

# Islam & Cultural Encounters

AP World History  
Chapter 11 Notes

# The Islamic Civilization



Map 11.2 The Growing World of Islam (900-1500)  
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- Even after the Arab Empire fell apart, the Islamic civilization continued to grow
- Major areas of Muslim expansion: India, Anatolia, West Africa, and Spain

# India

- Islam brought to India by Muslim Turks from Central Asia
- Violent invasions → destruction of Hindu and Buddhist temples
- Their conquests led to a series of Muslim-led governments in India



# India

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- ◉ Islam never became the dominant faith in India like it did in the Middle East, North Africa, and Persia
- ◉ Very sharp cultural divide between Islam and Hinduism → prevented mass conversion



# Islam vs. Hinduism

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- ◉ Monotheistic
- ◉ No representation of Allah
- ◉ Equality of all believers
- ◉ Sexual modesty

- ◉ Polytheistic
- ◉ Endless statues and images of the divine
- ◉ Caste system
- ◉ Sexual openness

# Sikhism



Guru Nank  
Founder of Sikhism

- ◉ Blended Islam and Hinduism
- ◉ Devotion to one God
- ◉ Hindu concepts = karma and rebirth

# Anatolia

- Modern-day Turkey
- Was governed by Byzantine Empire at the time
- Filled with Christian & Greek-speaking people
- Invaded by the Turks
  - Result = huge cultural transformation
  - By 1500 = 90% of the population was Muslim and Turkic-speaking



Map 11.3 The Ottoman Empire by the Mid-Fifteenth Century  
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# Conversion of Anatolia

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- Small population of about 8 million people = easy to convert
- Extensive disruption of Anatolian society when the Byzantine Empire weakened
  - Enslavement, famine, massacres, church properties destroyed, many discriminations
  - Many Christians came to believe that these disasters were proof that Islam was the true religion

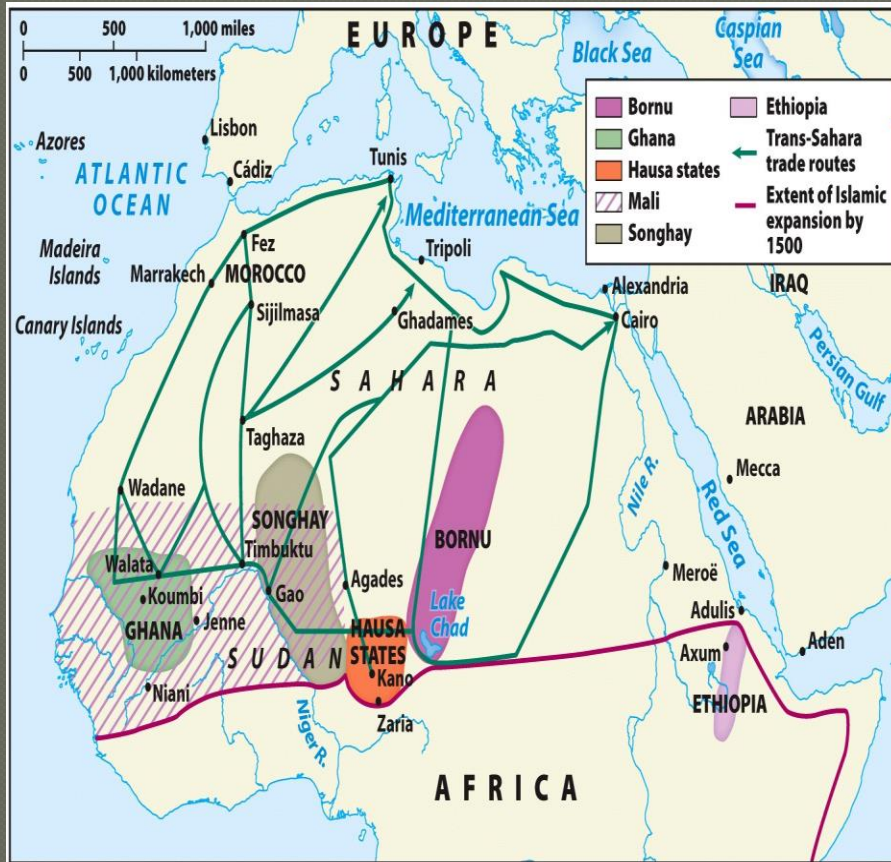


# Conversion of Anatolia

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- Cultural barriers to conversion were less severe in Anatolia than in India
  - Most people in Anatolia already monotheistic (Christian)
  - Muslim respect for Jesus and the Christian scriptures
- Divide between Islam and Christianity not as major as the one between Islam and Hinduism
- Sufi missionaries also built: schools, mills, orchards, hospices, and rest places for travelers

# West Africa



Map 11.4 West Africa and the World of Islam  
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- Islam spread by Muslim traders across the Sahara
- Peaceful and voluntary acceptance of Islam
  - Mainly in urban centers of West African empires → Ghana, Songhay, Mali, etc.

