

# Timeline of Islamic History

## 4 Khulafa Rashidun

### 632-634 (2 years)

- Khalifa- Abu Bakr as- Siddiq

### 634-644 (10 years)

- Khalifa- Umar ibn Al Khattab
  - The one who compiled the Quran in a written form

### 644-656 (12 years)

- Khalifa- Uthman ibn Affan

### 656-661 (5 years)

- Khalifa- Ali ibn Abi Talib

### 661-680 (19 years)

- Khalifa- Muawiyah ibn Abi Sufyan
  - Moved the capital to Damascus, Syria.
  - Established the first Muslim Navy
  - Encouraged for his son to be next Khalifa, in turn, initiating the practice of hereditary succession for the khilafat as opposed to an election.

### 680-683 (3 years)

- Khalifa- Yazid ibn Muawiyah
  - His forces were responsible for murdering Hussain (RA) and his followers (Shi'ites) at Karbala.
  - Caused split between Sunni and Shia.
  - Beginning of Umayyad Dynasty

### 683-684 (1 year)

- Khalifa- Muawiyah II ibn Yazid
  - His death ended the descendants of Abu Sufyan

### 684-685 (1 year)

- Khalifa- Marwan Ibn Hakam
  - The oldest member of the Umayyad clan.

### 685-705 (20 years)

- Khalifa- Abdul Malik Ibn Marwan
  - Byzantine gold solidus and Sasanid silver drachm were replaced by Islamic coins depicting Quranic verses instead of pictures.
  - Arabic became the official language of the Ummayyad state.
  - Construction of Al Qubbat as- Sakhra to cover the site of Miraj. (691)

### 705-715 (10 years)

- Khalifa- Walid bin Abdil Malik
  - Islamic Empire stretched from the Iberian peninsula to the borders of India and China.
  - Construction of the Great Mosque (The Ummayad Mosque)
  - 711- Berber Commander, Tariq ibn Ziyad landed in the Iberian Peninsula and Spain became known as Al-Andalus.

### 715-717 (2 and ½ years)

- Khalifa- Sulayman ibn Abdil Malik (brother)
  - Elected his cousin, Umar ibn Abdul Aziz who was the governor of Arabia according to Islamic principles to be Khalifa despite having brothers and sons.

### 717-720 (2 and ½ years)

- Khalifa- Umar ibn Abdul Aziz (Al-Khalifah as-Salih)
  - Was the first legitimate Khalifa in Ummayad history as prior to this the Khalifa before were actually referred to as kings because of how succession happened and due to the fact that they lived lavish lives.
  - Most respected Khalifa in Umayyad history
  - Had previous Khalifa live in the palace whereas he chose to live in a modest tent.
  - Carried out his affairs according to Islam.
  - Reformed the unjust taxation of non-Arab converts(Mawali).
  - Prisoners were given education and stipend

### 720-724 (4 years)

- Khalifa- Yazid II ibn Abdil Malik
  - Social reforms reversed

### 724-743 (19 years)

- Khalifa- Hisham ibn Abdil Malik
  - Muhammad ibn Ali (great-grandson of Abbas RA) began to lead the Abbasid movement
  - Had many works of literature translated to Arabic
  - Islamic Empire spread from the south of France to the borders of China. (4,500 miles)

### 743-745 (2 years)

- Khalifa- Three incompetent leaders

### 745- 750 (5 years)

- Khalifa- Marwan II (Nephew of Abdil Malik)
  - Muhammad bin Ali passed away but Abu Muslim took leadership and started rebelling against the Ummayyads.
  - 747- Umayyad Governor of Khorasan was overthrown

- 750- Umayyads lose to Abbasids in Mosul, Iraq signifying the end of the Umayyad rule and the birth of the Abbasid dynasty.

### 750-800 (50 years)

- **750-** Abu al-Abbas(As-Saffah) became the caliph of the Abbasids. (750-754)
- 750- The Abbasids massacred every single Umayyad except a young prince who managed to escape. He was Abdur Rahman I, grandson of Hisham
- 751- Battle of Talas- Chinese papermakers were captured leading to the Muslims learning how to make paper.
- **754- Abbasid Caliph- Al-Mansur (754-775)**
  - Conversions to Islam increased by double.
  - Information explosion as greek, Pahlavi, and Sanskrit works were translated into Arabic.
  - He passed in 775 on his way to Haj. Succeeded by his sons.
- 755- Abdur Rahman reached Morocco. Crosses over to Spain and found supporters there. Founded the new Umayyad Dynasty independent of the Abbasids.
- **756- Amir of Umayyad Spain- Abdur Rahman I (Saqr al-Quraish/ Falcon of the Quraish). (756-788)**
  - Successfully defended Spain from Abbasid and Roman invaders.
- 762- Caliphal city changed from Damascus to Kufa to Baghdad. It became a multi-ethnic capital
- 785- Construction of the Great Mosque of Cordoba
- **786- Abbasid Caliph- Harun Ar-Rashid (786-809)**
  - The golden age of the Abbasid dynasty.
  - Near the end of his rule Ibrahim al-Aghlab, governor of Tunisia declared that he was independent of the caliphate.
  - He left the empire to his two sons. Al-Amin was given Iraq and Al-Mamun was given Iran.
- **788- Umayyad Amir- Hisham I bin Abdur Rahman (788-796)**
  - Some of southern France was captured.

