Chapter 7

The Spread of Islamic Civilization to South and Southeast Asia
(A.D. 500 – A.D. 1450)
In the later decades of the 9th century the Abbasids controlled slave armies, but at great cost.

Constant civil violence drained the treasury and alienated their subjects.

New capitals were established further adding to the cost of maintaining the imperial court.

Spiraling taxation strained the peasantry and they abandoned villages for other kingdoms.

This led to the breakdown of the essential agricultural irrigation works.

Flood, famine, and violent assaults killed many remaining peasants and others formed bandit gangs or became vagabonds.
Women became subjugated to men and were kept in harems in the home.

In public they were required to veil their faces and wear robes to hide their figures.

Women were often no longer educated.

Slaves were captured or bought in the non-Muslim regions surrounding the empire (including the Balkans, central Asia, and Sudanic Africa) by the tens of thousands to perform domestic duties for the wealthy.

Peasant women worked to help support their families, but wealthy women were often married off at puberty and were limited to running households.

Slave concubines and servants often had more freedom than free-born women.

Scene from the Harem by Jean-Baptiste van Mour (1st half of 18th century)
Decline of the Caliphate

- Egypt and Syria broke away from the Abbasids.
- After A.D. 850, caliphs were replaced by independent dynasties ruling separate Muslim states.
- In the 945, **Buyids** of Persia invaded the Middle East and built a large empire in the Fertile Crescent. The Abbasids remained caliphs until 1030, but were only figureheads.
- By 1055, nomadic invaders from central Asia, the **Seljuk Turks**, replaced the caliphs with a **sultan**, or authority, and took control of Baghdad.
Seljuk Empire at its largest extent
Seljuks and the Crusades

- The Seljuks were staunch Sunnis and quickly purged the Shi’a officials from the government.

- They began to expand the empire,

- As Seljuks pushed into Asia Minor they threatened the Byzantine empire which led to the First Crusade.

- European crusaders led the assault to regain control of the Holy Land.

- The First Crusade between 1096 and 1099 was the most effective due to surprise and Muslim political divisions.

- Salah-uh-Din (Saladin in Christian Europe) quickly reconquered most of the crusader outposts. By 1291 with the fall of Acre the last crusader kingdom was lost.

- Ultimately the Crusades had a greater impact on Europe than on the Muslim world. Richard the Lionheart signed a truce with the Muslims and opened up trade with the Middle East ending the Third Crusade.
Mongol Invasions

- In the 1200s and 1300s, Mongol invaders dominated the Middle East.
- In 1216, Genghiz Khan led the Mongols out of central Asia across Persia and Mesopotamia.
- In 1258, Hulagu, grandson of Genghiz, burned and looted Baghdad, killing the last Abbassid caliph.
- They were eventually beaten back by the Mamluks, or Turkish slaves.
- In 1401, the Muslim Mongol leader, Timur the Lame, or Tamerlane, led his troops into the Middle East to re-conquer Muslim and non-Muslim lands, overrunning Persia, Mesopotamia, Russia, and India. Baghdad never recovered.
Golden Age of Muslim Civilization

- Learning, literature, science, medicine, and trade flourished during the golden age of Muslim civilization.
- Algebra was developed.
- *The Thousand and One Nights* is the most well-known collection of stories from this period.
Influences on Art and Literature

Muslim art and literature incorporated:

- Islamic religion
- Traditions of the many people living under Muslim rule
- Skills and styles of Greeks, Romans, Persians, Indians, and other peoples with whom they came in contact
- Arabic was the language of religion, law, and natural sciences, while Persian became the language of literary expression, administration, and scholarship.

Blue Turkish Tiles from the Grand Bazaar in Istanbul
Mihrab (c. 1300s)  
Iran

Do you think this object is large or small?

*It is large enough for a person to stand inside.*

Describe what you see in this structure.
What specific features indicate that this piece of artwork serves a religious purpose?

*the indented area, the elaborate use of symbolism and calligraphy*

How does this mihrab use calligraphy?

