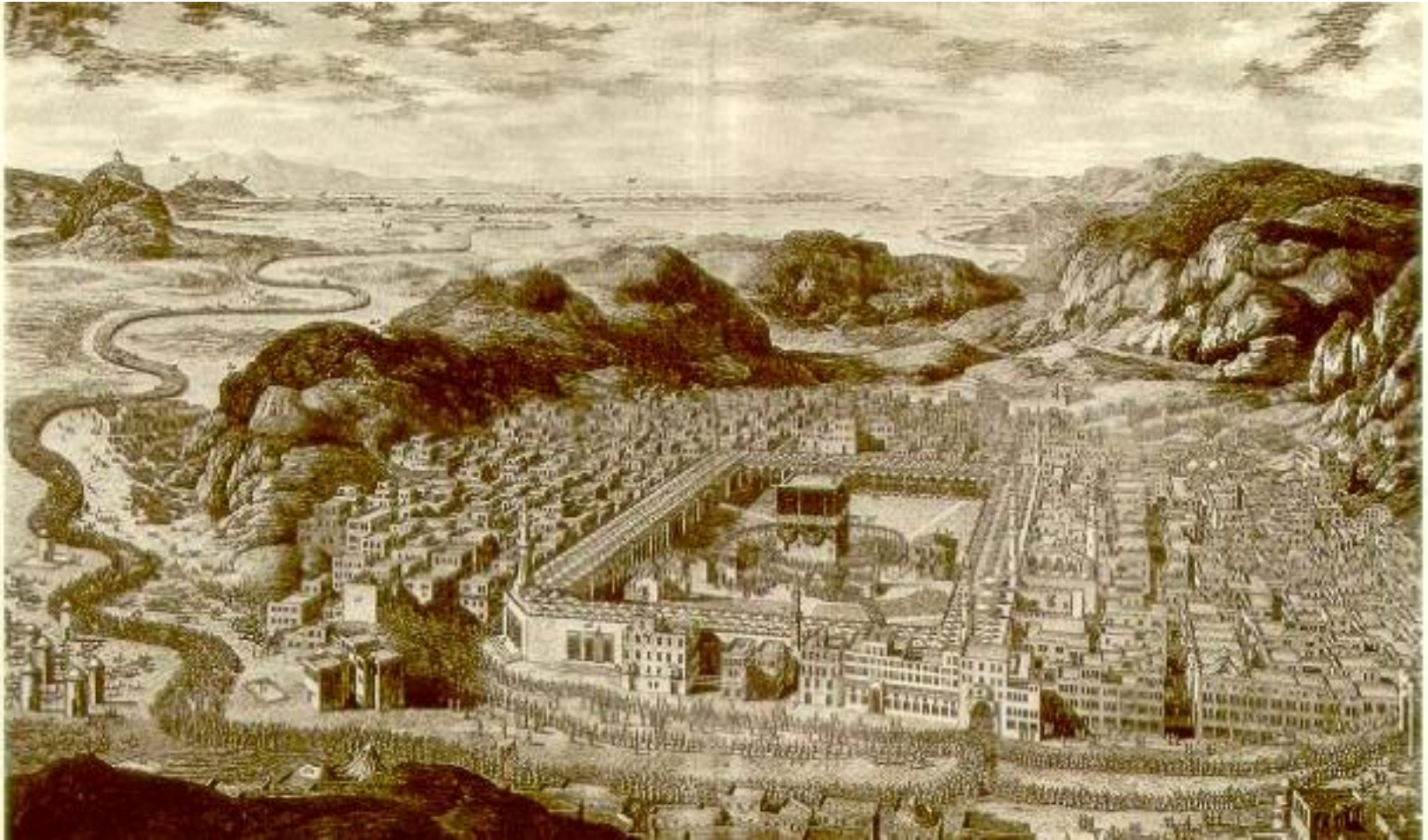


Shi'iah + Sunni



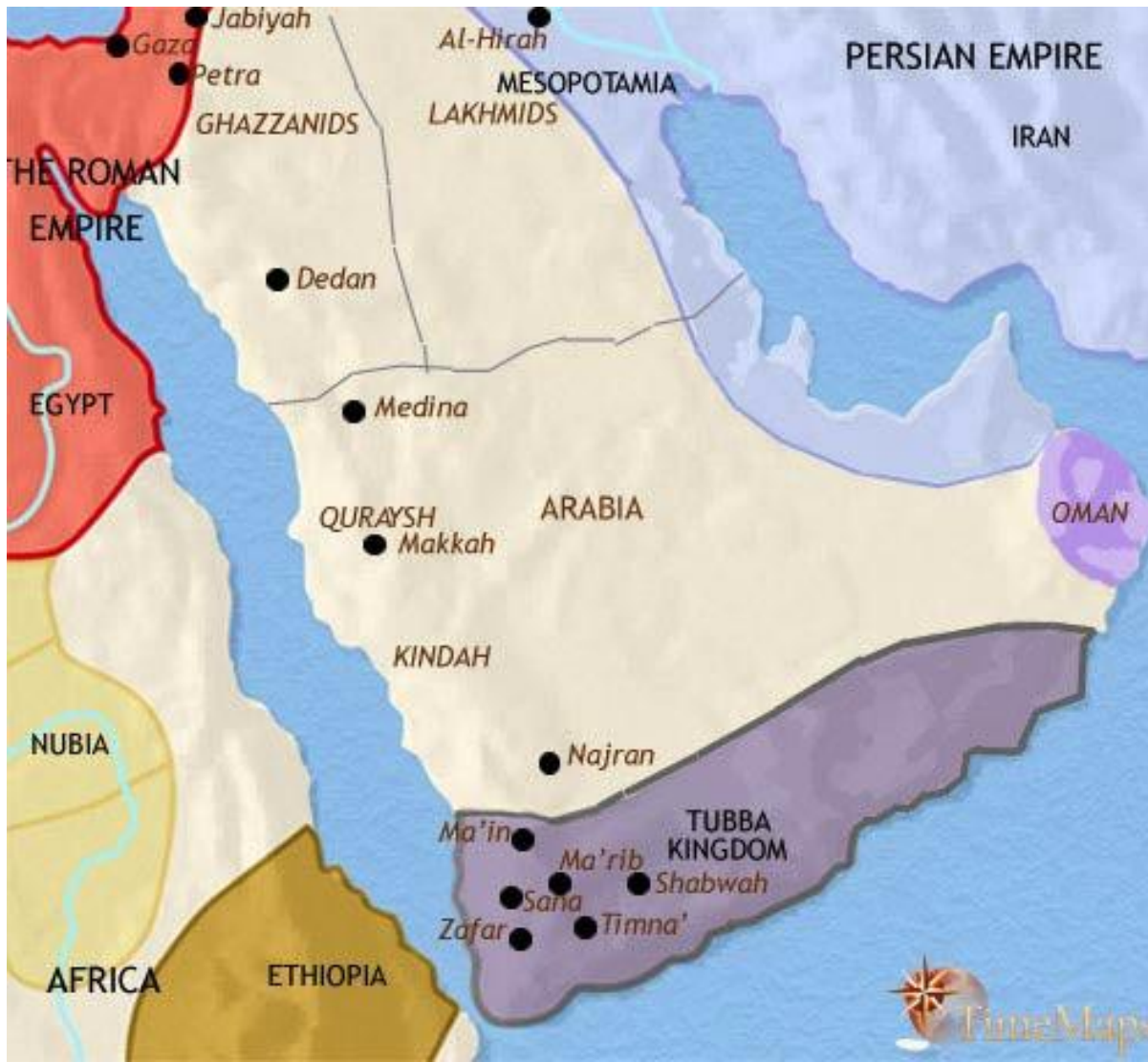
Mecca



Old Ka'aba



7th Century Arabian Peninsula



Religion

- A form of paganism (henotheism)
- Allah is the Creator, the same god as Yahweh
- Daughters of Allah; Allat, al-Uzza & Manat
- Many other gods, represented by idols placed inside & outside of Ka'aba, including Abraham & Jesus
- Kahins: the link between humans and the divine
- Other religions accepted
- Annual pilgrimage

