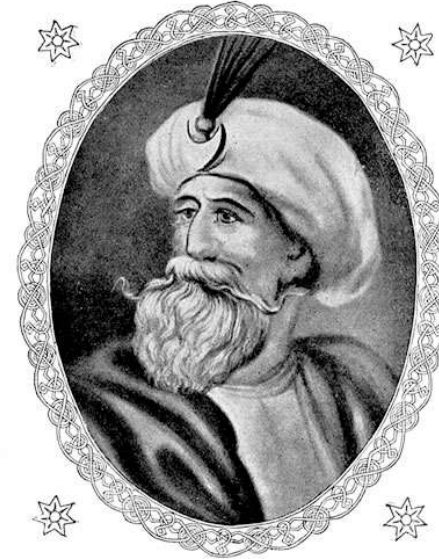




IRAN and Islam



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832-428-1977

www.bataandiary.com/WI.htm







The Amir Kabir, Tehran, 1983

Iran:

The Twelve Shi'a Imams:

1. Ali. Cousin and son-in-law of Muhammad. Assassinated by a Kharijite.
2. Hasan ibn Ali. Oldest twin son of Ali and Fatima. Poisoned by his wife on orders of Umayyad Caliph Muawiyah.
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5. Muhammad al-Baqir. Grandson of Husayn, son of Ali bin Husayn. Respected scholar. Poisoned by Umayyad Caliph Hisham.
6. Jafar al-Sadiq. Descendant of both Ali and abu Bakr. Established Shi'a jurisprudence. Last universally recognized Imam. Poisoned on orders of Abbasid Caliph al-Mansur.
7. Musa al-Kadhim. Third son of Jafar. Jafar's first son, Ismail, predeceased his father and is regarded as the 7th Imam by the Ismaili sect of Shi'ism. Musa is regarded as 7th Imam by the Twelver sect. Died in an Abbasid prison.
8. Ali al-Reza. Popular scholar who Abbasid Caliph al-Ma'mun named as his successor in hopes of gaining Shi'a support for the Caliphate. When Imam Ali al-Reza became more popular than the Caliph, al-Ma'mun poisoned him. He is buried in Mashhad, Iran, and his shrine is the largest Shi'a pilgrimage site. His sister is buried in Qom and her shrine is a major Shi'a pilgrimage site.
9. Muhammad al-Taqi. Caliph al-Ma'mun married his daughter off to Ali al-Reza's son and successor Muhammad al-Taqi. After al-Ma'mun died, the new Caliph, Al-Mu'tasim, had the daughter poison her 24-year old husband, Imam Muhammad al-Taqi.
10. Ali al-Hadi. Teacher, linguist and alleged miracle-worker. Poisoned in Samarra, Iraq by henchmen of Abbasid Caliph Al-Mu'tazz.
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Suggested reading:

Books:

- Polk, William R. *Understanding Iran: Everything You Need to Know, From Persia to the Islamic Republic, From Cyrus to Ahmadinejad.*
- Xenophon. *Cyropaedia: the Education of Cyrus.* (An early biography of Cyrus the Great.)
- Herodotus. *The Histories.* (Story of the wars between the Greek city-states and Cyrus' Persian Empire. Herodotus is sometimes referred to as the "father of history," but he wrote what he heard about without doing much research related to accuracy. Some of what he says is reflective of the times, but not true.)
- Xenophon. *Anabasis of Cyrus* (i.e., *The Persian Expedition*). (First-person account of a failed Greek mercenary expedition into Persia in support of Cyrus the Younger, son of Darius II.)
- Harasta, Jesse. *The History of the Sunni-Shia Split: Understanding the Divisions Within Islam.*
- Shuster, William Morgan, *The Strangling of Persia.*
- Fromkin, David. *A Peace to End All Peace.* (The legacy of World War I)
- Kinzer, Stephen. *All the Shah's Men: An American Coup and the Roots of Middle East Terror.* (Excellent analysis of the Mossadegh Affair.)
- Roosevelt, Kermit. *Countercoup: The Struggle for Control of Iran.* (the Mossadegh Affair straight from the horse's mouth)
- United States Army Command and General Staff College. *After the Countercoup: Advising the Imperial Armed Forces of Iran.*
- Ram, Haggai. *Iranophobia: The Logic of an Israeli Obsession.*
- Eltahawy, Mona. *Headscarves & Hymens: Why the Middle East Needs a Sexual Revolution.*

Movies:

- *Coup 53.* Documentary on British involvement in the Mossadegh Affair.
- *Evolution of a Revolution: Live from Tehran.* Peter Jennings covers the Iranian Revolution. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3aFnGhr_JD8.
- *Rosewater.* Movie by Jon Stewart, based on the book *Then They Came for Me* by Maziar Bahan. Story of a journalist arrested for covering the 2009 Iranian elections.

News sources:

- Al Monitor. An independent Middle East news service based in Washington, D.C. Go to www.al-monitor.com. Click on the blue box labeled "Sign Up for our Newsletters" to the right of the headlines. Click "Daily Briefing," enter your e-mail address and click "Subscribe." They will send you an e-mail. In the e-mail, click "Yes, subscribe me to this list."
- Press TV. The official Iranian news agency broadcasts on some U.S. cable channels. Good examples of the one-sided news coverage which Iranians are allowed to watch--although somewhat toned-down for U.S. consumption.

Today:

- Iran after Cyrus
- Birth of Islam
- Development of Shi'a Islam
- How Iran became a Shi'a state
- Why it matters

Review





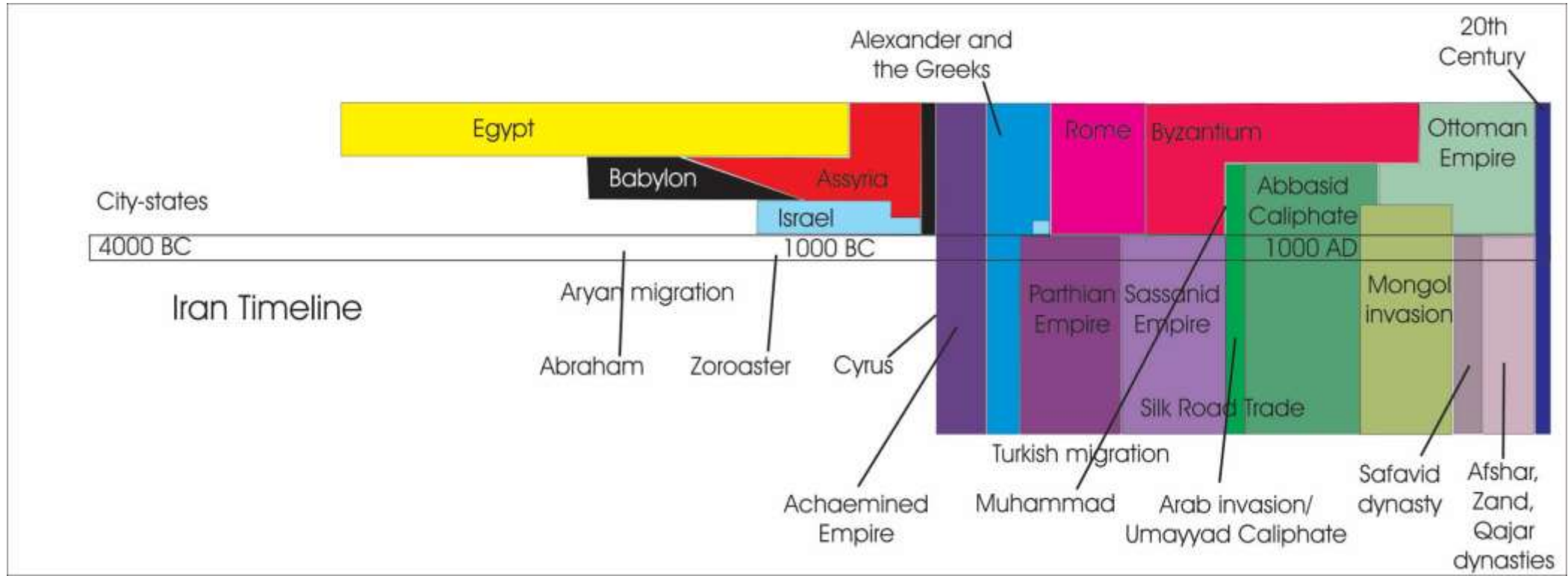






Achaemenid Empire (550 BC – 330 BC)

