

Kingdoms & Empires Across Mesopotamia & The Middle East, 6000 BCE to 2015 A.D

A Presentation Compiled and Edited by Salim Al-Hasso, April 2015

This document started its journey as a short presentation about the history of northern Mesopotamia, namely Nineveh and Mosul. I used the material as a background to give a lecture to a United Nations associated group in London on 27-4-2015. Having been born in Mosul in 1941, I presented my recollections of Mosul and Iraq from 1947 to 1979 and talked about ancient civilisations that developed in Mesopotamia since the beginning of recorded history. As I am not a historian; the data I used was mainly obtained from articles and essays available on the internet. The present version of my document is an expansion in historical scope and depth of contents. It now covers the history of Mesopotamia/Iraq as a whole, as well as that of major political developments and changes in the Middle East and it touches on relevant key world events.

I have tried my best to present the information impartially and as best as I could understand the truth and accuracy of the contents. I could not guarantee absolute success with regards to such correctness; as the bulk of information is written by others who might for one reason or another have made errors or misjudgements. I will be happy to review and correct errors or misquotes that are brought to my attention in future editions. We should keep in mind that historical records need verification and we must therefore search all available sources of information to help us get closer to the truth. We should approach History just like detectives, and use the evidence that's available to make judgements about the circumstances surrounding events.

This document is intended to be a brief reference to historical events in this part of the world; which may help the average reader to venture further by following the links given next to quoted paragraphs. I have kept my comments and opinions to minimum and indicated such contributions as written by the **Editor. I would also like to add that as much as I would like to be impartial; I am sure that I am guided by my own religious and cultural upbringing as a Muslim and an Arab . The overall drive for compiling this document is **my never ending search to understand the roots and causes of all the social, political and cultural aspects that keep bringing disastrous divisions and wars to the Middle East in particular and the world in general. By understanding past developments, conflicts, struggles ; we may learn lessons and avoid disasters. Such success depends on our level of education and readiness to apply humane and compassionate values to our dealings with other human beings; even if we did not share similar ideas, believes or aspirations. There is far too much hatred and distrust amongst people and nations today; as it has always been. We should not be deterred from dreaming about changing it for the better. We may achieve that one day in the future; if we aimed at guiding the young and new generations that humanity should come first.****

Kingdoms & Empires across Mesopotamia , 6000 BC to 2015 A.D

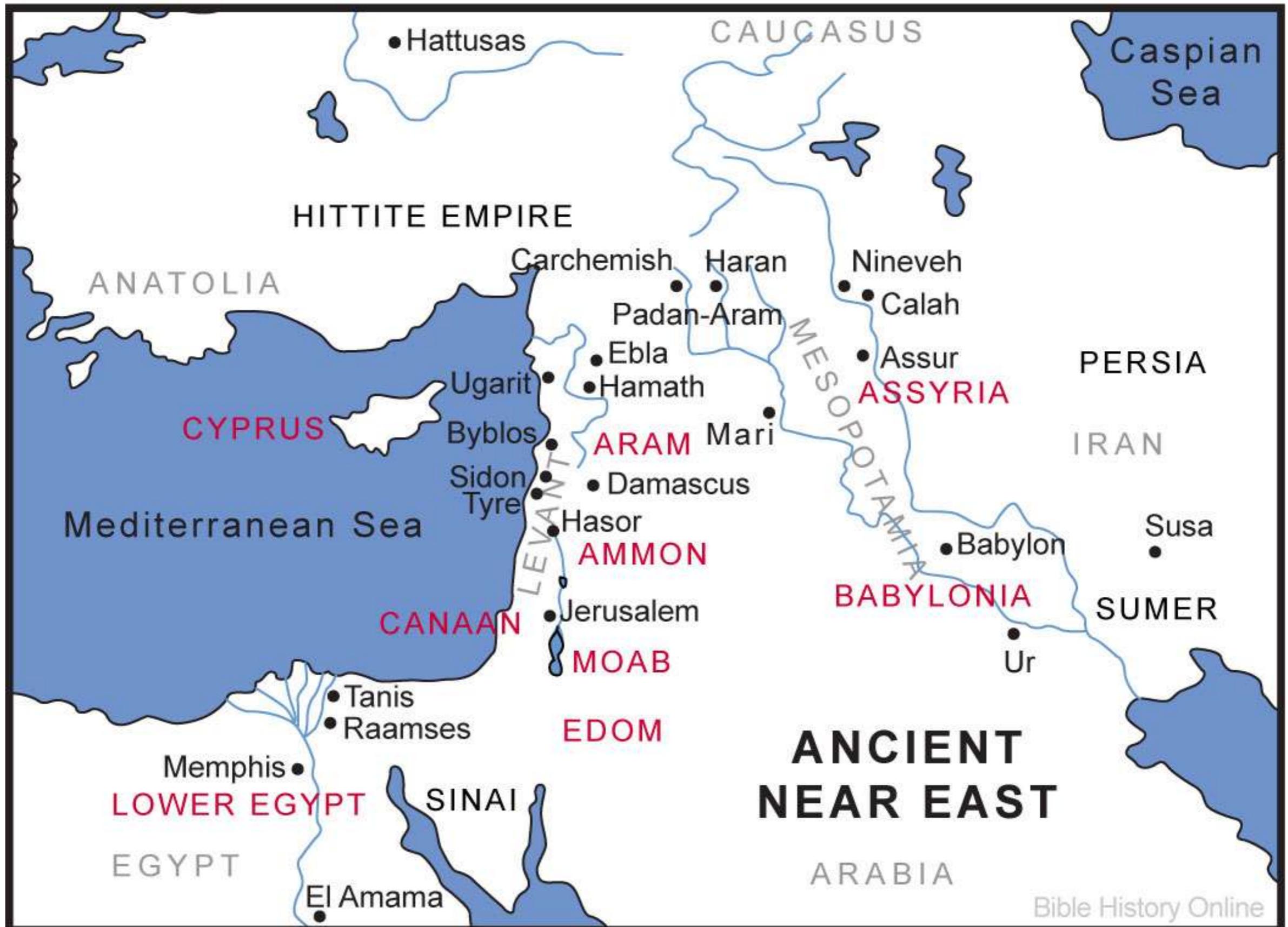
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The contents are selected from published articles on the internet.

Reference is given to all relevant links, to preserve the copyrights of authors and websites. The aim is to give a brief outline of the history of Mesopotamia and yet provide extensive links to the original articles for the full picture.

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Map of Ancient Near East



Semitic people الأقبام السامية

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Semitic_people

In studies of linguistics and ethnology, the term **Semitic** (from the biblical "Shem", Hebrew: *שם* (was first used to refer to a family of languages native to West Asia (the Middle East). The languages evolved and spread to Asia Minor, North Africa, the Horn of Africa and Malta, and are now referred to cumulatively as the Semitic languages. The languages include the ancient and modern forms of [Ahlamu](#); [Akkadian](#) (including Assyrian and Babylonian dialects); [Amharic](#); [Amalekite](#); [Ammonite](#); [Amorite](#); [Arabic](#); [Aramaic/Syriac](#); the [Canaanite languages](#) ([Phoenician](#), [Punic](#) or [Carthaginian](#) and [Hebrew](#)); [Assyrian](#); [Chaldean](#); [Eblaite](#); [Edomite](#); [Ge'ez](#); [Old South Arabian](#); [Modern South Arabian languages](#); [Maltese](#); [Mandaic](#); [Moabite](#); [Proto-Sinaitic](#); [Sutean](#); [Syriac](#); [Tigre](#) and [Tigrinya](#); and [Ugaritic](#), among others.

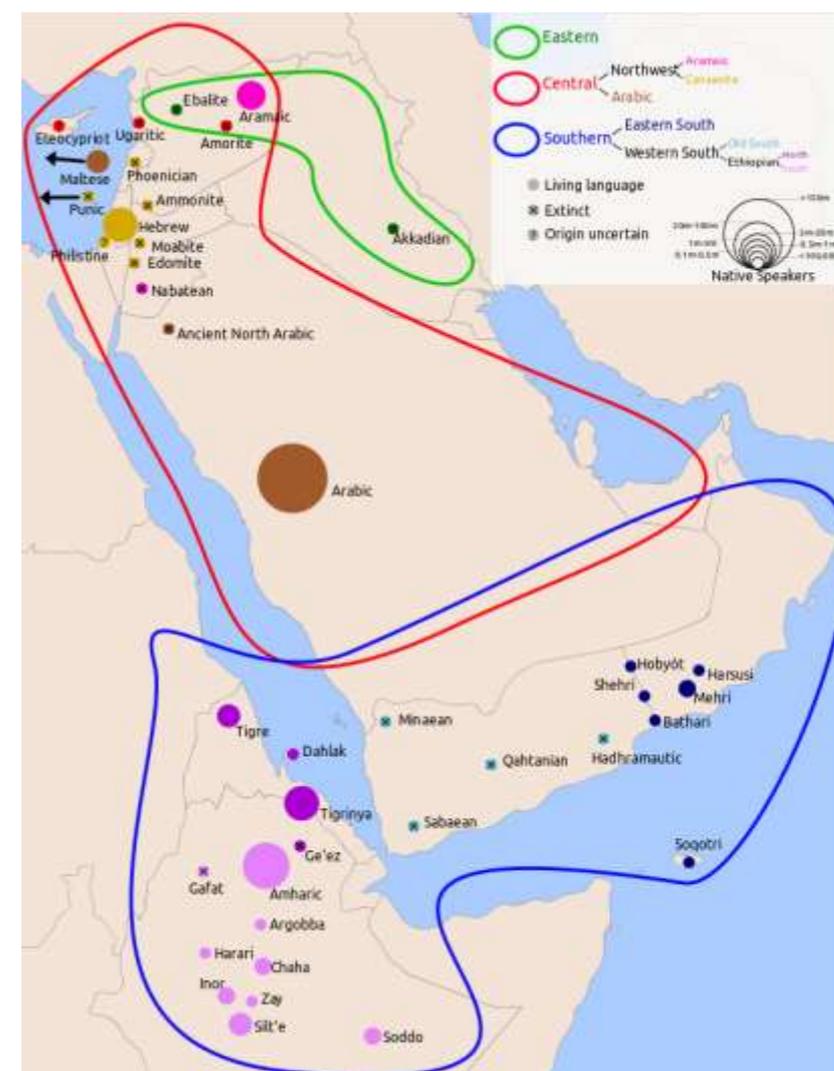
As language studies are interwoven with cultural studies, the term also came to describe the extended cultures and ethnicities, as well as the history of these varied peoples as associated by close geographic and linguistic distribution. Today, the word "Semite" may be used to refer to any member of any of a number of peoples of ancient Middle East including the Akkadians, Assyrians, Arameans, Phoenicians, Hebrews (Jews), Arabs, and their descendants.

The Arabic Language

The literary language, called Modern Standard Arabic or Literary Arabic, is the only official form of Arabic. It is used in most written documents as well as in formal spoken occasions, such as lectures and news broadcasts.

Arabic is a Central Semitic language, closely related to Aramaic, Hebrew, Ugaritic and Phoenician. The standardized written Arabic is distinct from and more conservative than all of the spoken varieties, and the two exist in a state known as diglossia, used side-by-side for different societal functions.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language

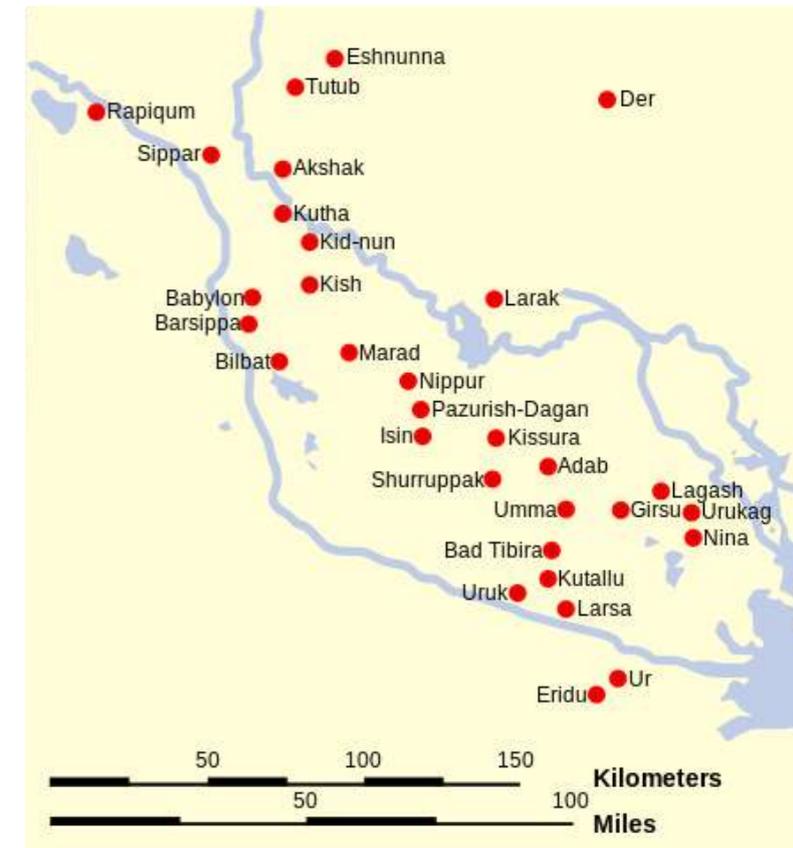


Map showing the distribution of Semitic languages

The history of Sumer, taken to include the prehistoric [Ubaid](#) and [Uruk](#) periods, spans the 5th to 3rd millennia BC, ending with the downfall of the [Third Dynasty of Ur](#) around 2004 BC, followed by a transitional period of [Amorite](#) states before the rise of Babylonia in the 18th century BC.

The first settlement in southern Mesopotamia was [Eridu](#). The Sumerians claimed that their civilization had been brought, fully formed, to the city of Eridu by their god [Enki](#) or by his advisor.

Sumer was one of the ancient civilizations and historical regions in southern Mesopotamia, modern-day southern Iraq, during the [Chalcolithic](#) and Early Bronze Age. Although it was previously thought that the earliest forms of writing in the region do not go back much further than c. 3500 BC, modern historians have suggested that Sumer was first permanently settled between c. 5500 and 4000 BC by a non-Semitic people who spoke the Sumerian language



These conjectured, prehistoric people are now called "proto-Euphrateans" or "[Ubaidians](#)", and are theorized to have evolved from the [Samarra culture](#) of northern Mesopotamia (Assyria). The Ubaidians were the first civilizing force in Sumer, draining the marshes for agriculture, developing trade, and establishing industries, including weaving, leatherwork, metalwork, masonry, and pottery

some scholars such as Piotr Michalowski and Gerd Steiner, contest the idea of a Proto-Euphratean language or one substrate language. It has been suggested by them and others, that the Sumerian language was originally that of the hunter and fisher peoples, who lived in the marshland and the [Eastern Arabia littoral region](#), and were part of the [Arabian bifacial](#) culture.

First Dynasty of Lagash

LagashUr-Nanshe (right), creating the foundation for a shrine, presiding over its dedication (Louvre) Fragment of Eannatum's Stele of the Vultures (Louvre). This dynasty is dated to the 25th century BC. En-hegal is recorded as the first known ruler of agash, being tributary to Uruk.



Legacy of the Sumerian

Ref <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sumer>

Evidence of wheeled vehicles appeared in the mid 4th millennium BC, near-simultaneously in Mesopotamia, the Northern Caucasus ([Maykop culture](#)) and Central Europe. The wheel initially took the form of the potter's wheel. The new concept quickly led to wheeled vehicles and mill wheels. **The Sumerians' cuneiform writing system is the oldest** (or second oldest after the Egyptian hieroglyphs) which has been deciphered (the status of even older inscriptions such as the [Jiahu symbols](#) and [Tartaria tablets](#) is controversial). **The Sumerians were among the first astronomers**, mapping the stars into sets of constellations, many of which survived in the zodiac and were also recognized by the ancient Greeks. They were also aware of the five planets that are easily visible to the naked eye.