# West Africa

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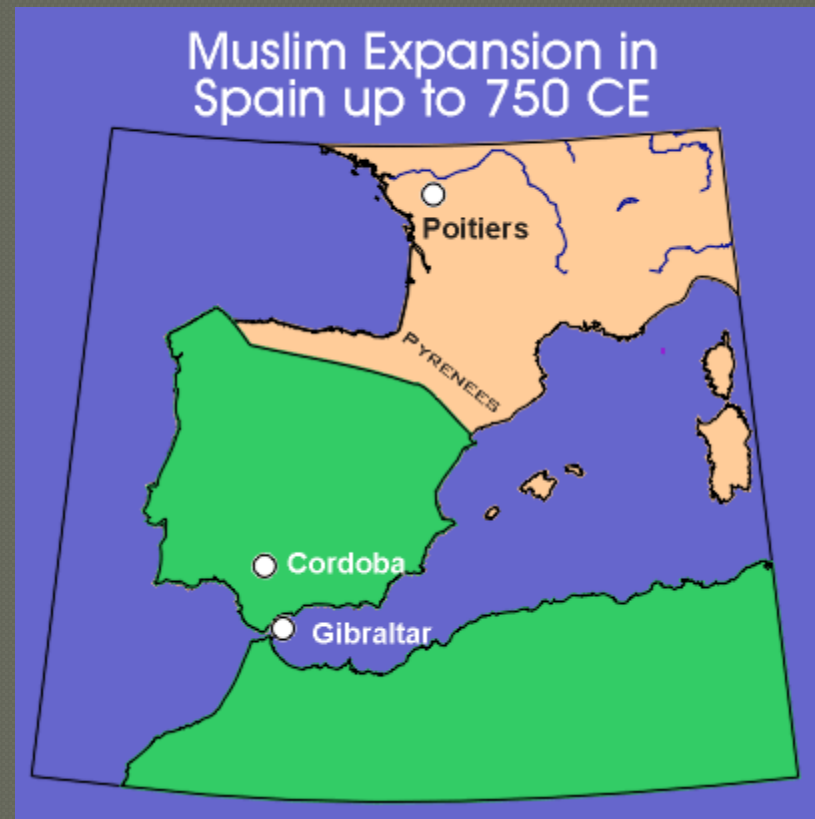
- ◉ Many West African cities became major centers of Islamic religious and intellectual life
- ◉ Especially Timbuktu
  - More than 150 Quranic schools
  - Several major centers of higher education
  - Libraries with tens of thousands of texts
  - Construction of huge mosques
  - Adopted Arabic as the language of religion, education, administration, and trade

# Great Mosque at Jenne



# Spain

- Conquered by Arab and Berber forces in the early 700s
- Early Muslim Spain:
  - Vibrant civilization
  - Astronomy, medicine, the arts, architecture, and literature flourished
  - Harmony and tolerance between Muslim rulers and Christian and Jewish subjects
  - Freedom of worship



# Spain



Muslim Mosque of  
Cordoba, Spain

- 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> centuries = end of the era of toleration
- Warfare with remaining Christian states in northern Spain picked up
- More rigid forms of Islam entered Spain from North Africa

# Spain: New Intolerance

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- Muslims avoided contact with Christians
- Christian homes built lower than Muslim homes
- Priests forbidden to carry crosses or Bibles



# Spain

- Christians started to regain Spain after 1200
  - Many Muslims forced out
  - No more: call to prayer, public practice of Muslim faith, pilgrimages
- Christians officially reconquered Spain in 1492
  - ALL Muslims (and Jews!) expelled from Spain





