

The Muslim World

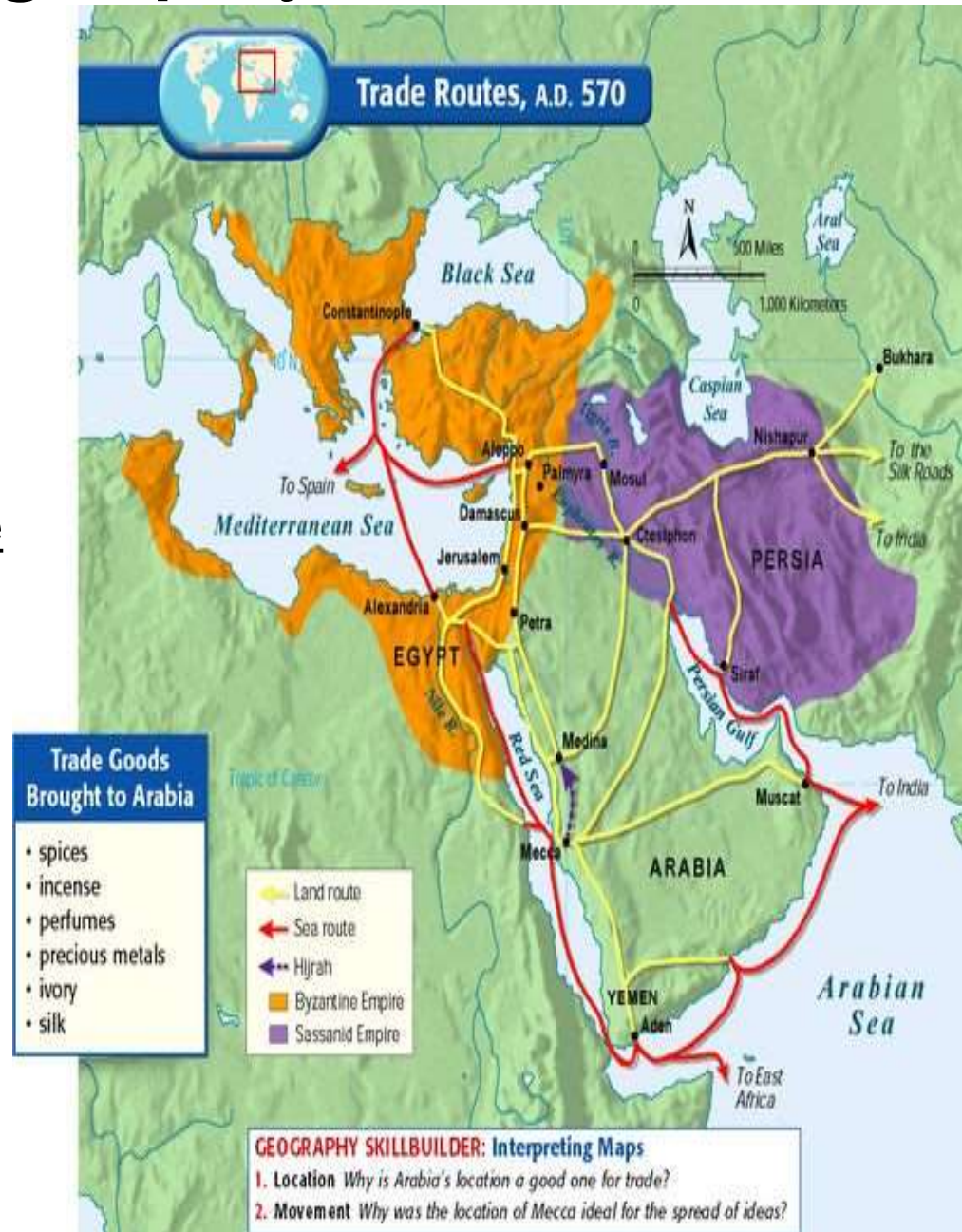
600 – 1250

#2



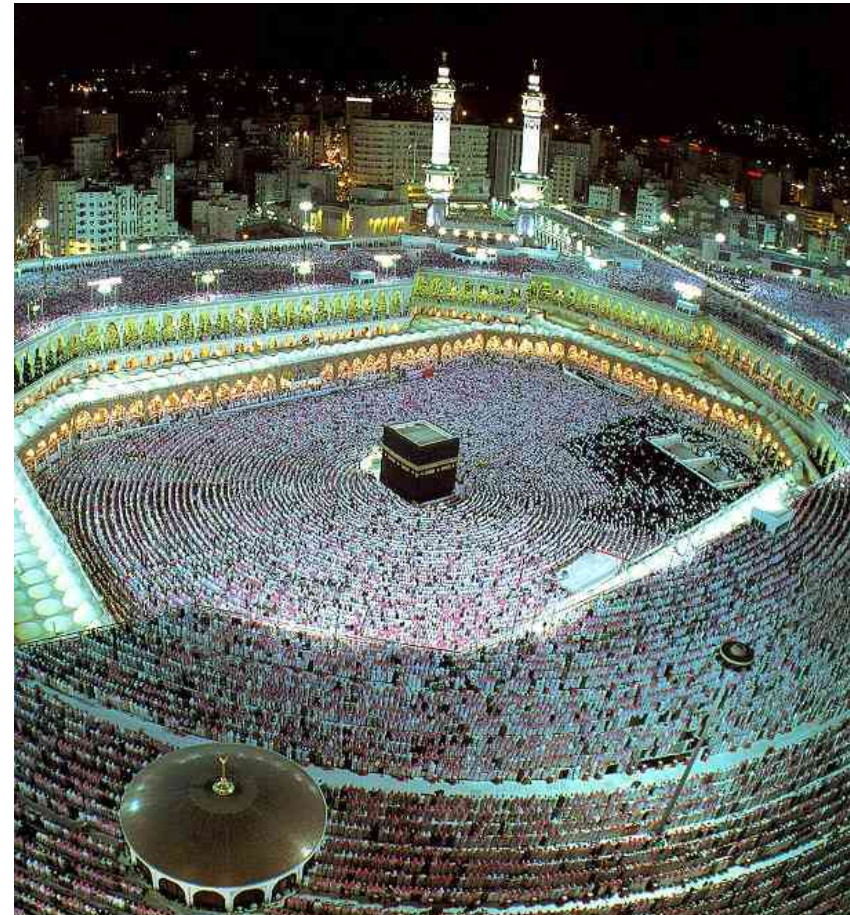
Geography

- Location- The Arabian peninsula. Between the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf.
- Desert and Town life- Arab nomads, called Bedouins, were organized into tribes called clans. Ideals of courage and loyalty to family became part of Islamic life.
- Trade and Ideas- by the 600's trade routes connected Arabia to major ocean routes. Traded spices for silks and information.



