

Islamic Dominance of African-Eurasian Trade and Culture

I. Expansion of the Empire

1. Death of Muhammad (632)
2. first followers
 - a. Abu Bakr (632–634)
 - b. 'Umar ibn al-Khattab (634–644)
 - military strategist
 - ordered the *Qur'an* to be written down
 - captured Syria, Palestine, Iraq, western Iran, and Egypt
 - military land grants (*iqta'*)
3. descendents/relatives
 - a. Ali (656–661) — cousin and son-in-law of Muhammad
 - b. Fatima — daughter of Muhammad
 - c. Shi'a — Party of Ali
 - d. al-Abbas — uncle of Muhammad
4. community leaders
 - a. Uthman (644–656)
 - b. Ummayyads (661–750)
 - c. Mu'awiya (661–680)
 - d. Sunnis
 - e. established capital at Damascus
5. Abbasids (750–1258)
 - a. Harun al-Rashid (= Aaron the Upright) (786–809)
 - b. Dâr al-Islâm
 - c. Crusades
 - al-Hakim (996–1021)
 - Church of the Holy Sepulchre (destroyed 1009; rebuilt 1048)
 - Pope Urban II (1088–1099)
 - Council of Clermont (1095)
 - Jerusalem (taken by Crusaders 1099; taken by Saladin 1187)
 - d. Salah al-Din Yusuf ibn Ayyub (Saladin) (1137–1193)
6. Al-Andalus (Andalusia)
 - a. Battle of Poitiers (732)
 - b. Ummayyad Caliphate of Cordoba
 - c. Islamic and Jewish Golden Age
 - Abd-er-Rahman III (891–961; declared himself caliph in 929)
 - Hasdai ibn Shaprut, court physician and director of customs dept.
 - d. Muslim views of Europeans

- e. “Fall” of Toledo (1085)
- f. Alphonso VI the Valiant (1040–1109)
- g. El Cid (Rodrigo Díaz) (1043–1099)
- h. Alhambra (1248), Granada
- i. Translations of Arabic texts into Latin

II. Islamic Achievements

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 1. Education | 6. Industry |
| 2. Mathematics | 7. Navigation |
| 3. Physical Sciences | 8. Literature |
| 4. Medicine | 9. Language |
| 5. Agriculture | 10. Architecture |

III. Outstanding Scholars

- 1. Al-Khwarizmi (ca. 680–750) — *Brief Account of the Methods of al-Jabr*
- 2. Al-Hazen (965–1039) — father of modern optics
- 3. Ibn Sina (Avicenna) (980–1037)
 - a. philosopher and physician
 - b. *Canon of Medicine*
- 4. Omar Khayyam (1048–1122)
 - a. Calendar reform; treatise on *al-Jabr*; commentary on Euclid
 - b. *Rubai'iyat*
- 5. Ibn Rushd (Averroës) (1126–1198)
 - a. Spanish-Arabic physician and philosopher
 - b. *Kitab al-Kulliyat at fi-l-tibb* (encyclopedia of medicine)
 - c. commentaries on Aristotle
- 6. Moses ben Maimun (Maimonides) (1135–1204)
 - a. Jewish philosopher and physician
 - b. *Guide for the Perplexed*
 - c. *Mishneh Torah*—codification of Jewish law
 - d. Court physician to Sultan of Egypt, Salah al-Din
- 7. Ibn Khaldun (1332–1406)
 - a. most outstanding of Muslim historians
 - b. *Muqaddimah*

Further Reading:

Menocal, María Rosa, *The Ornament of the World: How Muslims, Jews, and Christians Created a Culture of Tolerance in Medieval Spain*. Boston: Little, Brown, 2002.

Rubenstein, Richard E. *Aristotle's Children: How Christians, Muslims, and Jews Rediscovered Ancient Wisdom and Illuminated the Dark Ages*. Orlando, FL: Harcourt, 2003.