Alexander the Great



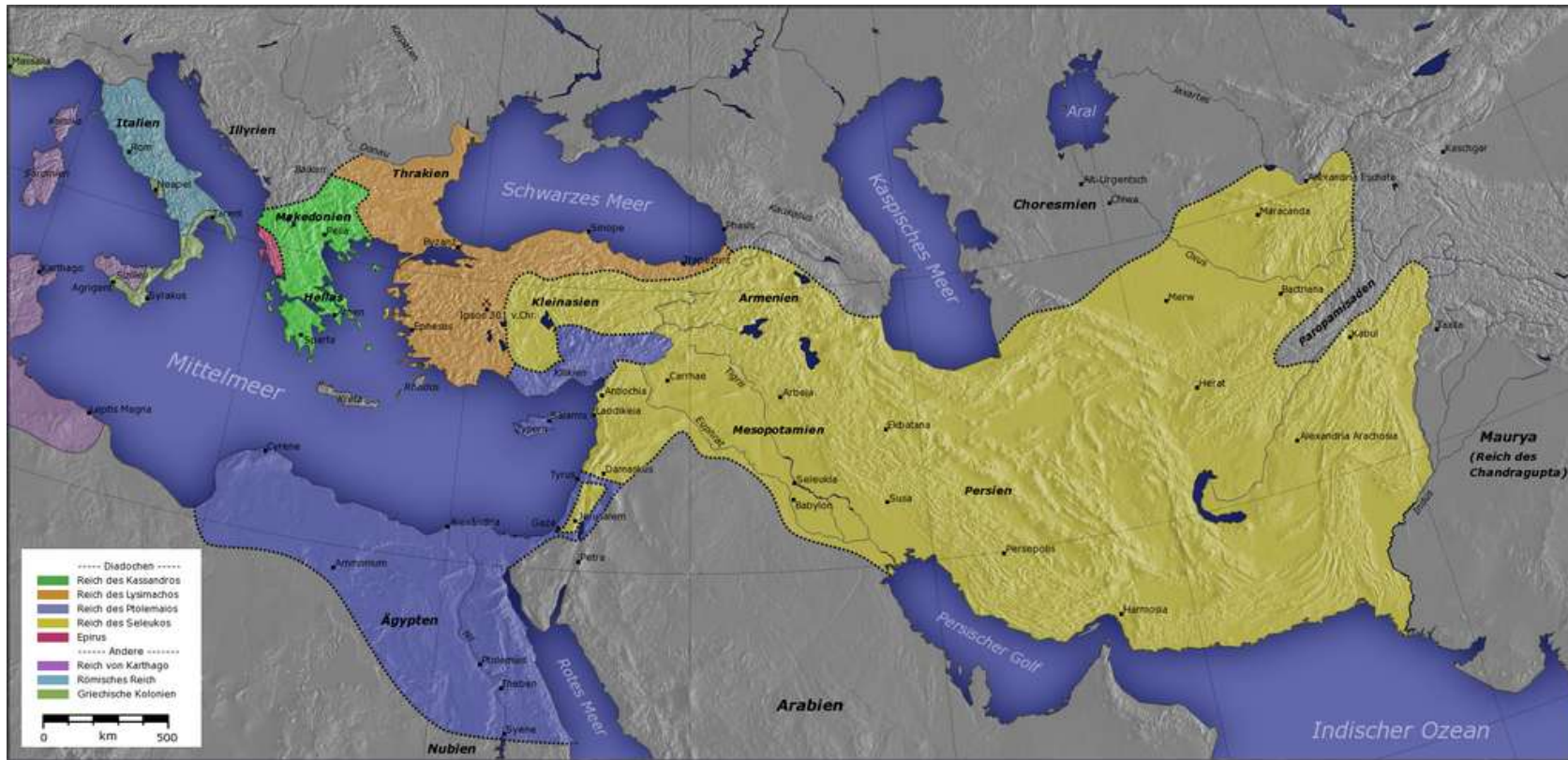








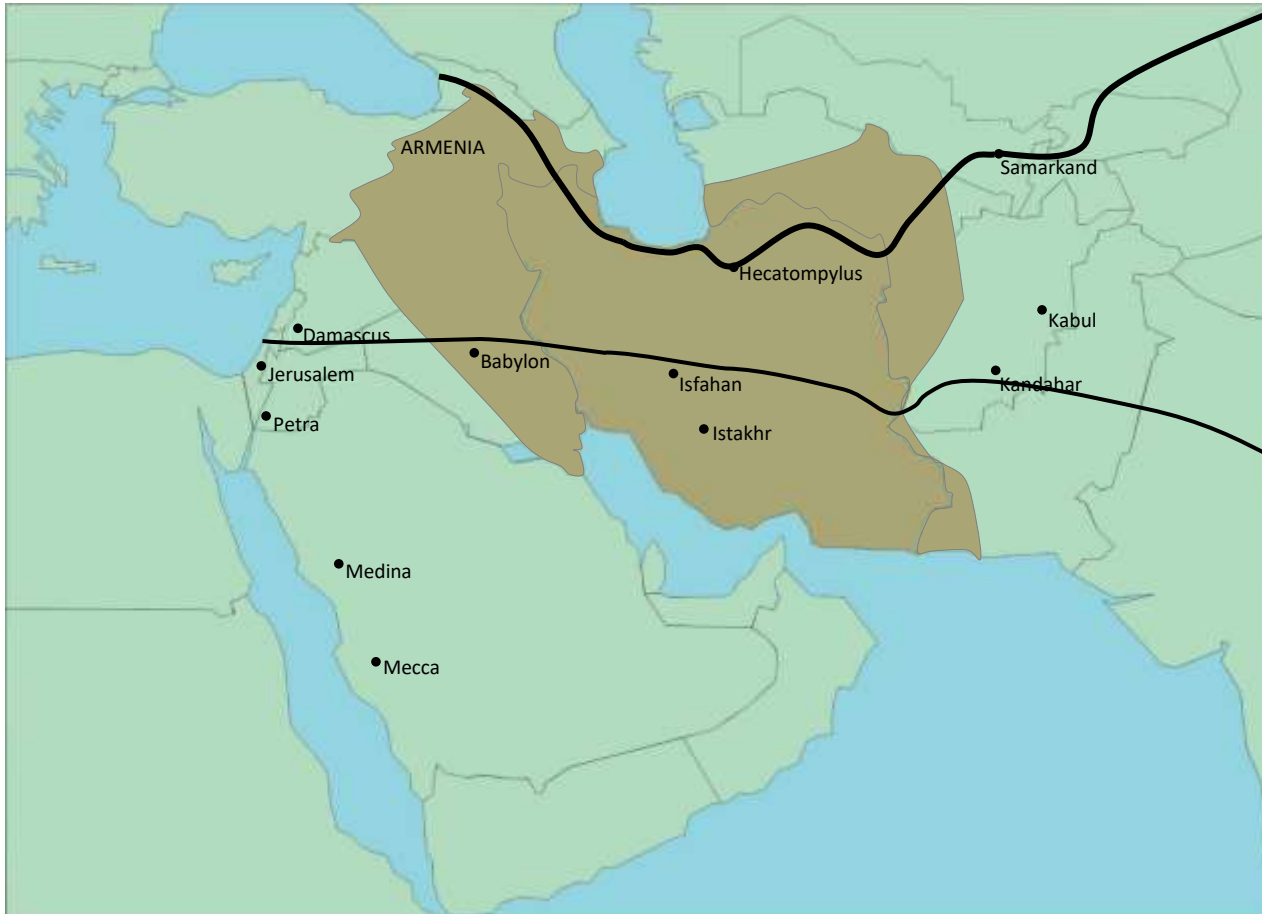
With an effort he turned at last on his side.



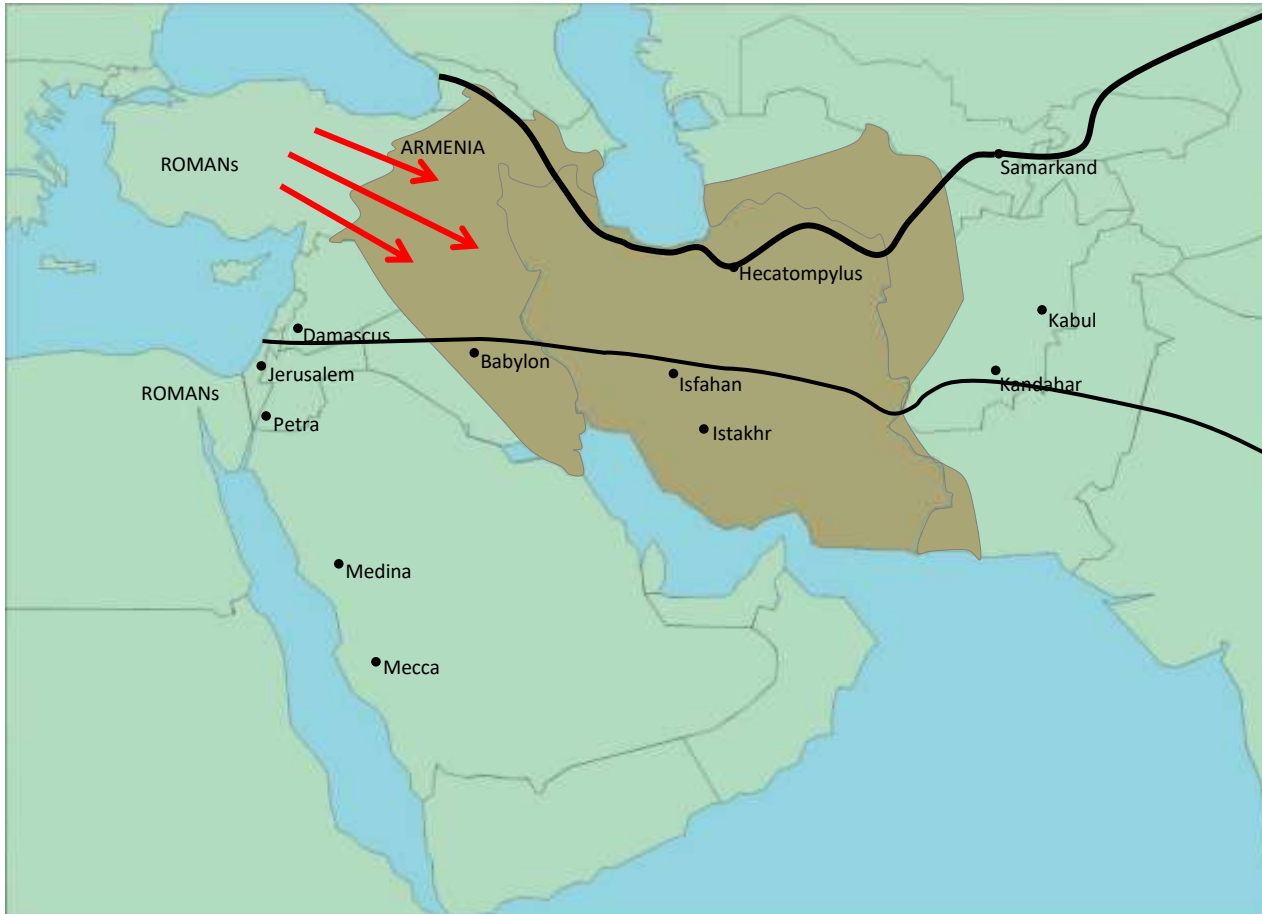
Parthian Empire



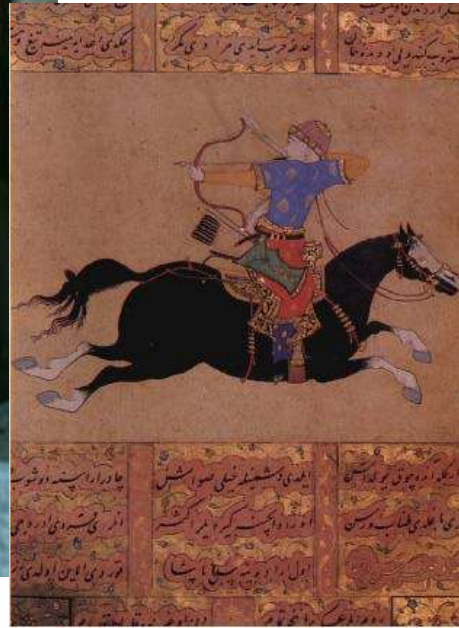
Parthian Empire (247 BC – 224 AD)