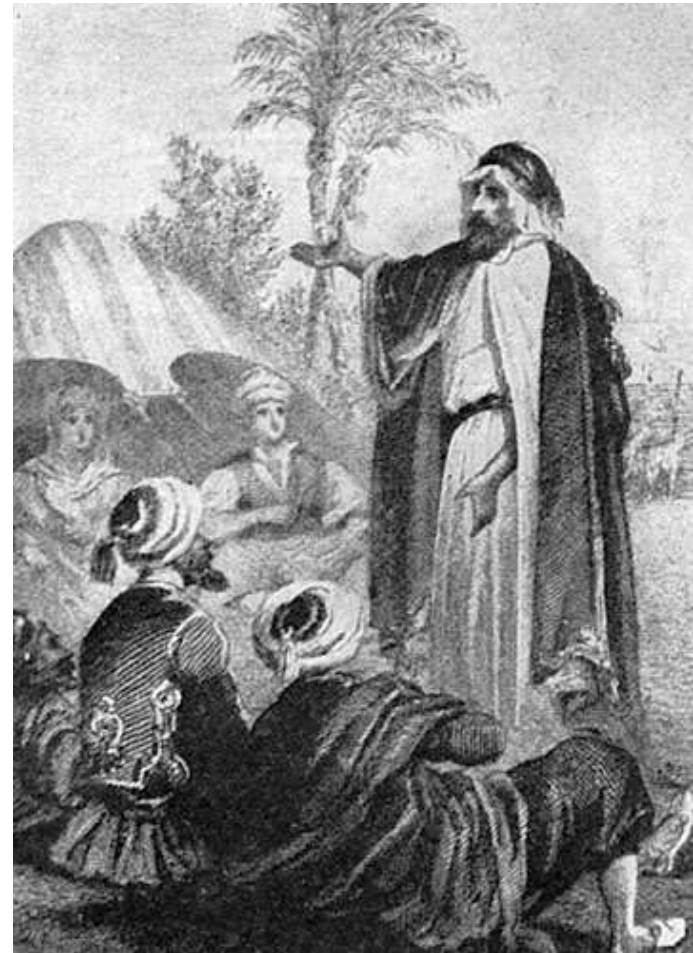
Mecca

- Mecca- Holy months, caravans stopped in Mecca (western Arabia) for a religious pilgrimage. Worshiped ancient shrine – Ka'aba
- Arabs associate this house of worship with Abraham, Hebrew prophet and believer in one God.
- Arab belief in one God-Allah. Many Christians and Jews lived in practiced in Mecca.



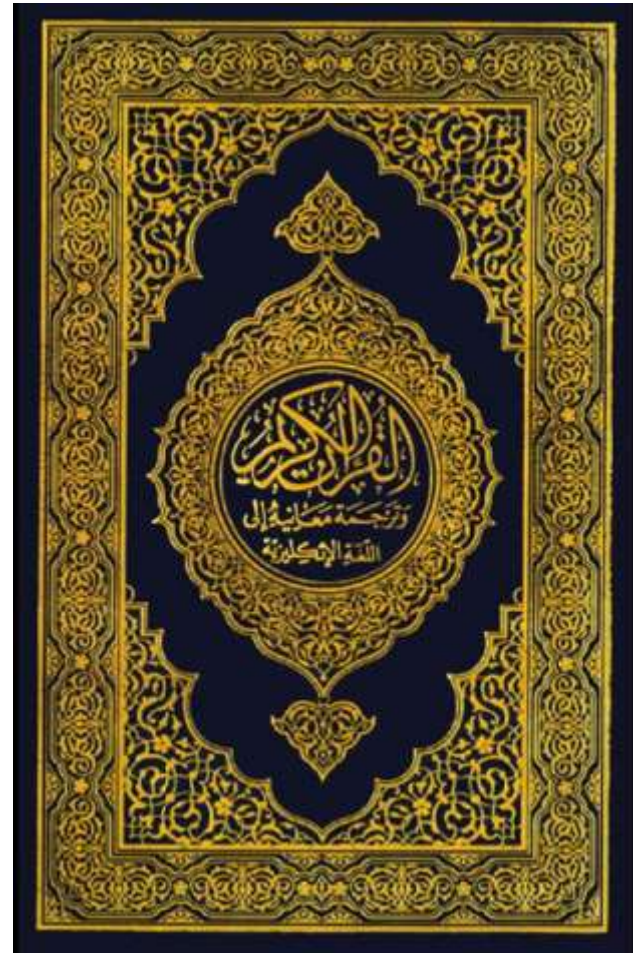
The Prophet Muhammad

- Muhammad was born around A.D. 570 in Mecca.
- Revelations- great interest in religion. At 40 while meditating in a cave outside Mecca a voice called to him.
- Muslim belief- voice of the angel Gabriel told Muhammad he was the messenger of Allah.
- Taught Allah was the one and only God, people who believed were called Muslims.
- Islam = submission to the will of Allah
- Muslim = one who has submitted
- Opponents- wealthy merchants (felt they would lose prestige and wealth.)



Beliefs and Practices

- Main teaching = One God- Allah, there is good and evil, and that each individual is responsible for the actions of their life.
- Qur'an- "recital", book of Allah's messages to Muhammad. Muslims believe it's the final authority in matters of faith and lifestyle.
- Laws and religion are not separated.



