

Intro to Islam



**“Say: ‘Oh People of the book!
Come to common terms as between us and you:
That we worship none but Allah;
That we associate no partners with Him;
That we erect not from among ourselves
Lords and patrons other than Allah.’”**

—Qur’an 3:64

“Today everyone cries for peace but peace is never achieved, precisely because it is metaphysically absurd to expect a civilization that has forgotten God to possess peace.”

—Seyyed Hossein Nasr

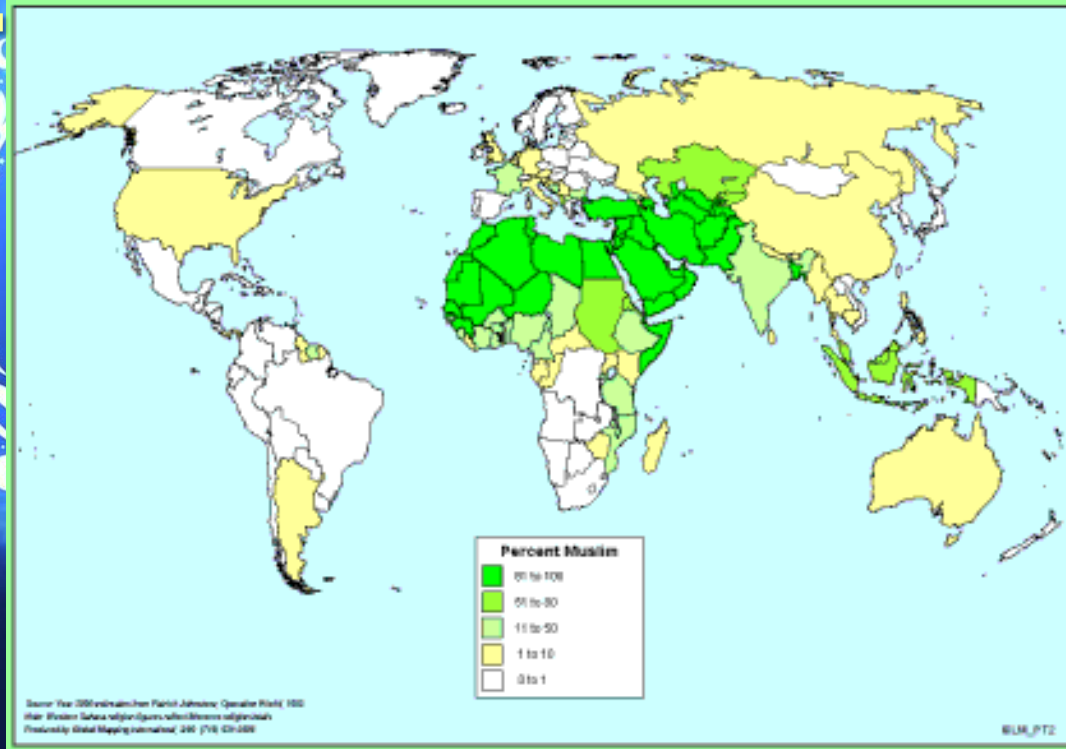
Timeline

- c. 570–632 CE** Life of Prophet Muhammad
 - c. 610 CE** Revelation of Qur'an to Muhammad begins
 - 622 CE** The *hijrah* (migration) from Mecca to Medina
 - 650 CE** Written text of Qur'an established
- 661–750 CE** Umayyad caliphate
 - 680 CE** Karbala massacre of Husayn
 - 732 CE** European advance of Islam stopped at Tours
- 750–1258** Abbasid caliphate: Islam's cultural peak
 - 980–1037** Tours
 - 1453** Life of Avicenna, major rationalist philosopher
 - 1492** philosopher
- 1556–1605** Turks take Constantinople, rename it Istanbul
- 1800s–1900s** Istanbul
 - 1973** Granada, last Spanish Muslim state, falls
 - Akbar, Mogul emperor of India**

