

# World Religions

## Islam

Ross Arnold, Summer 2015

# World Religion Lectures

- August 21 – *Introduction: A Universal Human Experience*
- August 28 – *Hinduism*
- September 4 – *Judaism*
- September 18 – *Religions of China & Japan (Taoism, Confucianism, Shinto)*
- September 25 – *Christianity*
- **October 2 – Islam**
- October 9 – *Animism, New Age, Atheism, Secularism*

# Today's World Religions by Date of Founding

	<u>Pop. (000s)</u>	<u>% of World</u>	<u>Founded (c.)</u>	<u>Where</u>
Hinduism	1,100,000	12.65%	4000-2500BC	Indus Valley
Judaism	14,000	0.20%	2000 BC	Palestine
Buddhism	488,000	5.29%	560-490 BC	India
Chinese Trad. <sup>1</sup>	394,000	5.54%	500 BC	China
Shinto	4,000	0.06%	500 BC	Japan
Jainism	4,200	0.06%	500 BC	India
Christianity	2,200,000	29.52%	30 AD	Palestine
<b>Islam</b>	<b>1,600,000</b>	<b>21.09%</b>	<b>622 AD</b>	<b>Arabia</b>
Sikhism	28,000	0.32%	1499 AD	India
Bah'aism	7,300	0.10%	1863 AD	Persia
Other <sup>2</sup>	690,000	9.70%		
Non-relig. <sup>3</sup>	1,100,000	15.46%		

<sup>1</sup> Includes Confucianism, Taoism, Shamanism

<sup>2</sup> Includes all other smaller religious affiliations identified

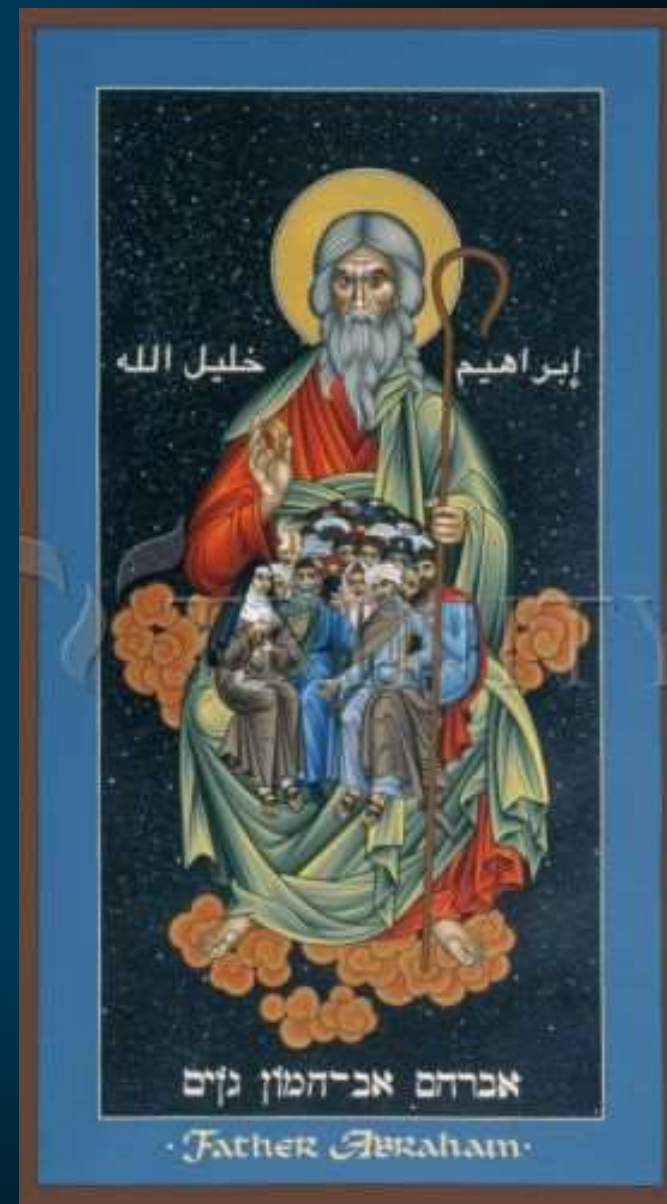
<sup>3</sup> Includes secular, non-religious, agnostic and atheist

# Families of Religions

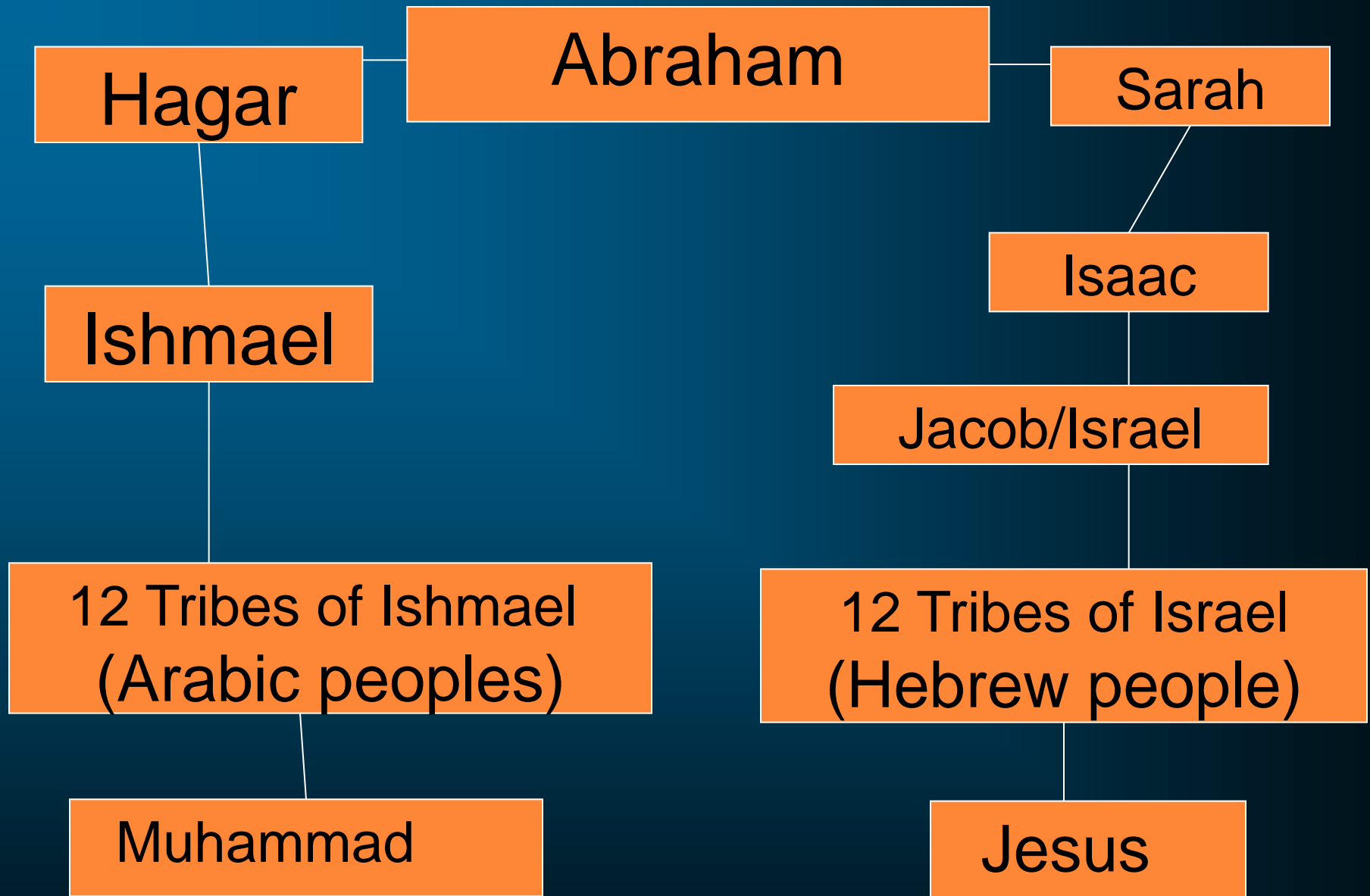
1. **Abrahamic** monotheisms of Judaism, Christianity & Islam.
2. **Dharmic** religions that began in India, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism & Sikhism.
3. **Taoic** religions of the Far East, especially China and Japan, including Taoism, Confucianism and Shinto (*along with versions of Buddhism*).