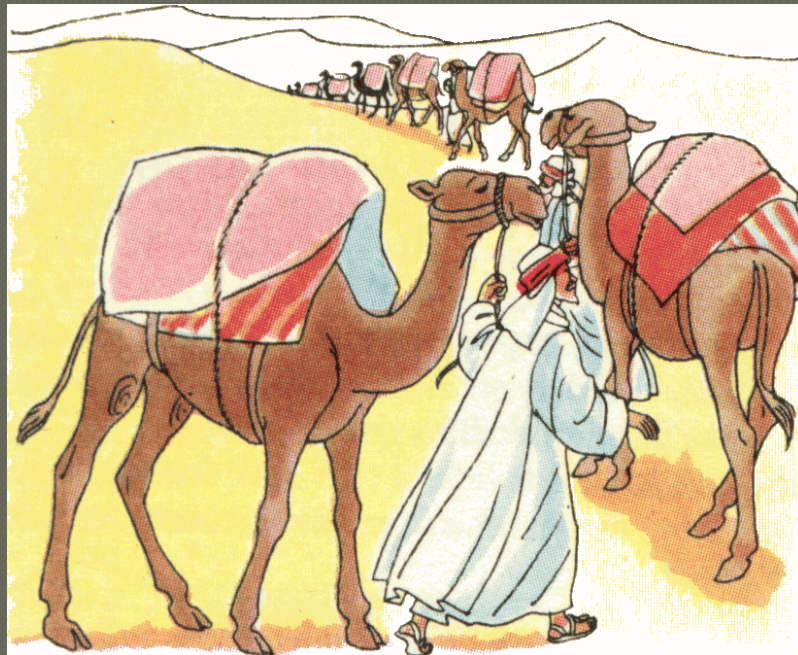
# Islam as a New Civilization



- Even after the fall of the Arab Empire: Islamic beliefs and practices preserved and transmitted by the *ulama* (Muslim scholars)
- Passed on core teachings of the faith in their homes, mosques, shrines, and Quranic schools
- Madrasas = formal colleges set up in the 11<sup>th</sup> century = offered more advanced instruction in the Quran

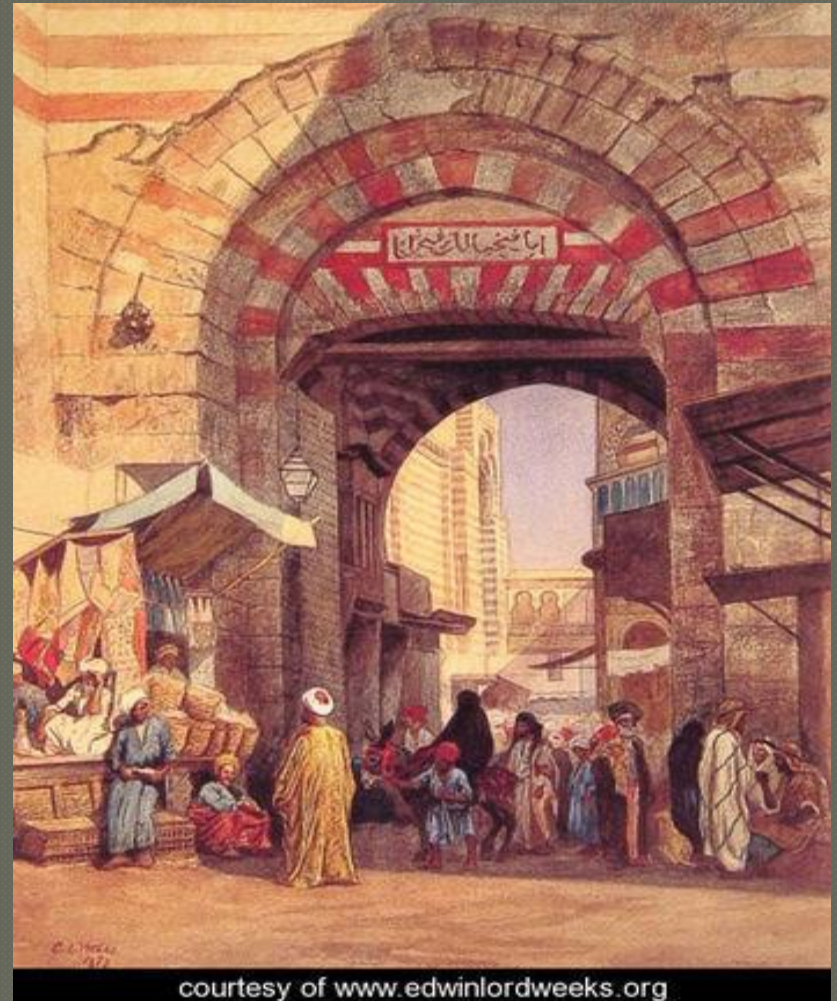
# Islamic Civilization

- ◉ Islamic Civilization = not only a network of faith, but also a network of exchange
  - Exchange of: goods, technologies, food products, and ideas