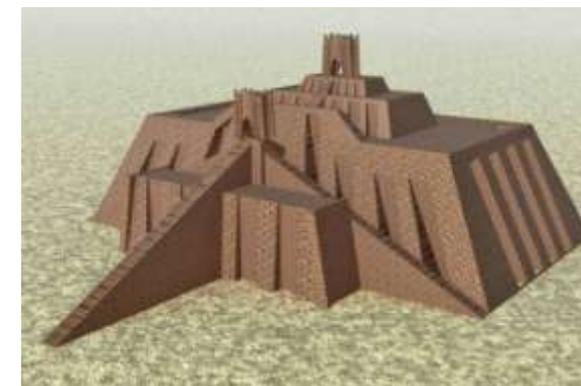
They invented and developed arithmetic by using several different number systems including a [mixed radix](#) system with an alternating base 10 and base 6. This [sexagesimal](#) system became the standard number system in Sumer and Babylonia. They may have invented military formations and introduced the basic divisions between infantry, cavalry, and archers. **They developed the first known codified legal and administrative systems**, complete with courts, jails, and government records. The first true city-states arose in Sumer, roughly contemporaneously with similar entities in what are now Syria and Lebanon. Several centuries after the invention of cuneiform, the use of writing expanded beyond debt/payment certificates and inventory lists to be applied for the first time, about 2600 BC, to messages and mail delivery, history, legend, mathematics, astronomical records, and other pursuits. Conjointly with the spread of writing, the first formal schools were established, usually under the auspices of a city-state's primary temple.

Finally, the Sumerians ushered in domestication with intensive agriculture and irrigation. Emmer wheat, barley, sheep (starting as [mouflon](#)), and cattle (starting as [aurochs](#)) were foremost among the species cultivated and raised for the first time on a grand scale.

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Early Cuneiform Writing



The Ziggurat of UR



Issue of Barley Sale

The Akkadian Empire 2334 – 2154 BCE

Achievements :The empire was bound together by roads, along which there was a regular postal service. Clay seals that took the place of stamps bear the names of Sargon and his son. A [cadastral](#) survey seems also to have been instituted, and one of the documents relating to it states that a certain Uru-Malik, whose name appears to indicate his Canaanite origin, was governor of the land of the Amorites, or *Amurru* as the semi-nomadic people of Syria and Canaan were called in Akkadian. It is probable that the first collection of astronomical observations and terrestrial omens was made for a library established by Sargon. The earliest "year names", whereby each year of a king's reign was named after a significant event performed by that king, date from the reign of Sargon the Great. Lists of these "year names" henceforth became a calendrical system used in most independent Mesopotamian city-states. In Assyria, however, years came to be named for the annual presiding [limmu](#) official appointed by the king, rather than for an event.

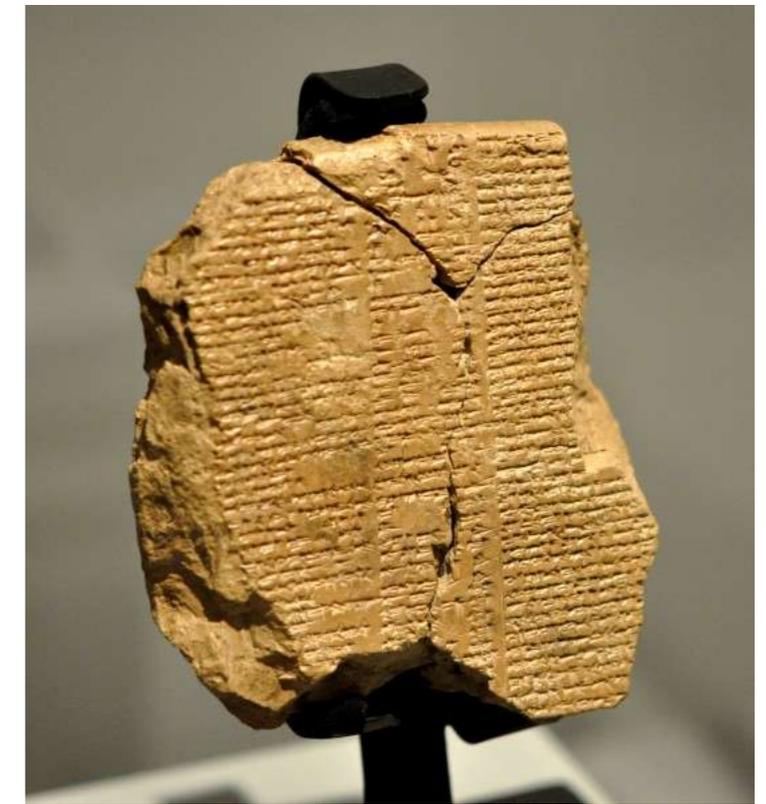


*The **Akkadian Empire** was an ancient Semitic empire centered in the city of Akkad and its surrounding region, also called Akkad in ancient Mesopotamia. The empire united all the indigenous Akkadian-speaking Semites and the Sumerian speakers under one rule. The Akkadian Empire controlled Mesopotamia, the Levant, and parts of Iran. During the 3rd millennium BC, there developed a very intimate cultural symbiosis between the Sumerians and the Semitic Akkadians, which included widespread bilingualism. Akkadian gradually replaced Sumerian as a spoken language somewhere between the 3rd and the 2nd millennia BC (the exact dating being a matter of debate).*

The Akkadian Empire reached its political peak between the 24th and 22nd centuries BC**, following the conquests by its founder **Sargon of Akkad** (2334–2279 BC). Under Sargon and his successors, Akkadian language was briefly imposed on neighboring conquered states such as [Elam](#). Akkad is sometimes regarded as the first empire in history, though there are earlier Sumerian claimants. After the fall of the Akkadian Empire, **the Akkadian people of Mesopotamia eventually coalesced into two major Akkadian speaking nations: Assyria in the north, and, a few centuries later, Babylonia in the south.

Gilgamesh is the semi-mythic King of **Uruk** best known from *The Epic of Gilgamesh* (written c. 2150-1400 BCE) the great Sumerian/Babylonian poetic work which pre-dates **Homer**'s writing by 1500 years and, therefore, stands as the oldest piece of epic literature. Gilgamesh's father was the Priest-King Lugalbanda (who is featured in two poems concerning his magical abilities which pre-date Gilgamesh) and his mother the goddess Ninsun (the Holy Mother and Great Queen) and, accordingly, Gilgamesh was a demi-god who was said to have lived an exceptionally long life (*The Sumerian King List* records his reign as 126 years) and to be possessed of super-human strength.

Gilgamesh is widely accepted as the historical 5th king of Uruk whose influence was so profound that myths of his divine status grew up around his deeds and finally culminated in the tales found in *The Epic of Gilgamesh*



Part of Tabet V- the Epic of Gilgamesh

In *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, the great king is thought to be too proud and arrogant by the gods and so they decide to teach him a lesson by sending the wild man, Enkidu, to humble him. Enkidu and Gilgamesh, after a fierce battle in which neither are bested, become friends and embark on adventures together. When Enkidu is struck with death, Gilgamesh falls into a deep grief and, recognizing his own mortality through the death of his friend, questions the meaning of life and the value of human accomplishment in the face of ultimate extinction. Casting away all of his old vanity and pride, Gilgamesh sets out on a quest to find the meaning of life and, finally, some way of defeating death. In doing so, he becomes the first epic hero in world literature. The grief of Gilgamesh, and the questions his friend's death evoke, resonate with every human being who has wrestled with the meaning of life in the face of death. Although Gilgamesh ultimately fails to win immortality in the story, his deeds live on through the written word and, so, does he.

Since *The Epic of Gilgamesh* existed in oral form long before it was written down, there has been much debate over whether the extant tale is more early Sumerian or later Babylonian in cultural influence. The best preserved version of the story comes from the Babylonian writer Shin-Leqi-Unninni (wrote 1300-1000 BCE) who translated, edited, and may have embellished upon, the original story.

The Assyrian Empire الأمبراطورية الآشورية

Early Assyria 2600-2335 BC

The Old Assyrian Kingdom 2025-1392 BC
1900 BC Ashur, Capital of Assyria, is founded
1680 BCE Hurrians occupy Assyria,
1472 BC Mittani annexes Assyria

The Middle Empire 1392-1056 BC
1400 BCE Assyria regains its independence
1250 BCE Shalmaneser I conquers Mitanni
1244 BC - 1208 BC Hittites conquered and
Babylon sacked (1220 BC)

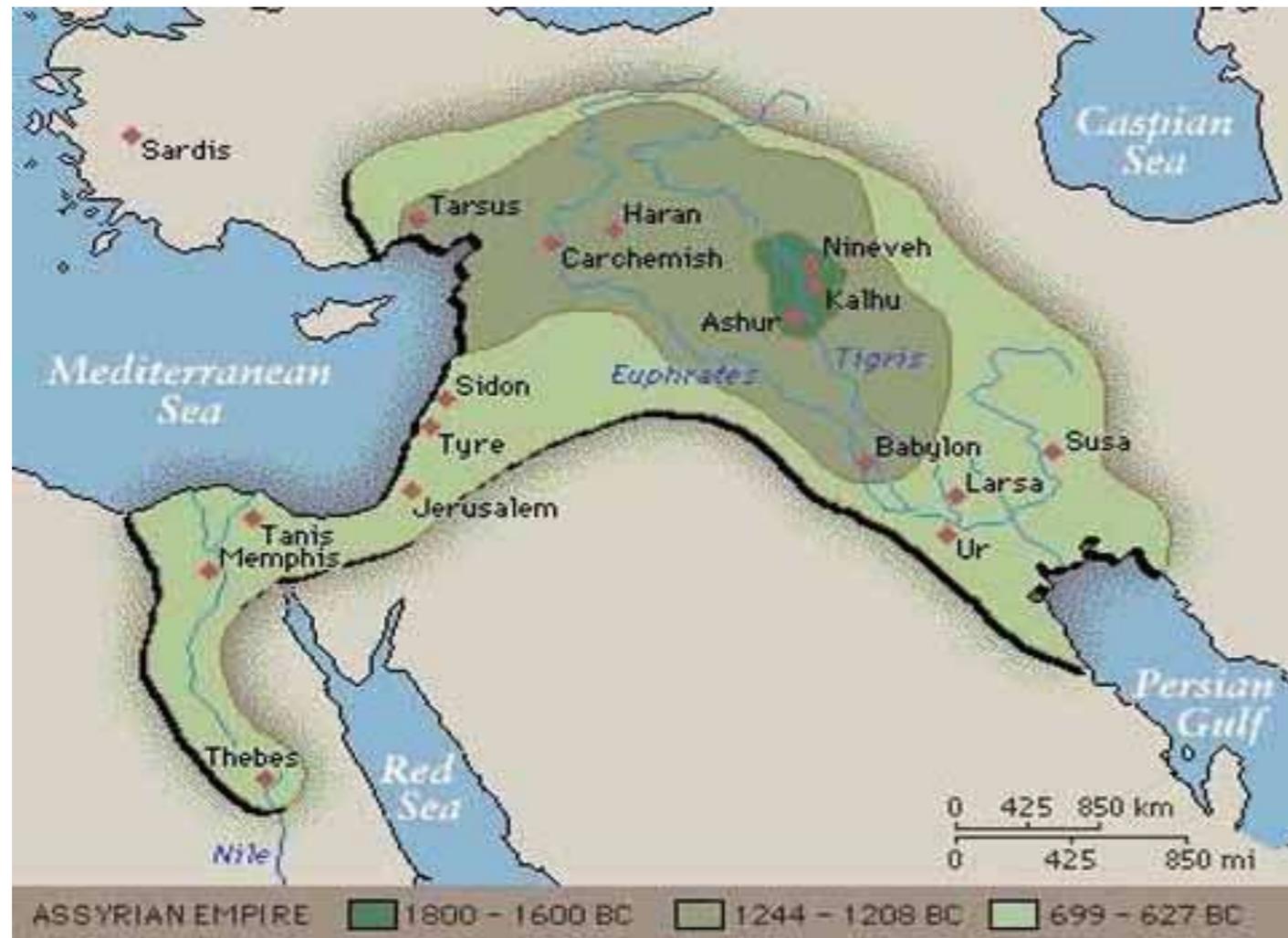
The Neo-Assyrian Empire 911-609 BC
 705 BC *Sennacherib* moves capital
 from [Dur-Sharrukin](#) to [Nineveh](#).

668 BC - 627 BC Reign of *Ashurbanipal*,
 the last great king of Assyria.

612 BCE: The End of Assyria :
 The great Assyrian cities of [Ashur](#), [Kalhu](#),
 and [Nineveh](#) are **sacked and burned** by the Medes,
 Babylonians, and Persian forces.

605 BC *Babylon* rules over the Assyrian regions.
599 BC at the very latest, Assyria had been
destroyed as an independent political entity.

<http://www.ancient.eu/assyria/>



729BC *Babylon* is occupied by Assyrians.
 722- 705BC Peak of the Assyrian *empire* under the reign of [Sargon II](#).
 721BC [North kingdom of Samaria](#) is conquered by *Assyria*.
 710BC-707 BC Sargon II resides at *Babylon*, rules *Assyria* from *Babylon*.
 705 BC *Sennacherib* moves capital from [Dur-Sharrukin](#) to *Nineveh*.
 701 BC King *Sennacherib* of Assyria sacks the city of Lachish in Judah but
 fails to take the capital *Jerusalem*.
 671 BC Second Egyptian Campaign, Assyrian army successfully captures
 Memphis and conquers *Egypt*.

Time Line of Nineva

6000 BCE *Nineveh is first settled.*

3000 -2000 BCE *Nineveh is a major religious centre for the worship of the goddess [Ishtar](#).*

1273 BCE - 1244 BCE *King Shalmanesar I builds a palace and temple at Nineveh.*

705 BCE *[Sennacherib](#) moves the capital to Nineveh*

700 - 698 BCE *Restoration of Nineveh, [Sennacherib](#) builds parks and possibly **the Hanging Gardens**, as recent research suggests that the hanging gardens were created by the Assyrians in Nineveh and not by the Babylonians in Babylon.)*

668 - 627 BCE *Reign of King Ashurbanipal, last king of the Neo-Assyrian Empire. [Palace and Library built at Nineveh.](#)*

647 - 629 BCE *Extensive collection of clay tablets acquired known as Ashurbanipal's Library at Nineveh.*

625 BCE *Incursions by Babylonians, Elamites, Medes and Scythians weakens the city of Nineveh.*

612 BCE *Fall of the Assyrian Empire, Nineveh is burned.*

612 BCE *The great Assyrian cities of [Ashur](#), [Kalhu](#), and Nineveh are sacked and burned by the Medes, Babylonians, and Persian forces.*

Mepsila ([Mosul](#)), Started to grow on the western side of the Tigris; opposite the ruins of Nineveh.

The name of the city is first mentioned by [Xenophon](#) in 401 BC in his expeditionary logs. There, he notes a small town of "Mépsila" ([Ancient Greek: Μέψιλα](#)) on the Tigris somewhere about where modern Mosul is today.

Old Assyrian Kingdom 2025 BC – 1336 BC

The first written inscriptions by 'urbanised' Assyrian kings appear in the mid-21st century BC, after they had shrugged off Sumerian domination. The land of Assyria as a whole then consisted of a number of city states and small Semitic kingdoms, some of which were initially independent of Assyria. The foundation of the first major temple in the city of Ashur was traditionally ascribed to king Ushpia who reigned c. 2050 BC.

The main rivals, neighbours or trading partners to early Assyrian kings during the 22nd, 21st and 20th centuries BC would have been the Hattians and Hurrians to the north in Asia Minor, the Gutians, Lullubi and Turukku to the east in the Zagros Mountains of northwest Ancient Iran, the Elamites to the southeast in what is now south central Iran, the Amorites to the west in what is today Syria, and their fellow Sumero-Akkadian city-states of southern Mesopotamia such as Isin, Kish, Ur, Eshnunna and Larsa.