*And sometimes also ...*

4. **Iranian** religions that predate Islam, including Zoroastrianism, Madaeism and the Kurdish Yazdanism faiths (Yazidi, Alevi, etc.).



**Father Abraham** — the world's first monotheist, and source of all three great monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam.









لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ

Prophet Muhammad  
570-632 AD





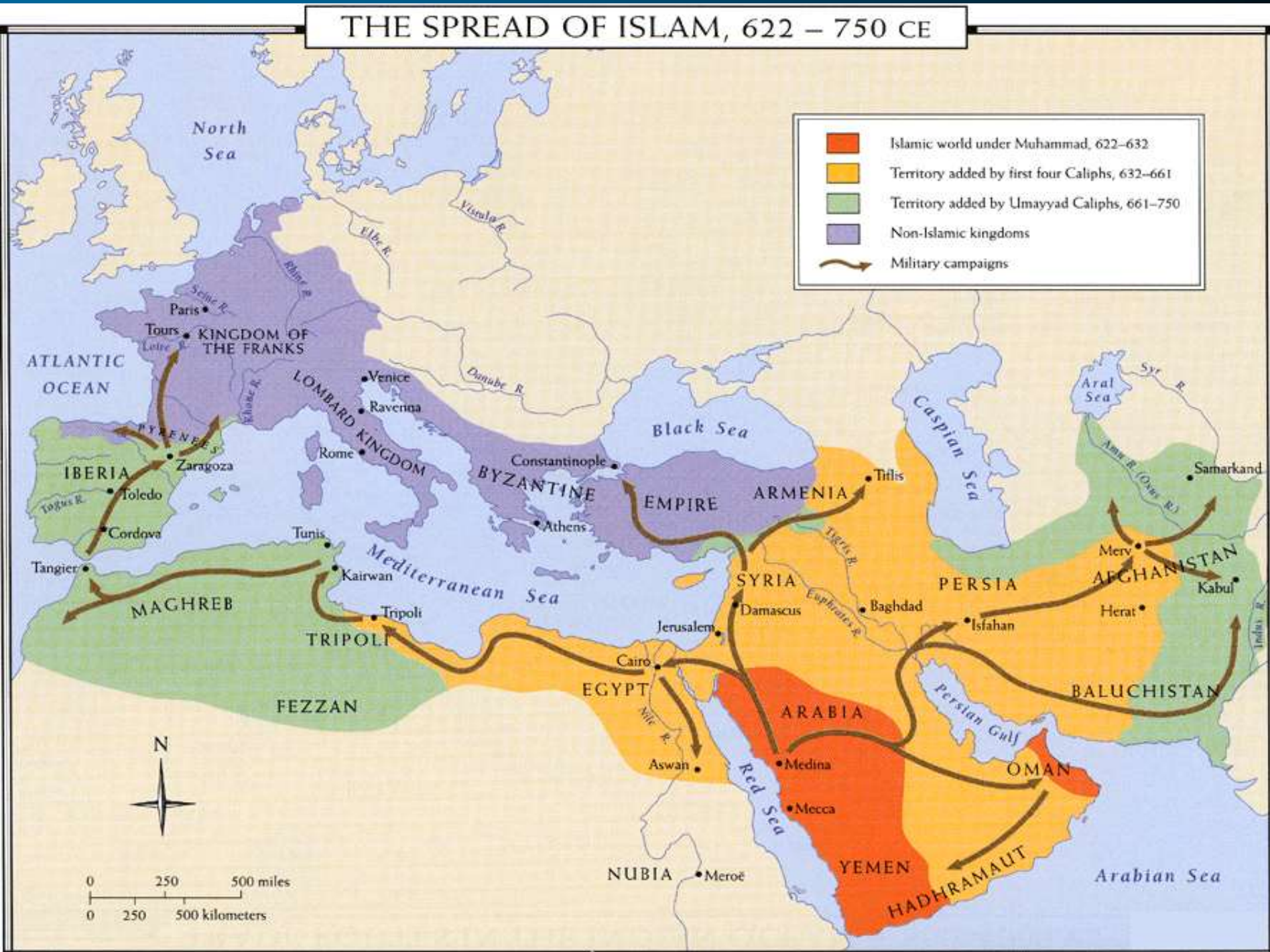
## Key Dates in Islam

- 570 AD – Muhammad born in Mecca.
- 610 AD – Muhammad receives first revelation of Qur'an, in a cave.
- 622 AD – Islam officially born during the *Hijira* to Medina.