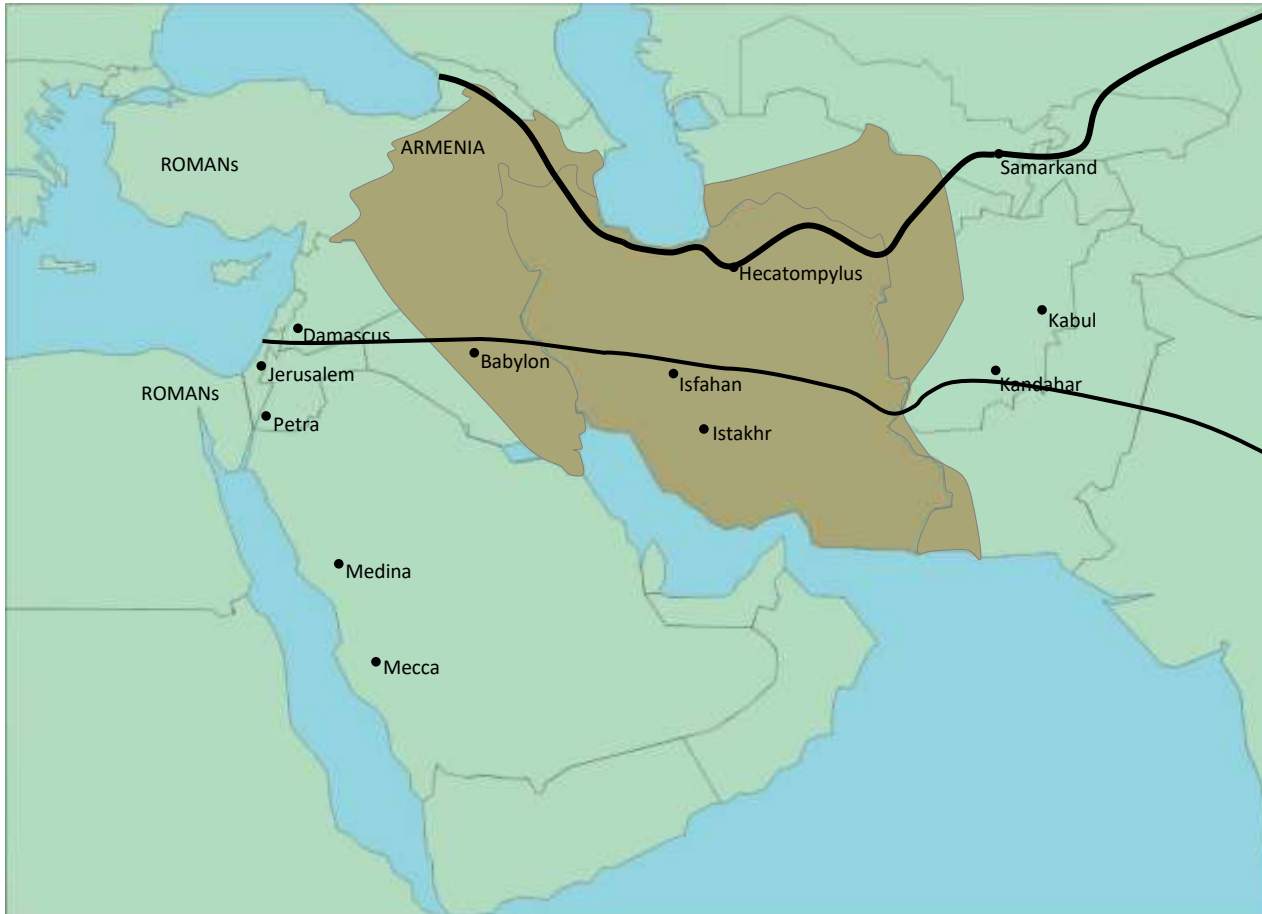


The Silk Road through Parthia



Romans fail to defeat Parthian Iran:
53BC, 59AD, 86AD, 164AD, 196AD.





Religious trends west of Parthian Iran:
Jews and Hanifs, Romans and Jews,
Christians

Sassanid Empire



Sassanid Empire (224 AD – 650 AD)





Naqsh-e Rostam





476 Rome falls, but the Christian Byzantine Empire continues, with its capital at Constantinople.

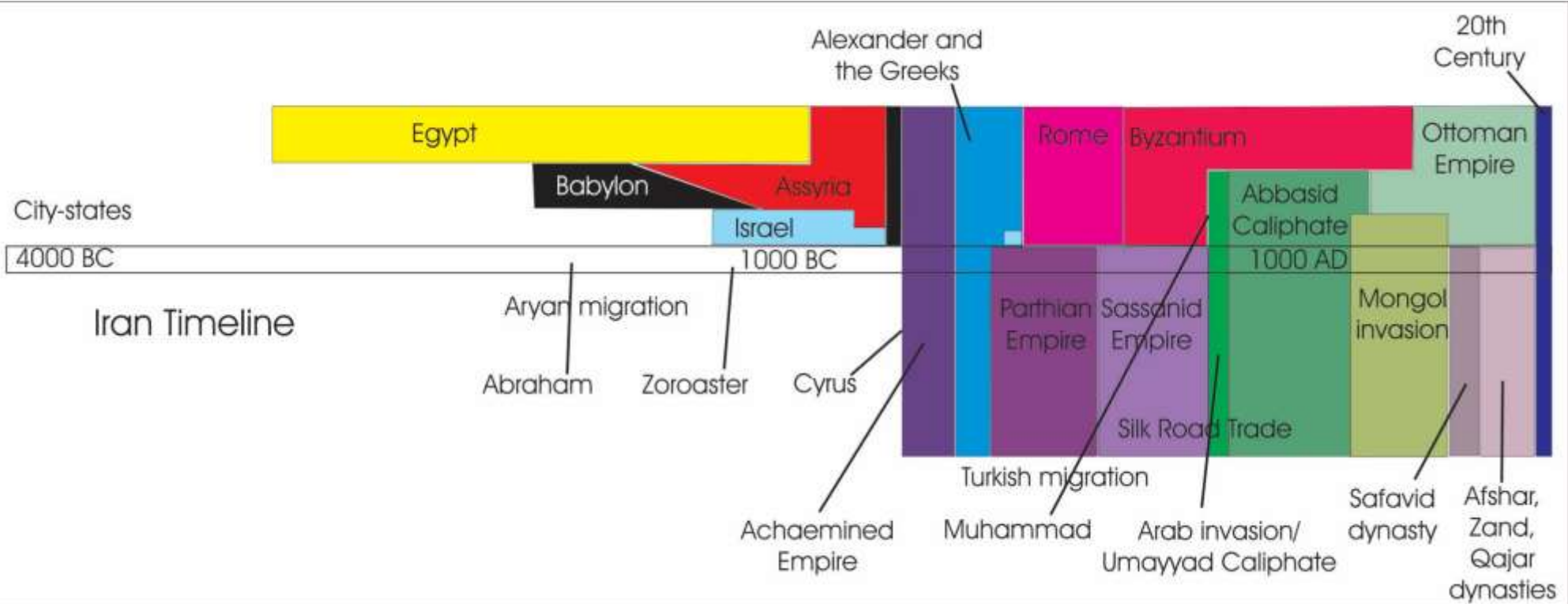


628 Byzantine Emperor Heraclius defeats
Sassinid King Kosrau II

Islam

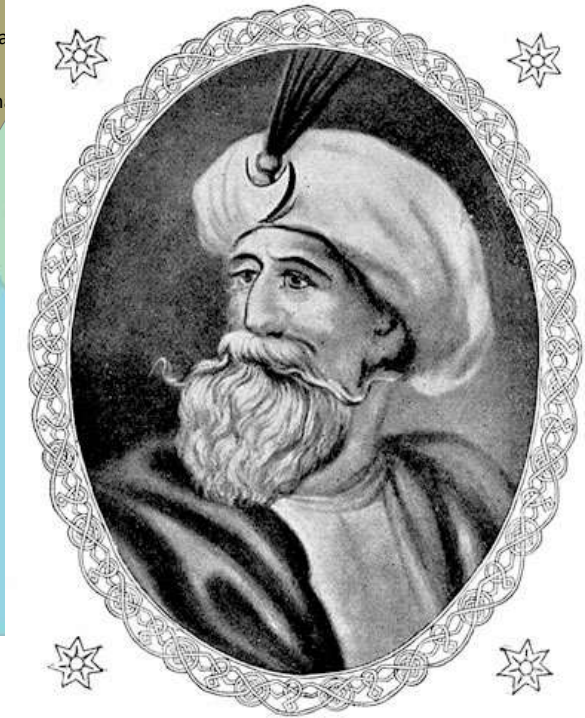
and the Sunni/Shia split

Iran Timeline





570 – Muhammad born in Mecca





The Ka'bah



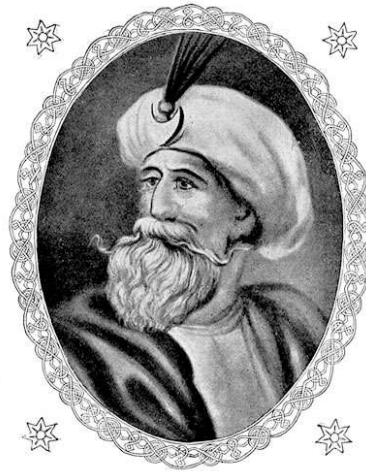
Abu Bakr,
his friend

Umar,
his friend

Uthman,
his friend

Other
friends

Muhammad in Mecca



Muhammad



Khadija,
his wife

Ruqayyah,
their daughter

Fatima,
their daughter

Abu Talib,
his uncle

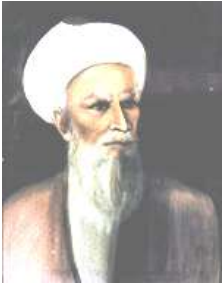


Ali,
his cousin



622 Muhammad moves from Mecca to Medina (the Hijra).

Muhammad in Medina



Abu Bakr,
Muhammad's friend

Umar,
Muhammad's
friend

Uthman,
Muhammad's
friend
and son-in-
law

Other
companions

Aisha,
Abu Bakr's
daughter,
Muhammad's
wife

Ruqayyah,
Muhammad's
daughter



Muhammad

Fatima,
Muhammad's
daughter

Hasan,
Muhammad's
grandson



Ali,
Muhammad's cousin
and son-in-law

Husayn,
Muhammad's
grandson



Abu Bakr, the 1st Caliph
Compiles the Qu'ran



Ali,
Muhammad's cousin
and son-in-law



Rashidun Caliphate under abu Bakr
(with Christian Byzantine Empire and Zoroastrian Sassanid Empire)



