Even after the Arab Empire fell apart, the Islamic civilization continued to grow. Major areas of Muslim expansion: India, Anatolia, West Africa, and Spain.
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
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

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

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

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

Guru Nank
Founder of Sikhism
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
Conversion of Anatolia

- 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
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
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

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
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
10th and 11th 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
Muslims avoided contact with Christians
Christian homes built lower than Muslim homes
Priests forbidden to carry crosses or Bibles
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 11th century = offered more advanced instruction in the Quran
Islamic Civilization = not only a network of faith, but also a network of exchange

- Exchange of: goods, technologies, food products, and ideas
Muslims traded spices, carpets, glass & textiles

Traded for silk (China); rubies (India); ivory and slaves (Africa)

Goods were sold in city bazaars = marketplaces
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
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
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