

# THEOCRACY

- A government run by religious leaders.
- Like a monarchy, a theocracy is an old form of government.
- The government claims to be directed by God or divinely blessed.
- There is no separation of church and state.
- Often times, citizens of other faiths are excluded or expelled.



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# Caliph

- After Muhammad's death his followers chose Abu Bakr to be their next leader.
- He was the first **caliph**, a title that Muslims use for the highest leader of Islam.
  - In Arabic, the word *caliph* means "successor."
- The caliphs had to rule according to the Qur'an, but were not religious leaders.
- By Abu Bakr's death in 634 he had made Arabia into a unified Muslim state.
- Their armies went on to defeat the Persian and Byzantine empires.



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# Shariah

- The Qur'an and the Sunnah form the basis of Islamic law, or Shariah. 
- Shariah uses Islamic sources and human reason to judge the rightness of actions of a person or a community. 
- All actions fall on a scale ranging from required to accepted to disapproved to forbidden. 
- Islamic law makes no distinction between religious beliefs and daily life. 
- Shariah sets rewards for good behavior, punishments for crimes, and limits of authority. 
- Today most Muslim countries blend Islamic law with legal systems like those in America or western Europe. 



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# Ottoman Empire

- **Leaders** –Mehmed II & Suleyman I
- **Location** - eastern Europe to North Africa and Arabia.
- **Religious Policy** - They trained Christian boys from conquered towns. These slave soldiers, called **janissaries**, converted to Islam.



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# Safavid Empire

- **Leaders** – Esma'il & Abbas
- **Location** - Persia (present-day Iran)
- **Religious Policy** - Islam split into the Shia and the Sunni. Shiism, the beliefs of the Shia, became the official religion of the empire.



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# Mughal Empire

- **Leaders** – Babur & Akbar
- **Location** - Central Asia & northern India
- **Religious Policy** - Instituted a tolerant religious policy and blending Persian, Islamic, and Hindu elements. All religions lived and worked together. In the late 1600s the emperor reversed Akbar's tolerant policies. He destroyed Hindu temples and revolts took place.



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# Trade

Along with their goods, Arab merchants took Islamic beliefs to India, Africa, and Southeast Asia, and brought back products.

## China

Papermaking, gunpowder, porcelain, and rice



## India

Cotton, cloth goods



## Africa

Ivory, cloves, and slaves



## Southeast Asia

Oranges



## Europe and Southwest Asia

Iron



# Culture

- Muslims generally practiced **tolerance**, or acceptance, with regard to the people they conquered. 
- Muslims did not ban other religions. Christians and Jews in particular kept many of their rights. They did, however, have to pay a special tax, and were forbidden from converting anyone to their religions. 
- Many people conquered by the Arabs converted to Islam. They often adopted other parts of Arabic culture, including the Arabic language. The Arabs, in turn, adopted some customs from them. 
- This cultural blending changed Islam from a mostly Arab religion into a religion that included many cultures. 



# Cities

The growing cities of the Muslim world reflected the blending of cultures.

## Baghdad

- In what is now Iraq
- Became the capital of the Islamic empire in 762
- One of the world's richest cities
- Center of culture and learning

## Córdoba

- In Spain
- Showplace of Muslim civilization
- Largest and most advanced city in western Europe by the early 900s



# Social Class

## The **Two** Main **Branches** of Islam

### Sunnis

- 83% of all Muslims and is the largest branch in the Middle East and Asia.
- The country with the largest Sunni population is Indonesia.
- Believe that Muhammad's Successor should be chosen by religious leaders.

### Shiites

- 16% of all Muslims and is located in only a few countries of the Middle East.
- 40% live in Iran, 15% in Pakistan
- Believe that Muhammad's Successor should be a member of his family.



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