

7. Islam [cont.]

A. Shari'a Law

Shari'a = Islamic law, governing all aspects of life. The morality of all human actions is categorized:

- *fard* (compulsory)
- *mustahabb* (recommended)
- *halal* (allowed)
- *makruh* (disliked)
- *haram* (forbidden)

qadi: Islamic judge.

mufti: scholar who is an interpreter or expounder of Islamic law.

fatwa: legal opinion issued by a qualified jurist (*mufti*).

Notable aspects of Shar'ia include diet and dress.

Diet: food is divided between halal (permitted) and haram (forbidden). Haram: pork, carrion, blood, alcohol, food offered to one other than Allah. Food preparation must be according to halal rules. Meat must be slaughtered in a prescribed way, invoking the name of Allah.

Dress: both men and women are required to dress modestly. Men covered from navel to knees. Women: cover whole body except face and hands.

- *pardah* (Pers. curtain); *hijab* (Arab. curtain): predates Islam. Two aspects:
 - segregation of sexes
 - women cover bodies.
- *khimar* (pl. *khumar*): proper name for headscarf pop. called *hijab*.
- *abaya*: long black robe, often worn with *niqab*.
- *chador*: full-length cloak, held closed with hand; now generally black when worn in public.
- *niqab*: head veil leaving slit for eyes.
- *burqa* (Arabized Pers. *pardah*): full body covering, e.g. Afghan *chadri* (net/grille over eyes). cf. *shal* (pl. *shalim*) worn by women of Haredi burqa sect, primarily in Beth-Shemesh.

I. Jihad

jihad (Arab. struggle, resisting).

mujahid, pl. *mujahideen*: person engaged in *jihad*.

Two aspects: internal and external.

World divided into two:

- *dar al-islam*: territory occupied by Islam.
- *dar al-harb*: territory outside control of Islam.

The Expansion of Islam

A. Rashidun Caliphate (632-661)

capital Medina (632-656), Kufa (656-661).

Medina: the Four Rightly Guided or Righteous (*rashidun*) Caliphs; *khalifa* caliph = successor: Mohammed succeeded by:

1. Abu Bakr (632-634)
2. Umar ([Omar I] 634-644)
3. Uthman (644-656)

4. Ali (656-661).

All 4 associated by marriage with Mohammed: daughters of Abu Bakr, Umar married to Mohammed; Mohammed's daughters married to Uthman, Ali.

Non-hereditary; chosen by deliberation.

Sunni Muslims recognize all 4; Shia only the 4th, Ali.

Shia: leadership should have passed directly to Ali then to his sons (Mohammed's grandsons).

2. Umar (634-644): on accession in 634, united Arab tribes, conquered Iraq from Sassanid Persians, invaded Syria all in 634. Captured Damascus (634), Jerusalem (638), Alexandria (641).

635 conquered Palestine except Caesarea, Jerusalem

636 defeated larger Byzantine army (Emperor Heraclius) at Battle of Yarmuk; a decisive battle.

638 captured Jerusalem after 6 month siege; 640 Caesarea after long seige.

637 took Aleppo, Antioch.

The Pact of Umar (2d caliph, 634-44), attributed to Umar.

a *dhimmi* (coll. *ahl al-dhimmah*, the people of the *dhimma*) = non-Muslim citizens of an Islamic state.

dhimmi, protected persons: peoples of the Book = Jews, Christians. Pay extra tax (*jizyah* poll tax). Nearly all rights and protections under Islamic law. No forced conversion to Islam, as for pagans. But second class.

Muslim could marry Christian and Jewish women; *dhimmi* men could marry only their own kind.

Under *shari'a*, *dhimmi* have freedom to remain in Muslim countries, but not to recruit. Conversions only to Islam, not vice versa.

Ottoman Reform Edict (1856): abolished *jizyah*; allowed to join military.

3. Uthman (Osman 644-656): conquered Iran, much of North Africa, Cyprus, Caucasus. Assassinated. From Umayyad clan.

4. Ali (656-661): assassinated. moved capital to Kufa, on Euphrates 170 km s of Baghdad, to better manage military frontier.

B. Umayyad Caliphate (661-750)

Umayyad family originally from Mecca, but made Damascus their capital.

Rivalry between Umayyad and Hashmite clans of Quraish tribe, esp after Battle of Badr 624 between Muhammad and Mecca.

Uthman (3rd Rashidun caliph) was an Umayyad, Ali (4th caliph) was Hashmite.

On Ali's assassination 661 Umayyads moved to Damascus. Akko was the port for Damascus.

Abd al-Malik (685-705) consolidated rule.

Continued to call Jerusalem Aelia; in the 10th century began to use el-Quds (the Holy).

Abd al-Malik built two important structures on *Haram esh-Sharif* the Noble Sanctuary:

1. Dome of the Rock: 689-691. intended from beginning as shrine not mosque. Dome to rival Church of Holy Sepulcher. Much later Suleiman the Magnificent covered exterior with Iznik tiles. Dome is over the Foundation Stone (Heb אבן השרייה *Even haShetiya*) or Rock (Arab *Sakhrah*).

2. al-Aqsa Mosque: replacing a small prayer house built by Umar. Destroyed by earthquakes 746, 1033; rebuilt several times. Present structure built (1034-1036) by Fatimid caliph Ali az-Zahir. Crusaders used al-Aqsa, Dome of the Rock as churches.

As part of the Umayyad Empire, Moors conquered Iberian Peninsula (711-718), called *al-Andalus*.

712 Battle of Toledo, defeated Spanish, killed king.

732 Battle of Tours (Poitiers); Charles of Heristal (Charlemagne's grandfather) defeated Muslims. Became known as Charles Martel (Charles the Hammer).

Majority of people in Umayyad empire were non-Moslem; allowed to practice religion but had to pay a tax.

Christianity and the Middle East

747 Abbasid family in province of Khorasan, Iran, launched revolt vs Umayyads, claiming true descent from Muhammad.

750 Battle of the Zab, banks of Greater Zab river, Iraq: Abbasid family of Hashim clan, descended from Abu Hashim, Ali's grandson, overthrew Umayyads. Marwan (744-750), last Umayyad caliph fled to Egypt where eventually killed. One member of caliphate family escaped to al-Andalus, establishing Emirate of Cordoba, 929 claimed title of Caliph, leading to rival caliphates (lasted till 1031)

C. Abbasid Caliphate (750-1258)

762 established Baghdad on Tigris River as new capital. Golden age of learning. Palestine, Jerusalem far away, neglected. Imposed high taxes on Jews, Christians.

e. 9th cent used Turkish slaves, Mamluks, as majority of army; low-status, no divided loyalties. created an army loyal only to their caliphate, mostly Turkish slaves, the Mamluks.

1250 Mamluks claimed sultanate in Egypt, the Mamluk Sultanate.

1258 Mongols sacked Baghdad.

1261 Abbasid caliphate moved to Cairo

Abbasid dynasty ended w/ Al-Mutawakkil III, taken prisoner by Selim I to Constantinople, died 1543.

938 Ch of HS burned down.

1009 el-Hakim ordered demolition of all Jewish and Xn prayer houses, incl Church of HS. 1048 rebuilt.

1063 agreement bt Byzantine emperor and Fatimids defining boundaries of Xn quarter in which Xns were to live.