Amorite Period in Assyria, 1809–1750 BC

The Amorites were successfully repelled by the Assyrian kings of the 20th and 19th centuries BC. However, in 1809 BC the native Mesopotamian king of Assyria Erishum II was deposed, and the throne of Assyria was usurped by Shamshi-Adad I (c. 1809 – 1776 BC) in the expansion of Semitic Amorite tribes from the Khabur River delta in the north eastern Levant

Assyria under Babylonian domination, 1750–1732 BC

Hammurabi, after first conquering Mari, Larsa, and Eshnunna, eventually prevailed over Ishme-Dagan's successor Mut-Ashkur (1750–1740 BC), and subjected him to Babylon c. 1750 BC.

Assyrian Adaside dynasty, 1732–1451 BC

The short lived Babylonian Empire quickly began to unravel upon the death of Hammurabi, and Babylonia lost control over Assyria during the reign of Hammurabi's successor Samsu-iluna (1750–1712 BC).

Assyria in decline, 1450–1393 BC

The emergence of the Mitanni Empire in the 16th century BC did eventually lead to a short period of sporadic Mitanni-Hurrian domination in the latter half of the 15th century. The Indo-European-speaking Mitanni are thought to have conquered and formed the ruling class over the indigenous Hurrians of eastern Anatolia. The Hurrians spoke a language isolate, i.e. neither Semitic nor Indo-European.

For Details: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assyria>

Early Assyria, 2600–2335 BC

The city of Ashur, together with a number of other Assyrian cities, seem to have been established by 2600 BC, however it is likely that they were initially Sumerian dominated administrative centres.

Old Assyrian Kingdom 2025– 1392 BC

The first written inscriptions by 'urbanised' Assyrian kings appear in the mid-21st century BC, after they had shrugged off Sumerian domination. The land of Assyria as a whole then consisted of a number of city states and small Semitic kingdoms.

Middle Assyrian Empire, 1392–1056 BC

Assyria had difficulties with keeping the trade routes open. Unlike the situation in the Old Assyrian period, the Anatolian metal trade was effectively dominated by the Hittites and the Hurrians. These people now controlled the Mediterranean ports, while the Kassites controlled the river route south to the Arabian Gulf. **The Middle Assyrian kingdom was well organized**, and in the firm control of the king, who also functioned as the High Priest of Ashur, the state god. He had certain obligations to fulfil in the cult, and had to provide resources for the temples. The priesthood became a major power in Assyrian society. The Middle Assyrian Period is marked by the long wars fought during this period that helped build Assyria into a warrior society. The king depended on both the citizen class and priests in his capital, and the landed nobility who supplied the horses needed by Assyria's military.

Assyrian Society

The main Assyrian cities of the middle period were Ashur, Kalhu (Nimrud) and Nineveh, all situated in the Tigris River valley. At the end of the Bronze Age, Nineveh was much smaller than Babylon, but still one of the world's major cities (population c. 33,000). By the end of the Neo-Assyrian period, it had grown to a population of some 120,000, and was possibly the largest city in the world at that time. All free male citizens were obliged to serve in the army for a time, a system which was called the *ilku*-service. A legal code was produced during the 14th and 13th centuries which, among other things, clearly shows that the social position of women in Assyria was lower than that of neighbouring societies. Men were permitted to divorce their wives with no compensation paid to the latter. If a woman committed adultery, she could be beaten or put to death. It's not certain if these laws were seriously enforced.

Neo-Assyrian Empire, 935–612 BC

[Ashur-Dan II](#) (935–912 BC) oversaw a marked economic and organisational upturn in the fortunes of Assyria, laying the platform for it to once again forge an empire. He is recorded as having made successful punitive raids outside the borders of Assyria to clear Aramean and other tribal peoples from the regions surrounding Assyria in all directions. He concentrated on rebuilding Assyria within its natural borders.

Beginning with the campaigns of Adad-nirari II (911-892 BC), Assyria once more became a great power, growing to be the greatest empire the world had yet seen. The new king firmly subjugated the areas that were previously only under nominal Assyrian vassalage, conquering and deporting troublesome Aramean, Neo-Hittite and Hurrian populations in the north to far-off places. Adad-nirari II then twice attacked and defeated Shamash-mudammiq of Babylonia,

For Details: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assyria>



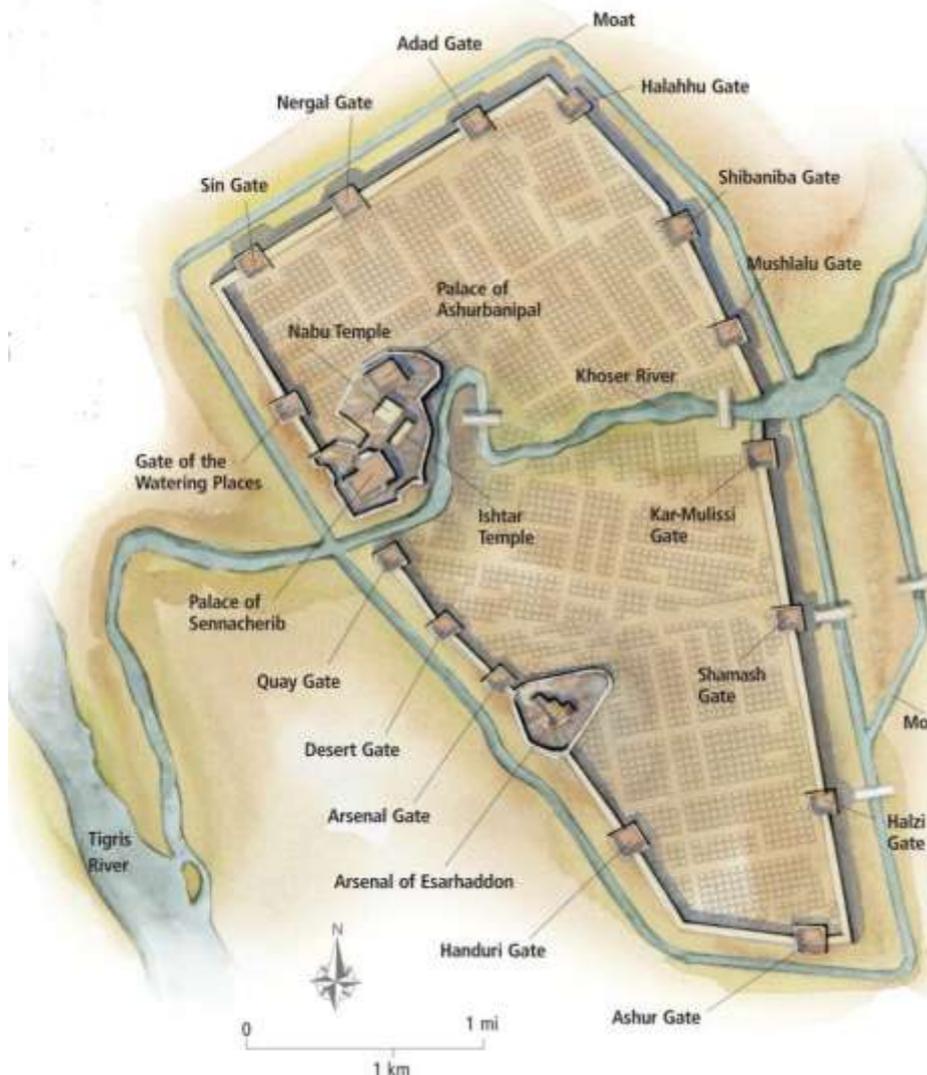
Nineveh

Nineveh is an ancient Mesopotamian city on the eastern bank of the Tigris River, and capital of the Neo-Assyrian Empire.

It was one of **the largest cities in the world for some fifty years** until, after a bitter period of civil war in Assyria itself, it was sacked by an unusual coalition of former subject peoples, the Babylonians, **Medes**, **Persians**, **Chaldeans**, **Scythians** and

Cimmerians in 612 BC.

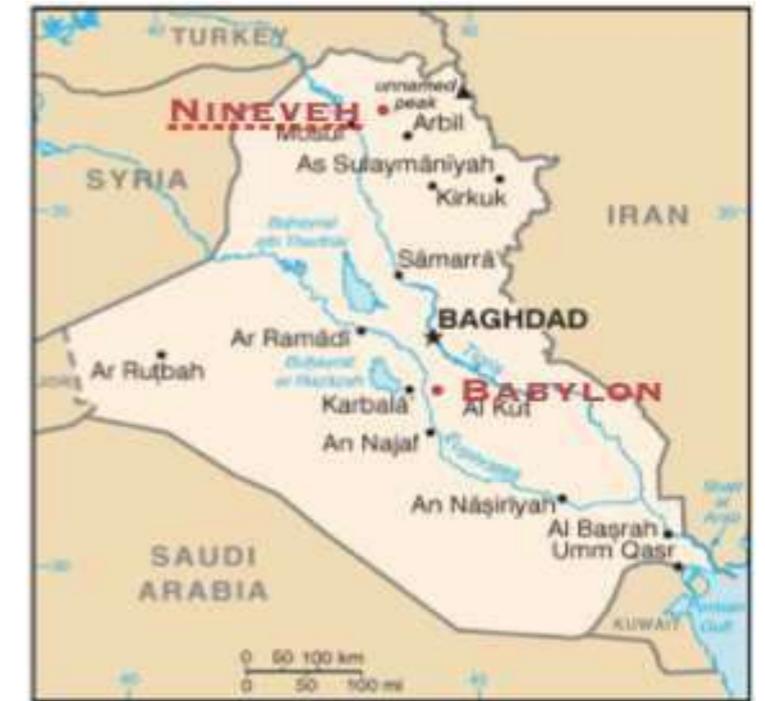
In 705 BCE King Sennacherib moves the Assyrian capital to Nineveh



612 BCE

The Fall of the Assyrian Empire, Nineveh is burned.

Ancient Nineveh's mound-ruins of Kouyunjik and **Nabī Yūnus** are located on a level part of the plain near the junction of the Tigris and the **Khosr Rivers** within an area of 750 hectares (1,900 acres) circumscribed by a 12-kilometre (7.5 mi) brick rampart. This whole extensive space is now one immense area of ruins overlaid in parts by new suburbs of the city of Mosul.



Nineveh was one of the **oldest and greatest cities in antiquity**. The area was settled as early as 6000 BC and, by 3000 BC, had become an important religious centre for worship of the **Akkadian** goddess **Ishtar**. Nineveh was an important junction for commercial routes crossing the Tigris. Occupying a central position on the great highway between the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean, thus uniting the East and the West.

Excavations: **Nineveh in Mosul**

Nineveh was Built on the eastern bank of the Tigris, northern Mesopotamia

Mosul was built on the western bank of the Tigris; opposite Nineveh. Modern Mosul Extends on both sides.

After the destruction of Nineveh in 612 BCE; Mosul started to grow on the western bank of the Tigris. Mosul soon became the new trade centre and route between the East and the West Then. Meaning of the word 'Mosul' in Arabic is the Link or connection.



Subterranean Excavations at Kouyunjik

Subterranean Excavations
at Kouyunjik (1853)

Excavations at Kouyunjik
The site was first identified by
Europeans following Carsten Niebuhr's
1761-1768 Danish expedition

In 1847 the young British adventurer
Sir Austen Henry Layard explored
the ruins In the Kuyunjik mound,
Layard rediscovered in 1849 the lost
palace of Sennacherib with its 71
rooms and colossal bas-reliefs. He
also unearthed the palace and
famous library of Ashurbanipal with
22,000 cuneiform clay tablets. Most
of Layard's material was sent to the
British Museum.



An Assyrian statue (C) and two Assyrian human
headed winged bulls are seen displayed at the Iraqi
national museum in Baghdad September 24, 2008

The work of exploration was carried on by George Smith, Hormuzd Rassam (الآثاري العراقي هرمز رسام), and others, and a vast treasury of specimens of Assyria was incrementally exhumed for European museums. Palace after palace was discovered, with their decorations and their sculptured slabs, revealing the life and manners of this ancient people, their arts of war and peace, the forms of their religion, the style of their architecture, and the magnificence of their monarchs.



The City of Mosul across the Tigris, 1970

From Nineveh to Mosul

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/393855/Mosul>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mosul>

Mosul succeeded **Nineveh** as the Tigris bridgehead linking Syria and Anatolia with Persia.

The city changed hands once again with the rise of Sassanid Persia in 225 CE. Christianity was present among the indigenous Assyrian people in Mosul as early as the 2nd century. It became an Episcopal seat of the Nestorian faith in the 6th century.

In 637 (other sources say 641), during the period of the Caliph Umar ibn al-Khattab, the city was annexed to the Rashidun Caliphate by Utba bin Farqad Al-Salami. Mosul was promoted to the status of capital of Mesopotamia under the Umayyads in the 8th century, during which it reached a peak of prosperity. During the Abbasids era it was an important trading centre because of its strategic location astride the trade routes to India, Persia, and the Mediterranean.

Mosul's prosperity ended in 1258 A.D, when it was ravaged by the Mongols under Hulagu.



The district of Mosul was a first-level administrative division ([vilayet](#)) of the Ottoman Empire

After *World War I* (1914–18) the Mosul area was occupied by Britain until a border settlement (c. 1926) placed it in Iraq rather than in Turkey.

Mosul was the centre and originator of the production of “Muslin” fabric



Mosul school in metalwork, a group of 13th-century metal craftsmen who were centred in Mosul, Iraq, and who for centuries to come influenced the metalwork of the *Islāmic* world from North Africa to eastern Iran. Under the active patronage of the Zangid dynasty, the Mosul school developed an extraordinarily refined technique of [inlay](#)—particularly in silver—that far overshadowed the earlier work of the *Sāmānids* in Iran and of the *Būyids* in Iraq. The technique was carried by Mosul metalworkers to Aleppo, Damascus, Baghdad, Cairo, and Iran; a class of similar metalwork from these centres is called Mosul bronzes.

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/393869/Mosul-school>

Mosul contains many ancient buildings. Those include the Great Mosque, with its leaning minaret, the mosque of Nabī Jarjīs (St. George), several Christian churches, and various Muslim shrines and mausoleums. Since World War II (1939–45) the city has been enlarged in area several times by new construction. There are now five bridges connecting the two sides of the city. The University of Mosul (1967) is the second largest university in Iraq.

LEGACY OF ASSYRIA

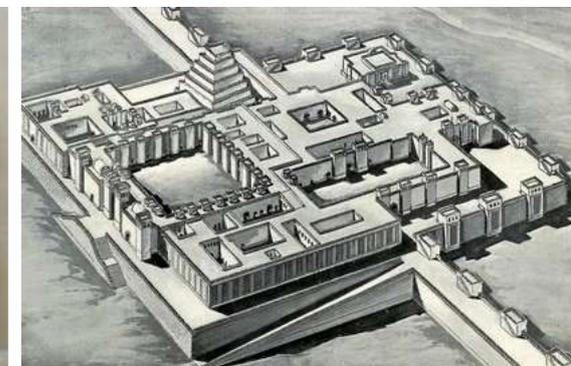
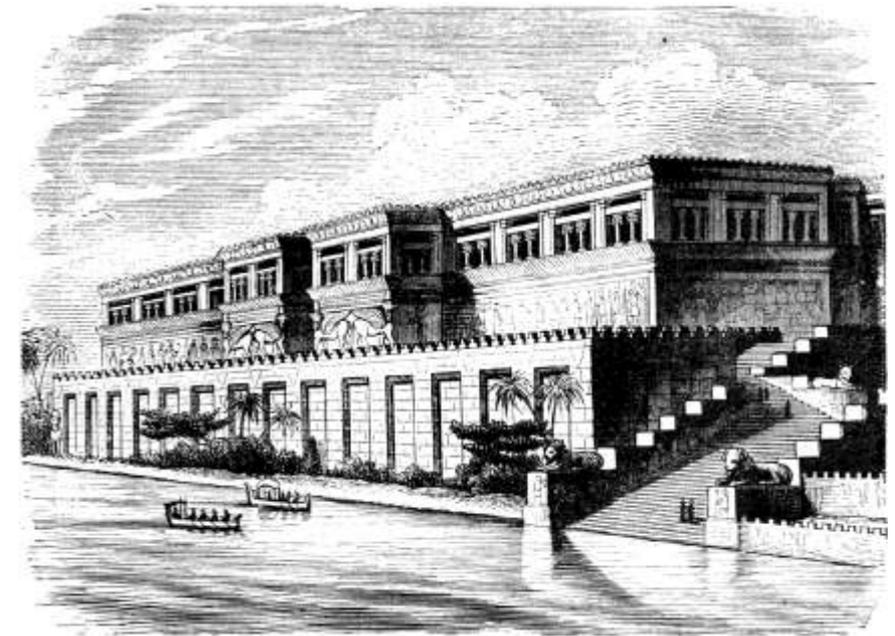
<http://www.ancient.eu/assyria/>

Mesopotamian scholarship was traditionally known as *Assyriology* until relatively recently (though that term is certainly still in use), because the Assyrians were so well known through the primary sources of the Greek and Roman writers. *Through the expanse of their empire, the Assyrians spread Mesopotamian culture to the other regions of the world, which have, in turn, impacted cultures world-wide up to the present day.*

Tiglath Pileser III had introduced Aramaic to replace Akkadian as the lingua franca of the empire and, as Aramaic survived as a written language, this allowed later scholars to decipher Akkadian writings and then Sumerian. The Assyrian conquest of Mesopotamia, and the expansion of the empire throughout the Near East, brought Aramaic to regions as near as Palestine/Judia and as far as Greece and, in this way, Mesopotamian thought became infused with those cultures and a part of their literary and cultural heritage. Following the decline and rupture of the Assyrian empire, Babylon assumed supremacy in the region from 605-549 BCE. Babylon then fell to the Persians under Cyrus the Great who founded the Achaemenid Empire (549-330 BCE) which fell to Alexander the Great and, after his death, was part of the Seleucid Empire.