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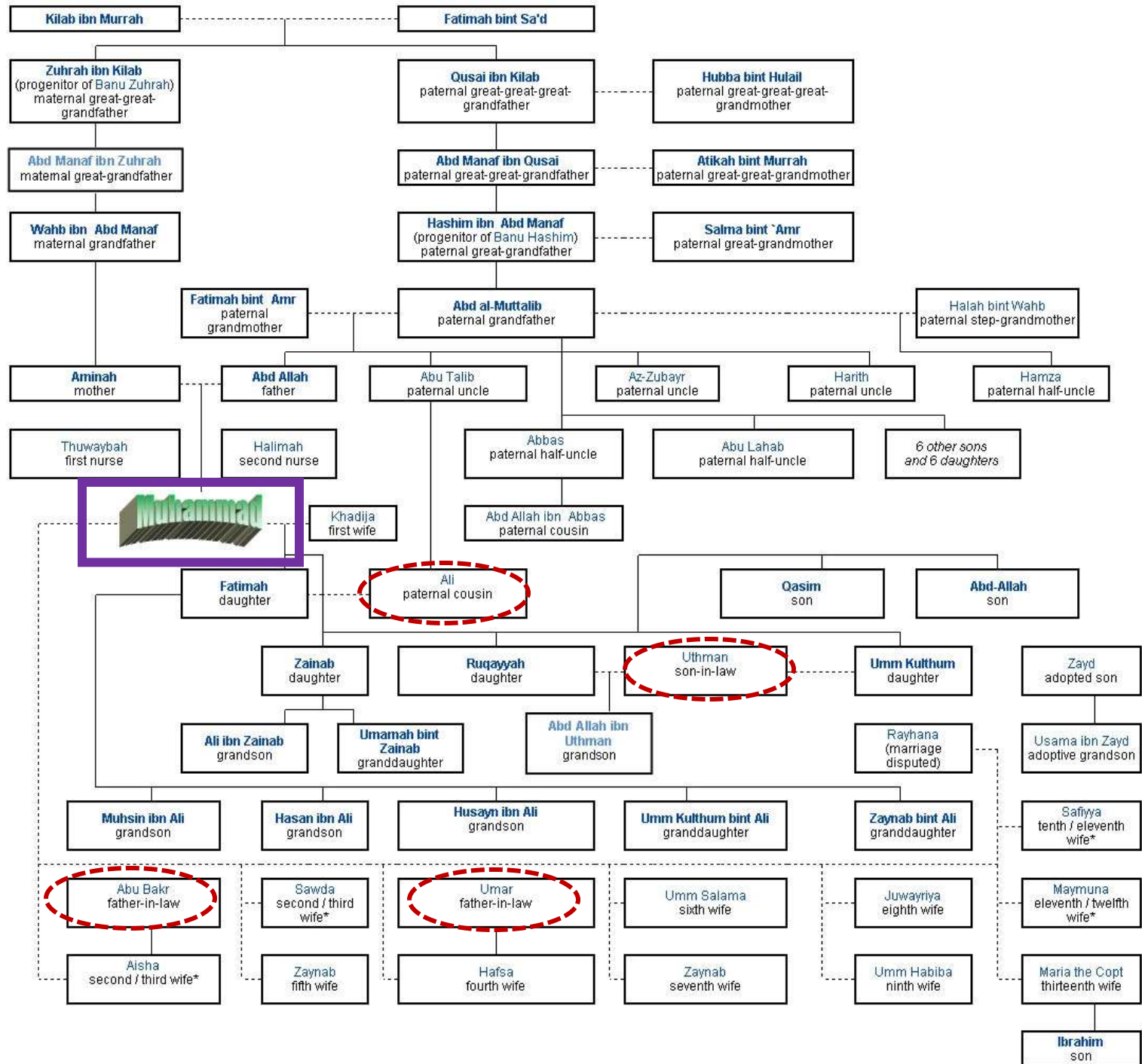
# THE SPREAD OF ISLAM, 622 – 750 CE



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Extent of Islam under the Rashidun Caliphs (632-661)  
the “Four Rightly Guided Caliphs”  
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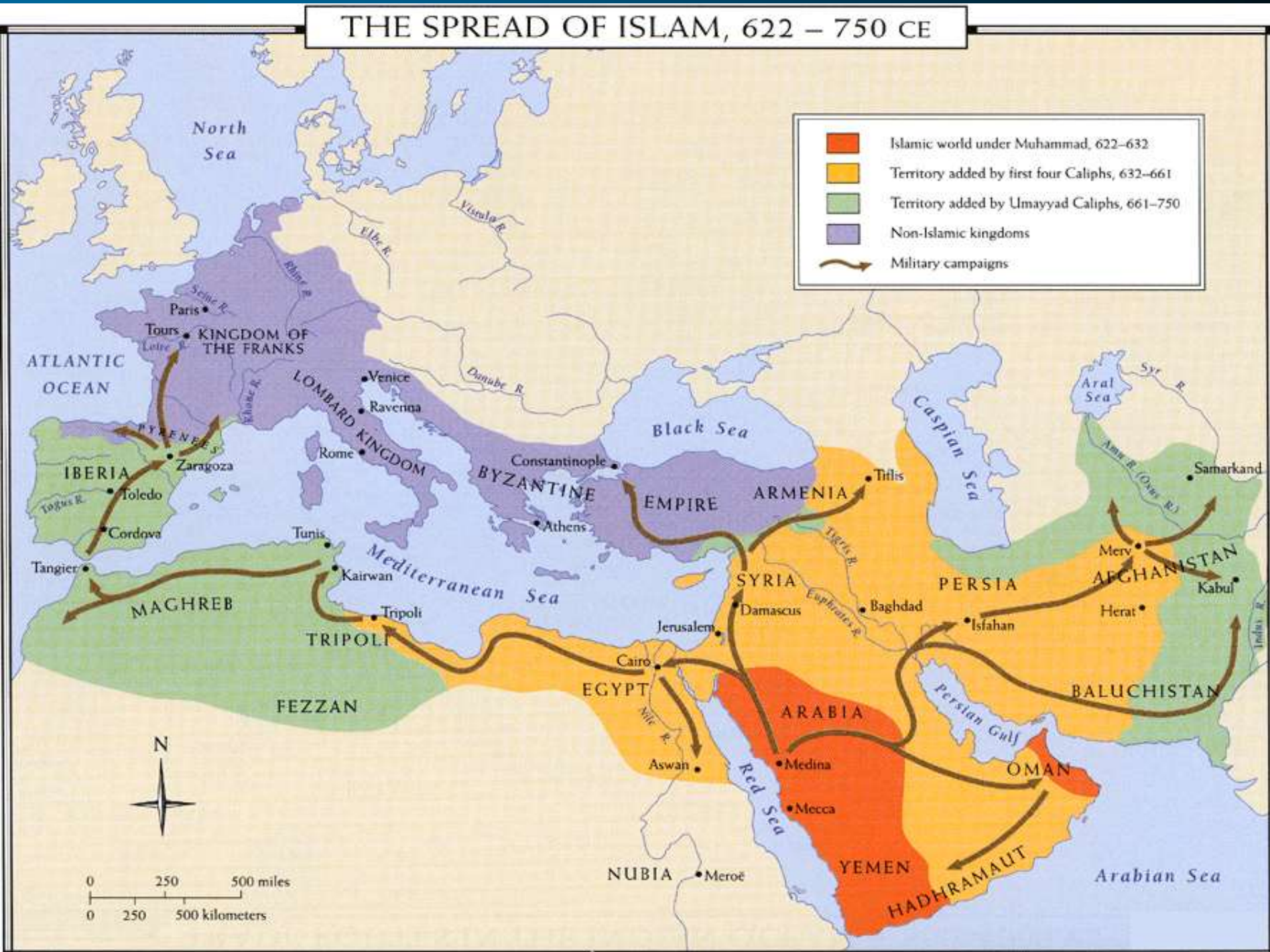
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- 661-750 AD – the Ummayyad Caliphate
- 750-1517 AD – the Abbasid Caliphate
- 909-1171 AD – the Fatimid Caliphate
- 1174-1250 AD – the Ayyubid Dynasty



Extent of Islam under the Umayyad Caliphate (661-750)