# Trade and the Bazaar

- Muslims traded spices, carpets, glass & textiles
- Traded for silk (China); rubies (India); ivory and slaves (Africa)
- Goods were sold in city bazaars = marketplaces



courtesy of [www.edwinlordweeks.org](http://www.edwinlordweeks.org)

# The House of Wisdom

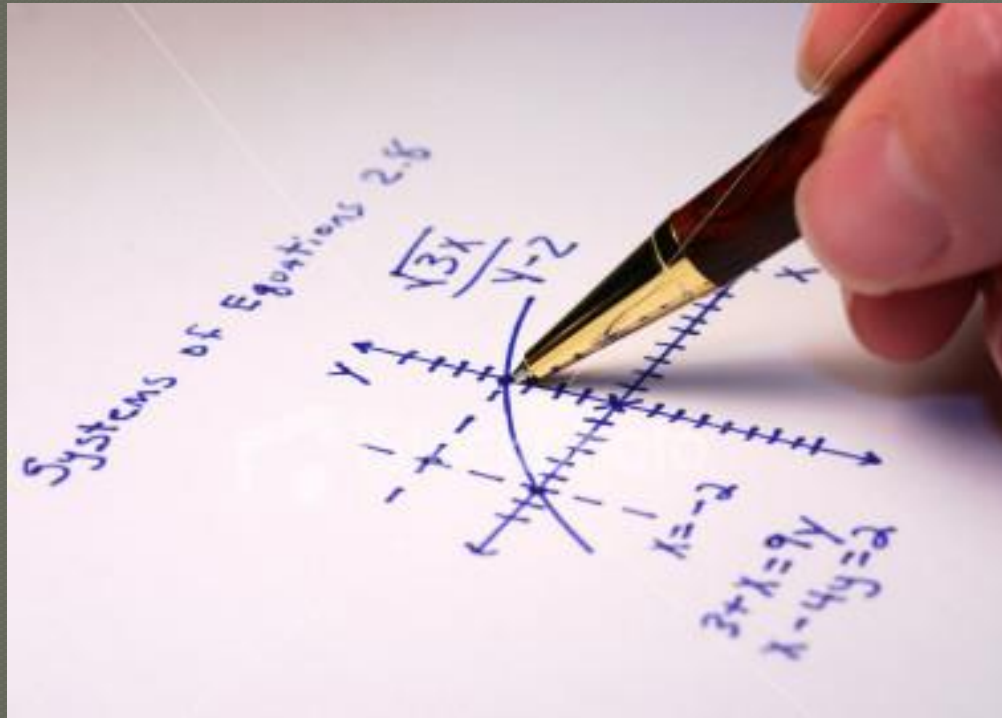
- Founded by the caliph al-Mamun
- Was a research center in Baghdad
- Scholars translated texts from Greek, Persian & Indian into Arabic
- Performed scientific experiments



# House of Wisdom



# Mathematics



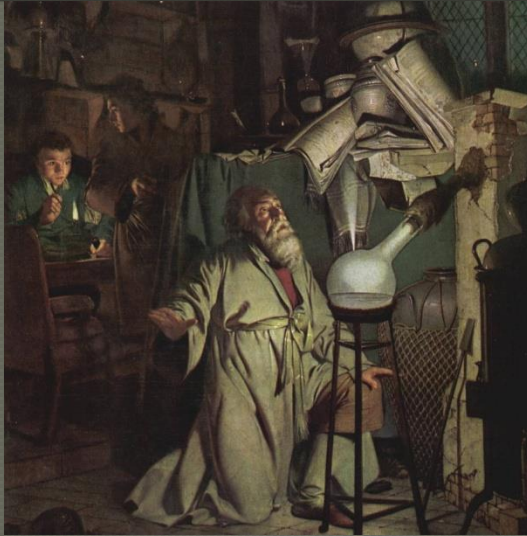
- Invented algebra & equations for curves and lines

# Astronomy & Geography

- Improved the Greek astrolabe = determines the position of the stars, the movement of the planets, and the time
- Astrolabe made navigation easier and safer



# Chemistry



- Developed alchemy = attempting to turn lead into gold
- Al-Razi classified chemical substances as animal, mineral, or vegetable
- Created the science of optics = study of light & its effects on sight





# Medicine

- Physicians al-Razi and Ibn Sina = accurately diagnosed many diseases
  - Hay fever, measles, smallpox, diphtheria, rabies, diabetes
- Arab doctors started:
  - Hernia operations
  - Cataract operations
  - Filling teeth with gold



Ibn Sina