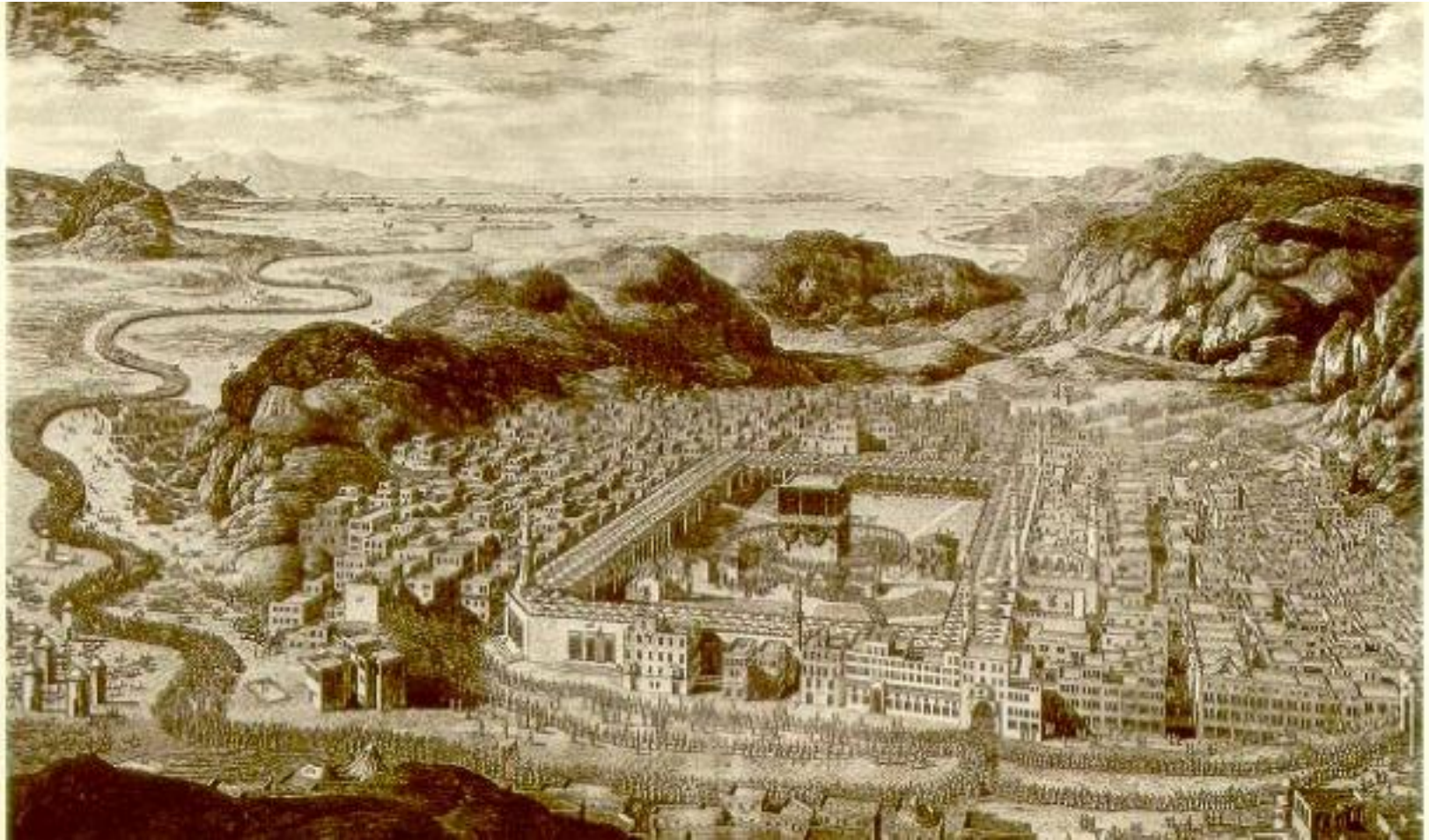


# Shi'ah vs Sunni

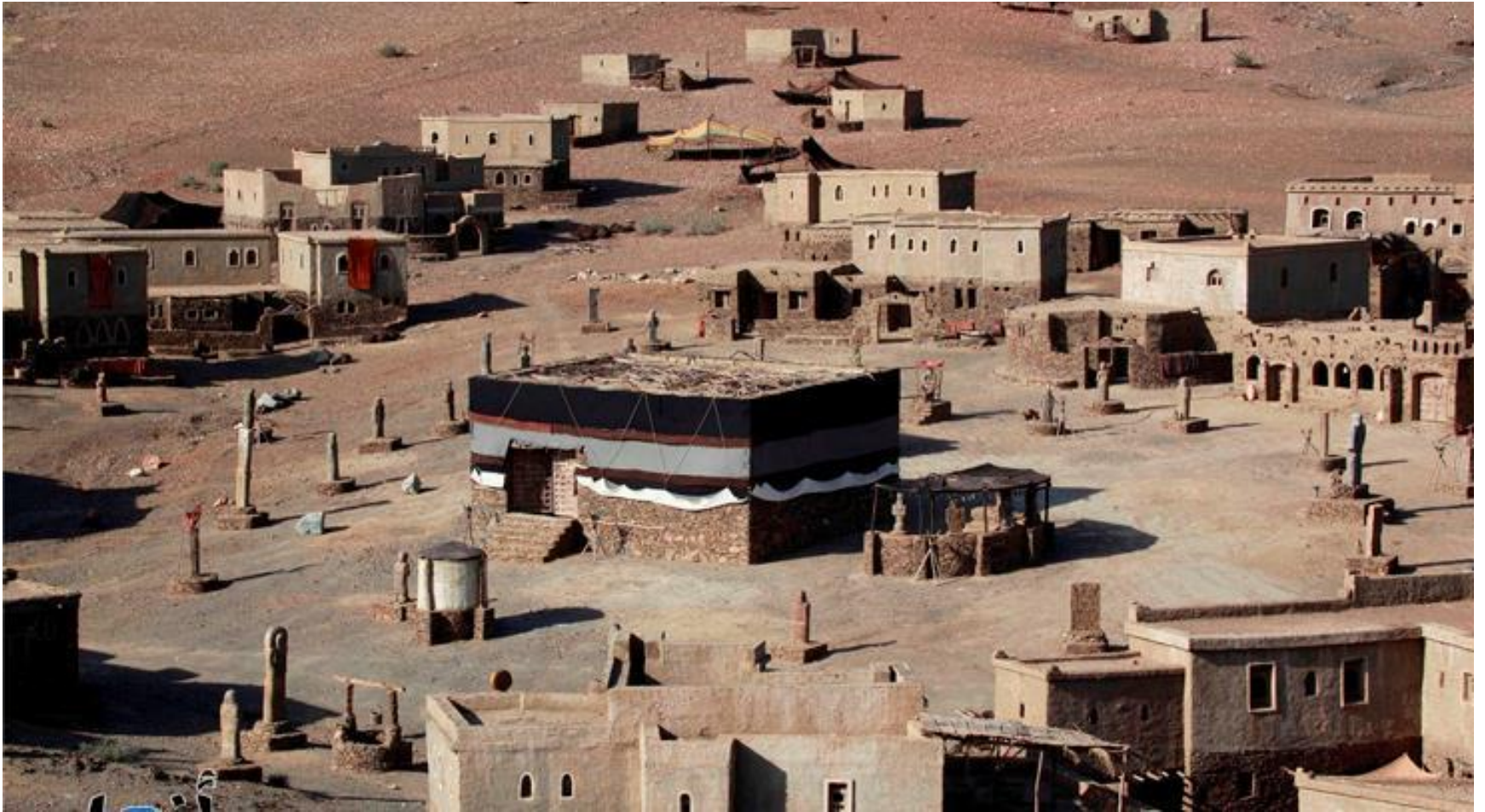




# Mecca