633 Caliph abu Bakr attacks the
Sassanid Empire (Iran)



Abu Bakr,
Muhammad's friend



Aisha,
Abu Bakr's
daughter,
Muhammad's
wife



Muhammad

Umar,
Muhammad's
friend

Uthman,
Muhammad's
friend
and son-in-
law

Other
companions

Ruqayyah,
Muhammad's
daughter

Fatima,
Muhammad's
daughter



Ali,
Muhammad's cousin
and son-in-law

Hasan,
Muhammad's
grandson

Husayn,
Muhammad's
grandson



Umar,
The second
Caliph



635 - 642 Caliph Umar defeats Iranian cities and forts



The Rashidun Caliphate (Muslim Empire)
under Umar



Abu Bakr,
Muhammad's friend

Umar,
Muhammad's
friend

Uthman,
Muhammad's
friend
and son-in-
law

Other
companions

Aisha,
Abu Bakr's
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Muhammad

Fatima,
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Hasan,
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grandson



Ali,
Muhammad's cousin
and son-in-law

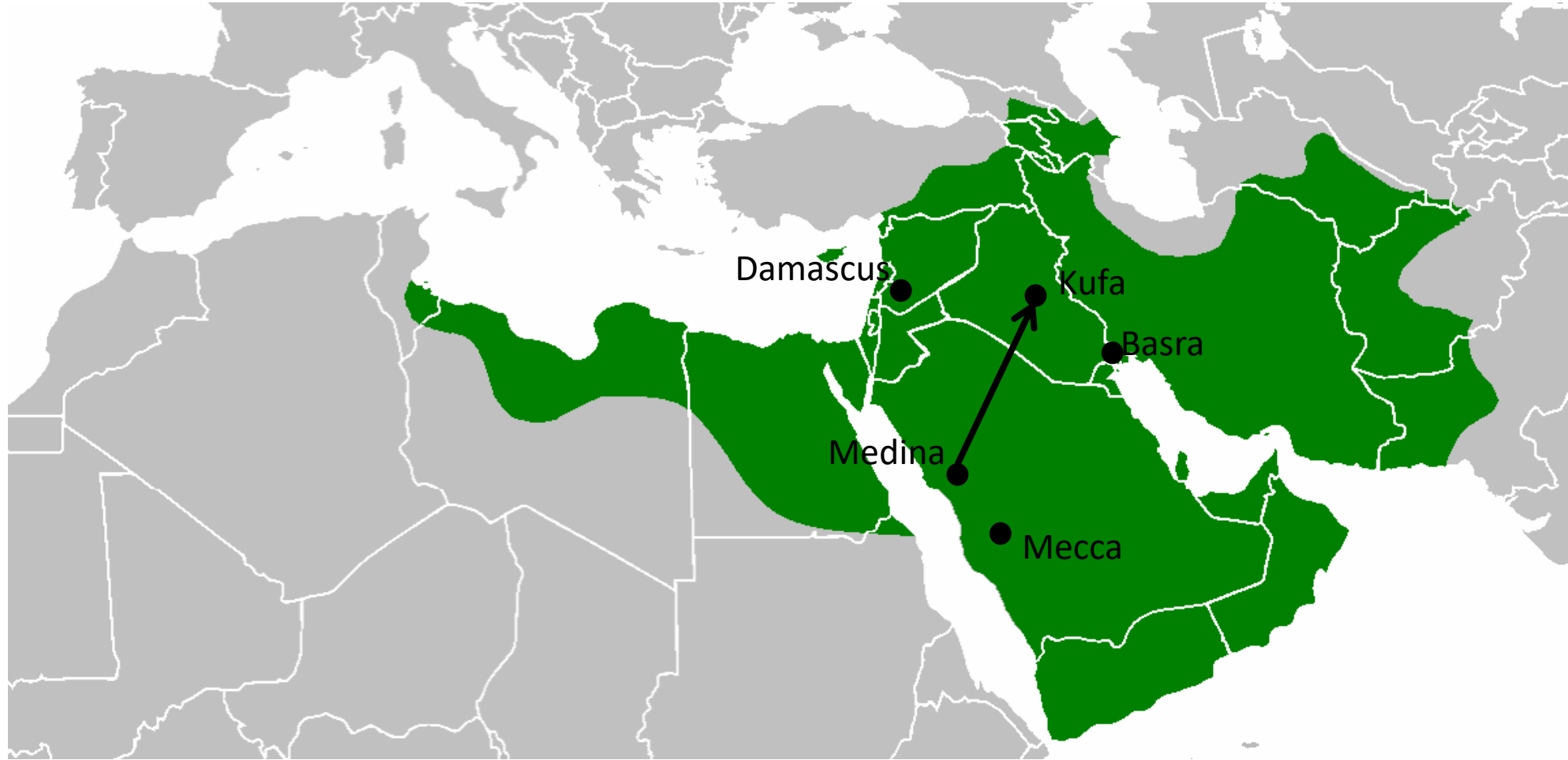
Husayn,
Muhammad's
grandson



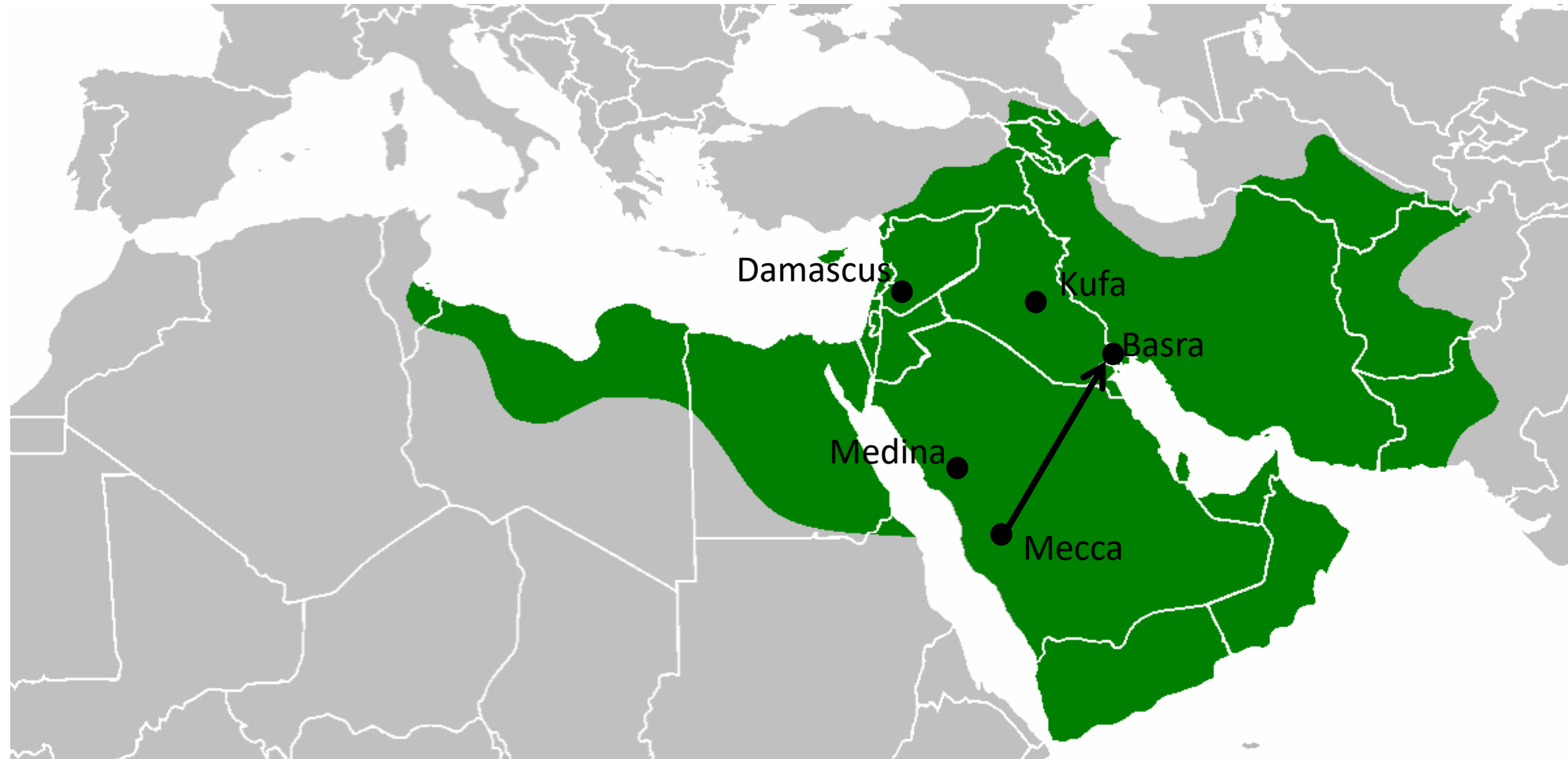
Ali, Muhammad's son-in-law.
The 4th Caliph.

