria, which served as a trading liaison between the northern and central regions of Africa.

1099 C.E. European Crusaders take Jerusalem from the Muslims. Eventually Muslims defeat the Crusaders and regain control of the holy land.

1120 C.E. Islam continues to spread throughout Asia. Malaysian traders interact with Muslims who teach them about Islam.

1299 C.E. The earliest Ottoman state is formed in Anatolia, Turkey.

1453 C.E. Ottomans conquer the Byzantine seat of Constantinople and change its name to Istanbul.



Glossary

Allah: Arabic word for God, the same God worshipped by Christians and Jews.

Arab: A person whose ethnic or national background is from an Arab country. Approximately 15 percent of Muslims in the world are Arabs.

Arab countries: Those countries whose primary language is Arabic. There are 22 Arab nations: Algeria, Bahrain, the Comoros Islands, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

Caliph: the chief Muslim civil and religious ruler, regarded as the successor of Muhammad. The caliph ruled in Baghdad until 1258 and then in Egypt until the Ottoman conquest of 1517; the title was then held by the Ottoman sultans until it was abolished in 1924 by Kemal Atatürk.

Caliphate: A caliphate is an Islamic state under the leadership of an Islamic steward with the title of caliph, a person considered a political-religious successor to the Islamic prophet Muhammad and a leader of the entire ummah. The caliphates developed into multi-ethnic trans-national empires. During the medieval period, three major caliphates succeeded each other: the **Rashidun** Caliphate (632–662), the **Umayyad** Caliphate (661–750) and the **Abbasid** Caliphate (750–1258).

Dar al-Islam: The area of the world under the rule of Islam, literally, "the home of Islam" or "the home of submission." Dar al Islam may be any place where Muslims are secure, even if it is a secular society. Dar al Islam is defined as opposed to Dar al Harb, the house of war, where it is permitted according to some to wage Jihad, holy war for Islam.

Fatwa (Fa'-twa): A non-binding opinion or ruling based on religious knowledge made by an Islamic scholar, mostly on matters of day-to-day life.

Hadith (Ha-deeth'): The reported sayings and actions of the prophet Muhammad which serve as a model of behavior for Muslims.

Hijab (Hee-jab'): Literally, the word translates as "curtain" or "veil." It refers to the headscarf and non-revealing clothing worn by many Muslim women to maintain modesty. The style of headscarf and dress varies from country to country. Modest behavior is mandated for both women and men.

Imam(s): Leaders of prayer in a mosque. In Shia Islam, the descendants of the prophet Muhammad whom he chose to lead the community following his death.

Islam: Literal translation is "submission to the will of God." It originates from the Arabic word, "salaam," which means peace.

Jihad: Arabic word meaning "striving in the way of God." This striving can take a number of forms, the most common of which is the daily inner struggle to be a better person. Armed jihad is permitted in defense of Islam.

Lunar Calendar: A calendar that is based on the moon rather than the sun, so that each month begins with the sighting of the new moon. Muslims follow a lunar calendar. This means that each Muslim month begins 11 days earlier than the year before.

Mosque: Place of worship for Muslims. Many mosques are recognized by their tall minarets or towers; however, minarets are not a physical requirement of mosques. Typically, mosques have a prayer hall covered with carpets, and people take their shoes off at the door to maintain the cleanliness of the prayer area.

Muhammad: Muslims believe Muhammad was the last in the chain of divinely appointed prophets through whom God sent his message to humankind. Muhammad was born in the year 570 C.E., in the town of Mecca on the Arabian Peninsula. Muslims believe that he was the recipient of God's last divine revelation, the Quran.

Muslim: One who follows the religion of Islam; literally, one who "submits to the will of God."

Quran (Kur-aan'): The holy scripture of Islam, believed to have been revealed to the prophet Muhammad through the angel Gabriel over a period of 23 years. It contains many of the same teachings, admonitions, and stories of earlier prophets found in Jewish and Christian scriptures.