The fuller manifestation of *Assyrian art and architecture* is not seen until the 9th century bce, when [Ashurnasirpal II](#) transferred his capital from Ashur to *Nimrūd* (ancient Kalakh; biblical Calah). The rise of Assyria to imperial power during this century and those that followed gave increased vitality to Mesopotamian architecture. The vast palaces brought to light in the 19th century emphasize the new interest in secular building and reflect the ostentatious grandeur of the Assyrian kings. Like the temples of earlier days, they are usually artificially raised up on a platform level with the tops of the city walls, astride which they often stand. Their gates are flanked by colossal portal sculptures in stone, and their internal chambers are decorated with pictorial reliefs carved on upright stone slabs, or orthostats. In addition to the 9th-century structure at *Nimrūd*, palace platforms have been exposed at Khorsabad (ancient Dur Sharrukin), where Sargon II established a short-lived capital of his own in the late 8th century bce, and at Nineveh, which was rebuilt in the 7th century, first by *Sargon's* son Sennacherib and then by his grandson Esarhaddon. On the platforms at both Nineveh and *Nimrūd*, palaces and temples were multiplied by successive kings.

[Contents Page](#)



Nimrud (Arabic: النمرود) is the later Arab name for an ancient Assyrian city located 30 kilometres (20 mi) south of the city of Mosul, and 5 kilometres (3 mi) south of the village of Selamiyah (Arabic: السلامية), (in the Nineveh plains in northern Mesopotamia). It was a major Assyrian city between approximately 1250 BC and 610 BC. The city is located in a strategic position 10 kilometres (6 mi) north of the point that the river Tigris meets its tributary the Great Zab. The city covered an area of 360 hectares (890 acres). The ruins of the city were found within one kilometre (1,100 yd) of the modern-day Assyrian village of [Noomanea](#) in Nineveh Province, Iraq. This is some 30 kilometres (19 mi) southeast of Mosul.



Nimrud_ivory_lion_eating_a_man

Archeologists believe that the city was given the name Nimrud in modern times after the Biblical [Nimrod](#), a legendary hunting hero.

The city gained fame when king Ashurnasirpal II of the Neo Assyrian Empire (883 BC–859 BC) made it his capital at the expense of Assur. He built a large palace and temples in the city that had fallen into a degree of disrepair during the Dark Ages of the mid 11th to mid 10th centuries BC.

A grand opening ceremony with festivities and an opulent banquet in 879 BC is described in an inscribed [stele](#) discovered during archeological excavations. The city of king Ashurnasirpal II housed perhaps as many as 100,000 inhabitants -, and contained botanic gardens and a zoo. His son, [Shalmaneser III](#) (858–824 BC), built the monument known as the Great [Ziggurat](#), and an associated temple.

In 2015, the militant organization [Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant](#) (ISIL) announced its intention to destroy the site because of its "un-Islamic" nature. In March 2015, the Iraqi government reported that ISIL had used bulldozers to destroy excavated remains of the city.



City under siege (British Museum)

Babylonian Empire

The Babylonian Empire was the most powerful state in the ancient world after the fall of the **Assyrian** empire (612 BCE). Its capital **Babylon** was beautifully adorned by king **Nebuchadnezzar**, who erected several famous buildings. Even after the Babylonian Empire had been overthrown by the Persian king **Cyrus the Great** (539BC), the city itself remained an important cultural centre.



Upper part of the Codex of Hammurabi ,1170 BCE

First Dynasty of Babylon (1894-1595? BCE).

Ruled by the kings of the nation of the Amorites ("westerners"), which took over Isin, Larsa, and Babylon.

The area was reunited by Hammurabi, a king of Babylon of Amorite descent (1792-1750? BCE). **Babylonia** was one of the most fertile and rich parts of the ancient world.

Middle Babylonian Period

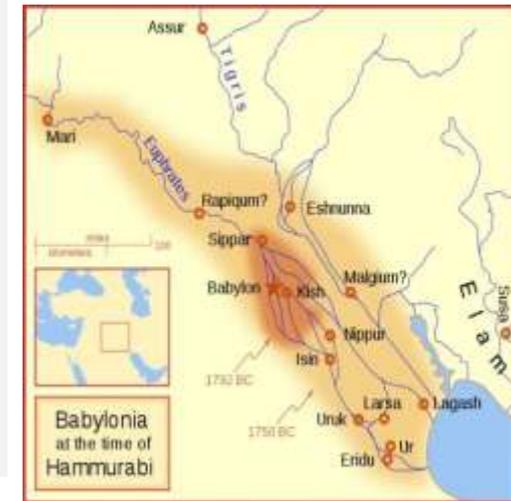
Under Nebuchadnezzar I (1126-1104 BCE), the Babylonians advanced to Elam, and received back the statue of Marduk. However, this revival was brief. In the eleventh century, **Aramaeans** infiltrated Babylonia, and the central government disappeared for some time.

In the southwest of Babylonia, a new group of people settled, the Chaldeans, who were related to the Aramaeans. The relations between the Babylonians, who had already assimilated the Amorites and Kassites, and the new intruders were at first hostile, but the Chaldeans increasingly Babylonized. Dark ages followed. Babylon fell under influence and rule of various competing nations. Babylon was included within the Assyrian empire and several violent episodes and revolts took place.

Neo-Babylonian Period 627- 539 B.C.E

The kings of the Neo-Babylonian dynasty (626-539 BC) established Babylon's domination of much of the Near East. In 626 BC, following the death of the Assyrian-appointed governor of Babylon, Nabopolassar - a man of unknown background, acceded to the throne. The king fought for control of Babylonia and, by 616 BC, was able to launch attacks on Assyrian territory to the north. With assistance from the Medes, Nabopolassar captured some of the most important cities of the Assyrian empire, including the capital Nineveh in 612 BC.

With the fall of Assyria, the main challenge to Babylonia's control of the Near East was Egypt. In 605 BC Nabopolassar's son, Nebuchadnezzar II, succeeded to the throne and continued the fight to control his territory, capturing Jerusalem in 597 BC. Following Nebuchadnezzar's death in 562 BC, Babylonian kings came and went in rapid succession. Nebuchadnezzar's son Amel-Marduk reigned two years before being assassinated by his brother-in-law, Neriglissar (559-556 BC). Neriglissar's son, Labashi-Marduk, survived only a month before Nabonidus came to the throne (555 BC). In 539 BC, however, the armies of Cyrus, king of Persia, invaded. They defeated the Babylonians in battle and captured Babylon, Nabonidus and the empire.



Legacy of Babylon

In Babylonia, an abundance of clay, and lack of stone, led to greater use of [mudbrick](#); Babylonian temples were massive structures of crude brick, supported by buttresses, the rain being carried off by drains. One such drain at [Ur](#) was made of lead. The use of brick led to the early development of the pilaster and column, and of frescoes and enameled tiles.

Literature

There were libraries in most towns and temples; an old Sumerian proverb averred that "he who would excel in the school of the scribes must rise with the dawn."

Women as well as men learned to read and write , and in Semitic times, this involved knowledge of the extinct Sumerian language, and a complicated and extensive syllabary.

There are many Babylonian literary works whose titles have come down to us. One of the most famous of these was the Epic of Gilgamesh, in twelve books, translated from the original Sumerian by a certain Sin-liqi-unninni, and arranged upon an astronomical principle. Each division contains the story of a single adventure in the career of Gilgamesh. The whole story is a composite product, and it is probable that some of the stories are artificially attached to the central figure.

Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Babylonia>

Astronomy

Tablets dating back to the Old Babylonian period document the application of mathematics to the variation in the length of daylight over a solar year. Centuries of Babylonian observations of celestial phenomena are recorded in the series of cuneiform tablets known as the '*Enūma Anu Enlil*'. The oldest significant astronomical text that we possess is Tablet 63 of '*Enūma Anu Enlil*', the Venus tablet of [Ammi-saduqa](#), which lists the first and last visible risings of Venus over a period of about 21 years and is the earliest evidence that the phenomena of a planet were recognized as periodic.

Babylonian astronomy was the basis for much of what was done in Greek and Hellenistic astronomy, in classical Indian astronomy, in Sassanian, Byzantine and Syrian astronomy, in medieval Islamic astronomy, and in Central Asian and Western European astronomy. Neo-Babylonian astronomy can thus be considered the direct predecessor of much of ancient Greek mathematics and astronomy, which in turn is the historical predecessor of the European (Western) scientific revolution.

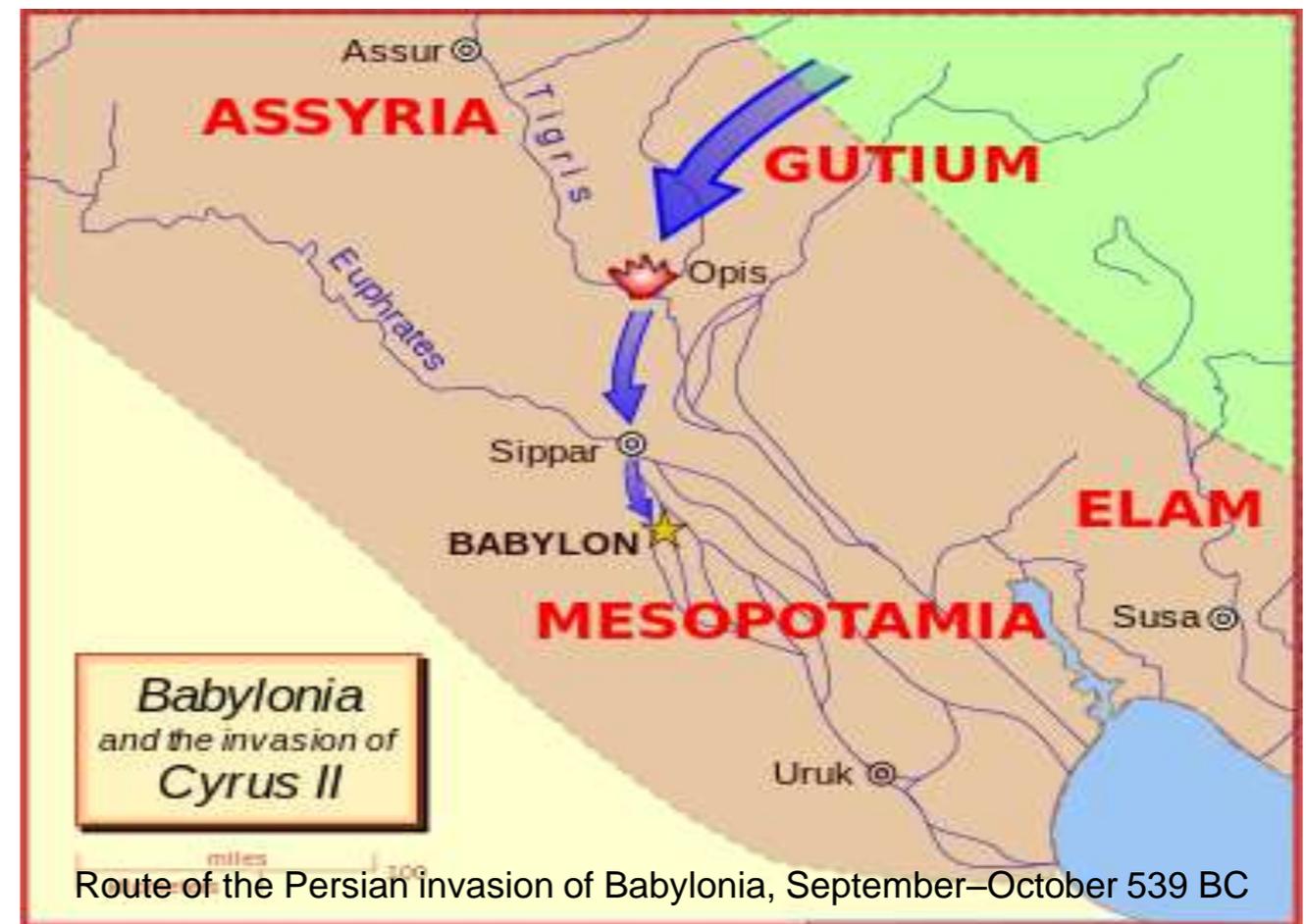
Medicine

Along with contemporary ancient Egyptian medicine, the Babylonians introduced the concepts of diagnosis, prognosis, physical examination, and prescriptions. In addition, the *Diagnostic Handbook* introduced the methods of therapy and aetiology and the use of empiricism, logic and rationality in diagnosis, prognosis and therapy. The text contains a list of medical symptoms and often detailed empirical observations along with logical rules used in combining observed symptoms on the body of a patient with its diagnosis and prognosis.[[]

The End of the Babylonian Era 539 BC

The **Battle of Opis**, fought in September 539 BC, was a major engagement between the armies of Persia under **Cyrus the Great** and the **Neo-Babylonian Empire** under **Nabonidus** during the Persian invasion of **Mesopotamia**. At the time, Babylonia was the last major power in western Asia that was not yet under Persian control. The battle was fought in or near the strategic riverside city of **Opis**, north of the capital **Babylon**. **It resulted in a decisive defeat for the Babylonians**. A few days later, the city of **Sippar** surrendered to the Persians and Cyrus's forces entered Babylon apparently without a fight.

By the time of the battle, Babylonia was in an unpromising geopolitical situation; the Persian empire bordered it to the north, east and west. It had also been suffering severe economic problems exacerbated by plague and famine, and its king Nabonidus was said to be unpopular among many of his subjects for his unconventional religious policies.