The First Fitna

(Revolt against Ali)



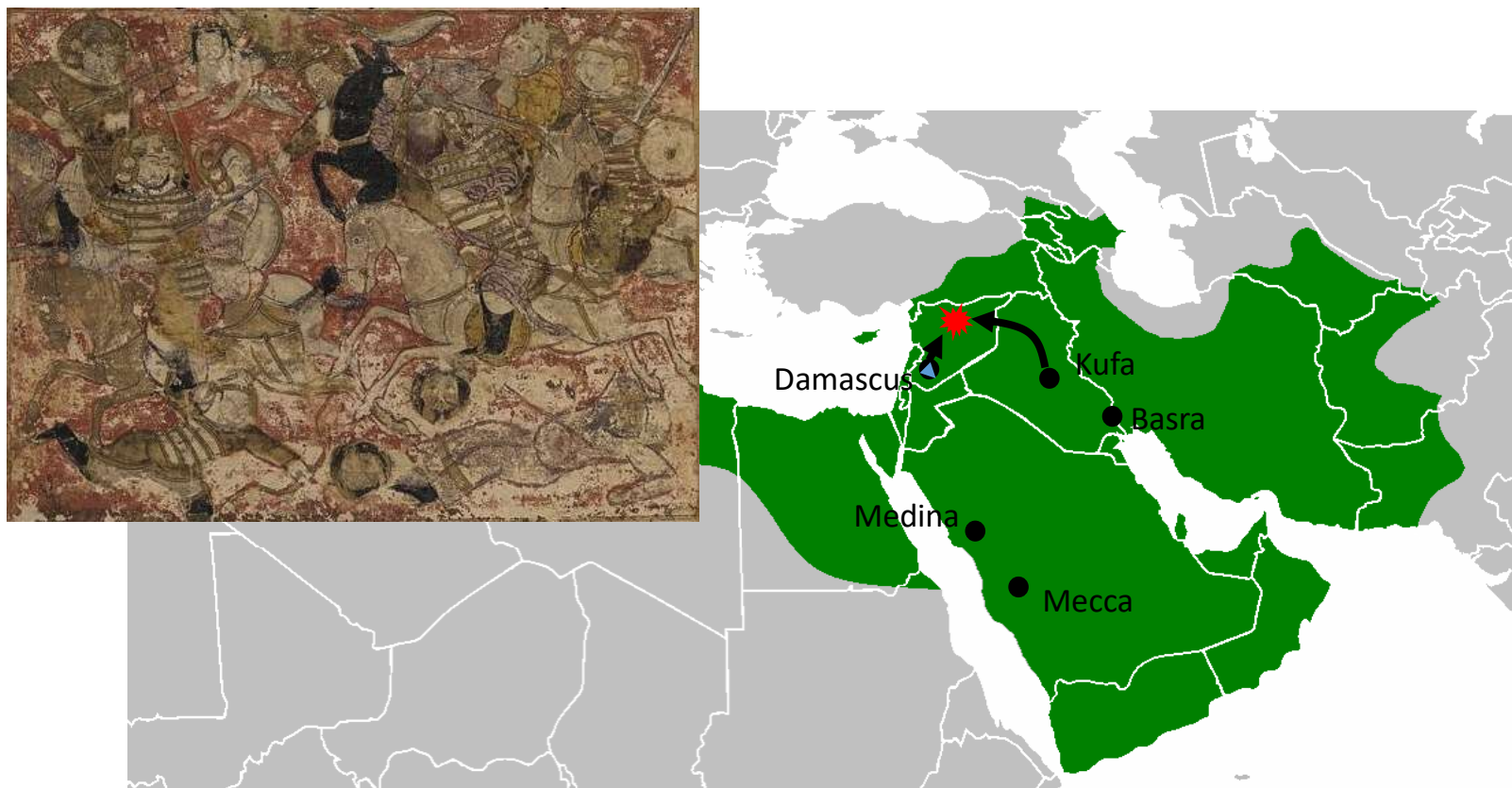
Ali moves his capitol from Medina to
Kufa, Mesopotamia



Aisha goes from Mecca to Basra, and
raises an army to confront Ali



11/7/656 Aisha and Ali meet at the Battle of the Camel.
10,000 dead.



657 Battle of Siffin, 70,000 dead.
After Ali agrees to arbitration, the Kharijites leave him.

Shi'atu Ali = Shi'a
(Partisans of Ali)



Shrine of Imam Ali, Najaf, Iraq

661 Ali's son Hasan makes peace with Muawiyah.



Abu Bakr,
Muhammad's friend

Umar,
Muhammad's
friend

Uthman,
Muhammad's
friend
and son-in-
law

Other
companions

Aisha,
Abu Bakr's
daughter,
Muhammad's
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Ruqayyah,
Muhammad's
daughter



Muhammad

Fatima,
Muhammad's
daughter

Hasan,
Muhammad's
grandson



Ali,
Muhammad's cousin
and son-in-law

Husayn,
Muhammad's
grandson

670 Hasan dies, possibly poisoned by his wife at the direction of Muawiyah.



Abu Bakr,
Muhammad's friend

Umar,
Muhammad's
friend

Uthman,
Muhammad's
friend
and son-in-
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Other
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Muhammad

Fatima,
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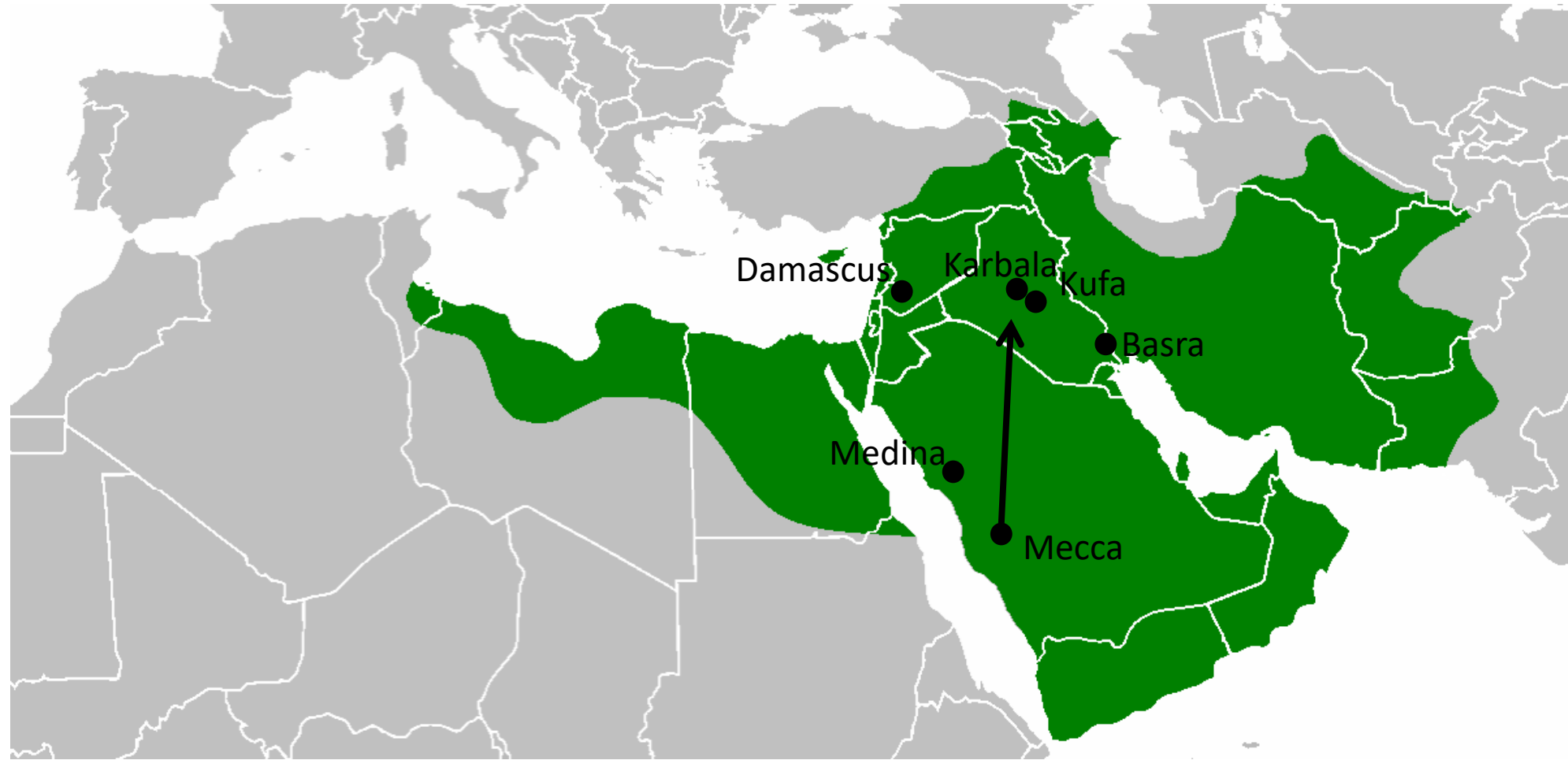


Ali,
Muhammad's cousin
and son-in-law

Husayn,
Muhammad's
grandson

The Second Fitna

(Revolt against Husayn)



September, 680 Husayn goes to Kufa.



Husayn's half-brother, al-Abbas bin Ali, rides to the Euphrates to get water for the children.



