# Timeline of Islamic History

**c. 570 CE** Birth of Muhammad

**595** Muhammad marries Khadija.

**c. 610 CE** Muhammad receives first vision in a cave near Mecca.

**c. 610-22 CE** Muhammad preaches in Mecca.

**611** Muhammad begins receiving Quran

**622 CE Hijira - Muhammad and followers flee to Medina.** Islamic calendar (AH, *Anno Hegirae*) begins.

**624 CE** Muslims successfully attack Meccan caravans at Badr.

**625** Muslims are defeated by Meccans at Uhud.

**630** Muslims capture Mecca. Ka'ba is cleansed; pilgrimage rites are islamicized, tribes of Arabia vow allegiance to Muhammad

**632** Death of Muhammad. Abu Bakr chosen as caliph.

**632-33** Wars of *ridda* (apostasy) restore allegiance to Islam

**632-634** Abu Bakr.

**633** Muslim conquests (*Futuhat*) begin.

**633-42** Muslim armies take the Fertile Crescent (Egypt, Syria, Palestine, and Mesopotamia), North African coast, parts of Persian and Byzantine Empires.

**634-644** Umar.

**644-656** Uthman. Text of Quran established.

**c. 650** Caliph Uthman has the Qur'an written down.

**656** Uthman is murdered; Ali becomes fourth caliph.

**656-661** Ali.

**657** Battle of Siffin. Mu'awiya, governor of Syria, claims the caliphate.

**659** Arbitration at Adruh is opposed by Ali's supporters.

**661** Ali is murdered; Mu'awiya becomes caliph. Beginning of Umayyad Caliphate (661-750).

**680 Death of Husayn marks beginning of the Shi'at Ali ("party of Ali") or Shi'a sect.**

**685-705** Reign of Abd al-Malik. Centralization of administration - Arabic becomes official

written language (instead of Greek and Persian) and Arab coinage is established.

**Late 600s** Ruling classes in East and West Africa convert to Islam.

**661-750** Umayyad Dynasties.

**680** Shiism separates from rest of ummah.

**700-800s** Groups of ascetics and mystics begin to form

**710** Arab armies enter Spain from North Africa.

**732 Muslim empires reach its furthest extent. Battle of Tours prevents further advance northwards.**

**747** Revolt defeats the Umayyads.

**750** Abu l'Abbas becomes caliph in Iraq.

**754** Baghdad (Madinat al-Salam, "city of peace") becomes the new capital of the Abbasid Empire.

**755** Abd ar-Rahman founds an Umayyad Dynasty in Cordoba, Spain.

**765** Division within Shi'ites - majority are the modern Imamiyya (Twelvers) who co-exist with Abbasid caliphs; minority are more extreme Isma'iliyaa (Seveners).

**765** Ismaili Shiism founded.

**786-809** Reign of Harun ar-Rashid, best known through the stories of *The Thousand and*

*One Nights*.

**800s** Written collections of Hadith (sayings of the Prophet) are compiled. Sicily comes under Muslim rule.

**813-33** Reign of Ma'mun. Theological controversy over whether the Qur'an is created or uncreated and eternal. Center for translation of texts from Greek to Arabic founded in Baghdad.

**869-883** Uprisings of black slaves (Zanj) are eventually defeated.

**874** Twelver Shiism founded.

**908** First Fatimid caliph in Tunisia.

**909-1171** Fatimad Dynasty in Egypt.

**928** Umayyad Abd ar-Rahman III declares himself caliph in Cordoba.

**940** Muhammad al-Mahdi, the twelfth imam, disappears. Twelvers still await the future return of the "Hidden Imam."

**945** The Buyids (Persian) invade Baghdad and take power from caliph.

**969** Fatimids gain power in Egypt and attack Palestine, Syria, and Arabia. Cairo (Al-Qahira, "the victorious city") is founded.

**980-1037** Life of Avicenna, Iranian physician and Aristotelian philosopher.

**996-1021** Reign of Fatimid al-Hakim. Hamza ibn Ali forms basis of esoteric Druze religion.

**late 900s** West Africa begins to convert to Islam

**1030** Umayyad caliphate in Cordoba defeated by the Christian Reconquista.

**1055** Seljuk Turks take Baghdad; Abbasids now only nominal rulers.

**1000s** Reconquista takes more of Spain, Sicily falls to the Normans, and Crusader kingdoms are briefly established in Palestine and Syria.

**1071** Seljuk Turks defeat Byzantines at Battle of Manzikert.

**1090** Hasan-i Sabbah takes Alamut in the Persian mountains, the Assassin sect forms around him.

**1095-1270** Christian Crusades to the Holy Land.

**1099** Christian Crusaders take Jerusalem.

**1100-1200s** Sufi orders (*turuq*) are founded.

**1126-98** Life of Averroës, Muslim philosopher from Cordoba who sought to integrate Islam with Greek thought.

**1171** Fatimid power ends in Egypt with the conquests of Saladin.

**1174** Saladin declares himself sultan of Egypt and Syria.

**1193** Death of Saladin; most of Crusader states have returned to Islam.

**1200s** Assassins wiped out by the Mongols. Indian rulers in Delhi take title of Sultan. Spanish mystic Muhyi al-Din ibn al-Arabi (1165-1240) flourishes.