During Mohammed's Life 570 - 632

- Childhood
- Marriage
- Revelation
- In Yathrib
- Abu Bakr, Aisha, Ali
- Mohammed's Death
- Mohammed's succession in question

Expansion of Islam until 750 C.E.



Mohammed's Succession

(Rashidun Caliphates)

- (632-634) Abu Bakr (Khalifat Rasul Allah)
- (634-644) Omar (Amir Al Mouminin)
- (644-656) Othman (Khalifate Allah)
- (656-661) Ali (Amir Al Mouminin)
- Sunni Faith accepts these Caliphates, while Shi'ia consider Ali the rightful successor

Ali as a Caliph (Amir Al Mouminin)

656 - 661

- Mu'awiyah bin Abi Sufyan
- The Battle of the Camel
- Moving the Capital to Kufa
- The Battle of Siffin
- Death of Ali – Banu Hashim

Amawyat Dynasty

661 to 750

- 660 C.E. Mu'awyah proclaims Caliph in Jerusalem
- Capital moved to Damascus
- Caliphate transformed into a Monarchy
- Kufa in revolt – Birth of Shi'atu Ali
- 680 C.E. The Karbala Massacre

680 C.E. The Karbala Massacre

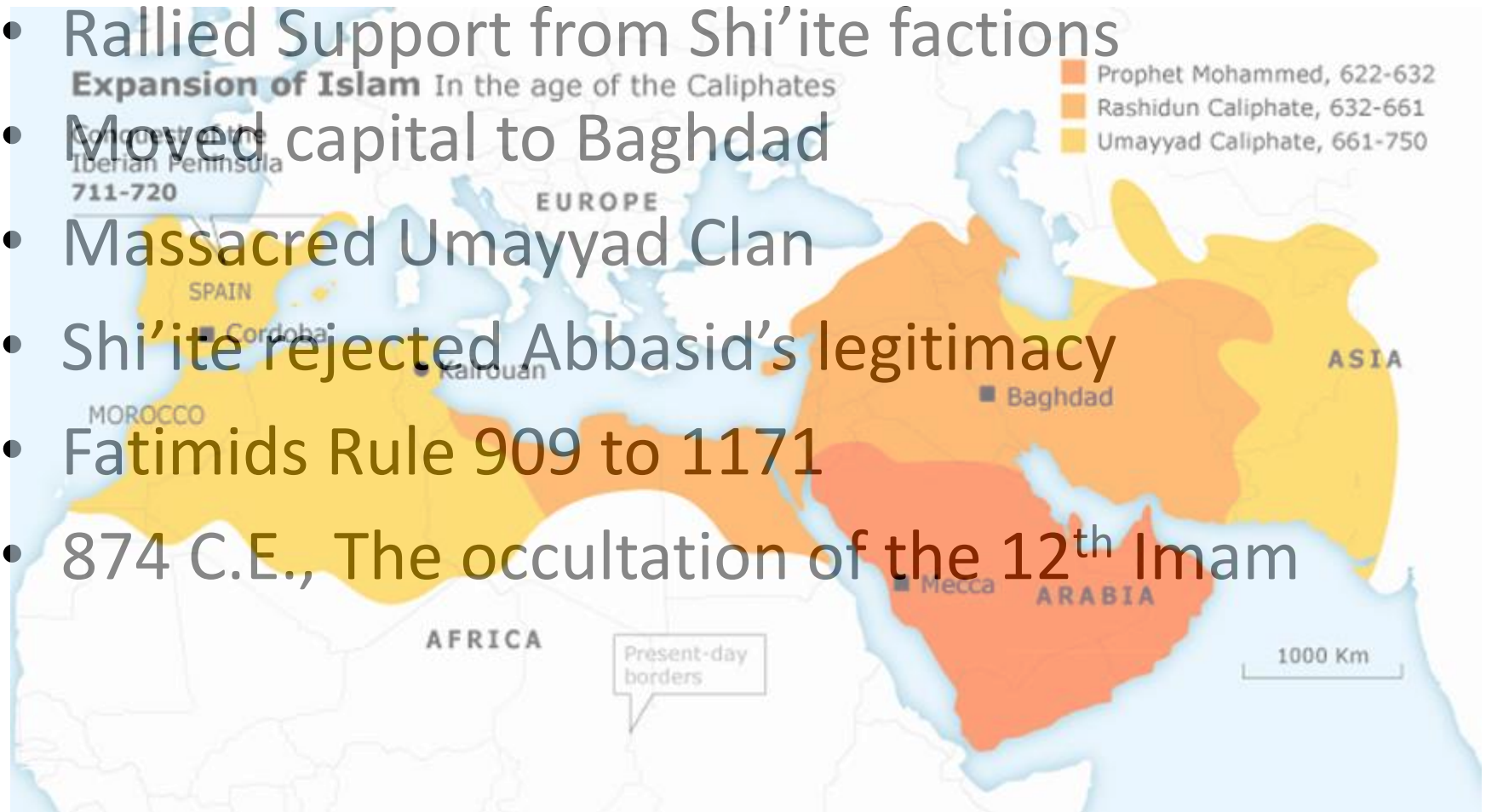
- Hassan's Agreement with Mu'awiyah
- Hassan dies in 669 c.e.
- Mu'awiyah died in 680 c.e.
- Yazid follows his father
- Husain urged to come to Kufa
- Husain summoned in Medina
- Confronted by Umayyad Army
- Rebellion Erupts in Kufa, Mecca, Medina