Shahada (Sha-ha'-da): The declaration of faith in Islam that "There is no deity except God and Muhammad is the messenger of God." Anyone who believes and declares this is considered a Muslim.

Sharia (Sha-ree'-a): Islamic law, based on the Quran and the sayings and actions of the prophet Muhammad (hadith).

Shiite/Shia: One of the two major groups in Islam, comprising approximately 20 percent of Muslims worldwide. Shiites believe that Ali, the cousin and son-in-law of the prophet Muhammad, was designated as Muhammad's successor.

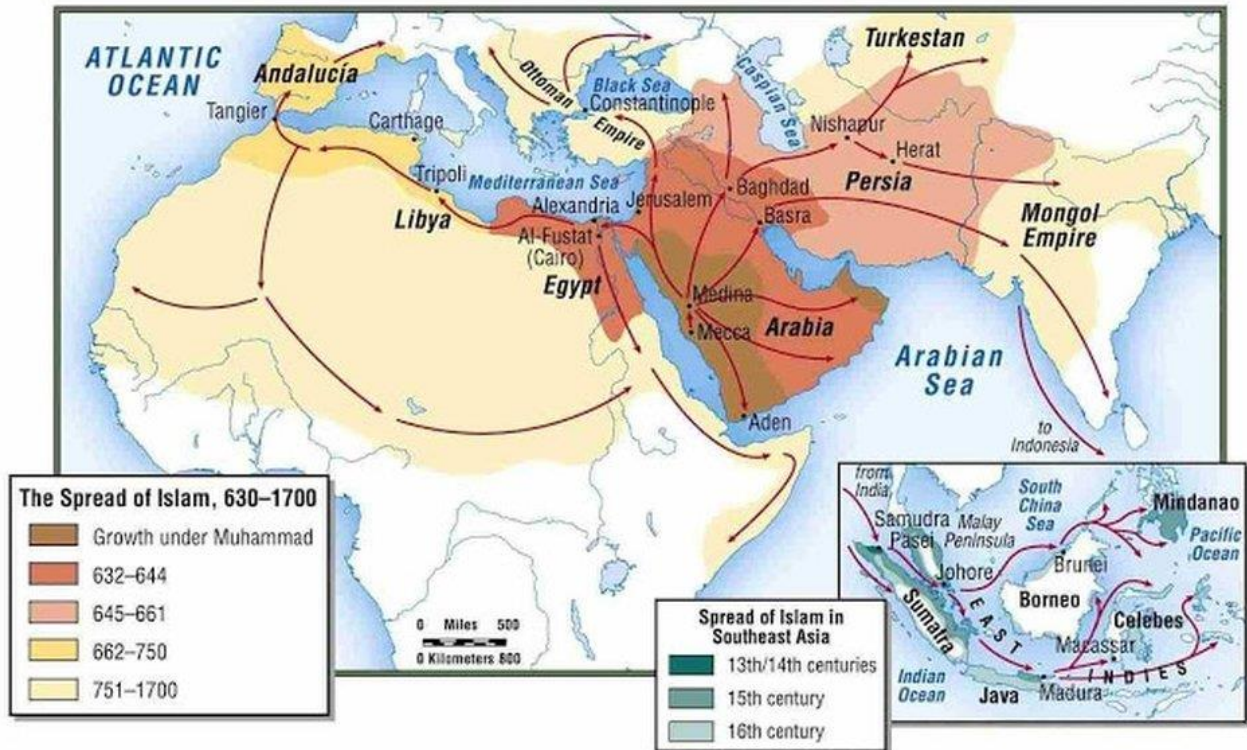
Sufism: The inner, spiritual dimension of Islam that relates to purification of the heart and involves devotional practices to bring one closer to God.

Sunni: The majority group of Islam, comprising about 80 percent of Muslims worldwide. Sunnis believe that the prophet's best friend, Abu Bakr, was selected by consensus of the majority to succeed him.

Ummah: The whole community of Muslims bound together by ties of religion

Link: Khan Academy – The Spread of Islam video

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/world-history/medieval-times/spread-of-islam/v/spread-of-islam>



Sources:

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