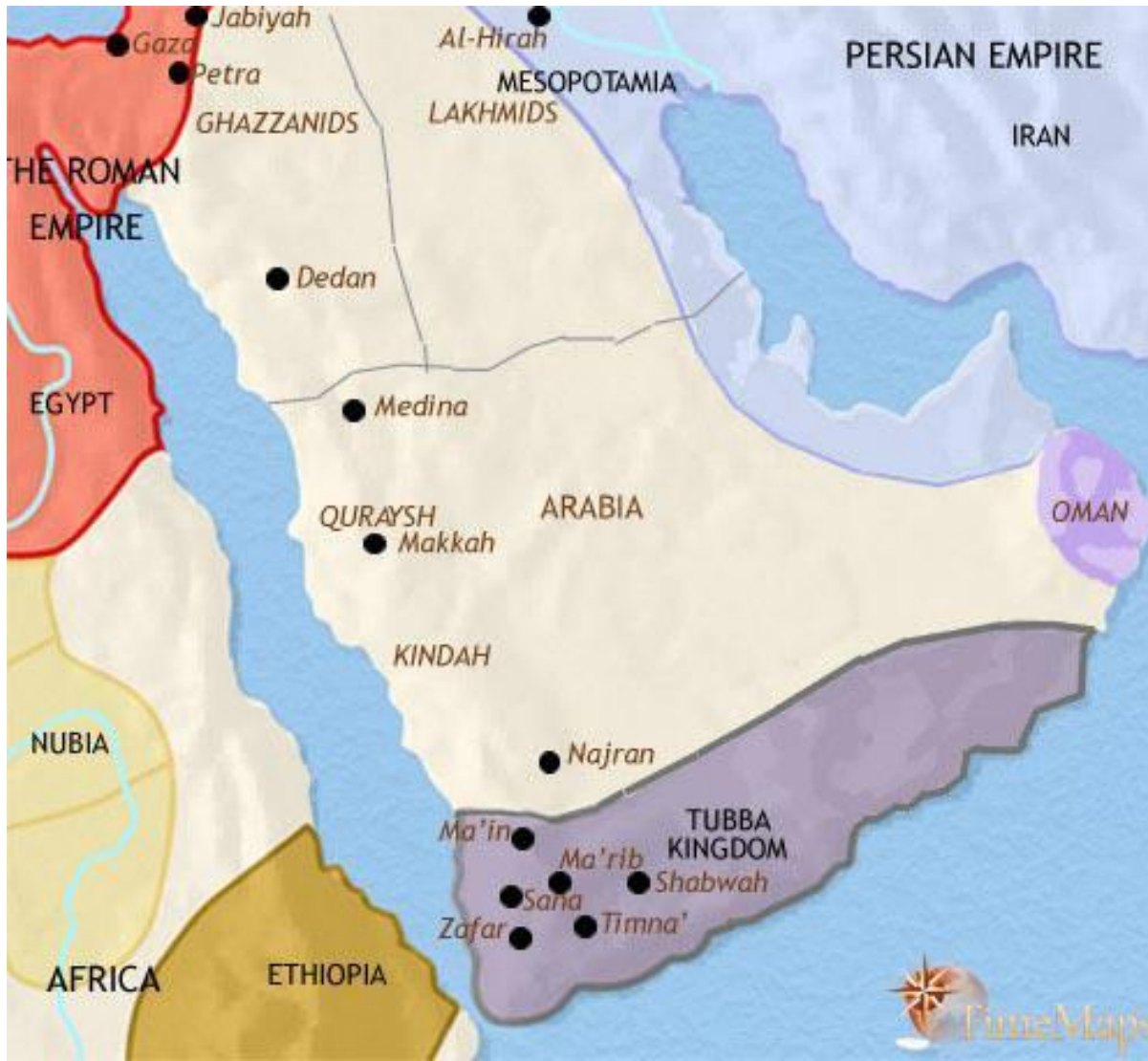


# Old Ka'aba





# 7<sup>th</sup> Century Arabian Peninsula (before Mohammed)



# 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
- Declaring Islam
- In Yathrib
- Abu Bakr, Aisha, Ali
- Mohammed's Death
- Mohammed's succession in question

