

SPREAD OF ISLAM IN ANATOLIA

Islam originated in 610 CE with the Prophet Muhammad. Muhammad shared the message of Islam throughout the Arabian Peninsula. He gained many followers as he spread his message. Muhammad's followers continued to share Islam, and the religion reached Anatolia in the 8th century. Today, Islam is the world's second largest religion.

Anatolia Before Arrival of Islam

Before Islamic rule, Anatolia (modern-day Turkey) was part of the Byzantine Empire. The Byzantine Empire was a Christian empire. Anatolia was also a wealthy area with fertile farmland. It was a valuable region to the Byzantine Empire, but many nearby kingdoms also wanted this prosperous territory.

Contact with Islam

In the 7th century, Muslim Arab armies began invading Byzantine territory. For many Byzantine citizens, this was their first contact with Islam. These invasions sparked the Arab-Byzantine Wars. These wars lasted for years between the 7th and 11th centuries.

Anatolia was a major battleground during these wars. In 1071, the Muslim Seljuk Turks led a campaign into Anatolia. They defeated the Byzantine Empire in the Battle of Manzikert. The Seljuk Turks pressured Anatolian citizens to convert to Islam.

The Seljuk Empire collapsed due to invasions and internal conflicts. In the 13th century, the Ottoman Empire expanded into Anatolia. Islam was very important to the Ottoman Empire and was part of many of its laws. The Ottoman Empire allowed people to practice other religions, but they had to pay a tax called the *jizya*. This tax led to the slow decline of other religions in the area.

Muslim missionaries called *Sufis* helped spread Islam throughout the Ottoman Empire. They traveled throughout Anatolia and encouraged people to convert to Islam.

Islam was an important part of the Ottoman Empire until its collapse in 1922. After the empire collapsed, the country of Turkey was established on the land that was once Anatolia.

Islam in Anatolia Today

Today, Islam is the main religion in Turkey. The government allows people to practice other religions, but most Turkish people are Muslim. The importance of Islam can still be seen in historic monuments like the Hagia Sophia Grand Mosque and the lasting faith of Muslim Turks.

SPREAD OF ISLAM IN INDIA

Islam started in 610 CE with the Prophet Muhammad. Muhammad shared the message of Islam throughout the Arabian Peninsula. He gained many followers as he spread his message. Muhammad's followers continued to share Islam, and the religion reached India in the 7th century. Today, Islam is the world's second largest religion.

India Before Arrival of Islam

Before Islam, most Indians practiced Hinduism. The Vedas, the sacred scriptures of Hinduism, were an important part of Indian life. The Vedas texts outlined a system of how Indian kingdoms should be ruled called the *Vedic system*. As part of the Vedic system, Indians were divided into castes. *Castes* are social classes determined by birth. Some Indians did not like the caste system.

Contact with Islam

Islam first came to India through trade. Muslim Arab travelers first came to India in the early 7th century. These traders were very successful. As they gained business from locals, they spread their religious teachings. Islam was popular with many Indians. The first mosque in India was built in 629 CE.

Islam was popular in India because it was different from the Hindu caste system. Many people in the caste system were unhappy because they were not allowed to leave their castes to move into better ones. Indians in lower castes converted to Islam so they could be seen as equals regardless of caste.

In 711 CE, the Islamic Umayyad Caliphate expanded into India. The Umayyads contributed to the spread of Islam. In the late 12th century, India was largely conquered by the Muslim Ghurid Empire. In 1206, the Islamic Delhi Sultanate was established in this conquered area.

Under the Delhi Sultanate, Islam became a large part of Indian culture. Architecture reflected both Islamic and Indian influence. The language Urdu, a blend of Indian, Turkic, and Arabic languages, became popular. Muslims and Hindus began to worship at shared *dargahs*—shrines dedicated to saints.

Islam in India Today

Today, Islam is India's second-largest religion and over 200 million Indians are Muslim. However, Muslims are still a minority in India. They live among many Hindus along with Christians and Buddhists. Their influence, however, is still very present in Indians' daily lives.

