

Lecture 13: *The Emergence of Islam and the Muslim World*

I. The Context for the Rise of Islam

- A. Social and Geographical Context of Arabia
- B. Religious Pluralism in the Near East

II. The Prophet and the Faith

- A. Muhammad and Early Islam
- B. The Religion of Islam and its Doctrines

III. Islamic Expansion and the First Caliphates

- A. The First Century of Expansion
 - B. Leadership and Succession After Muhammad
 - C. The Umayyad Caliphate, 661-762
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Life of Muhammad (b. 570/571 – 632)

ca. 595, marries wealthy widow Khadija

610, begins to have visions from the One God, Allah, which he recites to his followers.

622, forced to leave Mecca with his companions, travel to Medina = journey called the **Hijra** (622, begins the Islamic calendar year).

624, Muhammad and followers push north, fight the **battle of Badr**.

630, Muhammad returns to Mecca and retakes the city and dedicates the **Ka'ba** (holy shrine) to Islam.

632, death of Muhammad, but his followers now united as a community of believers = an **Ummah**

Qur'an = the word of God, Allah, revealed to Muhammad. Recited first, recorded in writing ca. 660s

Five Pillars of Islam

slm (Arabic) = to surrender, to trust in the One God, Allah; root of ***Islam*** and ***Muslims***

- 1) **Shahadah** – profession of faith; profess that “there is one God, Allah, and Muhammad is his prophet.”
- 2) **Salat** = Pray 5 times a day facing in the direction of Mecca.
- 3) To make the yearly **hajj**, a pilgrimage to Mecca, if possible.
- 4) The tax/donation called the **zakat** = Alms giving, that is to give to the poor at least 1/40 of personal property.
- 5) Ramadan = fast during the day for a month, the month in which the battle of Badr had occurred in 624.

(You do not need to know what is below for exams, but the terms are helpful)

All Mosques share the same basic design

- An open courtyard, pillars and a covered space for prayer
 - Mihrab** – niche marks the wall facing Mecca and towards which one prays
 - Minbar** – a pulpit where a sermon is preached during the noon prayer on Friday
 - Minaret** – a tall tower from which the *muezzin* call the faithful to prayer at the appointed times.
- (left) Plan of the mosque at Cordoba, ca. 8th- 10th Centuries.

Islamic Expansion and the first Caliphates (622-750 A.D.)

Jihad = to strive in the way of Allah, to expand the boundaries of the Islamic community.