# Expansion of Islam until 750 C.E.



# Mohammed's Succession

- (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. Appoints his son
- Husain urged to come to Kufa
- Husain summoned in Medina
- Confronted by Umayyad Army
- Rebellion Erupts in Kufa, Mecca, Medina



# Expansion of Islam until 750 C.E.



# 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 12<sup>th</sup> Imam

# Safavid Dynasty

1501 – 1725

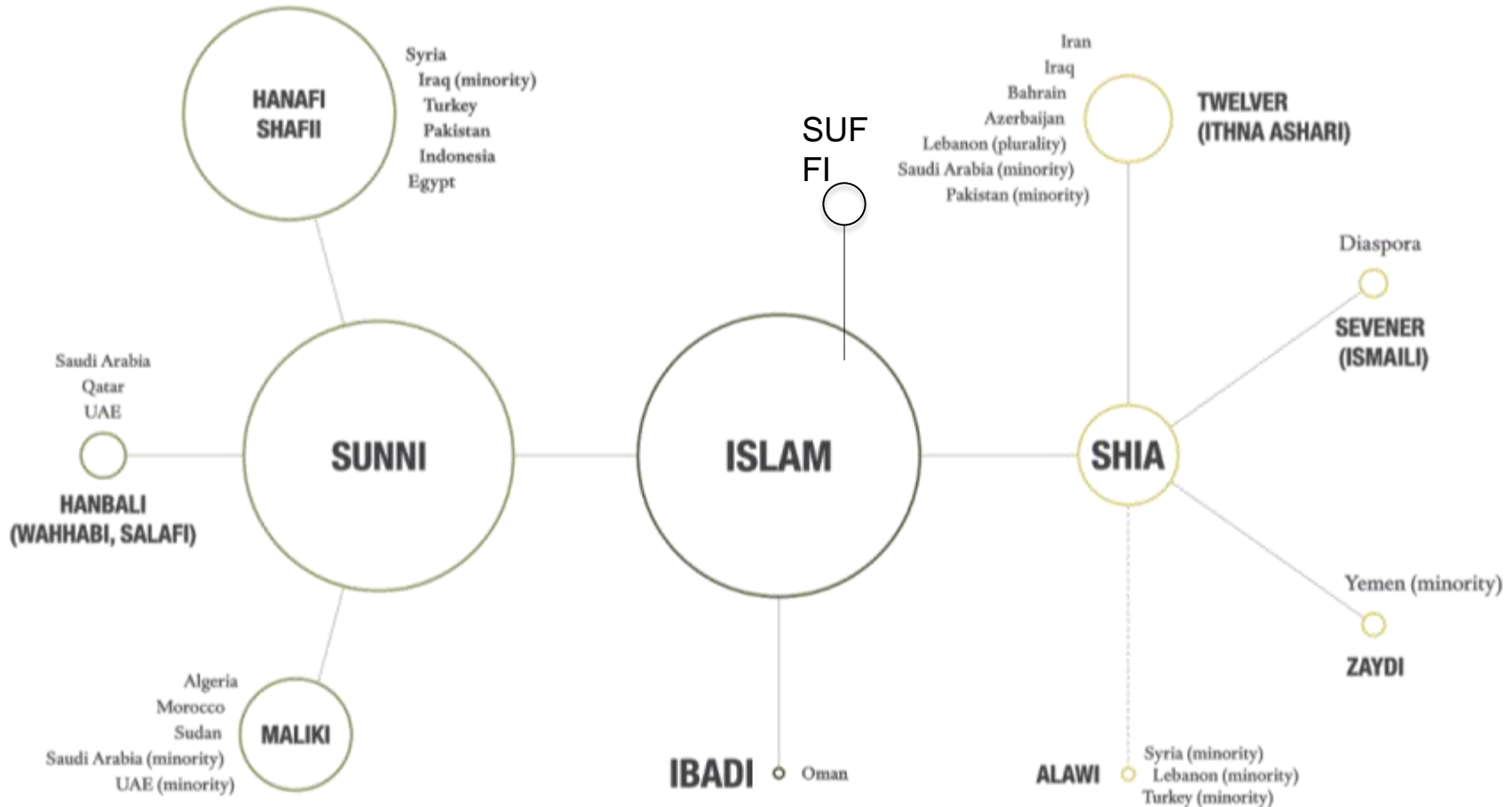
- King (Shah) Ismail conquers Iran
- Proclaims Twelver's Shi'ism the official religion
- Claimed to be the Mehdi
- Battle with the Ottoman (sunni) Empire