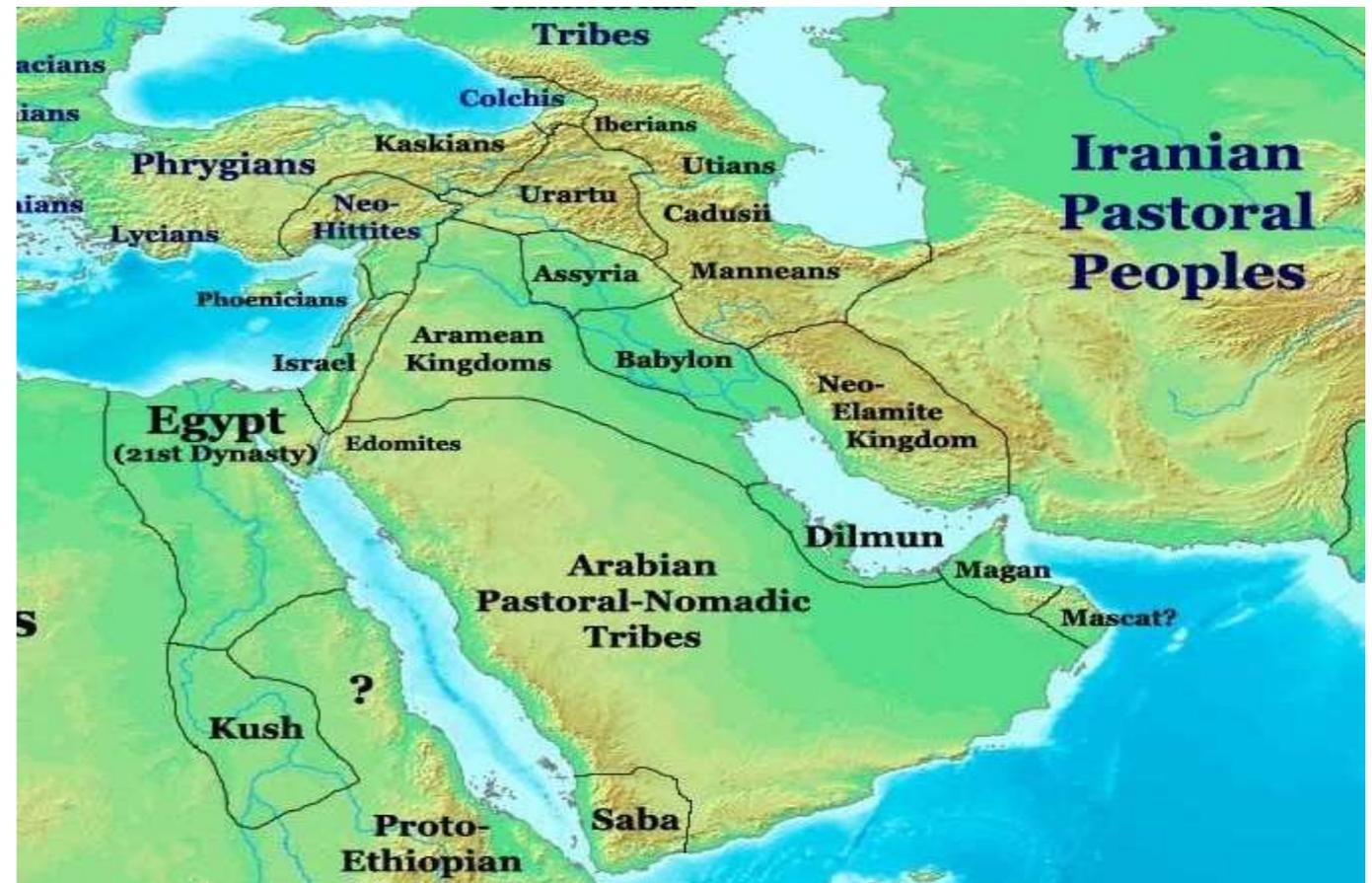
It is, however, unclear how widely the Persians were supported within Babylonia, as accounts of the invasion and Nabonidus's rule are coloured by Cyrus's subsequent propaganda. Other writers have advanced a number of additional or alternative explanations for the Babylonian defeat. M. A. Dandamaev suggests variously that **the regime suffered from a lack of allies; a lack of support among the general population; opposition from subject peoples such as the Jews, who may have seen the invading Persians as liberators;** and the inability of the Babylonian forces to resist numerically superior and better equipped opponents.

Reflection ...

We have so far seen that empires and kingdoms spring out within and around Mesopotamia. Some rise to power and glory on the expense of others suffering in defeat or retreat. We have also seen that culture and innovation are passed from one group or dynasty to the other over the centuries; with varying success and thus human progress is made.



Our sad Violent World Today ..



***Kingdoms & Empires with complex power struggle
Driven by Trade Control, Wealth, Political Ambition,
Religious Dogmas .. Etc***

When we look at the map of the Middle East today ; we witness horrific barbaric destruction driven by vengeance and blind religious outlooks and most of all by greed and ignorance and steered by external powers seeking control of resources, extremist religious groups and misguided individuals.

We need to return to positive human values and learn to share our life even with those that may have different beliefs and views. The road ahead is hazardous and long; but the sane amongst us must keep trying to change the mindsets of our growing new generations and find ways to immune them from the madness that can easily poison their minds. It is of vital importance that our so called world leading countries take a just and fair stand when they are called upon to resolve conflicts; and we cannot do that without a fresh empowered United Nations that can act as a true guardian of peace keeping, with all the authority it needs ; rather than being just a puppet under the thumb of big powers.

Alexander III of Macedon

(336 – 324 BC)

commonly known as Alexander the Great

He spent most of his ruling years on an unprecedented military campaign through Asia and northeast Africa, until by the age of thirty he had created one of the **largest empires** of the ancient world, stretching from **Greece** to **Egypt** and into northwest **India**. He was undefeated in battle and is considered one of history's most successful military commanders.



In 334 BC, he invaded the Achaemenid Empire, ruled Asia Minor, and began a series of campaigns that lasted ten years. Alexander he power of Persia in a series of decisive battles, most notably the battles of Issus and Gaugamela (at Karamless, about 15 miles east of Nineveh/Mosul in the battle of **Arabella**). He subsequently overthrew the Persian King Darius III and conquered the entirety of the First Persian Empire. At that point, his empire stretched from the Adriatic Sea to the Indus River.

Seeking to reach the "ends of the world and the Great Outer Sea", he invaded India in 326 BC, but was eventually forced to turn back at the demand of his troops. Alexander died in Babylon in 323 BC, the city he planned to establish as his capital, without executing a series of planned campaigns that would have begun with an invasion of Arabia. In the years following his death, a series of civil wars tore his empire apart, resulting in several states ruled by the Diadochi, Alexander's surviving generals and heirs.



Babylonian astronomical diary recording the death of Alexander the Great (British Museum)

The Seleucid Empire (320 BC to 63 BC), was a Hellenistic state ruled by the Seleucid dynasty founded by **Seleucus I Nicator** following the division of the empire created by **Alexander the Great**. Seleucus received **Babylonia** and, from there, expanded his dominions to include much of Alexander's **near eastern** territories. At the height of its power, it included central **Anatolia**, **Persia**, the **Levant**, **Mesopotamia**, what is now **Kuwait**, **Afghanistan**, **Turkmenistan**, northwest parts of **India** and **Pakistan**.



Synthesizing Hellenic and indigenous cultural, religious, and philosophical ideas met with varying degrees of success—resulting in times of simultaneous peace and rebellion in various parts of the empire. Such was the case with the Jewish population of the Seleucid empire; the Jews posed a significant problem which eventually led to war. Contrary to the accepting nature of the Ptolemaic empire towards native religions and customs, the Seleucids gradually tried to force Hellenization upon the Jewish people in their territory by outlawing Judaism. This eventually led to the revolt of the Jews under Seleucid control, which would later lead to their achieving independence.

Seleucus went as far as India, where, after two years of war, he reached an agreement with Chandragupta Maurya, in which he exchanged his eastern territories for a considerable force of 500 war elephants, which would play a decisive role at Ipsus (301 BC).

The Seleucid Empire was a major centre of Hellenistic culture that maintained the pre-eminence of Greek customs where a Greek-Macedonian political elite dominated, mostly in the urban areas. The Greek population of the cities who formed the dominant elite were reinforced by immigration from Greece Seleucid expansion into Anatolia and Greece was abruptly halted after decisive defeats at the hands of the Roman army. Their attempts to defeat their old enemy Ptolemaic Egypt were frustrated by Roman demands. Much of the eastern part of the empire was conquered by the Parthians under Mithridates I of Parthia in the mid-2nd century BC, yet the Seleucid kings continued to rule a rump state from Syria until the invasion by Armenian king Tigranes the Great and their ultimate overthrow by the Roman general Pompey.

The Parthian Empire 247 BC – 224 AD)

Also known as the Arsacid Empire, was a major **Iranian** political and cultural power in **ancient Iran**. At its height, the Parthian Empire stretched from the northern reaches of the **Euphrates**, in what is now central-eastern **Turkey**, to eastern **Iran**. The empire, located on the **Silk Road** trade route between the **Roman Empire** in the **Mediterranean Basin** and the **Han Empire of China**, became a centre of trade and commerce.

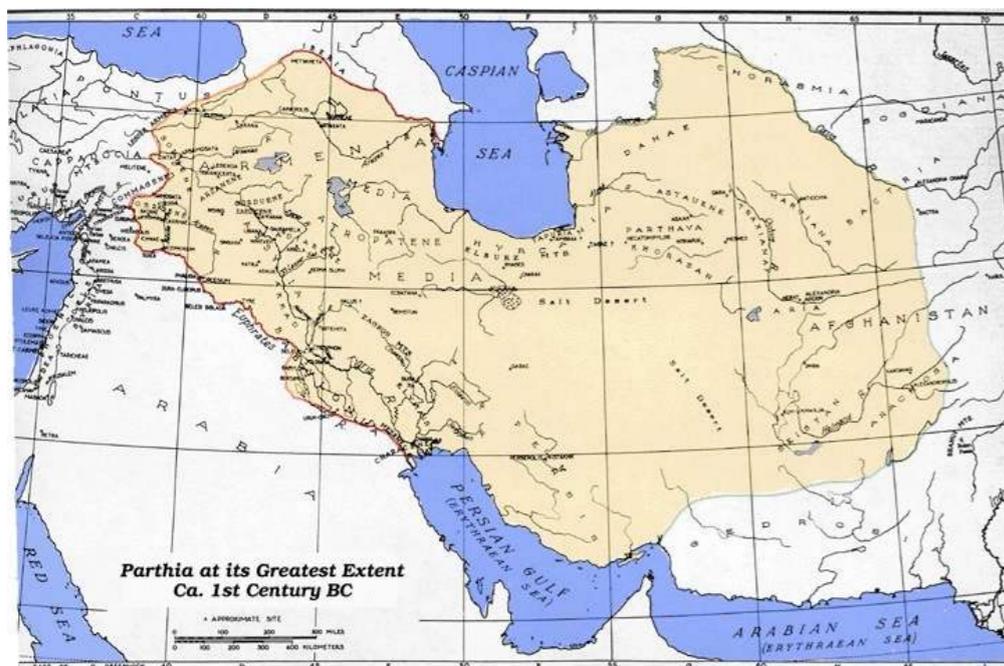
The Parthians largely adopted the art, architecture, religious beliefs, and royal insignia of their culturally heterogeneous empire, which encompassed Persian, Hellenistic, and regional cultures. For about the first half of its existence, the Arsacid court adopted elements of Greek culture, though it eventually saw a gradual revival of Iranian traditions. The Arsacid rulers were titled the "King of Kings", as a claim to be the heirs to the Achaemenid Empire; indeed, they accepted many local kings as vassals where the Achaemenids would have had centrally appointed, albeit largely autonomous, **satraps**.

The earliest enemies of the Parthians were the Seleucids in the west and the **Scythians** in the east. However, as Parthia expanded westward, they came into conflict with the Kingdom of Armenia, and eventually the late Roman Republic.

The earliest Parthian *iwans* are found at Seleucia, built in the early 1st century AD. Monumental *iwans* are also commonly found in the ancient temples of Hatra and perhaps modelled on the Parthian style. The largest Parthian *iwans* at that site have a span of 15 m (50 ft).



Parthian *iwan*
Hatra, South of Mosul



various Roman emperors or their appointed generals invaded Mesopotamia in the course of the several **Roman-Parthian Wars**, which ensued during the next few centuries. The Romans captured the cities of Seleucia and Ctesiphon on multiple occasions during these conflicts, but were never able to hold on to them.



The Roman Empire 27 BC- 476 AD (Rome) / 610 A.D (East)

The ancient Romans built their empire with an aggressive and well-trained army and a talent for efficient administration. They offered Roman law and culture alongside native customs and offered citizenship to the social elite of subject lands. The religion of Rome was Pagan until 313 AD, when **emperor Constantine** issued the [Edict of Milan](#), officially legalizing Christian worship. and with the [Edict of Thessalonica](#), it became the state religion of the Roman Empire in 380 AD. In comparison; **Christianity** had found its way from the Levant to Syria, Mesopotamia and parts of Arabia many centuries earlier.

Mesopotamia was the name of two distinct Roman provinces, the one a short-lived creation of the Roman Emperor Trajan in 116–117 and the other established by Emperor Septimius Severus in ca.198, which ranged between the Roman and the Sassanid empires, until the Muslim conquests of the 7th Century.

In 113 AD, Emperor Trajan (r. 98–117) launched a war against Rome's long-time eastern rival, the Parthian Empire. In 114, he conquered Armenia, which was made into a province, and by the end of 115, he had conquered northern Mesopotamia. This too was organized as a province in early 116, when coins were minted to celebrate the fact.

Later in the same year, Trajan marched into central and southern Mesopotamia (enlarging and completing the province of Mesopotamia) and across the river Tigris to [Adiabene](#), which he annexed into another Roman province, Assyria. But he did not stop there. In the last months of 116, he captured the great Persian city of Susa. He deposed the Parthian king Osroes I and put his own puppet ruler Parthaspates on the Parthian throne. Never again would the Roman Empire advance so far to the east.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mesopotamia_\(Roman_province\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mesopotamia_(Roman_province))



Geographical Tour: A Tour of Empire

In 573, the Persians took Dara, although the East Romans recovered it under the peace of 591. They lost it again to the Persians in the [great war of 602–628](#), and regained it afterwards only to lose the entire region permanently to the [Muslim conquests](#) in 633–640

The Sassanian Empire (224 A.D - 651 A.D)

The last Iranian empire before the rise of Islam, ruled by the Sasanian dynasty from 224 AD to 651 AD. The Sassanian Empire, which succeeded the Parthian Empire, was zed as one of the main powers in Westerecognirn and Central Asia, alongside the Byzantine Empire, for a period of more than 400 years.

The Sassanids, like the Parthians, were in **constant hostilities** with the Roman Empire. Following the division of the Roman Empire in 395, the Eastern Roman Empire, with its capital at Constantinople, replaced the Roman Empire as **Persia's principal western enemy**. Hostilities between the two empires became more.

Ctesiphon was the imperial capital of the Parthian Empire and the Sasanian Empire. It was one of the great cities of late ancient Mesopotamia. Its most conspicuous structure today is the great archway of Ctesiphon. It was situated on the eastern bank of the Tigris across from where the Greek city of Seleucia stood and northeast of ancient Babylon. Today, the remains of the city lie in Baghdad Governorate, Iraq, approximately 35 km (22 mi) south of the city of Baghdad.



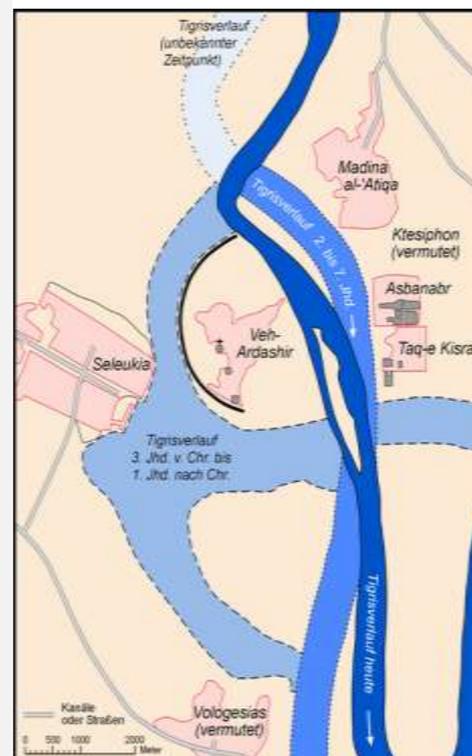
The Sasanian kings were enlightened patrons of letters and philosophy. Khosrau I had the works of [Plato](#) and [Aristotle](#) translated into Pahlavi taught at Gundishapur, and even read them himself.



Sasanian silver vase

The influence of the Sassanid Empire continued long after it ceased to exist. The empire, through the guidance of several able emperors prior to its fall, had achieved a Persian renaissance that would become a driving force behind the civilization of the newly established religion of Islam. In modern Iran and the regions of the [Iranosphere](#), the Sassanid period is regarded as one of the high points of Iranian civilization.