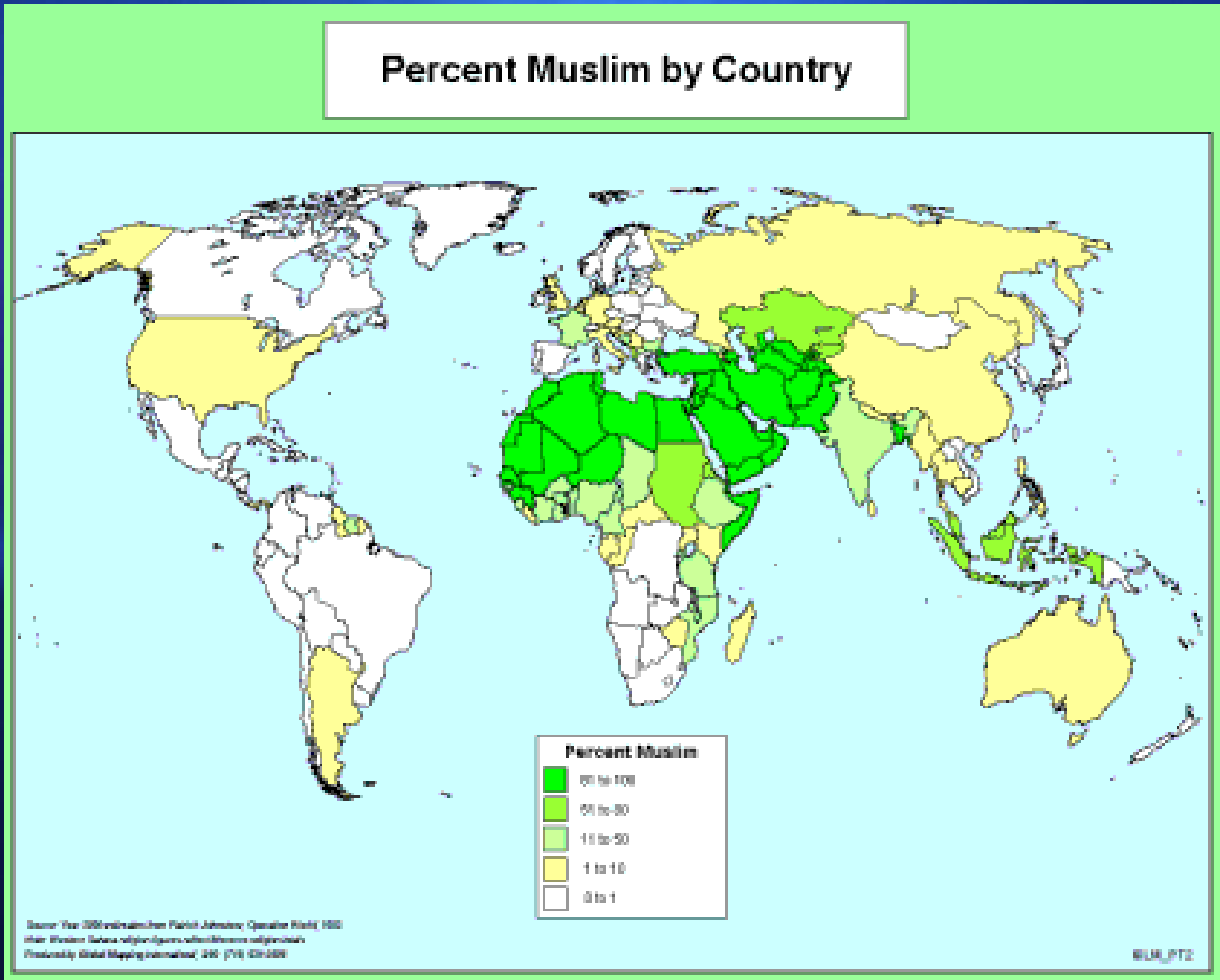
Did you know?