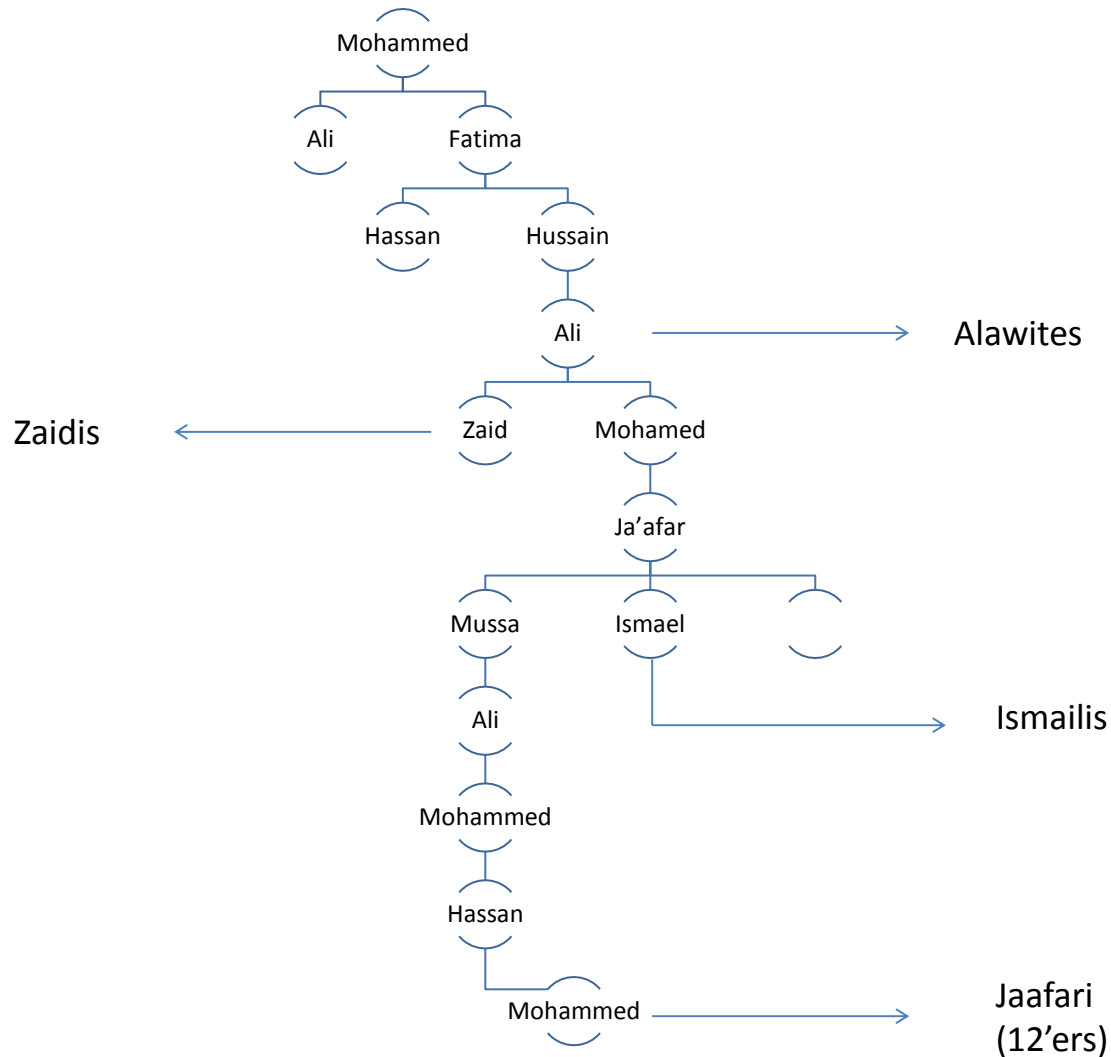
# Branches of Islam

## The Branches of Islam—Relative Size

CLICK ON THE BRANCHES FOR MORE INFORMATION



# Shi'ia Succession



# What Distinguishes Shi'ia

1. Muhammed's succession of faith
2. Salvation through Mehdi (Messiah)
3. Governing (Khomeini....)
4. Religious Establishment
5. Rationalists, vs Traditionalists
6. Husain's martyrdom (680AD)



# Wahabism & Shi'ia

- Founded M. Abd al-Wahhab (1703-65)
- Puritan, fundamentalist, strict movement
- Pact with M. Ibn Saud in Dariya