Abbasid Dynasty

750 to 1062

- Rallied Support from Shi'ite factions
- Moved capital to Baghdad
- Massacred Umayyad Clan
- Shi'ite rejected Abbasid's legitimacy
- Fatimids Rule 909 to 1171
- 874 C.E., The occultation of the 12th Imam



Safavid Dynasty

1501 – 1725

- King (Shah) Ismail conquers Iran
- Proclaims Twelver's Shi'ism the official religion
- Claimed to be the Mehdi
- Battle with the Ottoman (sunni) Empire



Mu'tazilite (Rationalists) vs Ash'arite (Traditionalists) 9-13th Century

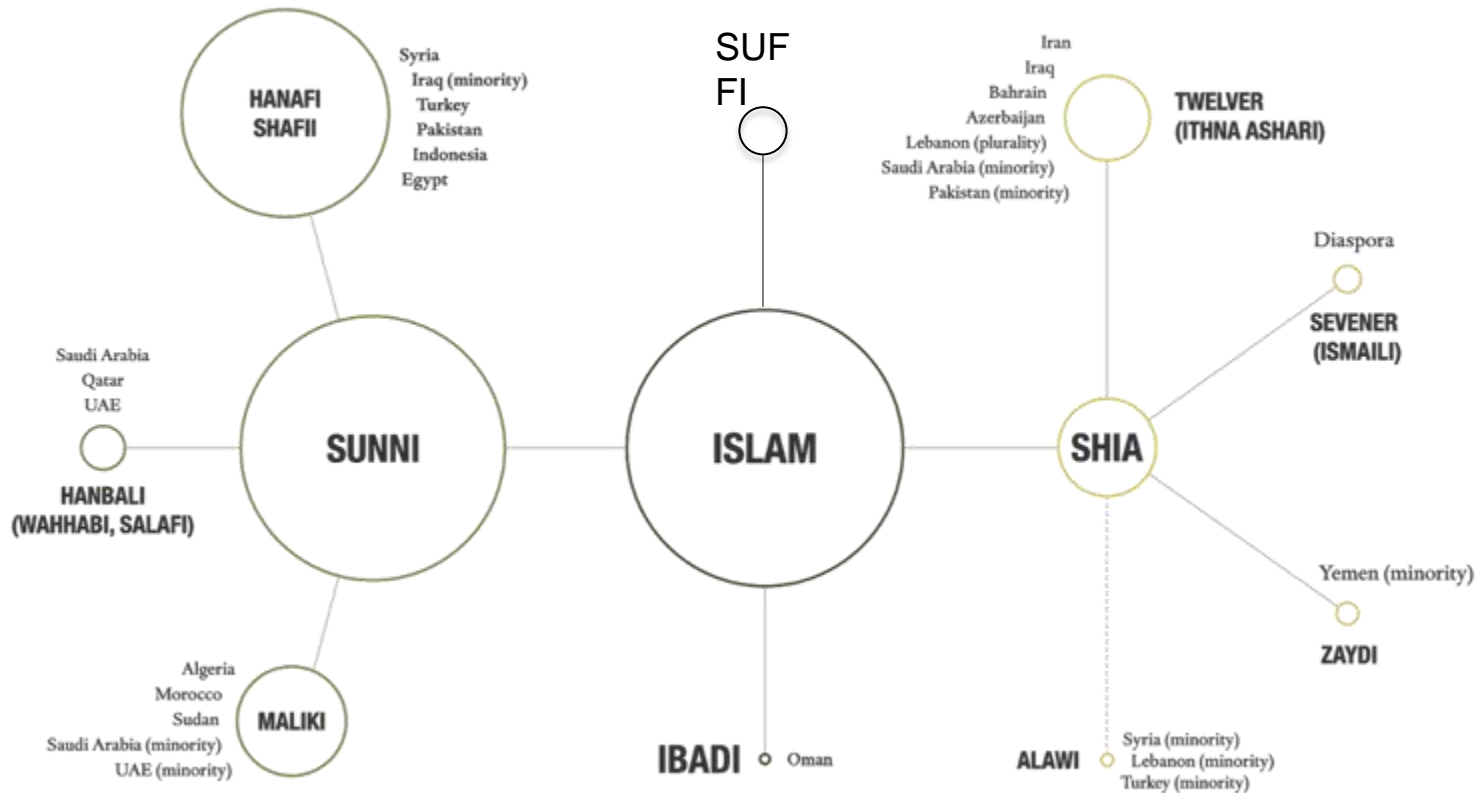
- Free Will
- Religious truth obtained thru rational arguments
- Quran created by God
- God's attributes are figurative and symbolic
- Predeterminists
- Truth obtained thru revelations and scripture
- Quran is part of God (Static)
- God's attribute are part of God and cannot be interpreted

By the 13th century Traditionalist position was accepted by all Ulama accept the Shi'ite schools