### 800-900

- **796-Umayyad Amir- Al-Hakam I (26 Years)**
  - Established the first university in Cordoba and became the center of learning for entire Europe.
- **813- Abbasid Caliph- Al-Mamun (20 years)-** After a civil war, Al-Mamun defeated his brother and became the Caliph.
  - Adopted the Mutazila theology. Any Ulama who disagreed with the theology was punished. Ahmad bin Hanbal was imprisoned for this in 834

- Saman-Khoda embraced Islam rejecting the Zoroastrian faith. His 4 grandsons served the caliph. They were given provinces to govern:
  - Nuh- Samarqand
  - Ahmad- Ferghana
  - Yahya- Shash
  - Ilyas- Herat
- **822- Ummayyad Amir- Abdur Rahman II ibn Al Hakam I (30 years)**
  - Great Mosque expanded and many madaris and masjids were built.
- **833- Abbasid Caliph- Al Mutasim ibn Harun- Brother of Mamun.**
  - Changed caliphal city to Samarra
  - Employed Turkish slaves as a defense force known as Mamluks.
- **847- The Mihna ended under the rule of Al-Mutawakil**
- **852- Ummayyad Amir- Succession of Abdur Rahman's II sons. (60 years)**
- **862- The Mamluks rose to power deposing of Al-Mutawakil. The caliphs were now under the Mamluks control.**
- **875- First Samanid Amir- Nasr I (son of Ahmad, son of Saman-Khoda) (17 years)**
- **892- Samanid Amir- Ismail I (brother of Nasr) (15 years)**
  - Considered the true founder of the Samanid dynasty.
  - Much of Central Asia, Afghanistan, and eastern Iran came under his control.
  - They still remained loyal to the Caliph.

## **900-1000**

- **900- Samanids defeated Saffarids in Khorasan.**
- **909- Ubayd Allah proclaimed himself the Mahdi. He believed he was the descendant of Ismail, one of the sons of the sixth Shi'ite Imam, Ja'far Sadiq, who was a grandson of Hussain (RA). He began to amass followers.**
- **913- Ubaydullah's first campaign to capture Egypt.**
- **914- Samanid Amir- Nasr II (grandson of Ismail I)**
  - Greatest Samanid Amir
  - Domain extended from Iraq- borders of India and from Turkistan-Persian Gulf
  - Reported that he adopted Ismaili doctrines. When many scholars went against him he accepted Sunni Islam.
  - Capital-Bukhara
  - Pahlavi, the older version of Persian, was modified and changed by adopting words and grammar rules from Arabic.
- **919- Ubaydullah's second campaign to capture Egypt**
- **920- Fatimid Caliph- Ubaydullah (25 years) established the first Fatimid capital, Al-Mahdiyya in Tunisia in North Africa**

- **921- Ummayyad Amir/Caliph- Abdur Rahman III (Age-21) ( Al-Nasir li Din Allah) (Amirul-Muminin) (49 years)**
  - The Shi'ite Fatimid Dynasty Took control of Egypt and wanted Spain but their plans were thwarted.
  - Abdur Rahman III claimed the title of Khalifa for himself so now there were three Caliphs: Abbasid Baghdad, Fatimids Cairo, and Ummayyad al-Andalus.
  - Cordoba became the most cultured city in all of Europe. 500,000 inhabitants.
  - Arabic became an important language to know for knowledge.
  - The golden age of Al-Andalus was the link between the Dark Ages of Europe and the Renaissance.
- 925- Al-Qaim's first campaign to capture Egypt.
- **934- Fatimid Caliph- Al-Qa'im (12 years)**
- 945- Baghdad fell to a Shite family known as the Buyids. They remained there for more than a century until they were unseated by the Seljuqs.
- **946- Fatimid Caliph- Al-Mansur (7 years)**
- **953- Fatimid Caliph- Al-Mu'izz (22 years)**
- 960- Seljuq along with his band of nomads accepted Islam. His two sons, Tughril and Chagri went moved south from Kazakhstan.
- **961-Ummayyad Caliph-Al-Hakam II.** (Loved book collecting and constructing public works. His library has about 400,000 volumes. He read every book and opened his library to the public. (15 years)
  - The Great Mosque of Cordoba was expanded and its mihrab was constructed.
- 969- Al Muizz enters Egypt during a famine and made it part of the Fatimid Dynasty. Cairo was then made the Fatimid capital instead of Mahdiya. However, most of the Egyptian population remained Sunni.
- **975- Fatimid Caliph- Al- Aziz (21 years)**
- **976-Umayyad Caliph- Many weak caliphs. The last one was Hisham III. (55 years)**
- **976- Samanid Amir- Nuh II (21 years)**
  - Daqiqi, a poet was asked to write a poem about Iranian history. Passed away before he could finish.
- **977- Sebukigin** was invited by Nuh II out of fear of rebellion from the nobles and the new Muslim Turks. As a reward for Sebuktigin's protection, he was given control over Ghazna.
  - Sebuktigin expanded towards Northwest India.
- 980- The Al-Azhar Mosque was established by Jawhar as a training center for Ismaili missionaries.
- **996- At the age of 16, Ibn Sina cured the amir, Nuh II of a serious ailment. As a reward, he got access to the royal library.**
- **996- Fatimid Caliph- Al-Hakim (25 years) (age 11)**