At least 42 nations are almost completely Islamic

Percent Muslim by Country

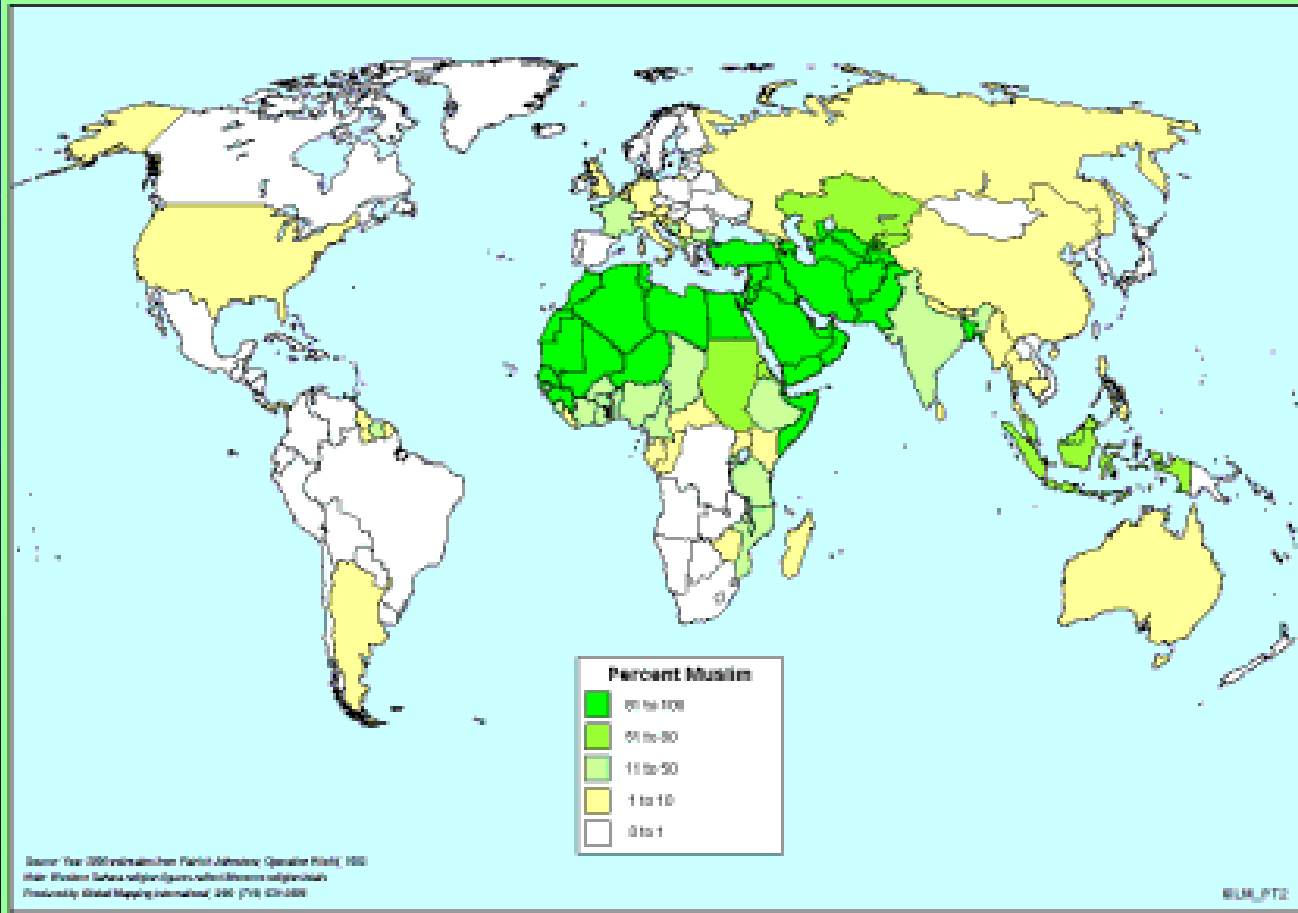


There are 1 billion Muslims in the world.



Only 20% of the world's Muslims are Arabs

Percent Muslim by Country



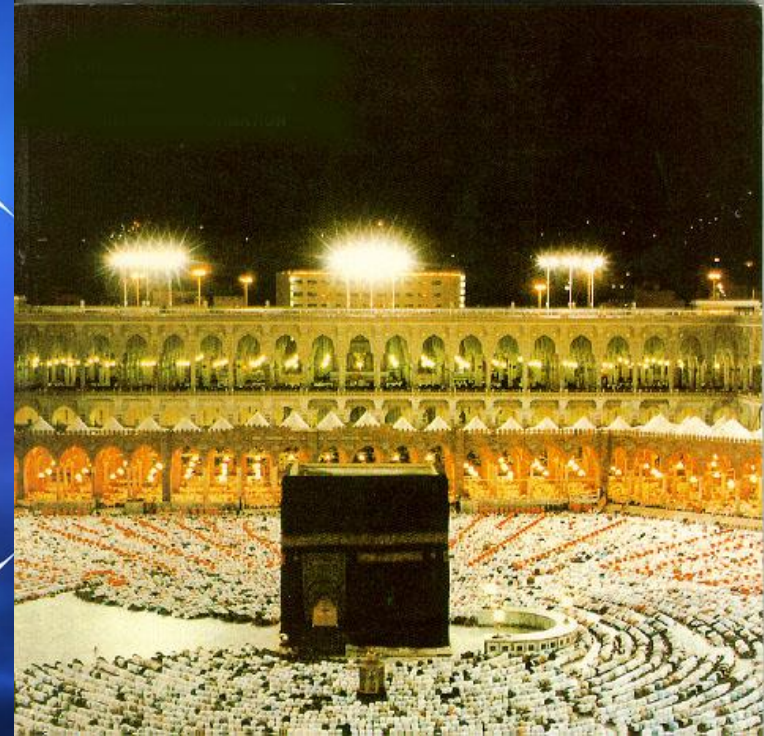
Arabia before Muhammad (born 570 AD)