Shmir ibn Thil-Jawshan decapitates Husayn
at the Battle of Karbala, 680 AD





Imam Husayn Mosque, Karbala, Iraq



Photo: Ali Khara

Fars News Agency

Muhammad

Sunni Caliphs:

1. Abu Bakr
2. Umar
3. Uthman
4. Ali
5. Muawiyah
6. Yazid
7. Muawiyah II
8. .
9. .

Shi'a Imams:

1. Ali
2. Hasan
3. Husayn
4. Ali ibn Husayn
5. .
6. .

Iran:

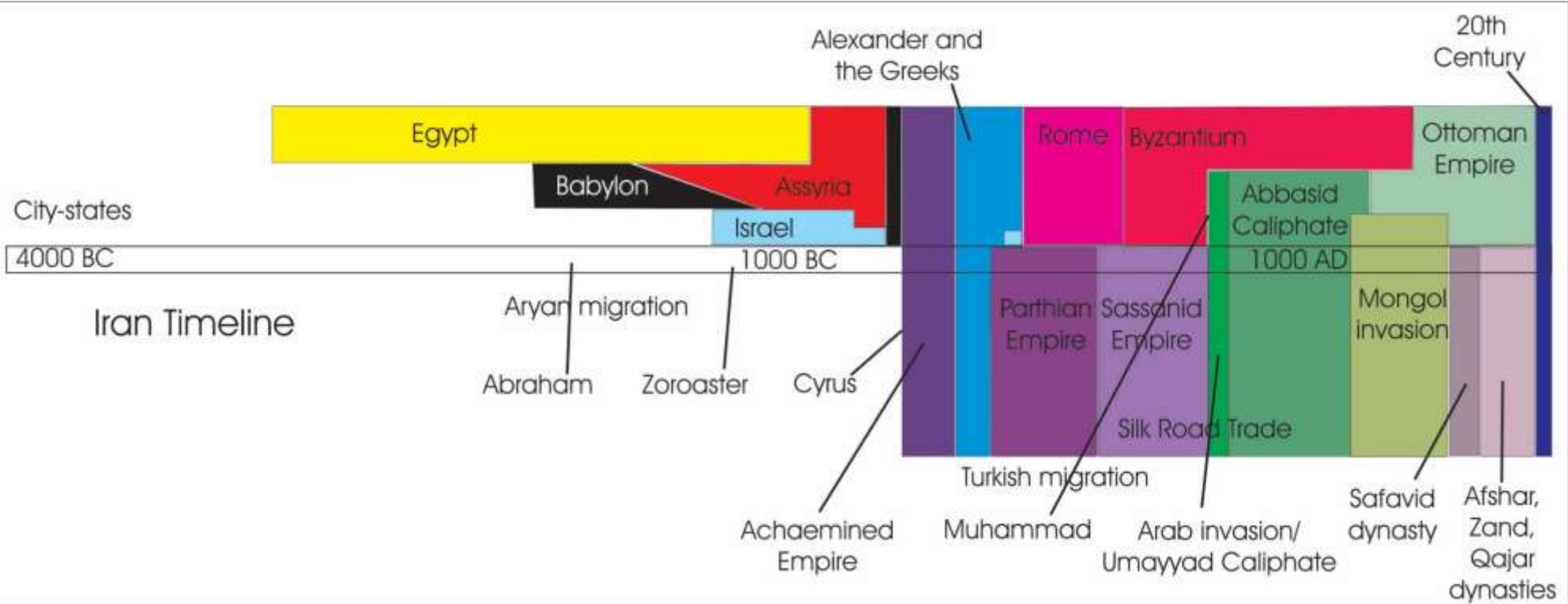
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The Third Fitna

(the Abbasid Caliphate)

Iran Timeline





Umayyad Caliphate (Muslim Empire) 750 AD

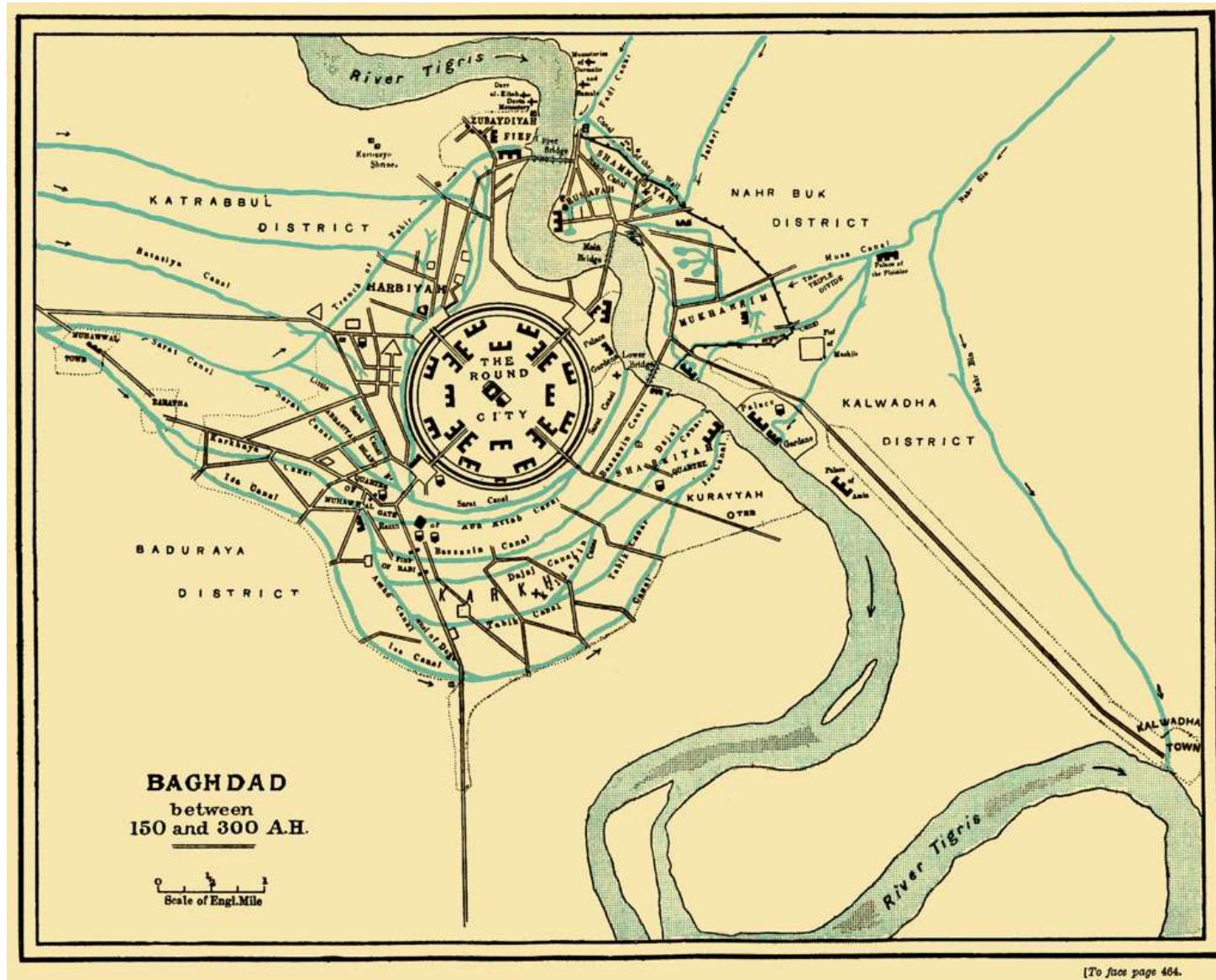
Charity Muslims pay annually: *Zakat*

Tax on dhimmis: *Jizya*

Dhimmi. A non-Muslim community within a Muslim area.



Abbasid Caliphate, 750 - 1258



City of Baghdad, 767 – 912 AD



Mustansiriya University,
Baghdad



Ibn al-Haytham,
“father of Optics.”



Jabar ibn Hayyan,
“father of Chemistry.”