Branches of Islam

The Branches of Islam—Relative Size

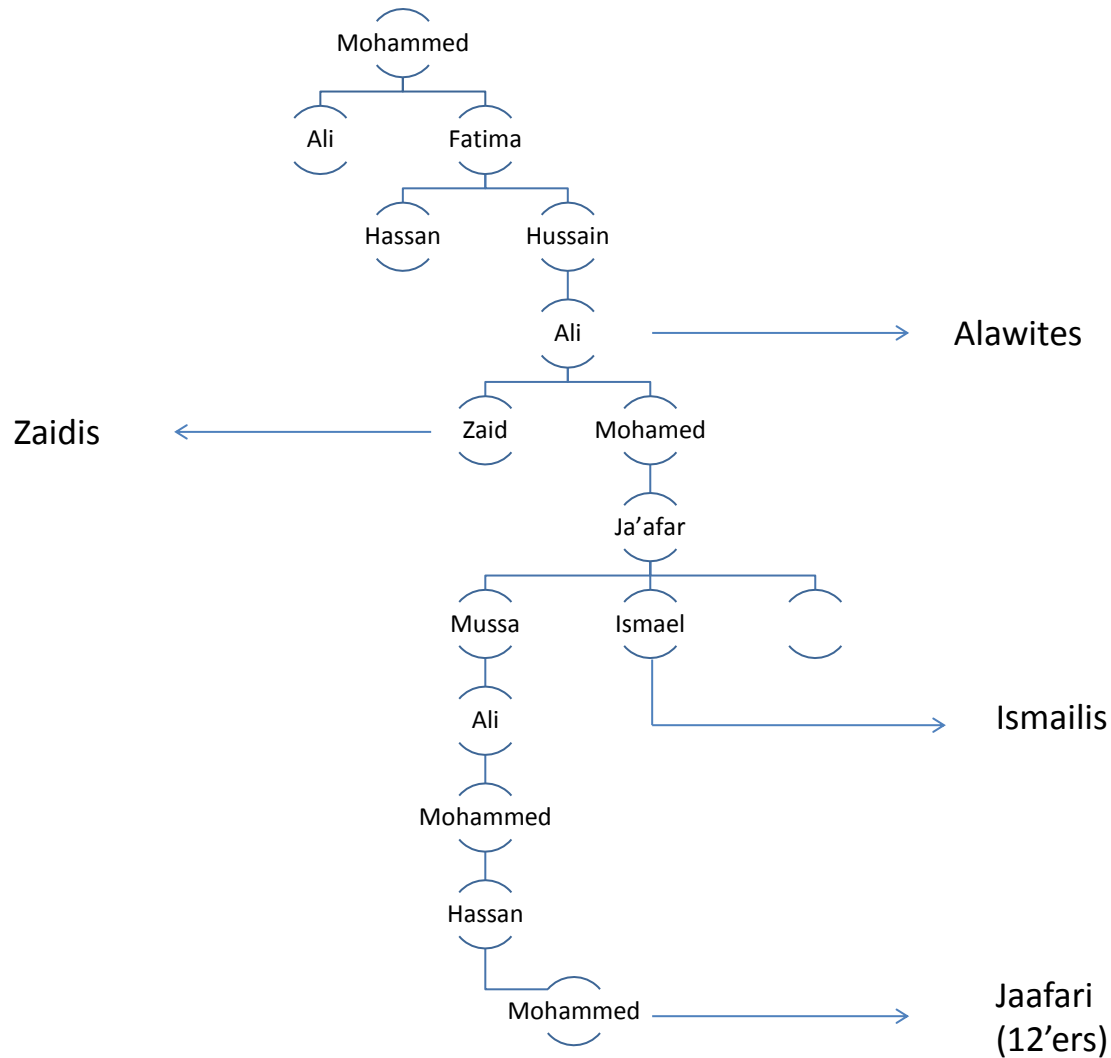
CLICK ON THE BRANCHES FOR MORE INFORMATION



What Distinguishes Shi'ia

1. Mohammed's succession of faith
2. Salvation through Mehdi
3. Governing (Khomeini....)
4. Rationalists, following Faqih
5. Husain's martyrdom

Shi'ia Succession



Sunni-Shi'ia Conflicts

- Shi'ite minorities in Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait
- Clashes in SE Asia – 20th Century
- Intimidations during Hajj
- Sunni – Alawites conflict in Syria
- Sunni – Shi'ite conflict in Lebanon
- Sunni – Shi'ite conflict in Yemen
- Saudi – Iranian tension