Arabia was occupied by warring clans of nomads



**Most worshiped
idols, especially in
Mecca at the
Ka'aba, the large
stone shrine to a
“goddess from
heaven,” though a
few still believed
in one God**




 There were Jews and Christians in Arabia, too, but Christians didn't translate the Bible into Arabic until after 700AD

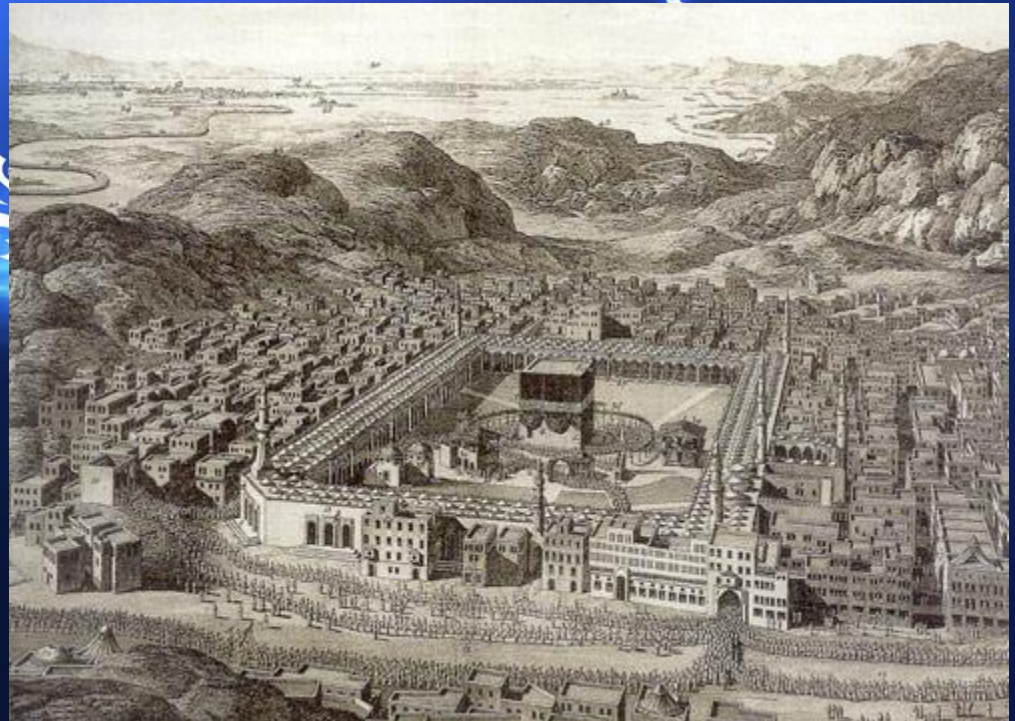
 There was a political and religious void that Islam was about to fill

Prophet Muhammad

Muslims consider Muhammad to be the final prophet in a chain of prophets who brought monotheism