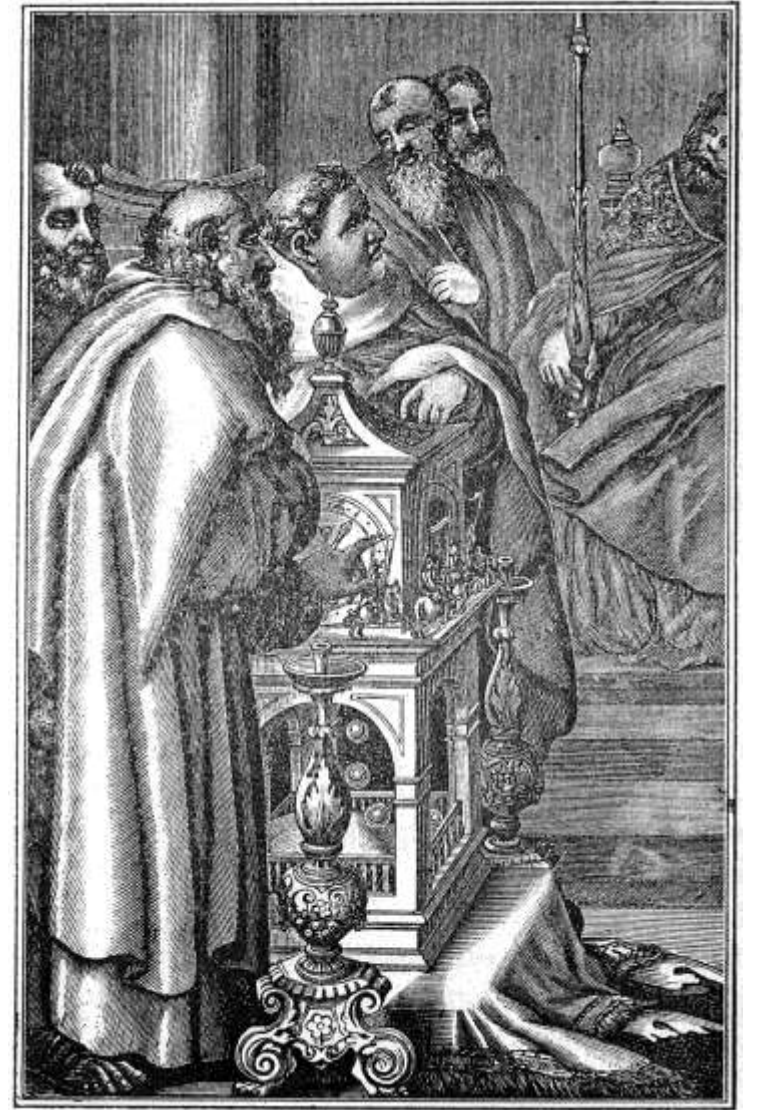
Abbasid style windmill, in Syria



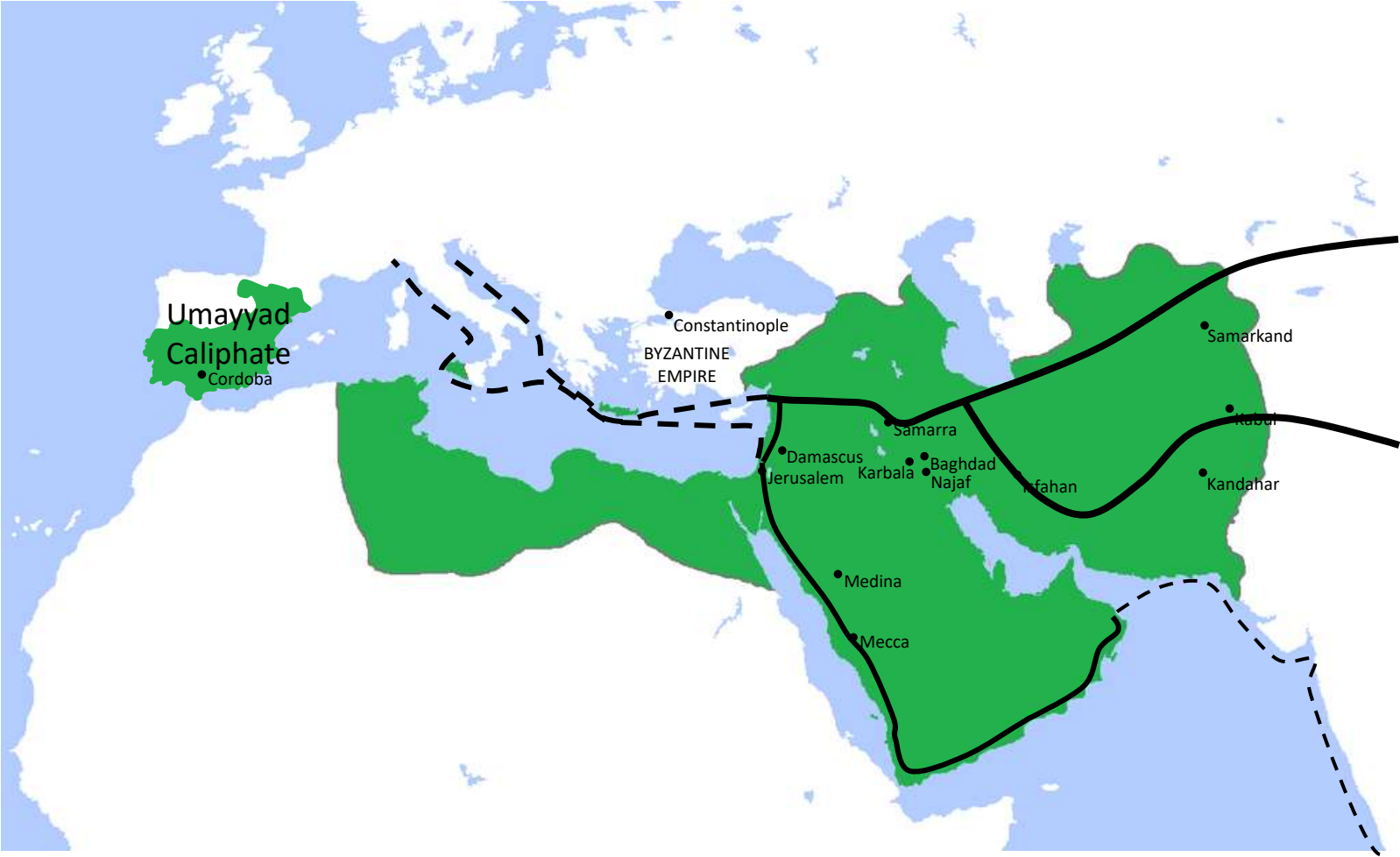
Astrolabe



Illustration from *Arabian Nights*

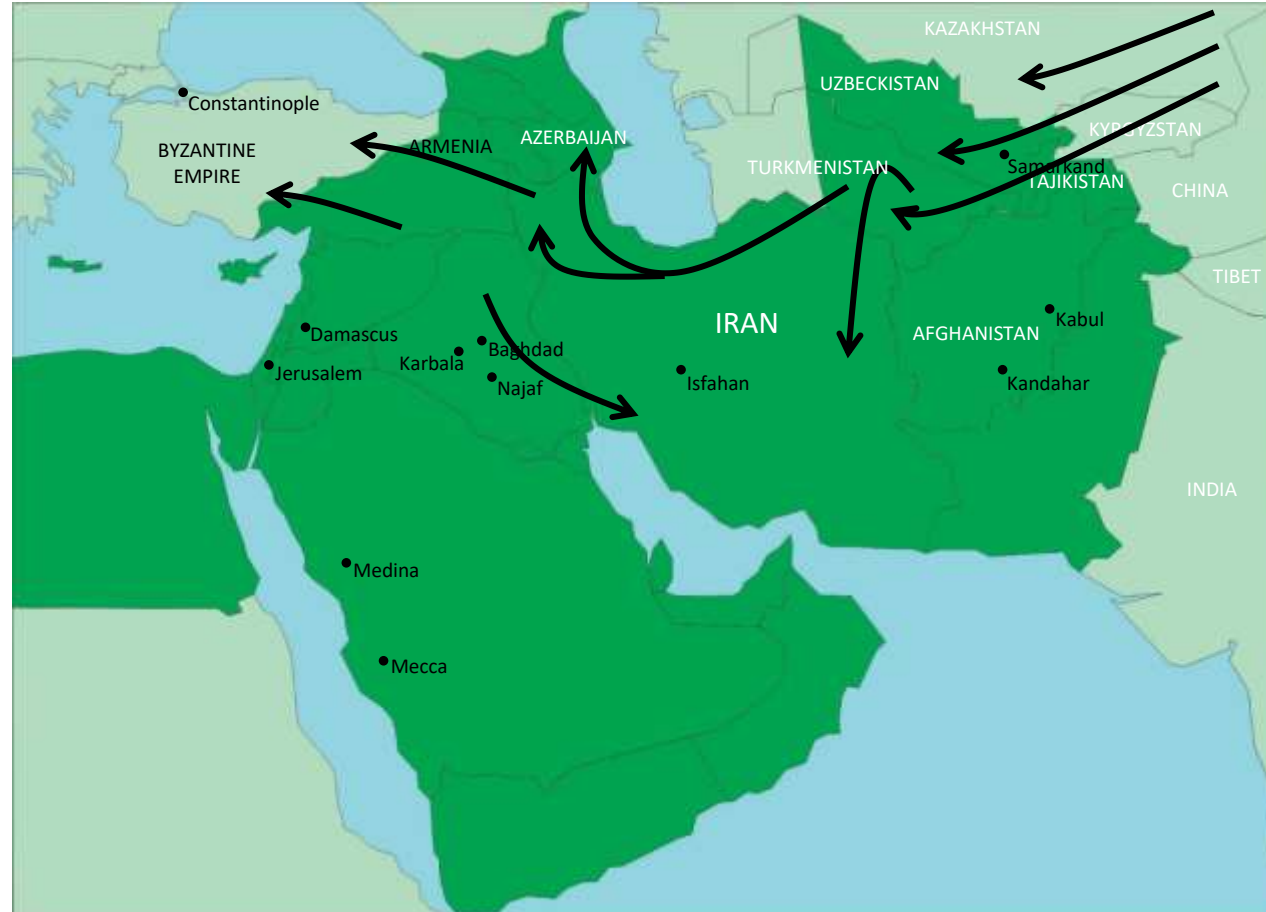


Water clock given to Charlemagne
by Harun al-Rashid



Abbasid Caliphate, 750 - 1258

Turkish Migration

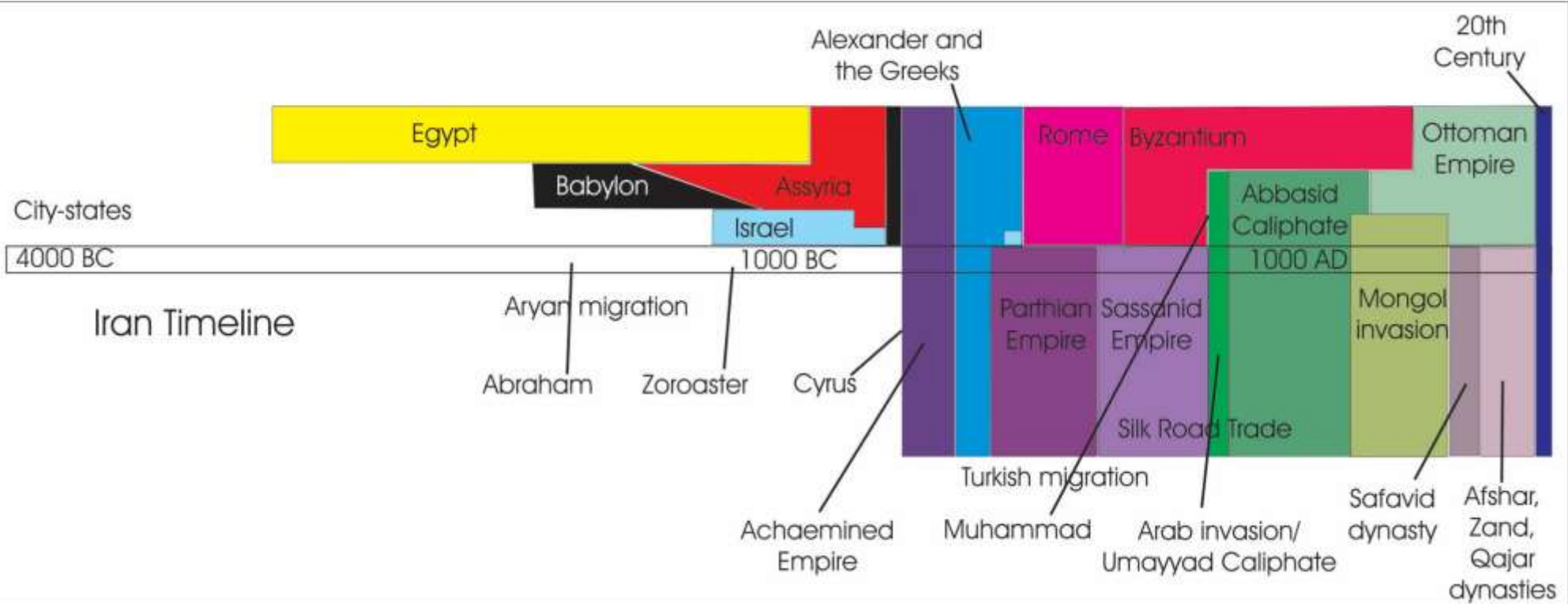


Turkish migration/invasion, 900 BC – 1200 AD



Pashto

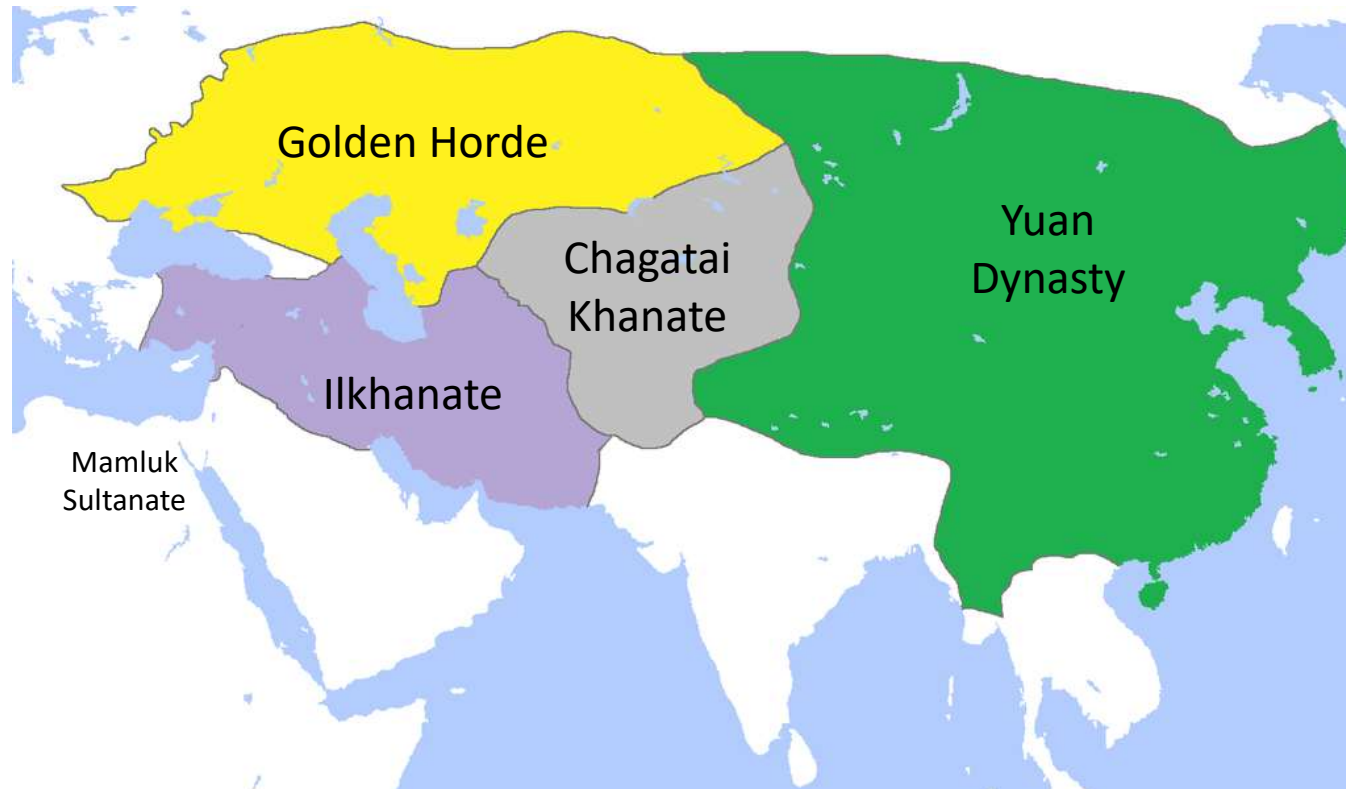
Iran Timeline



The Mongol invasion



Mongol invasion, 1221 – 1258 AD



1300—the Mongol Empire divides into four parts.



Empire of Timur (Tamerlane), 1370 – 1405 AD

Sunni and Shi'a theological differences:

1. Shi'a believe that Ali should have been the first Caliph. He is the first Shi'a Imam. (Sunnis call the prayer-leader at a mosque "Imam.")

2. Shi'a believe that members of the Prophet's family are better qualified, or even divinely selected, to lead the faith. Sunnis believe that the advisors should pick the best qualified person to be the leader.

3. Shi'a believe the 12th (or 7th) Imam is in occultation and will return as the Mahdi (Messiah) at the End-times. Sunnis believe the Mahdi is unknown and will be revealed by God at the End-times.

4. Shi'a have a formal, trained clergy. Sunnis have a lay clergy.

5. Sunnis believe that the clergy should be the government. Shi'a believe there should be a secular government so the clergy can devote themselves to the people's spiritual welfare.

6. Fundamentalist Sunnis believe that the Shi'a reject abu Baker, Umar and Uthman as Caliphs, and therefore Shi'a are apostates.