Five Pillars of Islam

- Faith- “There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is the messenger of Allah.” See life as preparation for judgment day.
- Prayer – 5 times a day. Face Mecca.
- Alms- giving to charity,
- Fasting- during Ramadan (holy month), time when Muhammad received his first revelation. Between dawn and sunset. May-June 30 days
- Pilgrimage- or hajj to Mecca



A way of Life

- Believers are forbidden to eat pork or drink intoxicating beverages.
- Fridays afternoons are set aside for communal worship
- Has no priests or central religious authority



Spread of Islam

- Death of Muhammad (around 633 A.D.)- he left no clear instructions as to who would become his successor.
- Muslims elected a caliph- Abu-Bakr
- Caliphs to follow faced civil war.
- Alternative view of the office of caliphs.

Caliphs

- All were close friends or relatives to Muhammad. Sought to protect the spread of Islam.
- 1st- Abu Bakr (friend), kept in touch with the people and followed Muhammad's example.
- He invoke jihad “striving” –struggle against evil or struggle against nonbelievers'.

Sunni (“followers of the way”) vs. Shi’a (“supportive party”)

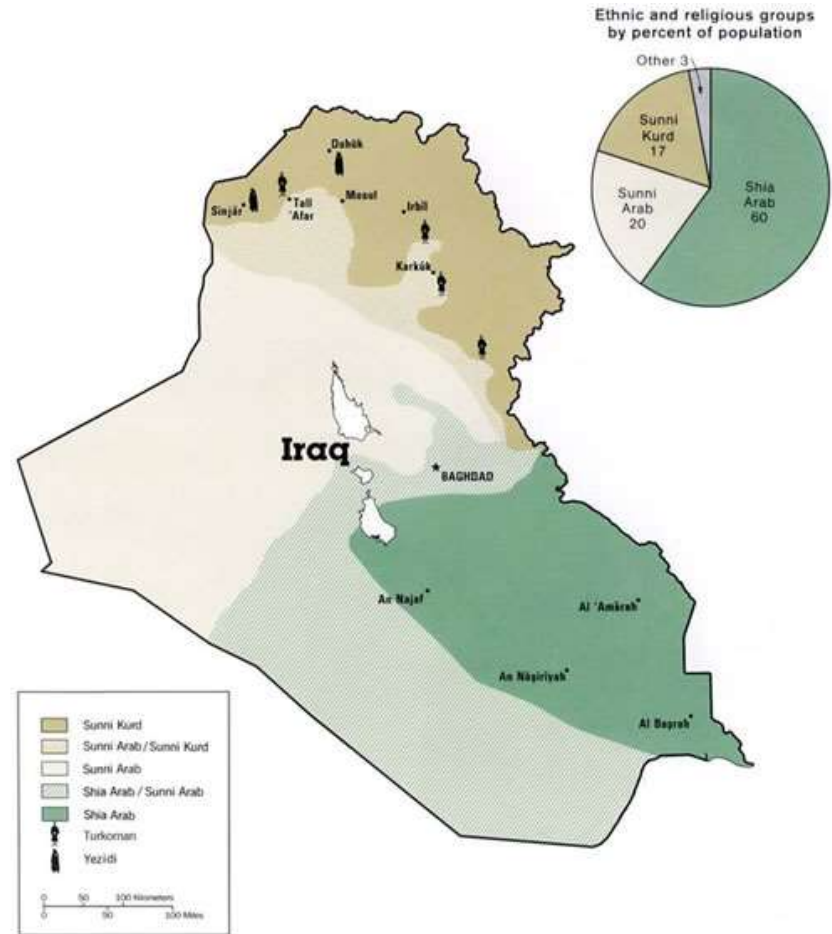
- Sunni
 - Believe that the four caliphs were “rightly guided”
 - Believe that Muslim rulers should follow Muhammad’s example
 - Claim that the Shi’a have distorted the meaning of various passages in the Qur’an
 - 85%
- Shi’a
 - Believe that all Muslim rulers should be descended from Muhammad
 - Claim that the Sunni have distorted the meaning of various passages in the Qur’an
 - 15%