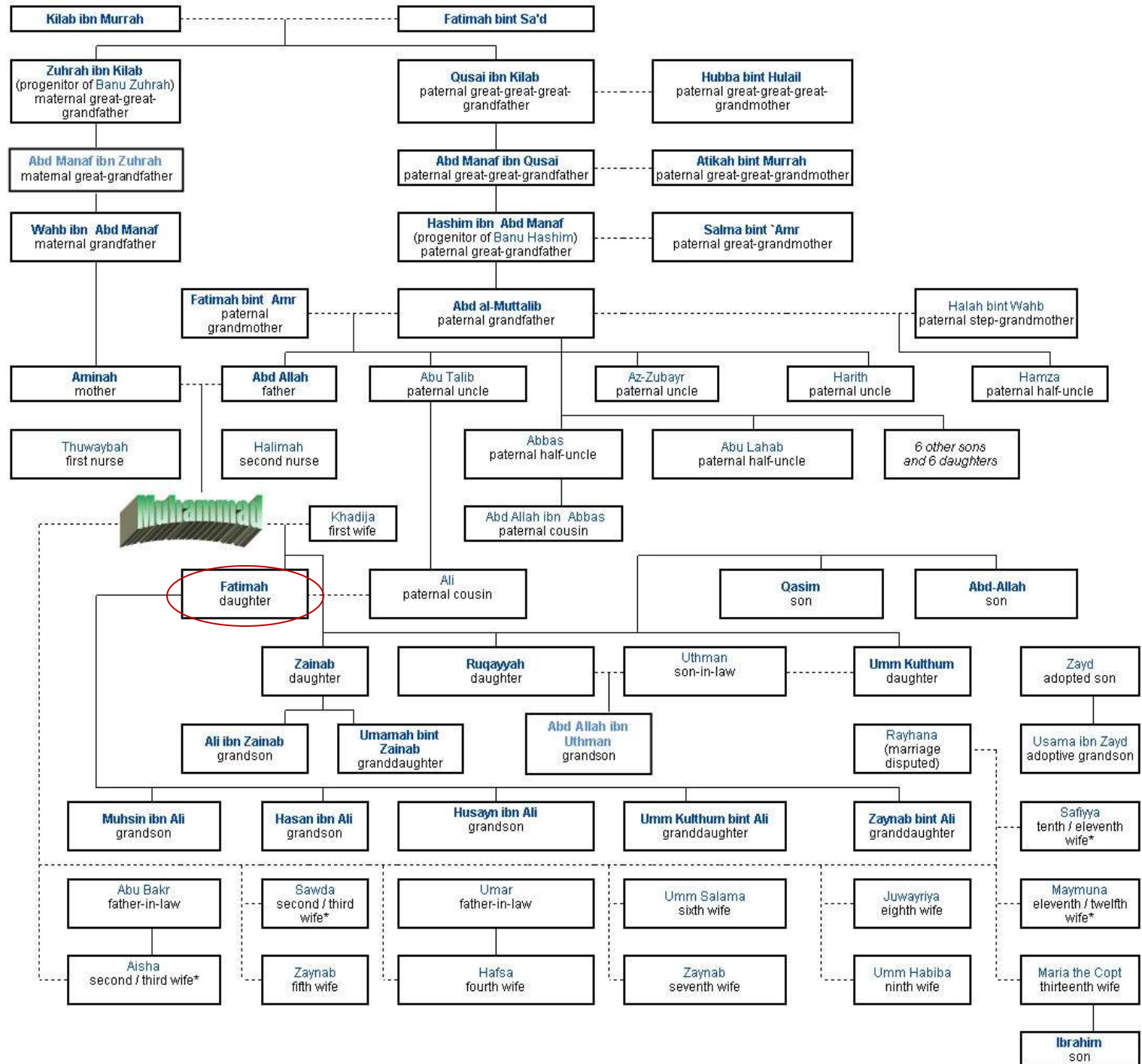


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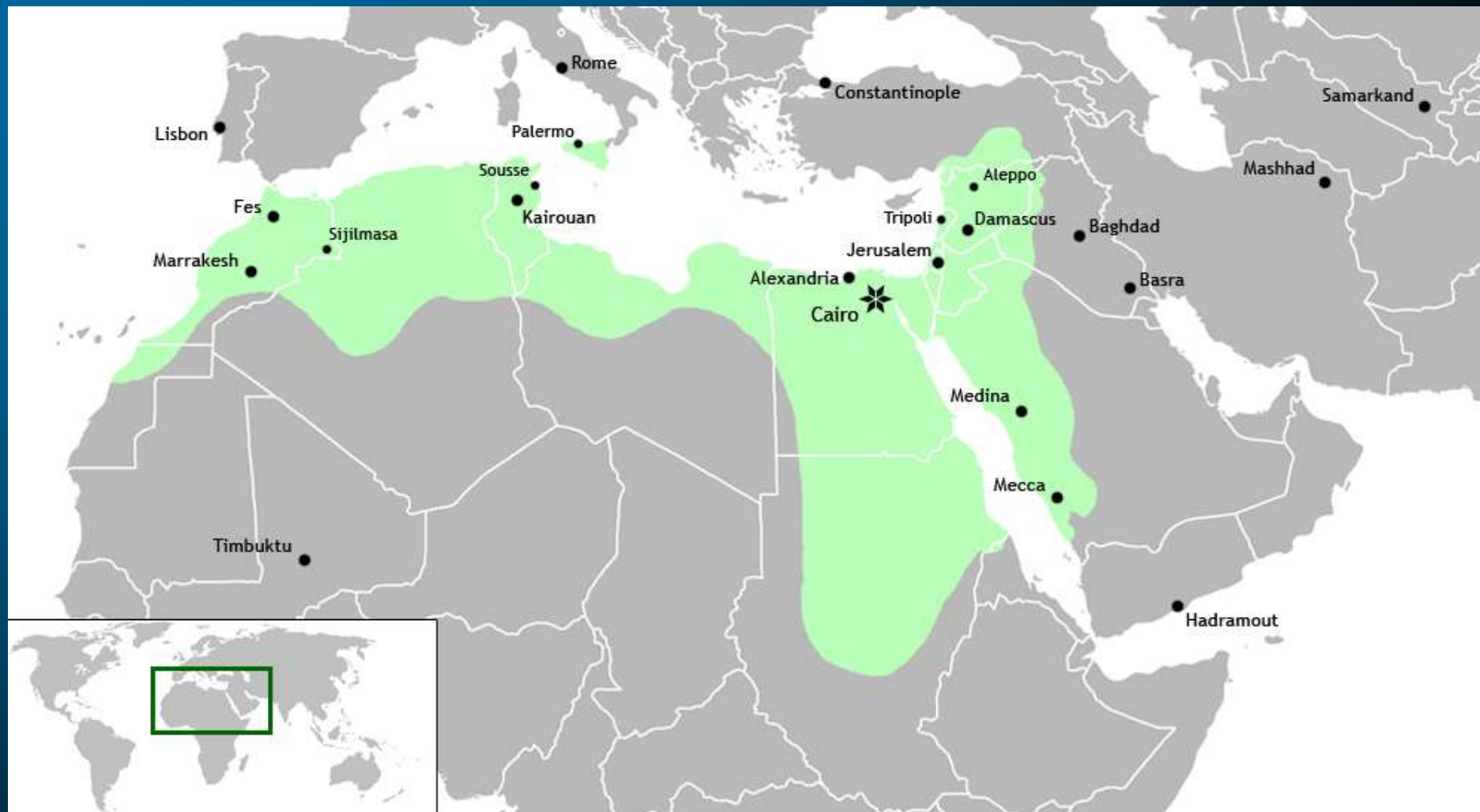