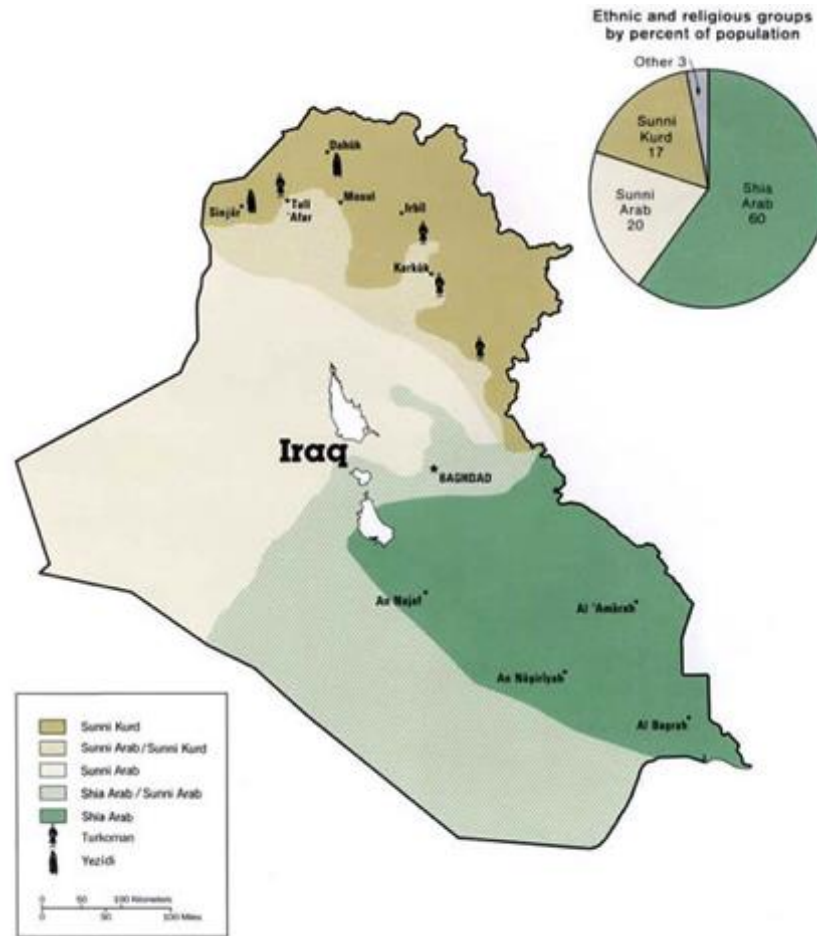
Reconciliation Period

- 1938 unity against imperialism
- 1959 Al-Azhar Univ. recognizes Shi'ism as the 5th branch of Islam
- 1979 Khomeini forbids cursing of the Caliphates, designates an “Islamic Unity Week”

Wahabism & Shi'ia

- Founded M. Abd al-Wahhab (1703-65)
- Wahabism's born in Najd
- Pact with M. Ibn Saud in Dariya
- Conquering of Mecca & Medina
- **Attack on Karbala (1802)**
- Egyptian Army battle (1818)
- Anglo-Saudi Treaty (1915)
- Oil Discovery (blessings from God)
- Fountain of Fundamentalists and Jihadists

Iraq's Ethnic & Religious distribution



Iraq's Sunni & Shiite

- Umayyad rule & division with Ali
- Shi'ia School born in Kufa, Iraq
- Abbasid rule oppressed Imams of Shi'ia
- Ottomans & Saffavids
- British Colonials aligned with the Sunnis
- Diffusion of Sectarianism due to Nationalist movements
- Saddam marginalized and prosecuted Shi'ites
- Iran-Iraq War fuels sectarianism
- First Gulf War in 1991
- Sectarian Cleansing in 2006
- Sunni's feel threatened in the new regime

Conclusions

- The tenant of all major religions is social justice. People take different path to implementation.
- Religion & culture are intertwined and shape each other with the passage of time
- Divisions become dangerous when one side vilifies the other side
- Violence amongst religions & sects is rarely due to differences in belief