- Conquering of Mecca & Medina
- **Attack on Karbala (1802)**
- Egyptian Army battle (1818)
- Return in 1920's as The Saudi Kingdom
- Oil Discovery
- Fountain of Fundamentalists and Jihadists

# Sunni-Shi'ia Conflicts

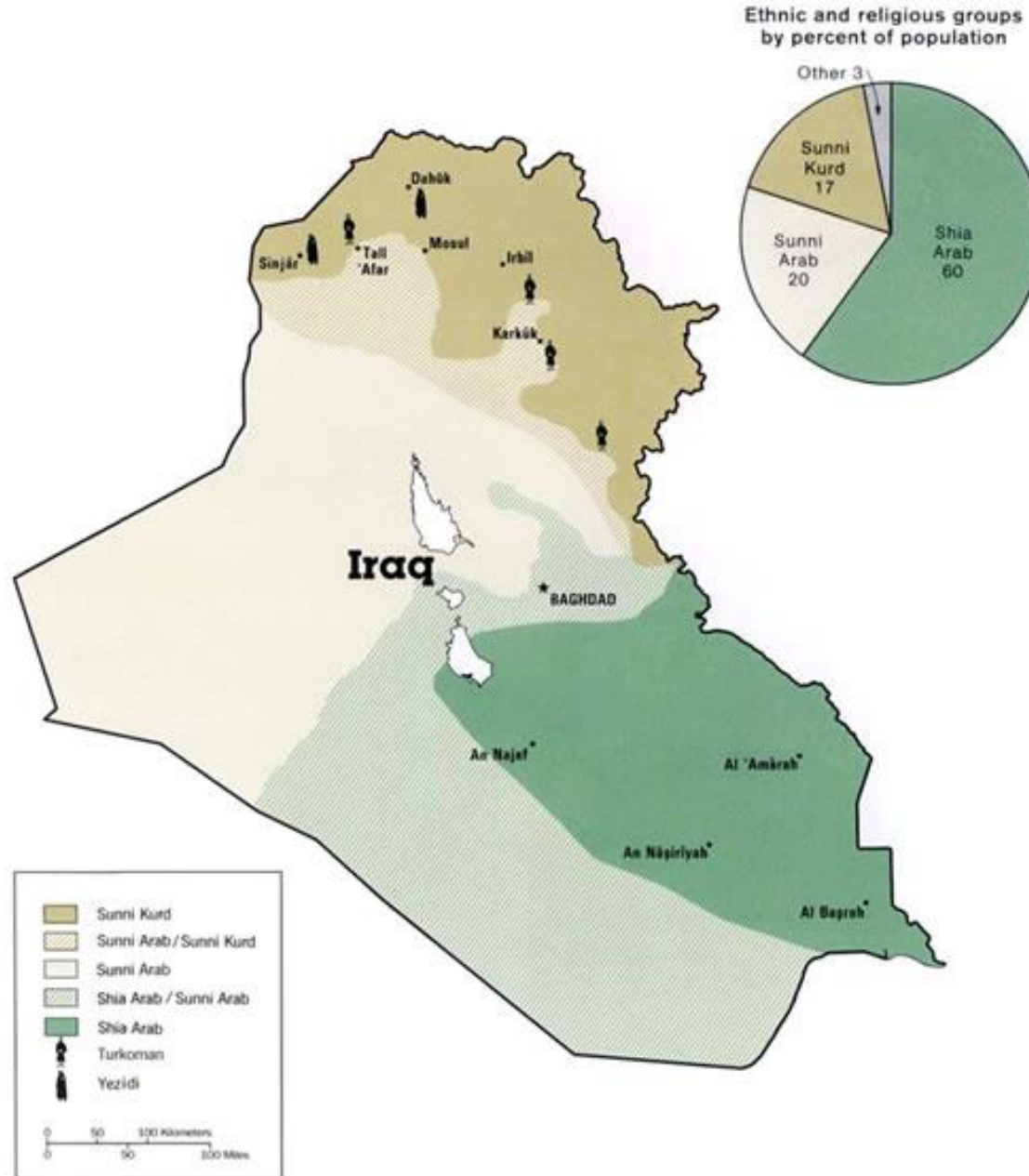
- Shi'ite minorities in Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait
- Clashes in SE Asia – 20<sup>th</sup> Century
- Intimidations during Hajj
- Sunni – Alawites conflict in Syria
- Sunni – Shi'ite conflict in Lebanon
- Sunni – Shi'ite conflict in Yemen
- Saudi – Iranian tension