Extent of Islam under the Abbasid Caliphate (750-1517)  
(map represents greatest extent, c. 850)





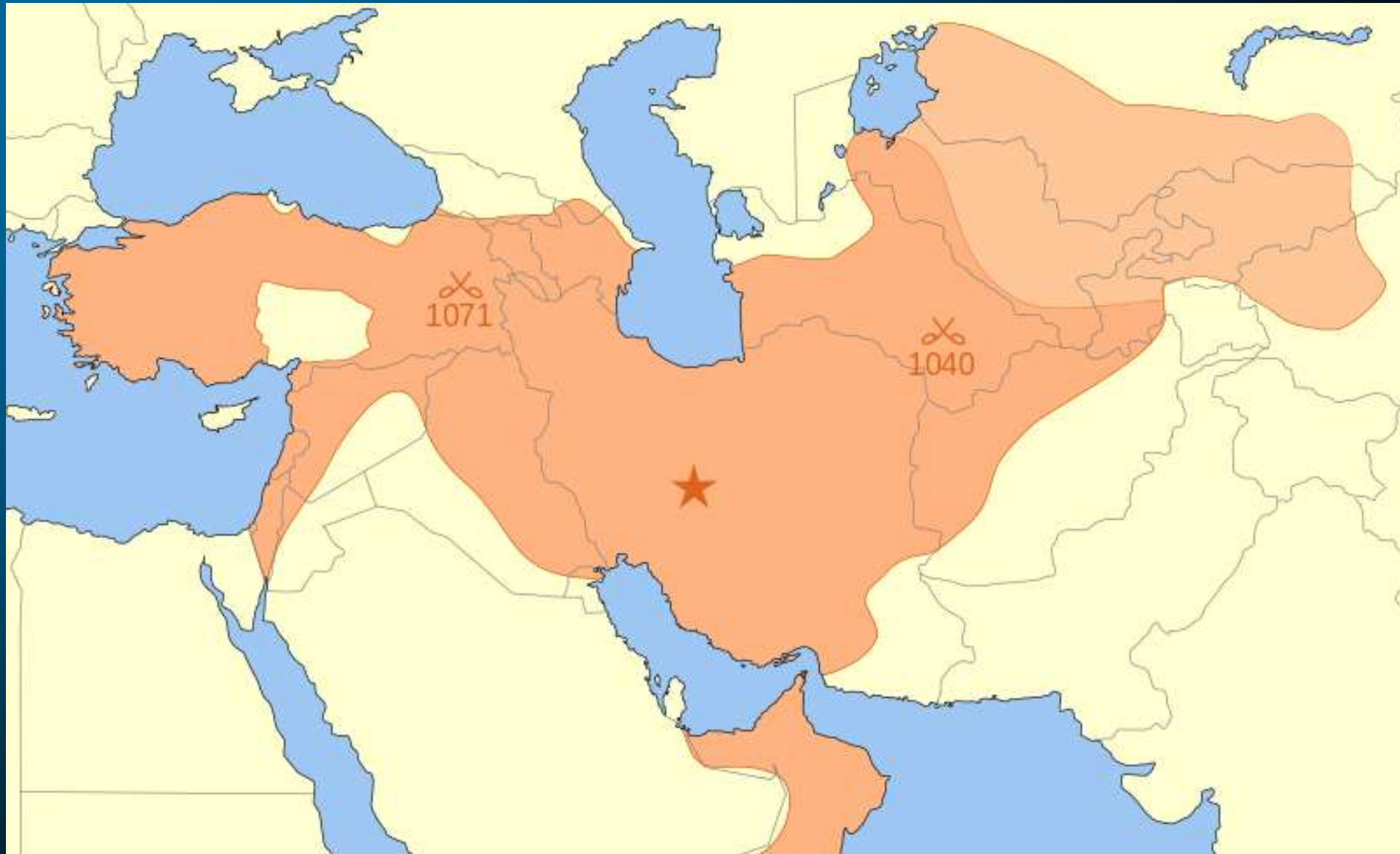


Extent of Islam under the Fatimid Caliphate (909-1171)





Extent of Islam under the Ayyubid Dynasty (1174-1250),  
begun when Saladin overthrew the Fatimid Caliphate.



Extent of Islam under the Seljuk Turks (1037-1194)  
(map represents greatest extent, c. 1092)

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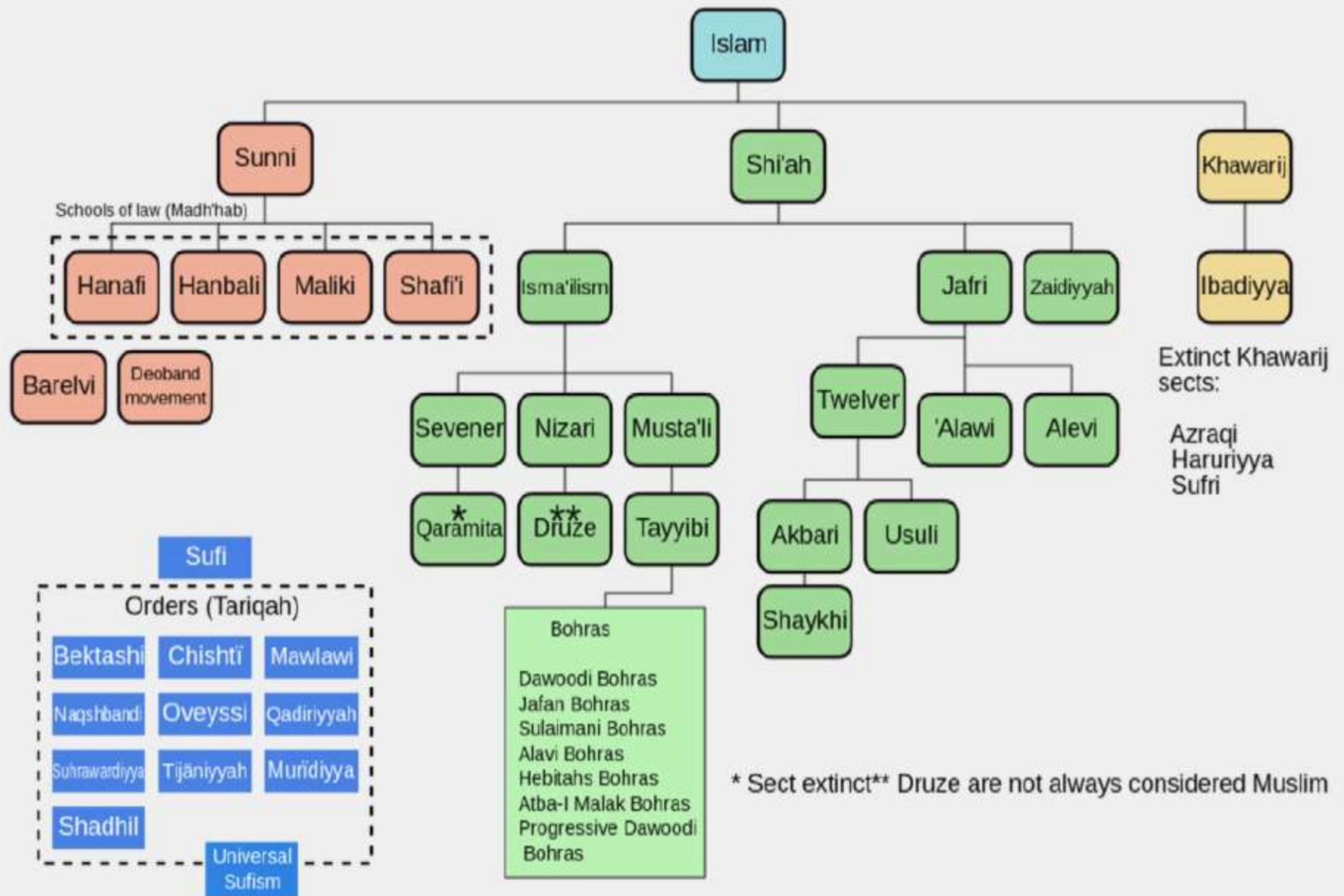
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- 1453-1924 AD – the Ottoman Empire



