

Notes pgs 166 - ~~170~~ 174

The Umayyads

Death of Muhammad = succession issues

- Continued political / military expansion
- Arab empire - Not Islamic
 - Rule by Arab elite led by Umayyad

Consolidation & Division

- No appointed successor or method to select a successor
- Caliph = political / Religious successor to Muhammad
 - Abu Bakr (R. 632-634)
 - Ridda Wars - Abu Bakr ~~was~~ Victory reunited Islamic groups

Motives for Conquest

- Arab unity
- Wealth
- Desire for fertile land
- Glorification of Religion
- NOT Religious conversion

Weakness of Surrounding Empires - ~~Sassanid~~ Sassanid Persia & Byzantines

- Quick defeat of Sassanids, Fought with Byzantines until 1450s
- Political / Religious divisions within empires

Islamic Split

- Coot from conquest → How to split among Muslim community. (tribal groups)

= Tension & Violence

Uthman - 3rd caliph → murdered (he was an Umayyad)

Ali's supporters proclaim him caliph → Umayyad reject this

- War! → Ali's forces win a series of victories over Umayyad forces

Battle of Siffin → Ali agrees to mediation with the Umayyad

- This angers many supporters

- No compromise with Umayyad is reached

- Umayyad regroup to their leader Mu'awiya is named caliph

- Now we have 2 caliphs

661 - Ali assassinated - His son renounces his claim to Caliphate

Succession questions continue - political division → Religious division

Religious/Political split - Sunni = Backers of Umayyad

Shia (shites) = followers of Ali

Ali's son Husayn killed in 680 → Divisions between Sunni

and Shia continue to grow for centuries and remain today

The Umayyad Empire

- Conquests continue → growing economic & political influence of Umayyad Empire

Damascus - Capital of Umayyad Empire

~~Burea~~ Sophisticated Bureaucracy develops → unity & control

- Arab empire - Arab Muslims have higher status than others
 - Military & political leaders
 - Receive benefits from conquest
 - No taxation unless it is charity
 - Deliberate separation of Arab elite from the non-Arab populations - Why?

Converts & "People of the Book"

Interaction & intermarriage happened anyway

Converts to Islam - No political/social advancement - continued to pay taxes

Mawali - Non-Arab converts

- jizya - Tax paid by non-Muslims & non-Arab Muslims
- No share in spoils of war
- No political or military positions

* Low Conversion Rate *

Dhimmi - "people of the book" Christians & Jews

- Toleration of religion
- Payment of taxes
- Maintained community & legal structures

Family & Gender

- Initial expansion of Women's roles
 - Legal marriage encouraged - Adultery discouraged
 - Outlaw of Female infanticide
 - Husbands must be able to support wives (up to 4)
 - Rights of inheritance and divorce
 - ~~Did~~ Major role in development of hadiths (traditions of Muhammad) and compiling the Qur'an
 - Some political position
 - Allowed education and career opportunities

Umayyad Decline & Fall

- Excessive luxury, disinterest in direct involvement in community and conquest, legitimacy of rule continually questioned
- Frequent uprisings and revolts
- 740s - Thousands of irritated soldiers in Merv (Iran) had enough
 - Resented Umayyad policies and emboldened by distance from Damascus - Government kept most of war spoils, little given to soldiers.
 - Viewed Umayyad as corrupt

Abbasid Party - Descended from al-Abbas, Muhammad's uncle

- Soldiers rally to this party & war with Umayyad forces
- Form alliances with other enemies of the Umayyad
- Quick defeat of Umayyad - Umayyad leaders massacred.