- Allowed Christians and Jews who became Muslim to change back
- Broke traditions of the caliph staying indoors by riding on his donkey, Al- Qamar roaming the city at night.
- Prohibited sleeping at night time
- Stopped manufacture of women's shoes to keep them indoors.
- He had a library of 200,000 books.
- **997-** Nuh II and Sebuktin passed away. Their kingdom went to their two sons, Mansur of the Samanids and Mahmud of the Ghaznavids
- **998- First Ghaznavid Sultan- Mahmud ibn Sebuktigin (Yamin ad-Dawla/Right Hand of the State (32 Years)**
  - He usurped the throne from his brother who was chosen to be the successor.
  - Was given governorship over Khorasan and Ghazna from the Abbasid caliph, Al-Qadir.
  - Seized parts of Shite Iran.
  - Was known as a Ghazi(frontier warrior)
  - Brought Islam into the heart of India.
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- **999- Samanid Amir- Abd- al Malak, brother of Mansur (1 year)**
  - Mahmud declares himself to be independent of the Samanids.
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## **1000-1100**

- **1000- Samanid Amir- Ismail II, brother of Mansur (5years)**
  - The last amir and was assassinated leaving the Ghaznavids the supreme power in Southern Asia.
- 1010- Fidawsi completed his Shahnameh consisting of 60,000 rhyming couplets. Was only given a silver dinars for every line despite being promised a gold dinar. s
- 1021- Al-Hakim was last seen riding his donkey on a road leading to the hills of Cairo. The Druzes believed that Al-Hakim was divine and still exist to this day even though Al-Hakim's clothes were found bloody several days after.
- 1026- The temple dedicated to Shiva was destroyed by the raids of Mahmud ibn Sebuktigin.
- 1030- Abu Rayhan al-Biruni wrote his famous book, Kitab al-Hind. It discussed in detail the history, culture and social structure of India in an objective perspective. From
- **1031- Ghaznavid Sultan- Masud bin Mahmud (10 years)**
  - Lost half of his father's empire after losing to Tughril Beg.
- 1031- Caliphate fell apart when people of Cordoba rebelled. Al-Andalus was then divided into 23 independent states.

- 1038- Turkish nomads united under Tughril Beg against Masud bin Mahmud.
- 1040- Masud bin Mahmud loses to the Seljuq Turks. This leads to the creation of the Great Seljuq Empire.
  - Tughril took the western part of the empire (Iraq, Iran, parts of eastern Anatolia)
  - Chagri took the eastern part. (Central Asia)
- 1055- The Seljuqs unseated the Buyids in Baghdad who were controlling the Sunni caliphate for more than a century. Now, Baghdad was once again under a Sunni leader.
- 1160- Last Ghaznavid Sultan- Khusraw Malik
- 1063- Seljuq Sultan- Alp Arslan(son of the Chagri Beg) (9 years) (Valiant Lion)
- 1071- Battle of Malazgirt (August 26)
  - Alp Arslan (15,000 soldiers) vs Greek Byzantine Emperor Romanus Diogenes IV.(60,000-100,000)
  - The Seljuqs defeated the Romans.
  - Released the leader after capturing him.
  - Islam began to spread into the Byzantine territory in Asia minor.
  - The Seljuqs occupied Jerusalem.
- 1171- Death of the last Fatimid caliph, Al-Adid.
- 1186- Ghurids depose of the last Ghaznavid Sultan.

## 1100-1200

## 1200-1300

- 1258- Death of the last Ummayyad Caliph- Al-Musta'sim
  - Didn't believe the Mongols would actually attack. Was wrapped up in cloth and trampled to death.