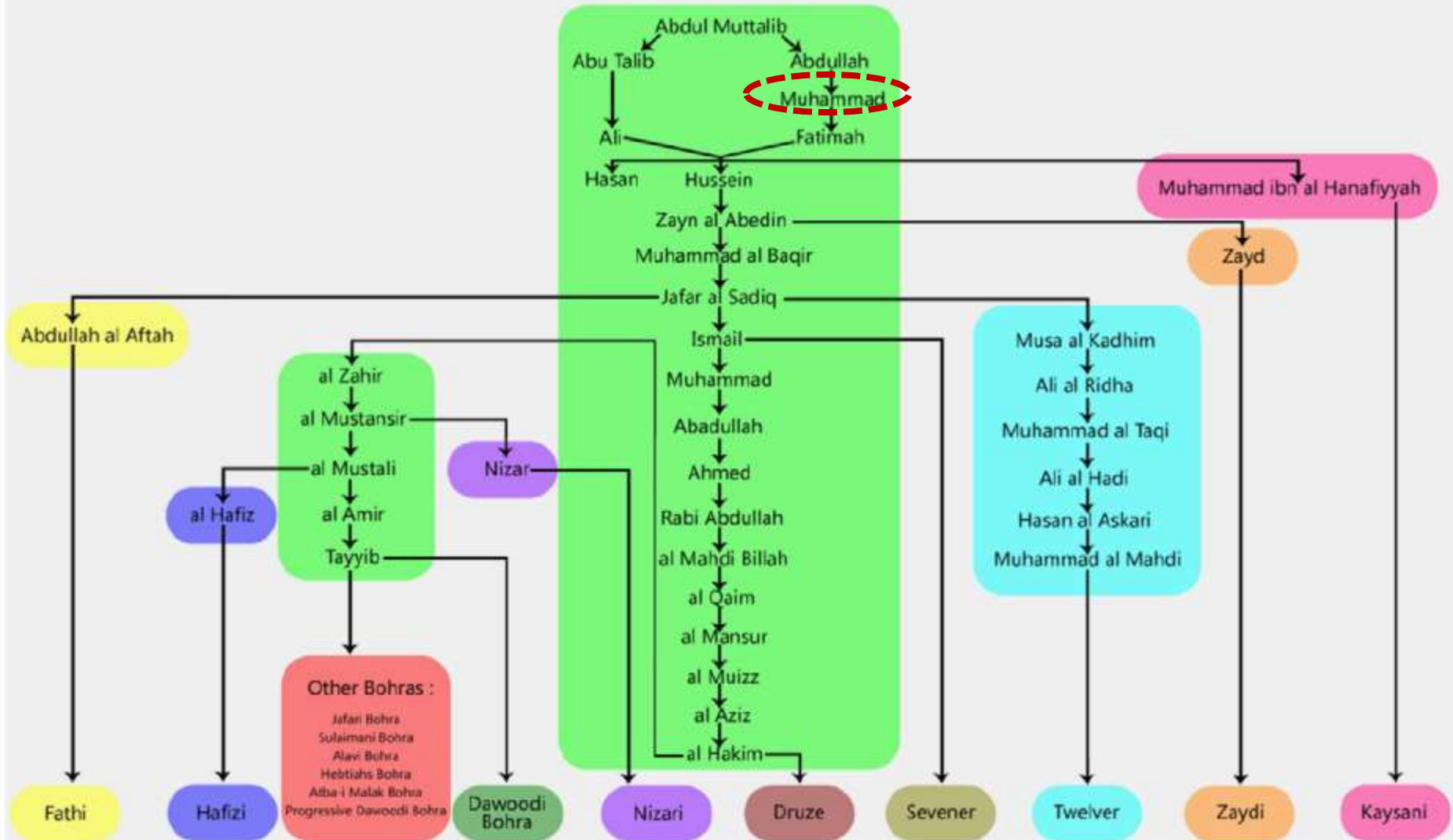




**Extent of Islam under the Ottoman Empire (1453-1914)**

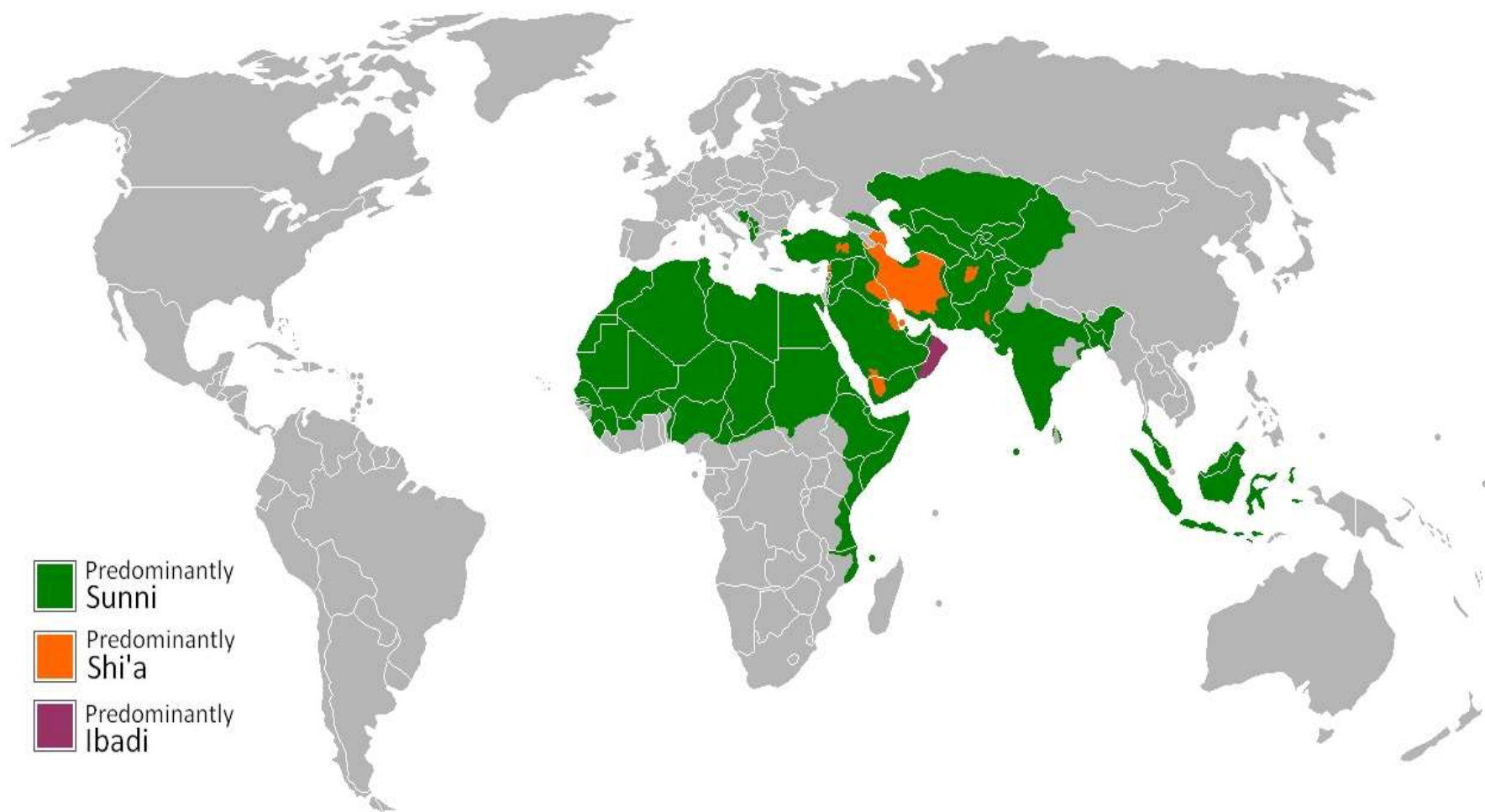


## Shia Islam



“Fiver”





# Basic Beliefs of Islam

- ***Islam*** means “*submission*,” to Allah and His will. A ***Muslim*** submits to Allah.
- Muslim life is more about ***orthopraxy*** (right action) rather than ***orthodoxy*** (right belief) — based on the writings of the ***Qur'an***; ***sunnah*** (life example of Muhammad); and ***hadith*** (sayings of Muhammad and his companions).
- The revelation to Muhammad was in Arabic, considered the holy language.



# ***The Qur'an, the Hadith, the Sunnah***

- ***The Qur'an*** ("recitation" in Arabic) is the sacred text of Islam and highest authority in both religious and legal matters.
- Muslims believe the Qur'an to be a flawless record of the Angel Gabriel's revelations to Muhammad from 610 until his death in 632 AD. It is also believed to be a perfect copy of a heavenly Qur'an that has existed eternally, and represents the very words of Allah. It is divided into 114 *surahs* (chapters) of varying length, generally arranged from longest to shortest.

# *The Qur'an, the Hadith, the Sunnah*

- *The Hadith* ("narrative" or "report" in Arabic) is a record of the words and deeds of the Prophet, his family, and his companions.