In 632, the first raiders from the Arab tribes, newly united by Islam, arrived in Persian territory. According to Howard-Johnston, years of warfare had exhausted both the Byzantines and the Persians. Owing to continuous raids by Persians into the area, Caliph Umar ordered a full invasion of the Sasanian Iranian empire in 642, which was completed with the complete conquest of the Sasanians around 651.



From ancient Sippar to modern day Baghdad

Ancient Mesopotamian Cities, like Ur, Uruk, Babylon, Nineveh, Sippar and many others were once centres of great civilizations and although today we only have historians and museums to remind us of their greatness; they were the foundations for future great cities and empires that developed near or on their ruins and continued the evolution human progress and culture. The transition period of great cities between fading dynasties and rising ones vary a great deal. Mosul followed Nineveh almost immediately; while **Baghdad** came much later to be built nearby ancient glorious cities; like **Sippar** and **Seleucia**.

Sippar (Sumerian: **Zimbar**) was an Mesopotamian city on the east bank of the Euphrates river, located at the site of modern **Tell Abu Habbah** in Iraq's Babil Governorate, some 60 km north of Babylon and 30 km southwest of Baghdad.

Sippar was part of a pair of cities, separated by a river. **Sippar** was on the east side of the **Euphrates**, while its sister city, **Sippar-Amnanum** (modern **Tell ed-Der**), was on the west. While pottery finds indicate that the site of Sippar was in use as early as the Uruk period, substantial occupation occurred only in the Early Dynastic period of the 3rd millennium BC, the Old Babylonian period of the 2nd millennium BC, and the Neo-Babylonian time of the 1st millennium BC. Lesser levels of use continued into the time of the Achaemenid, Seleucid and Parthian Empires. Sippar was the cult site of the sun god (Sumerian Utu, Akkadian Shamash) and the home of his temple E-babbara.

The Code of Hammurabi stele was probably erected at Sippar. **Shamash** was the god of justice, and he is depicted handing authority to the king in the image at the top of the stele. A closely related motif occurs on some cylinder seals of the Old Babylonian period. By the end of the 19th century BC, Sippar was producing some of the finest Old Babylonian cylinder seals.

In 1894, Sippar was worked briefly by Jean-Vincent Scheil. The tablets recovered, mainly Old Babylonian, went to the Istanbul Museum. In modern times, the site was worked by a Belgian team from 1972 to 1973. Iraqi archaeologists from the College of Arts at the University of Baghdad, led by Walid al-Jadir with Farouk al-Rawi, have excavated at Tell Abu Habbah from 1977 through the present in 24 seasons. After 2000, they were joined by the German Archaeological Institute. According to Professor Andrew George, a cuneiform tablet containing a portion of the Epic of Gilgamesh probably came from Sippar



بغداد ملتقى الحضارات

موفق جواد الطائي معمار أكاديمي

قبل (الطوفان) عرفت بغداد سر الحضارة لكن عندما يتحدث المورخون يتناسون تاريخ بغداد الطويل الموعول في القدم وكان بغداد ولدت من فكر أبي جعفر المنصور في القرن الثامن الميلادي.

بغداد لم تولد على يد شخص بين ليلة وضحاها وإنما هي نتاج جهد وإبداع التجارب والمعرفة الإنسانية عبر السنين .

وجدت بغداد قبل الطوفان ، ومن ثم جاءت بعدها حضارات وادي الرافدين اللاحقة ومنجزاتها العلمية الجبارة مثل قوانين الرياضيات والقوانين الاجتماعية والكهرباء ولاحقاً نظم الري وتخطيط وتصميم المدن .

بات لزاماً علينا أن نعرض هنا لنوى الحضارات التي أوجدتها و النمو الاقتصادي الذي أدامها ولقطني نشوء بغداد وعلى ضوء المكتشفات العلمية الحديثة ونظريات تخطيط المدن ومنها نظريه النمو القطبي لنشأة المدن وذلك من خلال استعراض الإنجازات التاريخية التي جعلت بغداد مركزاً تجارياً وعلمياً وثقافياً منذ فجر التاريخ ولحد الآن تستقطب أمم العالم للتجارة والثقافة حتى أضحت بغداد ملتقى طرق التجاره وموقع تبادل المعرفة وستبقى بغداد هكذا أبداً سمرمدية في عطائها التنموي الاقتصادي والفكري .

For further reading : (Arabic Text)

Baghdad : Where Civilizations Meet

By Muafaq Jewad Al-Taaiy

Pre-Islamic Arab History

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pre-Islamic_Arabia

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Among the most prominent civilizations were the [Thamud](#) which arose around 3000 BCE and lasted to about 300 CE and [Dilmun](#) which arose around the end of the fourth millennium and lasted to about 600 CE. Additionally, from the beginning of the first millennium BCE, Southern Arabia was the home to a number of kingdoms such as the [Sabaeans](#) and the coastal areas of Eastern Arabia were controlled by the Iranian Parthians and Sassanians from 300 BCE.

The Kingdom of Qedar: were a largely nomadic, ancient Arab tribal confederation. Described as "the most organized of the Northern Arabian tribes", at the peak of its power in the 6th century BC it controlled a large region between the Arabian Gulf and the Sinai Peninsula. The earliest extrabiblical inscriptions discovered by archaeologists that mention the Qedarites are from the Neo-Assyrian Empire. Spanning the 8th and 7th centuries BC, they list the names of Qedarite kings who revolted and were defeated in battle, as well as those who paid Assyrian monarchs tribute, including [Zabibe](#), queen of the Arabs.

Magan, Midian, and 'Ād

[Magan](#) is attested as the name of a trading partner of the Sumerians. It is often assumed to have been located in Oman. The A'adids established themselves in South Arabia (modern-day Yemen), settling to the east of the Qahtan tribe. They established the Kingdom of 'Ād around the 10th century BCE to the 3rd century CE.

From the 3rd century CE, Arabian history becomes more tangible with the rise of the [Himyarite](#), and with the *appearance* of the [Qaḥṭānites](#) in the Levant and the gradual assimilation of the [Nabataeans](#) by the [Qaḥṭānites](#) in the early centuries CE, a pattern of expansion exceeded in the explosive Muslim conquests of the 7th century. Sources of history include archaeological evidence, foreign accounts and oral traditions later recorded by Islamic scholars.

The Kingdom of Arabaya (or simply **Araba**) was a 2nd-century, semi-autonomous buffer kingdom between the Roman Empire and the Parthian Empire, mostly under Parthian influence, located in modern Iraq. The city of Hatra was probably founded in the 3rd or 2nd century BCE, under the Seleucid kingdom. Arabs were common in Mesopotamia at the time of the Seleucids (3rd century BC). In the 1st and 2nd century, Hatra was ruled by a dynasty of Arabian princes. It rose to prominence as the capital of Araba. Hatra would become an important religious centre as a result of its strategic position along caravan trade routes.

Araba is sometimes identified as the first Arab state to be established outside of Arabia. For others, that distinction is accorded to [Al-Hirah](#) (circa 300 CE), a vassal of the Sassanid Empire .



The Ruins of Hatra

Al Hira was a significant city in pre-Islamic Arab history. Originally a military encampment, in the 5th and 6th centuries CE it became the capital of the [Lakhmids](#).

The Arabs were migrating into the Near East from the 9th century BCE. In the 3rd century CE parts of southern Mesopotamia had a substantial Arab population. Under the Sassanid Empire, southern Mesopotamia was sometimes called [Arabaya](#). The first historical Arab kingdom outside Arabia, *Hira* (4th-7th centuries), in southern Iraq, was a vassal of the Sassanids, whom it helped in containing the nomadic Arabs to the south.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Hirah>

Eastern Arabia

The sedentary people of pre-Islamic Eastern Arabia were mainly Aramaic speakers and to some degree Persian speakers while [Syriac](#) functioned as a [liturgical language](#). In pre-Islamic times, the population of Eastern Arabia consisted of Christianized Arabs (including [Abd al-Qays](#)), [Aramean](#) Christians, Persian-speaking Zoroastrians and Jewish agriculturalists. According to [Robert Bertram Serjeant](#), the [Baharna](#) may be the Arabized "descendants of converts from the original population of Christians (Aramaeans), Jews and ancient Persians (Majus) inhabiting the island and cultivated coastal provinces of Eastern Arabia at the time of the Arab conquest".

Nestorian Christianity was the dominant religion in pre-Islamic Eastern Arabia. Zoroastrianism was also present the Zoroastrians of Eastern Arabia were known as "[Majooos](#)" in pre-Islamic times. The sedentary dialects of Eastern Arabia, including Bahrani Arabic, were influenced by Akkadian, Aramaic and Syriac languages.

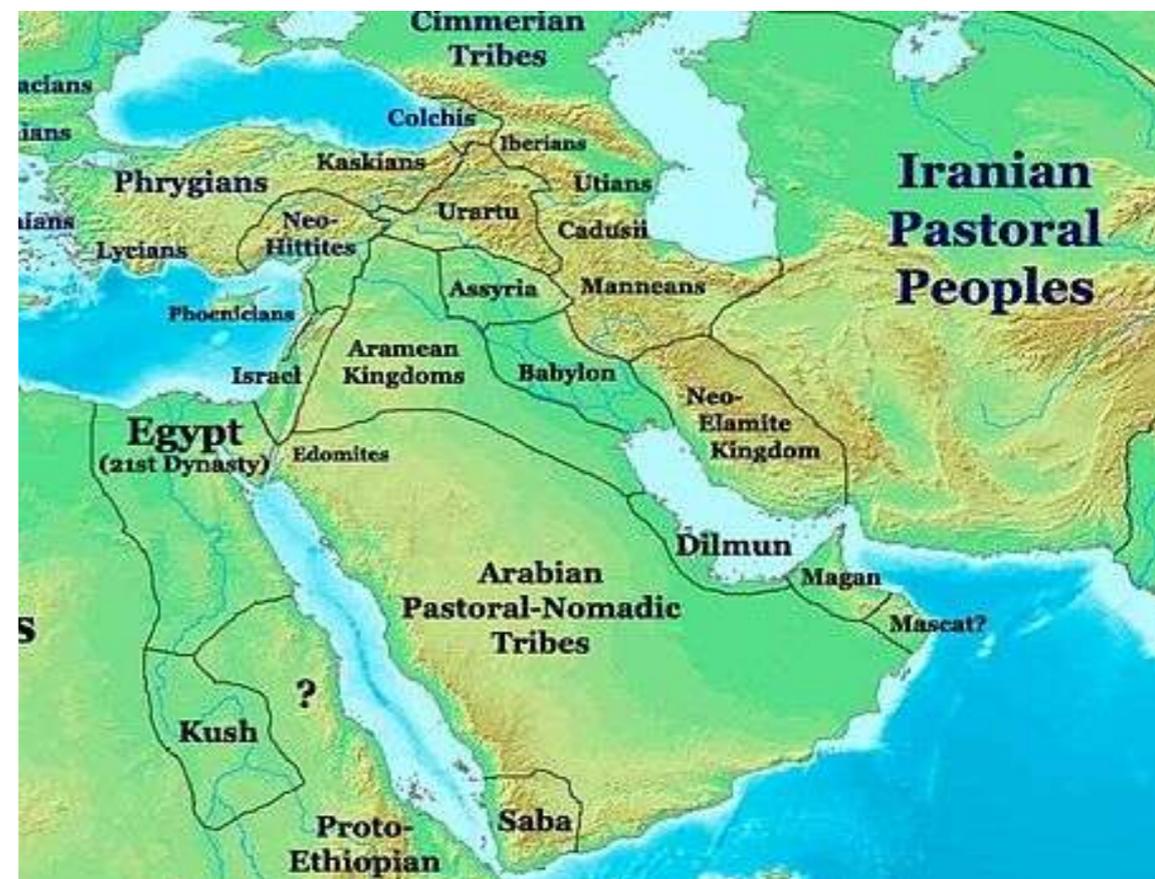
There was a small group of monotheists present in Arabia on the eve of the rise of Islam. Its members did not worship idols, and they were the followers of the Prophet Abraham. The members of the families of Muhammad, the future prophet, and Ali ibn Abi Talib, the future caliph, and most members of their clan – the Banu Hashim – belonged to this group.

The Dilmun civilization was an important trading centre which at the height of its power controlled the Arabian Gulf trading routes. The Sumerians regarded Dilmun as holy land. Dilmun is regarded as one of the oldest ancient civilizations in the Middle East. The Sumerians described Dilmun as a paradise garden in the Epic of Gilgamesh.

For more details on Arab tribes and their migration to Mesopotamia, Syria & Palestine centuries before the advent of Islam :

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pre-Islamic_Arabia

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The State of Religion in Pre-Islamic Arabia 'عصور الجاهلية'

The period in the Arabian history which preceded the birth of Islam is known as the Times of Ignorance. Judging by the beliefs and the practices of the pagan Arabs, it appears that it was a most appropriate name. The Arabs were the devotees of a variety of “religions” which can be classified into the following categories:

- 1. Idol-worshippers or polytheists.** Most of the Arabs were idolaters. They worshipped numerous idols and each tribe had its own idol or idols and fetishes. They had turned the Kaaba in Makkah, which according to tradition, had been built by the Prophet Abraham and his son, Ismael, and was dedicated by them to the service of One God, into a heathen pantheon housing 360 idols of stone and wood.
- 2. Atheists** This group was composed of the materialists and believed that the world was eternal.
- 3. Zindiqs** They were influenced by the Persian doctrine of dualism in nature. They believed that there were two gods representing the twin forces of good and evil or light and darkness, and both were locked up in an unending struggle for supremacy.
- 4. Sabines.** They worshipped the stars.
- 5. Jews** When the Romans destroyed Jerusalem in A.D. 70, and drove the Jews out of Palestine and Syria, many of them found new homes in Hijaz in Arabia. Under their influence, many Arabs also became converts to Judaism. Their strong centres were the towns of Yathrib, Khayber, Fadak and Umm-ul-Qura.
- 6. Christians.** The Romans had converted the north Arabian tribe of Ghassan to Christianity. Some clans of Ghassan had migrated to and had settled in Hijaz. In the south, there were many Christians in Yemen where the creed was originally brought by the Ethiopian invaders. Their strong center was the town of Najran.
- 7. Monotheists** There was a small group of monotheists present in Arabia on the eve of the rise of Islam. Its members did not worship idols, and they were the followers of the Prophet Abraham. The members of the families of Muhammad, the future prophet, and Ali ibn Abi Talib, the future caliph, and most members of their clan – the Banu Hashim – belonged to this group.

The greatest intellectual accomplishment of the pagan Arabs was their poetry

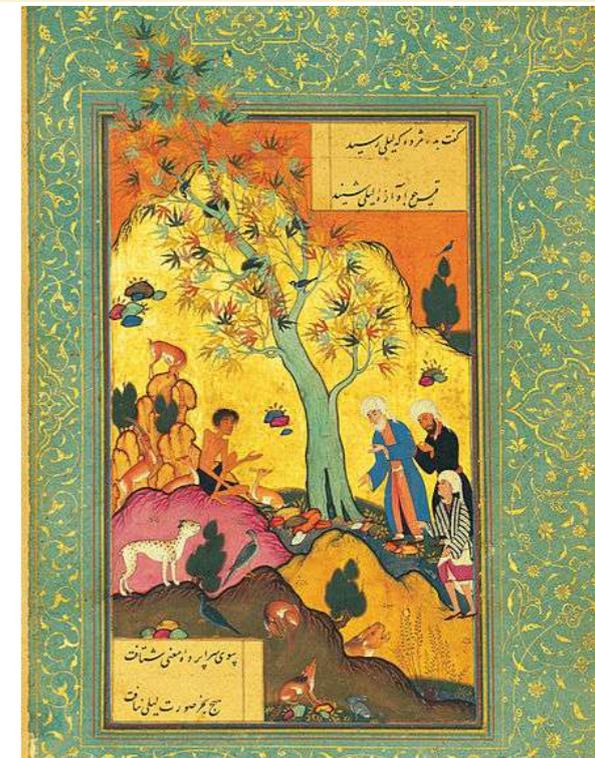
The first major poet in the pre-Islamic era is [Imru' al-Qais](#), the last king of the kingdom of [Kindah](#). Although most of the poetry of that era was not preserved, what remains is well regarded as the finest of Arabic poetry to date. In addition to the eloquence and artistic value, pre-Islamic poetry constitutes a major source for classical Arabic language both in grammar and vocabulary, and as a reliable historical record of the political and cultural life of the time.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_epic_literature

Al-Mu'allaqāt, **المعلقات**, collection of seven pre-Islamic Arabic [qasīdahs](#) (odes), each considered to be its *author's* best piece. Since the authors themselves are among the dozen or so most famous poets of the 6th century, the selection enjoys a unique position in [Arabic literature](#), representing the finest of early Arabic poetry.