SPREAD OF ISLAM IN SPAIN

Islam originated in 610 CE with the Prophet Muhammad. Muhammad shared the message of Islam throughout the Arabian Peninsula. He gained many followers as he spread his message. Muhammad's followers continued to share Islam, and the religion reached Spain in the 7th century. Today, Islam is the world's second largest religion.

Spain Before Arrival of Islam

Before Muslims arrived in Spain, the country was ruled by the Visigoth people. The Visigoths were Christians who had resided in the Iberian Peninsula since 416 CE. In 587 CE, the Visigoth kingdom united the Iberian Peninsula under their rule. The Visigoths practiced Catholic Christianity. They enforced this religion with strict punishments for non-Christians.

Contact with Islam

In 711, an army from the Muslim Umayyad dynasty entered Spain. They quickly gained control of the Iberian Peninsula due to the generous terms of surrender they offered. Within 7 years, the Umayyads ruled the region. The region became known as Al-Andalus.

The Umayyad dynasty ruled Spain from 756–1031 CE. Umayyad rule created a cultural golden age with a blend of Islamic, Visigoth, and Roman traditions. Libraries, colleges, and public baths were built.

Many citizens of Al-Andalus converted to Islam. Non-Muslims were required to pay a tax, called the *jizya*, so many people converted to Islam to save money. Others converted to gain favor from the Muslim ruling elite and improve their business opportunities.

Around 1009 CE, the Spanish people began to overthrow regional governors. This series of uprisings gradually fractured Spain into smaller territories with their own rulers. Christian kingdoms began to develop in these smaller territories. These kingdoms began to take over Muslim areas.

In 1492, Queen Isabella I and King Ferdinand II, Catholic rulers, conquered Granada in a quest to unify Spain. This ended Muslim rule. In 1502, Isabella I outlawed Islam in Spain. Muslims were required to either convert to Christianity or leave the country.

Islam in Spain Today

Today, Islam is practiced by 2.5 million people in Spain, which is about 5% of the population. While the religion is not as widespread as it once was, the influence of Islam can still be seen in historic monuments like the great palace Alhambra in Granada and the Mosque-Cathedral in Cordoba.

SPREAD OF ISLAM IN WEST AFRICA

Islam originated in 610 CE with the Prophet Muhammad. Muhammad shared the message of Islam throughout the Arabian Peninsula. He gained many followers as he spread his message. Muhammad's followers continued to share Islam, and the religion reached West Africa in the 8th century. Today, Islam is the world's second largest religion.

West Africa Before Arrival of Islam

Early West African communities were deeply spiritual, and they practiced many indigenous religions. Many of these religions believed in *animism*, or the idea that natural objects and animals have spiritual essences. These religions passed on their traditions orally. Most did not have any religious texts or written records.

Contact with Islam

In the 8th century, North African Muslim merchants began trading with West African communities. These merchants introduced Islam to the region. Islam's spiritual message and its connections with trade appealed to West Africans, and many began to convert to the religion. As Islam gained popularity, West African rulers began to convert to the religion. This led to more West Africans accepting Muslims.

Muslim empires developed in the Sahel region. The wealthy and powerful Mali Empire was established in 1215 CE. Muslim advisors were common in Mali courts because they were talented traders and administrators. By 1300 CE, many Mali rulers were Muslim. One of Mali's most celebrated rulers, Mansa Musa, made Islam the official religion of the empire.

The Songhai Empire succeeded the Mali Empire and ruled from the 15th to 16th century. The Songhai Empire named Islam as the official religion of the empire. Lower-class citizens still practiced forms of animism, but most of the ruling class practiced Islam.

Islam in West Africa Today

Today, Muslims are the majority in West Africa. Over 200 million Muslims live in the region, with large numbers in Mali, Senegal, and Niger. Historic monuments like the Bole Mosque in Ghana exist alongside impressive constructions like the National Mosque in Nigeria, illustrating the importance of Islam to the region's past and present.

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