**1200-1526** Dheli Sultanates of N. India.

**1221** Genghis Khan and the Mongols enter Persia.

**1241** Mongols take the Punjab.

**1258** Mongols capture Baghdad; city is sacked and caliph is killed. End of Abbasid caliphate.

**1281-1324** Reign of Uthman (Osman), who founds the Ottoman Empire. Muslim merchants and missionary Sufis settle in SE Asia.

**Mid-1300s** Ottomans capture Bursa and Iznik and move into Europe.

**1350-1680** Muslim States in Southern India.

**1366** Capital of Ottoman Empire moved from Bursa to Adrianople.

**Late 1300s** Ottomans take control of the Balkans.

**1380-1918** Ottoman Empire.

**1400s** Islam reaches the Philippines.

**1453 Mehmet Fatih (rules 1451-81) conquers Constantinople.** The two halves of the Ottoman Empire are united and the sultan becomes Byzantine emperor.

**1492** Castile and Aragon capture Granada. All Muslims (and Jews) expelled from Spain.

**1501** Isma'il (1487-1524) claims to be the Hidden Imam and is proclaimed Shah (king) of Persia. Twelver Shi'ism becomes official religion of Persia.

**1501-1799** Safavid dynasties in Iran.

**1516** Ottomans conquer Syria and Egypt.

**1517** Ottomans control Mecca and Medina.

**1520-66** Reign of Suleyman the Magnificent; Ottoman Empire reaches its zenith. Hungary and coastlands of Algeria and Tunisia come under Ottoman rule.

**1526** Babur (Mongolian) seizes the Delhi sultanate and takes control of northern India.

**1526-1857** Mughal dynasties in India.

**1556** Akbar founds the Mughal dynasty in northern India.

**1600-1700s** Venetians, Habsburgs, and Russians divide European Ottoman lands.

**1625** Java comes under rule of Muslim kingdom of Mataram.

**1654** Taj Mahal completed

**1699** Treaty of Karlowitz confirms first substantial losses of Ottoman Empire in Europe.

**1700s** Muhammad Abd al-Wahhab rejects Sufism and all innovation (bid'a). Founds what becomes the Saudi Arabian kingdom. Hindus regain power from Mughals in northern India.

**1738** Mughal Empire invaded by the Afghans.

**1779** Afghans ousted by Qajar dynasty, which rules Persia until 1925.

**1798** Napoleon's expedition to Egypt.

**1805** Muhammad Ali becomes governor of Egypt, which becomes independent of the Ottomans, gains control of western Arabia and extends into the Sudan.

**1807-76** Tanzimat period. Ottoman Empire undergoes extensive program of modernization in government, law, and medicine.

**1815-1900** Christian Colonization of N. Africa and Middle East.

**1830** Greece regains independence from Ottomans.

**1850s** Non-Muslim Ottoman citizens granted equality with Muslims.

**1858** Last Mughal in India is deposed and India comes under British rule.

**1876-1908** Reign of Abd al-Hamid II; autocratic and religiously conservative period in Ottoman rule.

**1878** Congress of Berlin recognizes independence of Balkan states previously under Muslim rule.

**1882-1952** Egypt occupied by the British.

**1908-18** Last decade of Ottoman rule. Rise of nationalistic "Young Turks." More liberal policies develop.

**1912** Founding of Islamic Union (Sareket Islam), a modernizing movement in SE Asia.

**1918** fall of Ottoman Empire. League of Nations grants Britain mandatory status over Palestine and Iraq, and France over Lebanon and Syria.

**1919-84** Liberation of countries from colonial rule.

**1923** Republic of Turkey established. Mustafa Kemal (Ataturk) is first president.

**1927** Tablighi Jamaat reform movement founded in India.

**1928** Ikhwan al-Muslimun (Muslim Brothers) founded in Egypt.

**1941** Jamaat-i Islami reform movement founded in Lahore, India.

**1945** Indonesia becomes independent republic.

**1945-60s** Islam spreads to the West with mass migrations from Asia, Africa, and India.

**1947** Pakistan founded as an Islamic nation. Islam becomes a minority religion in India.

**1948** Arab-Israel war.

**1957** Independent Malayan state established with Islam as the official religion but guaranteed tolerance.

**1960s** Families from SE Asia and North Africa emigrate to Europe and the Americas.

**1964** PLO founded.

**1979** Shah of Iran is overthrown by Ayatollah Ruhullah Khumayni, who establishes strict fundamentalist rule of Shi'a principles.

**Late 1990s** Taliban come to power in Afghanistan.

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