Layla and Majnun (English: Possessed by madness for Layla;); Arabic: **مجنون ليلى**, is a love story that originated as a poem in ancient Arabia

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Layla_and_Majnun



Layla and Majnun **مجنون ليلى**

However, it should not be thought that the poems of the Mu'allaqāt are merely naturalistic or romantic descriptions of Bedouin life; their language and imagery embody a complex system of ethical values passed from generation to generation through the poetry.

English translations of *Al-Mu'allaqāt* include *The Seven Golden Odes of Pagan Arabia* (1903) by Lady Anne and Sir Wilfrid Scawen Blunt, *The Seven Odes* (1957, reissued 1983) by A.J. Arberry, *The Seven Poems Suspended in the Temple at Mecca* (1973, originally published in 1893) by Frank E. Johnson, and *The Golden Odes of Love* (1997) by Desmond O'Grady.

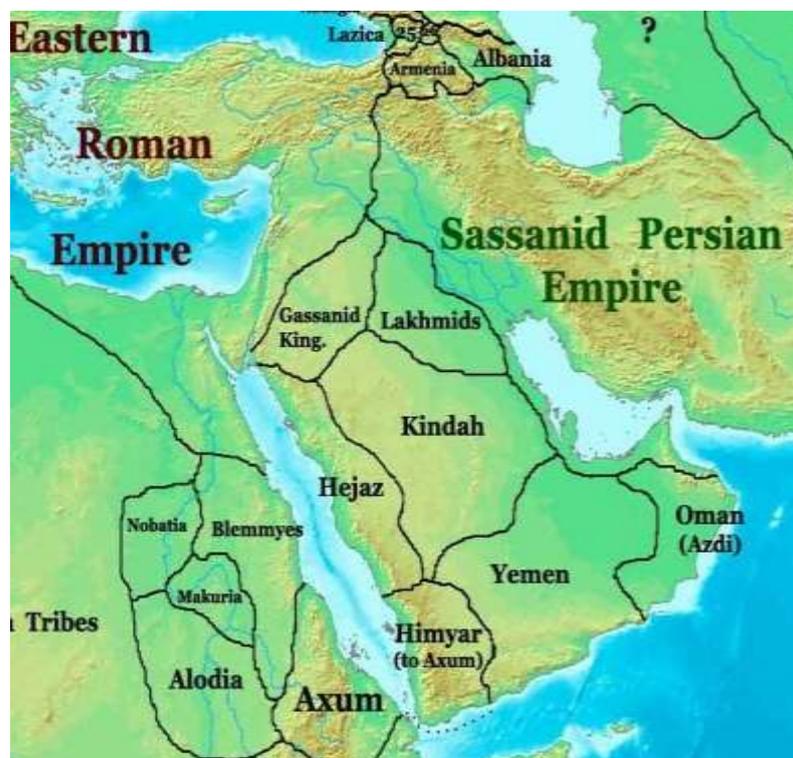


Antara ibn Shaddad

Pre Islam Arab Presence in Southern Iraq

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lakhmids>

The **Lakhmids** (Arabic: اللخميون), (**Banu Lakhm** (Arabic: بنو لخم), (**Muntherids** (Arabic: المناذرة), were an Arab tribe who lived in Southern Iraq, and made al-Hirah their capital in 266. Poets described it as a Paradise on earth; an Arab poet described the city's pleasant climate and beauty thus: "One day in al-Hirah is better than a year of treatment". The al-Hirah ruins are located 3 kilometers south of Kufa, on the west bank of the Euphrates. Their descendants today are the Mandharis, present in the Sultanate of Oman, Iraq, and the United Arab Emirates, the Na'amanis, another Arab tribe in Oman, and several other tribes and families. All of the aforementioned tribes belong to either [Ibadi](#) or Sunni Islam



[The Battle of Dhi Qar](#) / Arabic, يوم ذي قار

was a pre-Islamic battle fought between Arabs in southern Iraq and a Sassanid Persian army, c. 609.

The **Ghassanids** (Arabic: الغساسنة; *al-Ghasāsinah*, also *Banū Ghassān* "Sons of *Ghassān*") were a group of Arabs descended from the [Azd](#) tribes, that emigrated in the early 3rd century from the Southern Arabian Peninsula to the Levant region where some merged with Greek-speaking Christians' communities converting to Christianity in the first few Centuries AD while others were already Christians before emigrating north to escape religious prosecution. The Ghassanids generally did not accept Islam and few became Muslim following the Islamic Conquest; most Ghassanids remained Christian and joined [Melkite](#) and [Syriac](#) communities within present day Syria and Lebanon

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ghassanids>

Oral tradition holds that the Ghassanids came from the city of [Ma'rib](#) in South Arabia and its surrounding cities and towns, modern day Yemen. Tradition holds that their exodus from the area was primarily due to the destruction of the famous [Marib Dam](#), the story of which is detailed in the eponymous 34th chapter of the Quran. *The famous Arabic proverb "They were scattered like the people of [Saba](#)" refers to that exodus in history. Migration did also occur in different waves, another prominent wave being the prosecution of Christian Arabs by the rulers and the mass graves where many who did not escape were buried alive - the same is recited in the Quran and referred to "Ashāb al-Ukhdūd" (أصحاب الاخدود).* The date of the migration to the Levant is unclear, but they are believed to have arrived in the region of Syria between 250-300 AD and later waves of migration circa 400 AD

Brief history of Islam : "Muslim" is an Arabic word meaning "one who submits to God". Muslims and their religion have greatly impacted the political, economic, and military history of the Old World, especially the Middle East, where its roots lie. Though it is believed by non-Muslims to have originated in Makkah and Madina, Muslims believe that the religion of Islam has been present since the time of the prophet Adam. Muslims believe that prophets Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, among others, were all Islamic prophets, and they have equal veneration in the Qur'an. The Islamic world expanded to include people of the Islamic civilization, inclusive of non-Muslims living in that civilization.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Islam

Islam is a monotheistic religious tradition that developed in the Middle East in the 7th century C.E.

Islam, which literally means "surrender" or "submission," was founded on the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad as an expression of surrender to the will of Allah, the creator and sustainer of the world. The Quran, the sacred text of Islam, contains the teachings of the Prophet that were revealed to him from Allah.

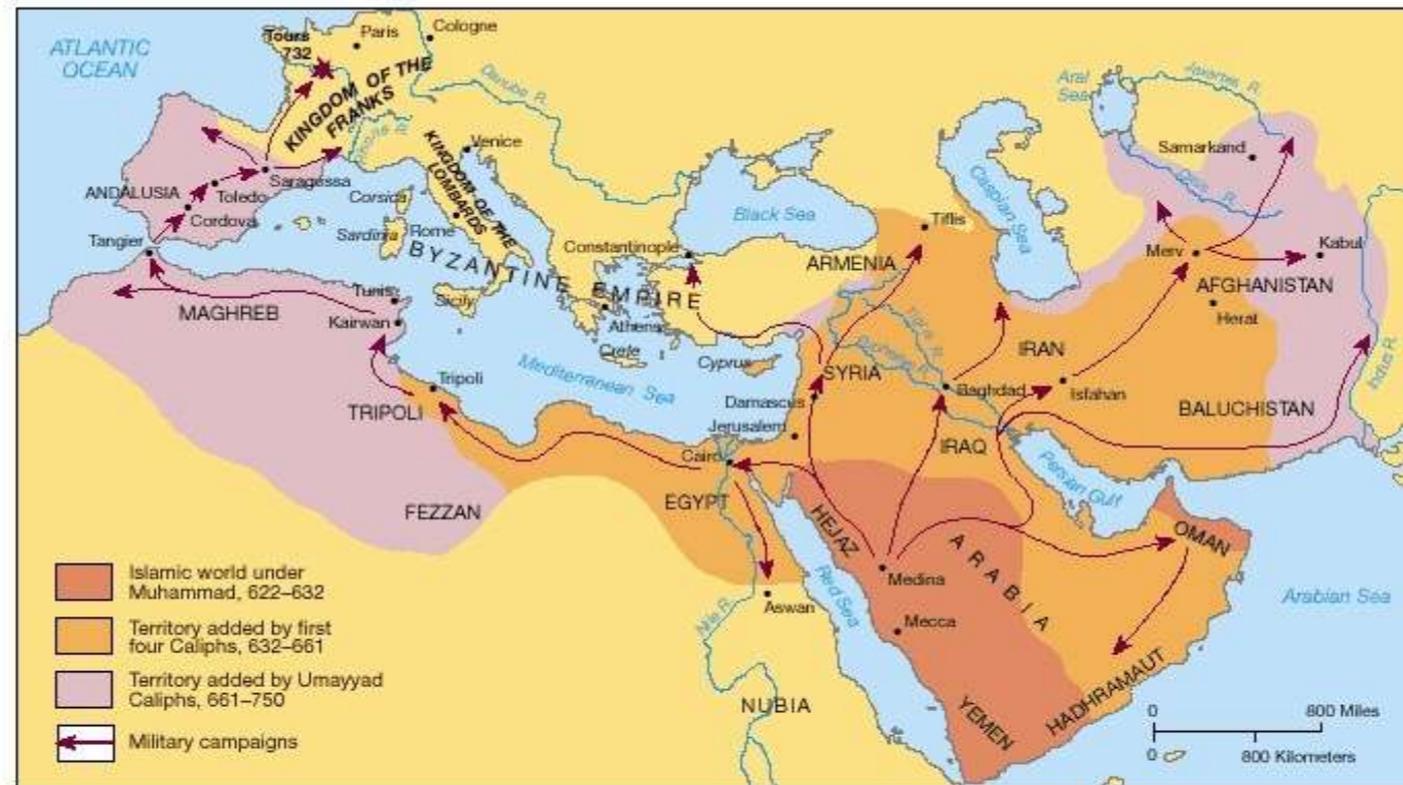
Essential to Islam is the belief that Allah is the one and true God with no partner or equal. Islam has several branches and much variety within those branches. The two divisions within the tradition are the Sunni and Shi'a, each of which claims different means of maintaining religious authority.

One of the unifying characteristics of Islam is the Five Pillars, the fundamental practices of Islam. These five practices include a ritual profession of faith, ritual prayer, the zakat (charity), fasting, and the hajj (a pilgrimage to Mecca for those who can afford the journey financially and physically). Many Muslims are characterized by their commitment to praying to Allah five times a day. One of the defining characteristics of Islam is the primacy of sacred places including Makkah, Madina, and Jerusalem. Muslims gather at mosques to worship Allah, pray, and study scripture. ***There is not a sharp distinction between the religious and secular aspects of life in Islam; all aspects of a Muslim's life are to be oriented to serving Allah.***

Islam expanded almost immediately beyond its birthplace in the Arabian peninsula, and now has significant influence in Africa, throughout Asia, Europe, and the Americas.

Islam - 610 A.D

**The word Islam means 'submission to the will of God'.
Islam is the second largest religion in the world with over 1 billion followers.**



 The Spread of Islam. The rapid spread of Islam created within a century a unified cultural and economic zone from India to the

- Muslims believe that Islam was revealed over 1400 years ago in Makkah, Arabia.
- Followers of Islam are called Muslims.
- Muslims believe that there is **only One God**.
- The Arabic word for **God is Allah**.
- According to Muslims, God sent a number of prophets to mankind to teach them how to live according to His law.
- Jesus, Moses and Abraham are respected as **prophets of God**.
- They believe that the final Prophet was Muhammad.
- Muslims believe that Islam has always existed, but for practical purposes, date their religion from the time of the migration of Muhammad.
- Muslims base their laws on their holy book the Qur'an, and the Sunnah.
- Muslims believe the Sunnah is the practical example of Prophet Muhammad and that there are **five basic Pillars of Islam**.
- These pillars are the declaration of faith, praying five times a day, giving money to charity (Zakat), fasting and a pilgrimage to Makkah (For the healthy and financially capable).

The Rashidun Caliphs الخلفاء الراشدون

The **Rashidun Caliphs** (meaning "Rightly Guided", "Righteously Guided", "Righteous" Caliphs; Arabic: الخلفاء الراشدون *al-Khulafā`u ar-Rāshidūn*), often simply called, collectively, "*the Rashidun*", which is a term used in Sunni Islam to refer to the first four caliphs ([Abu Bakr](#), [Umar](#), [Uthman ibn Affan](#) and [Ali](#)) of the **Rashidun Caliphate**, the first caliphate founded after the death of the Islamic prophet Muhammad.

The first four Caliphs who ruled after the death of Muhammad are often described as the "*Khulafā` Rāshidūn*". The Rashidun were either elected by a council (see the election of Uthman and Islamic democracy) or chosen based on the wishes of their predecessor. In the order of succession, the *Rāshidūn* were:

Abu Bakr (632–634 CE).

Umar ibn al-Khattab, (Umar I, 634–644 CE) – Umar is often spelled **Omar** in some Western scholarship.

Uthman Ibn Affan(644–656 CE) – Uthman is often spelled **Othman** (or **Osman**) in some non-Arabic scholarship.

Ali ibn Abi Talib (656–661 CE) – During this period however, **Muawiyah ibn Abi Sufyan** (Muawiyah I) and **Amr ibn al-As** controlled the Levant and Egypt regions independently of Ali.

In addition to this, there are several views regarding additional *rashidun*. **Hasan ibn Ali**, the eldest grandson of prophet **Muhammad**, briefly succeeded **Ali ibn Abi Talib** as caliph in 661 CE and is recognized by several historians as part of the **Rashidun**.

Hasan ibn Ali abdicated his right to the caliphate in favour of **Muawiyah** I in order to end the potential for ruinous civil war.

Sunni perspectives

They are called so because they have been seen as model Muslim leaders by Sunni Muslims. This terminology came into a general use around the world, since Sunni Islam has been the dominant Islamic tradition, and for a long time it has been considered the most authoritative source of information about Islam in the Western world.

They were all close companions of Muhammad, and his relatives: the daughters of Abu Bakr and Umar were married to Muhammad, and three of Muhammad's daughters were married to Uthman and Ali. Likewise, their succession was not hereditary, something that would become the custom after them, beginning with the subsequent Umayyad Caliphate. Council decision or caliph's choice determined the successor originally.

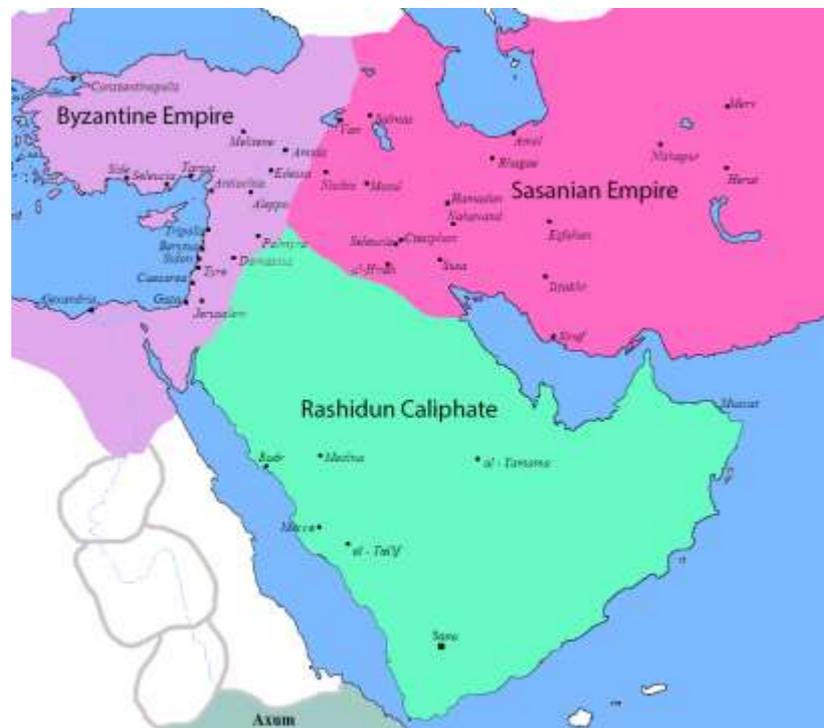
Shia tradition

According to Shia Islam, the first caliph should have been Ali followed by the Shia Imams. Shia Muslims support this claim with the [Hadith of the pond of Khumm](#). Another reason for this support for Ali as the first caliph is because he had the same relationship to Muhammad as Aaron ([Hārūn](#)) had to Moses ([Mūsa](#)). This is because of the Hadith or saying of Muhammed, "You(al) are to me as Harun was to Musa, except that there will be no prophet after me" (Agreed upon). Starting with Muhammad to Ali to the grandsons of Muhammad, [Hasan ibn Ali](#) and [Hussein ibn Ali](#) (Prophet Muhammad had no surviving sons of his own).