*The perimeter appears to be elaborate calligraphy, which serves to “frame” the mihrab. Calligraphy is also found in the center of the niche.*
## Muslim Advances in Learning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PHILOSOPHY</th>
<th>MATHEMATICS</th>
<th>Science</th>
<th>MEDICINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scholars tried to harmonize Greek ideas of reason with religious teachings of Islam.</td>
<td>Scholars studied Indian and Greek mathematics.</td>
<td><strong>Al-Khwarizmi</strong> developed astronomical tables.</td>
<td>Government set up hospitals with emergency rooms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Ibn Khaldun</em> set standards for scientific study of history.</td>
<td><strong>Al-Khwarizmi</strong> pioneered the study of algebra and wrote mathematics textbook that became standard in Europe.</td>
<td>Astronomers calculated circumference of the Earth.</td>
<td><strong>Muhammad al-Razi</strong> studied measles and smallpox.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>In chemistry, they created the objective experiment and al-Razi developed a scheme of classifying all material into 3 categories: animal, vegetable, &amp; mineral.</td>
<td>Ibn Sina wrote a medical encyclopedia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Surgeons developed treatment for cataracts.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Gupta empire collapsed in 550. India fragmented into many local kingdoms.

Since ancient times Arab seafarers and traders had been in contact with merchants in ports on the western coast of India.

In 711, an attack by pirates on Arab ships prompted a punitive expedition by the Umayyads on the king of Sind and the Indus River Valley led by Muhammad ibn Qasim.

The impact of Islam on the Indians was minimal, but Indian learning was transmitted to the Muslim heartland.

Hindu mathematicians and astronomers traveled to Baghdad after the Abbasids came to power, where their work in algebra, geometry, and astronomy were copied and improved by Arab scholars. Indian numbers were adopted along with innovations in science and medicine.
Muslims in India

- Over time Muslim influences decreased.
- In 962, **Mahmud of Ghazni**, of a Turkish dynasty to the north began two centuries of Muslim raiding & conquest in northern India.
- In the 1100s, **Muhammad of Ghur** commanding a Persian military, brought the Indus valley & north central India under his control.
- Muhammad was assassinated in 1206 and his slave lieutenant **Qutb-ud-din Aibak** seized power organizing a **sultanate** in Delhi.

**Mahmud and Ayaz**
The Sultan stands to the right, with Ayaz behind him. The figure to his right is Shah Abbas I.
The Delhi Sultanate

- Sultans introduced Muslim traditions of government and society.
- Turks, Persians, Afghanis, and Arabs migrated to India to serve as soldiers or officials.
- Trade between India and the Muslim world increased.
- Muslim scholars fled from Baghdad to India during Mongol raids bringing Persian and Greek learning.
- In 1398, Tamerlane invaded and plundered Delhi dividing India into separate Hindu and Muslim states.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Muslims</th>
<th>Hindus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Newer faith</td>
<td>Ancient Religion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single sacred text</td>
<td>Many sacred texts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>→ Quran</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One God</td>
<td>Prayed before many statues = gods/goddesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equality of believers; no religious hierarchy</td>
<td>Castes; honored Brahmans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condemned music and dance.</td>
<td>Celebrated religious events with music and dance.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Interactions

- Some Muslim scholars argued that behind the Hindu gods and goddesses was one god accepted as monotheistic religion.

- Hindus could worship their religion if paid non-Muslim tax.

- Some Sultans left rajahs, local Hindu rulers, in place.

- Lower classed Hindus, merchants, some upper classed Indians converted to Islam.

- Cultural blending occurred.
Hinduism and Islam Clash and Blend

A rare Tanjore-style painting from the late 19th century depicting the ten Sikh Gurus with Bhai Bala and Bhai Mardana.

**Sikhism: A Blend of Religious Beliefs**

**Hinduism**
- Belief in many gods, all part of brahman
- Religious and moral duties, or dharma, stressed
- Belief in cycle of birth, death, and rebirth
- Priests are part of the social caste system

**Islam**
- Belief in one God
- Religious and moral duties defined in Five Pillars
- Belief in Heaven and Hell, and a Day of Judgment
- No priests; all believers are religious equals

**Sikhism**
- Belief in the “unity of God”
- Belief in reincarnation
- Rejection of caste