7. Shi'a regard their Imams and certain others as "saints" and build shrines to them. Fundamentalist Sunnis regard any monuments or reverence of ancestors as idol-worship , and therefore see the Shi'a as heretics.



Tomb of ul-Baqi in Medina, Saudi Arabia. Burial site of four Shi'a Imams, including the 2nd Imam, Hasan ibn Ali, and the 4th, 5th and 6th Imams.



Remains of the Tomb of ul-Baqi after destruction by extremist Wahhabis in 1806 and again in 1925.



8/29/03. Abu Mus'ab al-Zarqawi, founder of ISIS, truck-bombs the Imam Ali Mosque in Najaf, the most sacred site in Shi'a Islam. 125 worshippers killed.





3/2/04. Ashura. Abu Mus'ab al-Zarqawi has nine bombs set off simultaneously in the Imam Hussein Mosque in Karbala. 178 worshippers killed.

Al Qaeda in Iraq (Sunni) attacks on the Imam Hussein Mosque in Karbala:

3/2/04 9 explosions on Ashura Day kill 178

12/15/04 bomb at mosque gate kills 7

1/5/06 suicide bomber kills 60

4/14/07 suicide bomber kills 36

3/17/08 female suicide bomber kills 42

9/11/08 bomb blast outside the mosque kills 1

2/12/09 bomb during Arba'een celebration kills 8

2/1/10 female suicide bomber during Arba'een kills 54

2/3/10 bomb during Arba'een celebration kills 23

2/5/10 multiple bombs during Arba'een kill 42





Cyrus--Empire



Husayn—bravery and self-sacrifice.
Stand up for what is right.



Ali—do not give up
what is rightfully yours

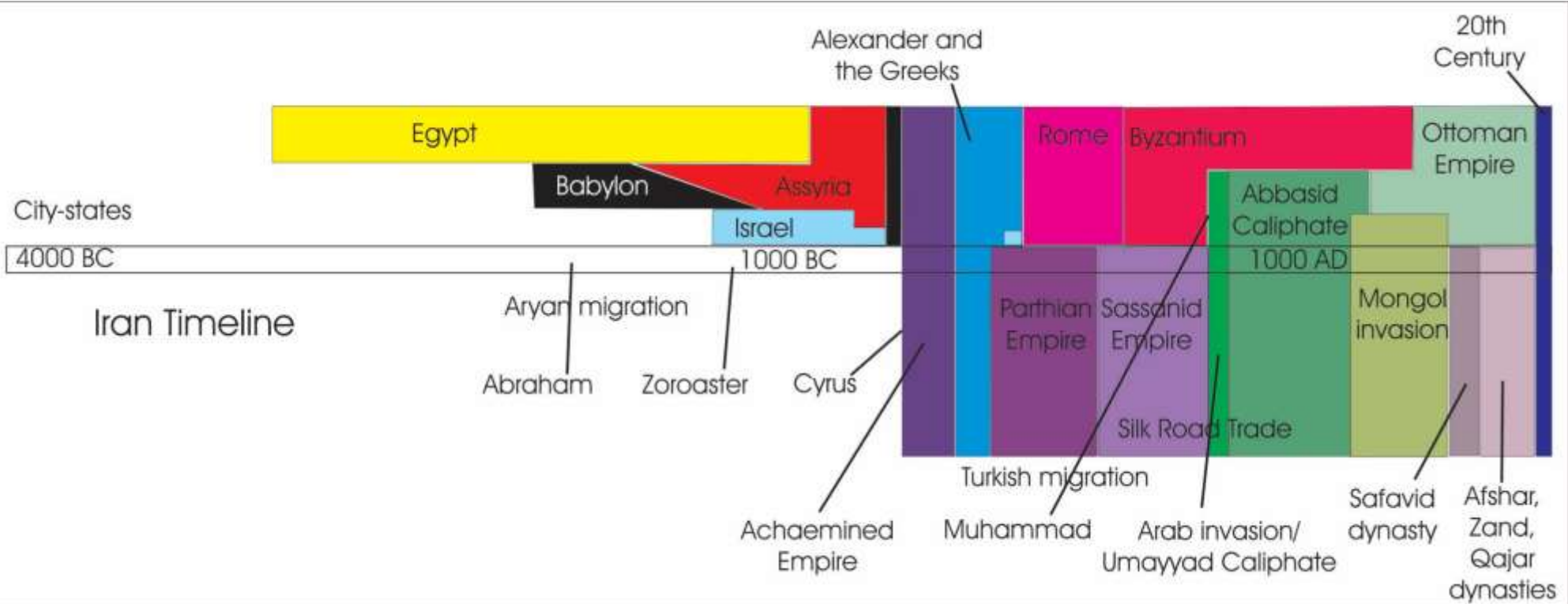


Ali and Aisha—forgiveness



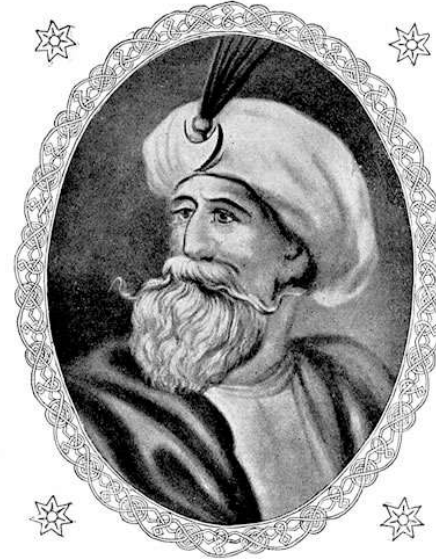
Al Abbas bin Ali—when you have
an important mission, stick to it.
(Children are important.)

Iran Timeline





IRAN



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www.bataandiary.com/WI.htm