# Reconciliation Period

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



# Iraq's Ethnic & Religious distribution



# Iraq's Sunni & Shiite

- Amawyat rule & division with Ali
- Shi'ia School born in Kufa, Iraq
- Abbasid rule oppressed Imams of Shi'ia
- Ottomans & Saffavids (1514 AD)
- Kingdom under Faisal gave some freedom
- Diffusion of Sectarianism due to Nationalist movements
- Saddam marginalized and prosecuted Shi'ites
- Iran-Iraq War fuels sectarianism
- Sunni's feel threatened in the new regime

# Conclusions

- Religious conflicts are often fueled by economics and domination reasons
- Divisions become dangerous when one side vilifies the other side
- Religion & culture are intertwined and shape each other with the passage of time
- The tenant of all major religions is social justice. People take different path to implementation.

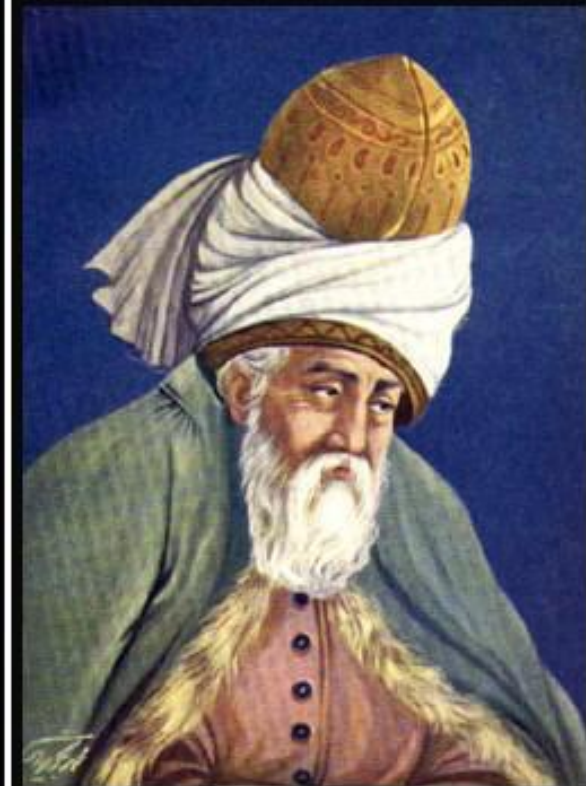
Hafiz Shirazi



**I have learned so much from God that  
I no longer can call myself a Christian,  
a Muslim, a Hindu, a Buddhist, a Jew.**

~ Hafez

حافظ شیرازی



All religions, all this singing, one song. The differences are just illusion and vanity. The sun's light looks a little different on this wall than it does on that wall, and a lot different on this other one, but it's still one light.

(Rumi)