- Although not regarded as the spoken Word of God like the Qur'an, Hadith is an important source of doctrine, law and practice, revered in Islam as a major source of religious law and moral guidance. It has been studied in Muslim religious colleges since the Middle Ages.
- Each Hadith has two parts: the tradition itself, or *matn* (for instance, the words of the Prophet) and the *isnad* ("chain of authorities" – the human transmitters through which the tradition came).

# ***The Qur'an, the Hadith, the Sunnah***

- ***The Sunnah*** (“clear, well trodden path” in Arabic) is the ideal way of life for Muslims, based on the teachings and practices of Muhammad (the prime exemplar) and interpretations of the Qur'an.
- ***Sunnah*** includes Muhammad's specific words, habits, practices and approvals, addressing ways of life dealing with friends, family and government.

# ***The Six Articles of Faith of Islam***

1. Belief in one God;
2. Belief in the angels of God;
3. Belief in the prophets & messengers of God, especially Muhammad;
4. Belief in the books of God, especially the Qur'an;
5. Belief in the Day of Judgment (and the afterlife); and
6. Belief in the supremacy of God's will and divine decree.

# ***The Five Pillars of Islam***

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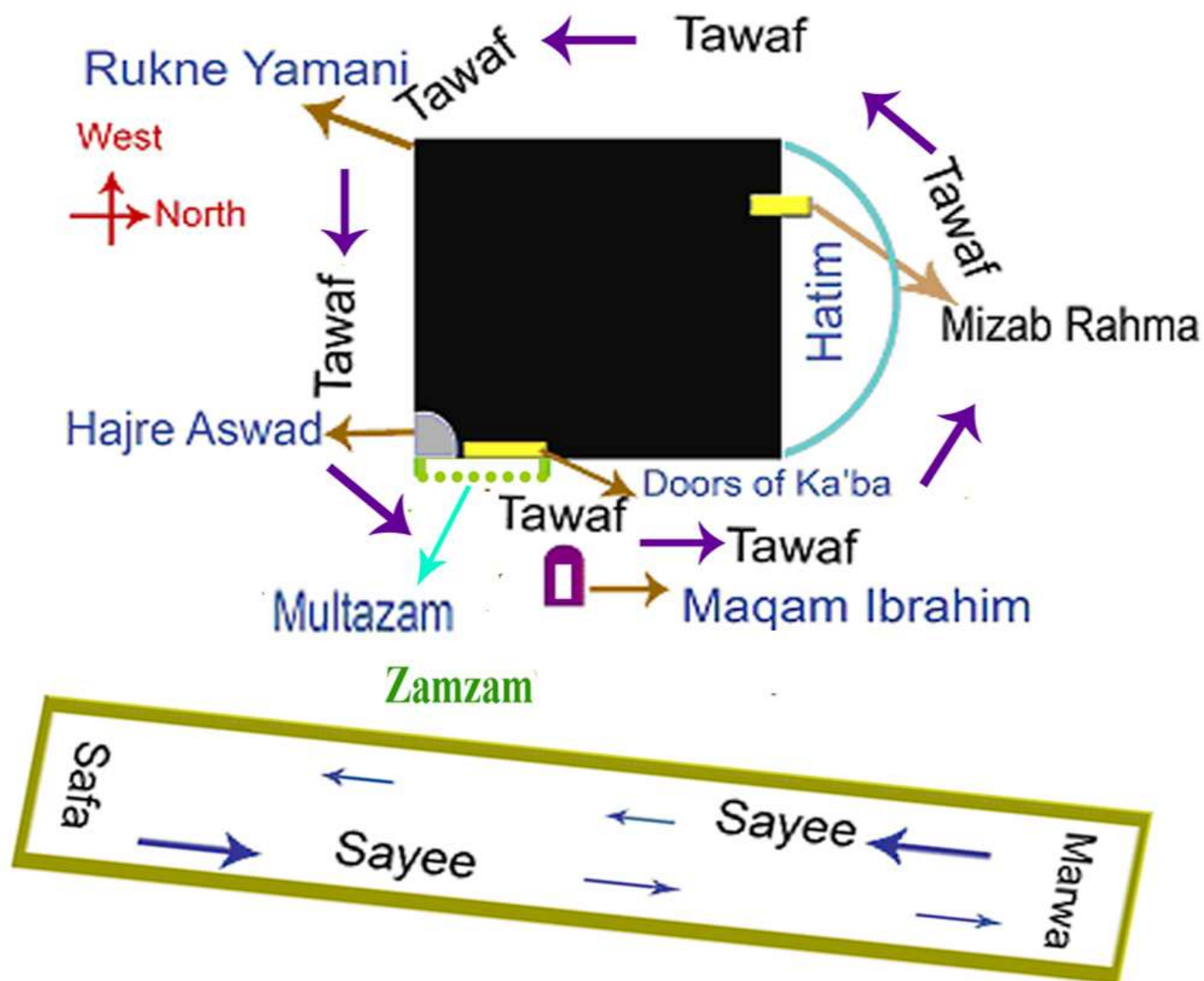