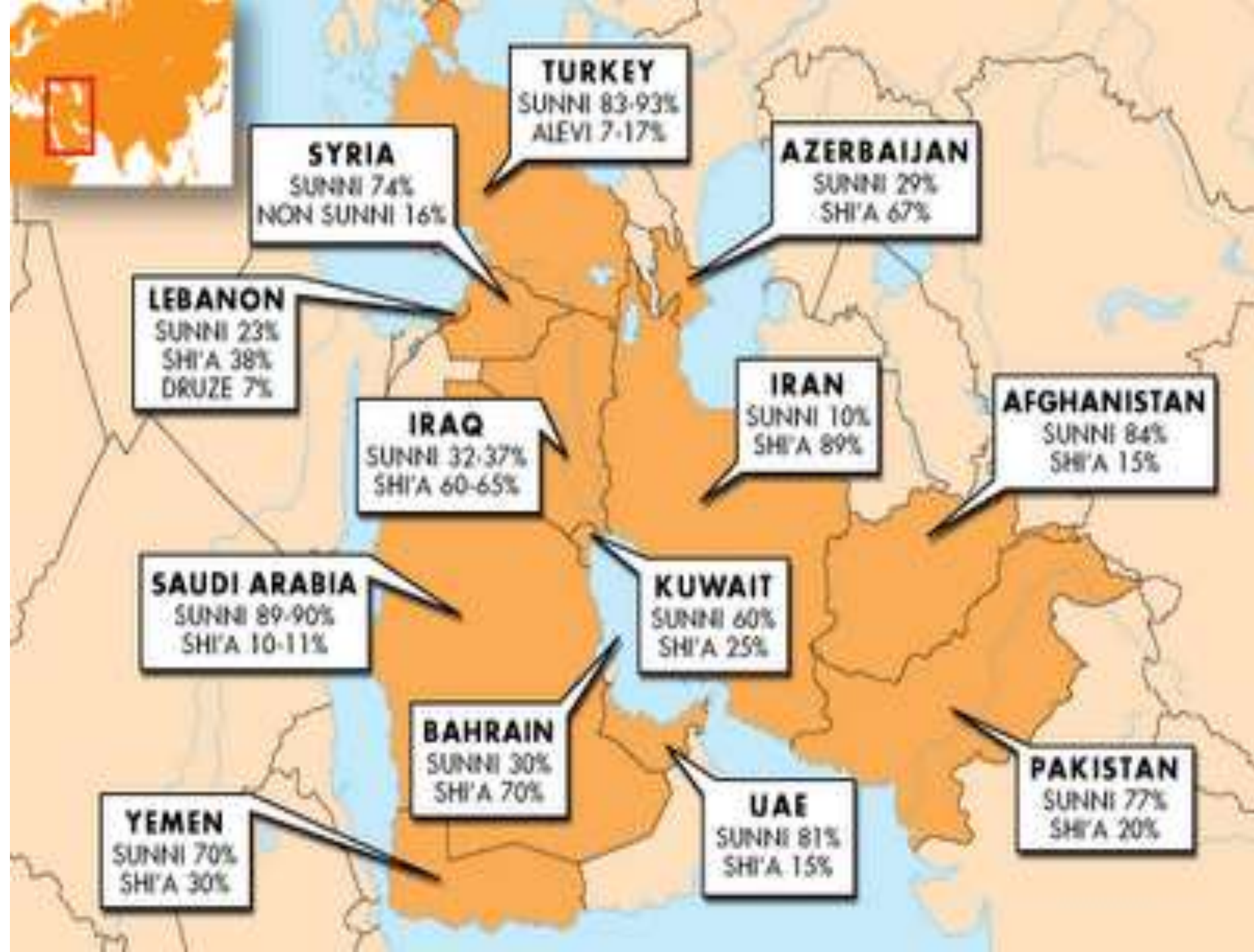


<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/in-detail-sunnis-vs-shites/>

Internal Conflict

- Had trouble unifying rule. New power under Umayyads (not a friend or relative of Muhammad)- left traditional caliphs beliefs.
- Sunni and Shi'a split.





In your notes

- Summarize the Muslim world. Who was the prophet and what are the basic teachings?