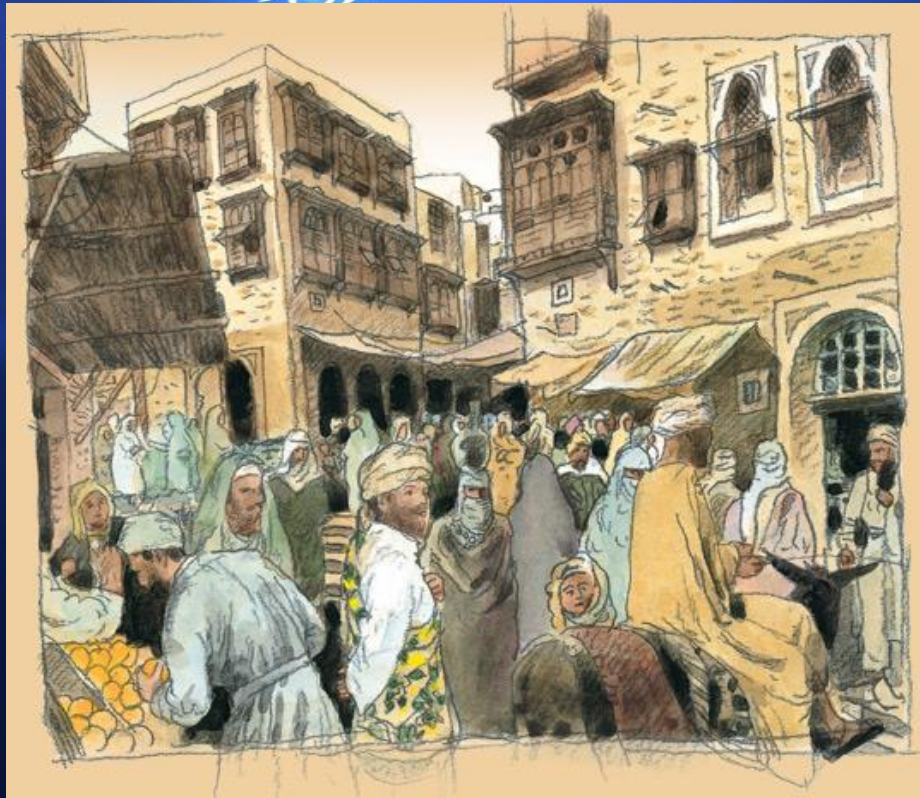


 Born in Mecca in 570 AD,
orphaned at age 6, taken in
by grandfather and uncle,
both in the caravan
business



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Muhammad met Jews and Christians on his travels, learned stories from the Old and New Testaments




Married Khadijah, a wealthy widow, in 595 AD, and was freed from the life of a traveling merchant



In 610 AD, Muhammad claims that the archangel Gabriel appeared to him and told him to “recite” (qur’an in Arabic) everything he said

These were the first alleged revelations from Allah



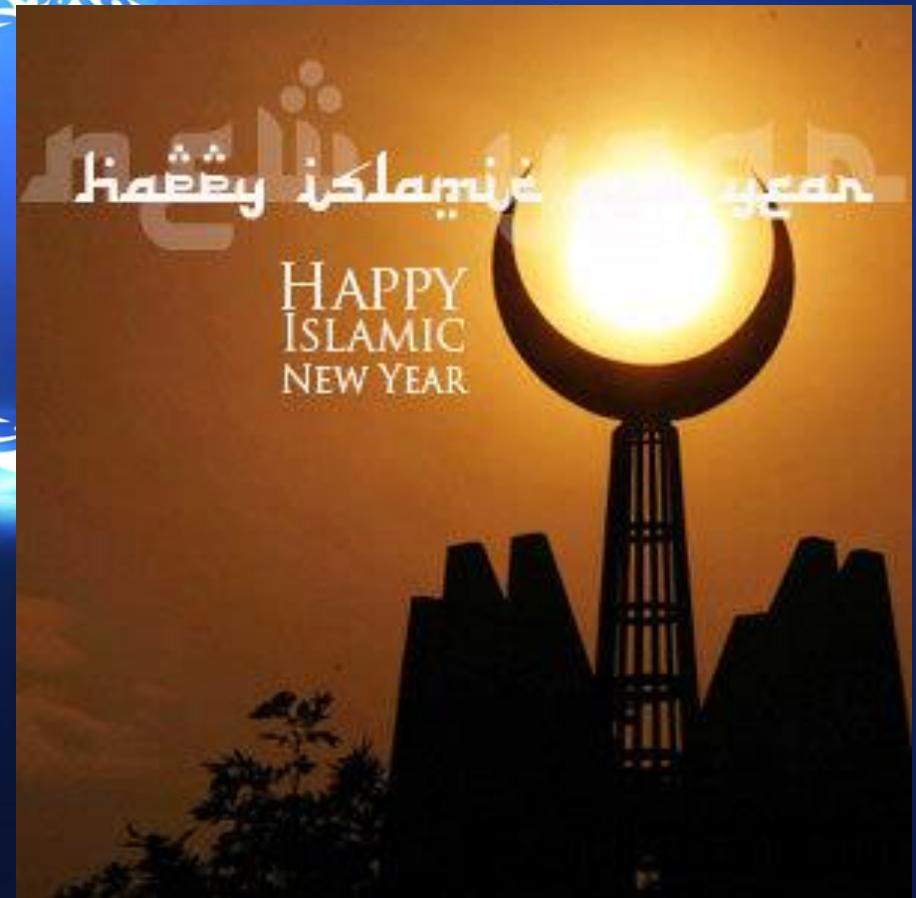


His messages attacked
idolatry

By 622 he had gathered
enough followers that they
were forced to leave Mecca for
Medina



Muslims refer to this event as the Hijra; it is the year “0” on the Muslim calendar; A.H. = “year of Hijra”



 By 630 the believing community was large enough to return to Mecca in triumph and establish Islam as the official religion



 Muhammad died suddenly in 632 before appointing a successor

 Arguments over the rightful heir to his leadership caused the divisions within Islam that persist to this day



What made Islam so appealing?

- **Christians were perceived by non-Christians as prejudiced; Muslims were not**
- **Islam was a simple religion**

Arabs were traders; it became profitable for non-Muslims to convert for business purposes

Muslim armies were adept at desert fighting