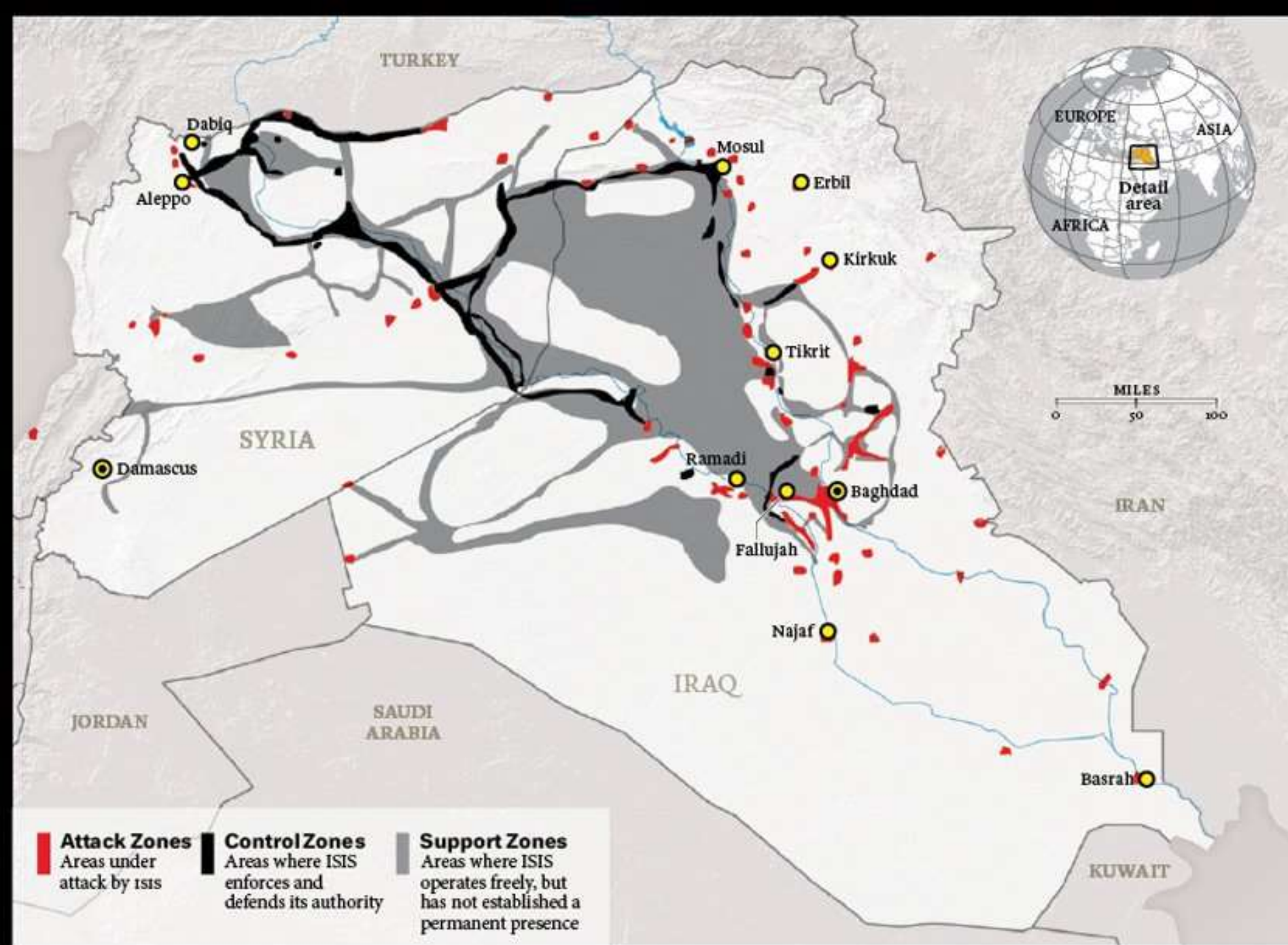
# The Rise of Political Islam

- Islamism, or Political Islam – a set of ideologies holding that "Islam should guide social and political as well as personal life;" or "the active assertion and promotion of beliefs, prescriptions, laws or policies that are held to be Islamic in character."
- The Salafi Movement – a movement within Islam named for the *salaf* ("ancestors," "predecessors"), the earliest Muslims who are supposed to provide the perfect example of Islamic practice. A popular *hadith* quotes Muhammad saying '*The people of my own generation are the best, then those who come after them, and then those of the next generation,*' suggesting Muslims follow the example of those first three generations.

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- Wahhabism – an extremist Islamic "reform movement" to restore "pure monotheistic worship," named after an eighteenth century preacher and scholar, *Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab* (1703–1792). Wahhabism began in the remote region of the Arabian Nejd, purging practices such as the popular cult of saints, shrine and tomb visitation, and impurities and innovations in Islam.
- ISIL or ISIS or IS – an extremist, jihadist Sunni "state" in Iraq and Syria, originating in 1999 as part of al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI). In 2006, it joined other Sunni insurgent groups, gaining support due to perceived discrimination against Iraqi Sunnis, under the leadership of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, who declared himself world-wide *caliph* on 29 June 2014. In April 2013, the group's name changed to the ***Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant***.





Website for lecture videos:

**[www.litchapala.org](http://www.litchapala.org)**

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