The Muslim conquest of Persia,

Also known as the **Arab conquest of Iran** led to the end of the Sasanian Empire in 651 and the eventual decline of the Zoroastrian religion in Iran. Arabs first attacked the Sassanid territory in 633, when general [Khalid ibn Al Walid](#) invaded Mesopotamia (what is now Iraq), which was the political and economic centre of the Sassanid state. Following the transfer of Khalid to the Roman front in the Levant, the Muslims eventually lost their holdings to Iranian counterattacks. The second invasion began in 636 under [Saad ibn Abi Waqqas](#), when a key victory at the [Battle of Qadisiyyah](#) led to the permanent end of Sasanian control west of Iran. The Zagros mountains then became a natural barrier and border between the Rashidun Caliphate and the Sassanid Empire. Owing to continuous raids by Persians into the area, **Caliph Umar** ordered a full invasion of the Sasanian Iranian empire in 642, which was completed with the complete conquest of the Sasanians around 651. The quick conquest of Iran in a series of well coordinated multi-pronged attacks, directed by Caliph Umar from [Madina](#) several thousand miles from the battlefields in Iran, became his greatest triumph, contributing to his reputation as a great military and political strategist.

Source : http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim_conquest_of_Persia



The Islamic Caliphate, The Persian Sasanian and the Roman Empires around 633 A.D

Before the Muslim conquest of Egypt had begun, the Eastern Romans had already lost the Levant and its Arab ally, the [Ghassanid Kingdom](#), to the Muslims. All of this left the Eastern Roman Empire dangerously exposed and vulnerable.

Islamic Conquest of Egypt was completed in 641 A.D



Rashidun Empire at its peak under the third Rashidun Caliph, Uthman, in 654

The Battle of Yarmouk 636 A.D معركة اليرموك

The Battle of Yarmouk was a major battle between the army of the [Byzantine Empire](#) and the Muslim Arab forces of the Rashidun Caliphate. The battle consisted of a series of engagements that lasted for six days in August 636, near the Yarmouk River, along what today are the borders of Syria-Jordan and Syria-Israel, east of the Sea of Galilee. The result of the battle was a complete Muslim victory which ended Byzantine rule in Syria. The Battle of Yarmouk is regarded as one of the most decisive battles in military history, and it marked the first great wave of Islamic conquests after the death of Prophet Muhammad, heralding the rapid advance of Islam into the then Christian Levant.

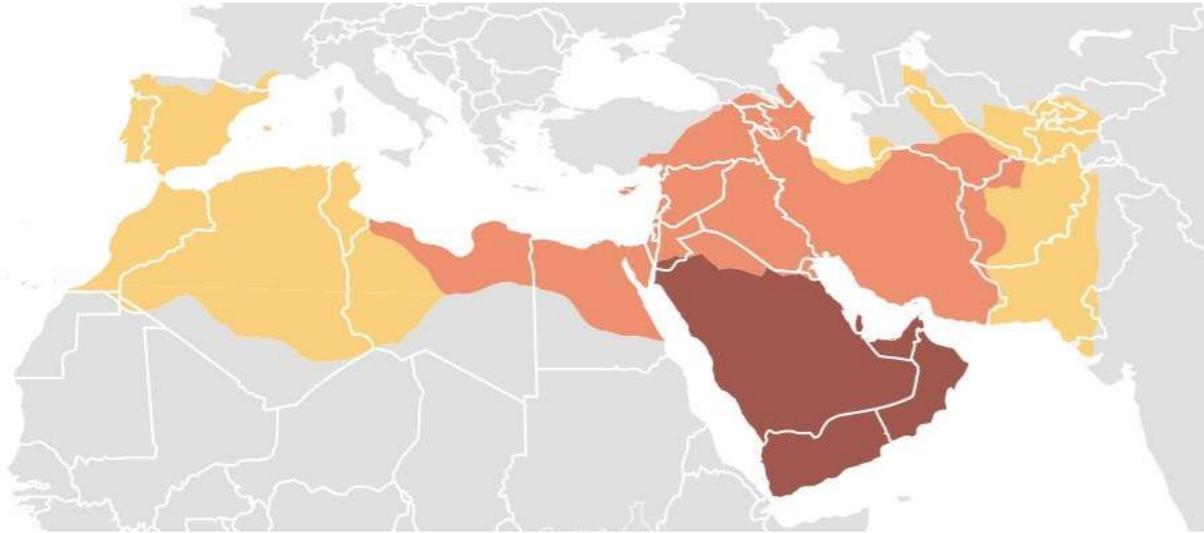
In order to check the Arab advance and to recover lost territory, [Emperor Heraclius](#) had sent a massive expedition to the Levant in May 636. As the Roman army approached, the Arabs tactically withdrew from Syria and regrouped all their forces at the Yarmouk plains close to Arabia where, after being reinforced, they defeated the numerically superior Byzantine army.

The battle is considered to be one of [Khalid ibn al-Walid](#)'s greatest military victories. It cemented his reputation as one of the greatest tacticians and cavalry commanders in history.

The Battle of Yarmouk can be seen as an example in military history where an inferior force manages to overcome a superior force by superior military battle management.

The Imperial Byzantine commanders allowed their enemy to have the battlefield of his choosing. Even then they were at no substantial tactical disadvantage. Khalid knew all along that he was up against a force superior in numbers and, until the last day of the battle, he conducted an essentially defensive campaign suited to his relatively limited resources. When he decided to take the offensive and attack on the final day of battle, he did so with a degree of imagination, foresight and courage that none of the Byzantine commanders managed to display. Although he commanded a numerically inferior force and needed all the men he could muster, he nevertheless had the confidence and foresight to dispatch a cavalry regiment the night before his assault to seal off a critical path of the retreat he anticipated for the enemy army.

Islam- Umayyad Expansion - 660-750 A.D, (771- 929 in Andalusia)



Expansion under the Prophet Mohammad, 622-632

Expansion during the [Patriarchal Caliphate](#), 632-661

Expansion during the [Umayyad Caliphate](#), 661-750

The Umayyad caliphate was marked both by territorial expansion and by the administrative and cultural problems that such expansion created. Despite some notable exceptions, the Umayyads tended to favor the rights of the old Arab families, and in particular their own, over those of newly converted Muslims (Malawi). Therefore they held to a less universalist conception of Islam than did many of their rivals

The Umayyads have met with a **largely negative reception** from later Islamic historians, who have accused them of promoting a kingship (*mulk*, a term with connotations of tyranny) instead of a true caliphate (*khilafa*). Modern Arab nationalism regards the period of the Umayyads as part of the **Arab Golden Age** which it sought to emulate and restore.

Only Umayyad ruler (Caliphs of Damascus), [Umar ibn Abd al-Aziz](#), is unanimously praised by Sunni sources for his **devout piety and justice**. In his efforts to spread Islam he established liberties for the [Mawali](#) by abolishing the [Jizya](#) tax for converts to Islam. Imam Abu Muhammad Abdullah ibn Abdul Hakam stated that Umar ibn Abd al-Aziz also stopped the personal allowance offered to his relatives stating that he could only give them an allowance if he gave an allowance to everyone else in the empire. Umar ibn Abd al-Aziz was later poisoned in the year 720. When successive governments tried to reverse Umar ibn Abd al-Aziz's tax policies it created rebellion. Ref: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Umayyad_Caliphate

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The Umayyad period is often considered the formative period in [Islamic art](#). At first, even though Arabic became the official language and Islam the principal religion of the diverse lands unified under Umayyad rule, artists continued to work in their established manner.



The main artistic influence came from the **late antique classical naturalistic tradition**, which had been prevalent on the eastern shores of the Mediterranean.

As with the arts, the Umayyad period was also critical in the development of Islamic architecture.



[The Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem](#) (691), the first major Umayyad architectural undertaking completed under the patronage of the caliph Abd al-Malik (r. 685–705)

Al-Andalus الأندلس 711 – 1492 A.D

Following the [Muslim conquest of Hispania](#), Al-Andalus, then at its greatest extent, was divided into five administrative units, corresponding roughly to modern [Andalusia](#), Portugal and Galicia, Castile and León, Navarre, Aragon, the County of Barcelona, and Septimania. As a political domain, it successively constituted a province of the [Umayyad Caliphate](#), initiated by the Caliph [Al-Walid I](#) (711–750); the [Emirate of Córdoba](#) (c. 750–929); the [Caliphate of Córdoba](#) (929–1031); and the Caliphate of Córdoba's [taifa](#) (successor) kingdoms.

Rule under these kingdoms saw a rise in cultural exchange and cooperation between Muslims and Christians, with Christians and Jews considered as second class citizens who paid a special tax, Jizya, to the state which provided internal autonomy and offered certain protection by Muslim rulers. Under the Caliphate of Córdoba, ***Al-Andalus was a beacon of learning***, and the city of Córdoba became one of the leading cultural and economic centres in Europe and throughout the Mediterranean Basin and the Islamic world. A number of achievements that advanced Islamic and Western science came from Al-Andalus including major advances in trigonometry, astronomy, surgery, pharmacology and other fields. Al-Andalus became a major educational centre for Europe and the lands around the Mediterranean Sea as well as a conduit for culture and science between the Islamic and Christian worlds.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Andalus>

The period of the Caliphate is seen as **the golden age of Al-Andalus**.

Crops produced using irrigation, along with food imported from the Middle East, provided the area around Córdoba and some other *Andalusī* cities with an agricultural economic sector that was the most advanced in Europe by far.



Al-Andalus and Christian kingdoms 1000 AD



[Great Mosque of Córdoba](#)

The Córdoba Caliphate effectively collapsed during a ruinous civil war between 1009 and 1013, although it was not finally abolished until 1031 when *Al-Andalus* broke up into a number of mostly independent mini-states and principalities called [taifas](#)

In 1469 the marriage of Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabella of Castile signalled the launch of the **final assault on the Emirate of Granada** (Gharnatah). The King and Queen convinced the Pope to declare their war a crusade. The Christians crushed one centre of resistance after another and finally, in January 1492, after a long siege, the Muslim sultan [Muhammad XII](#) surrendered the fortress palace, the renowned [Alhambra](#).

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The Abbasids, *الخلافة العباسية* 750 -1258, (until 1517 in Egypt)

In Islamic history, Abbasid was the dynastic name generally given to the caliphs of Baghdad, the second of the two great Sunni dynasties of the Muslim empire, that overthrew the Umayyad caliphs. It seized power in 758, when it finally defeated the Umayyads in battle, and flourished for two centuries, but slowly went into eclipse with the rise to power of the Turkish army they had created, the Mamluks. Their claim to power was finally ended in 1258, when Hulagu Khan, the Mongol general, sacked Baghdad. While they continued to claim authority in religious matters from their base in Egypt, their dynasty was ended.



The Golden Age of Baghdad

Under the Abbasid caliphate (750–1258), which succeeded the **Umayyads** (661–750) in 750, the focal point of Islamic political and cultural life shifted eastward from Syria to Iraq, where, in 762, Baghdad, the circular City of Peace (*madinat al-salam*), was founded as the new capital. The Abbasids later also established another city north of Baghdad, called *Samarra* (an abbreviation of the sentence "He who sees it rejoices"), which replaced the capital for a brief period (836–83).

The first three centuries of Abbasid rule were a *golden age* in which Baghdad and Samarra' functioned as the cultural and commercial capitals of the Islamic world. During this period, a distinctive style emerged and new techniques were developed that spread throughout the Muslim realm and greatly influenced Islamic art and architecture

The Abbasid caliphate الخلافة العباسية : 750 – 1258 Ref: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abbasid_Caliphate

The centre of gravity of the Muslim world now moves east, from Syria to Mesopotamia. In 762 a new capital city, Baghdad, is founded on the Tigris. It is about twenty miles upstream from Ctesiphon, one of the leading cities of the preceding Persian dynasty, the Sassanians.

The Abbasid caliphate first cantered their government in Kufa, but in 762 the caliph [Al-Mansur](#) founded the city of Baghdad, north of the Sasanian capital city of Ctesiphon. The choice of a capital so close to Persia proper reflects a growing reliance on Persian bureaucrats, most notably of the [Barmakid](#) family, to govern the territories conquered by Arab Muslims, as well as an increasing inclusion of non-Arab Muslims in the [ummah](#). Despite this cooperation, the Abbasids of the 8th century were forced to cede authority over [Al-Andalus](#) and Maghreb to the Umayyads, Morocco to the [Idrisid dynasty](#), [Ifriqiya](#) to the [Aghlabids](#), and Egypt to the [Shi'ite](#) Caliphate of the [Fatimids](#).

The political power of the caliphs largely ended with the rise of the [Buyids](#) and the [Seljuq Turks](#). Although Abbasid leadership over the vast Islamic empire was gradually reduced to a ceremonial religious function, the dynasty retained control over its Mesopotamian demesne. The capital city of Baghdad became a centre of science, culture, philosophy and invention during the [Golden Age of Islam](#).

In their new city of Baghdad, the Abbasid caliphs adopt the administrative system of the long-established Persian empire. Persian Muslims are as much involved in the life of this thriving place as Arab Muslims. Here **Islam outgrows its Arab roots and becomes an international religion. Here the Arabic and early Persian languages coalesce to become, from the 10th century, what is now known as Persian - combining words from both sources and using the Arabic script.**

Here, Mesopotamia briefly recovers its ancient status at the centre of one of the world's largest empires. At no time is this more evident than in the reign of the best known of the Abbasid caliphs, **Harun al-Rashid.**

Abbasid Caliphate of Cairo (1261–1517)

In the 9th century, the Abbasids created an army loyal only to their caliphate, composed of non-Arab origin people, known as [Mamluks](#). This force, created in the reign of [al-Ma'mun](#) and his brother and successor [al-Mu'tasim](#), prevented the further disintegration of the empire. The Mamluk army, though often viewed negatively, both helped and hurt the caliphate. Early on, it provided the government with a stable force to address domestic and foreign problems. However, creation of this foreign army and al-Mu'tasim's transfer of the capital from Baghdad to [Samarra](#) created a division between the caliphate and the peoples they claimed to rule. In addition, the power of the Mamluks steadily grew until [al-Radi](#) (934–41) was constrained to hand over most of the royal functions to Mahommed bin Raik.

The Islamic Golden Age

The Abbasid historical period lasting to the Mongol conquest of Baghdad in 1258 CE is considered the Islamic Golden Age. The Islamic Golden Age was inaugurated by the middle of the 8th century by the ascension of the Abbasid Caliphate and the transfer of the capital from Damascus to Baghdad. The Abbassids were influenced by the Qur'anic injunctions and [hadith](#) such as "**the ink of a scholar is more holy than the blood of a martyr**" stressing the value of knowledge. During this period the **Muslim world became an intellectual center for science, philosophy, medicine and education** as the Abbasids championed the cause of knowledge and established the [House of Wisdom](#) in Baghdad; where both Muslim and non-Muslim scholars sought to translate and gather all the world's knowledge into Arabic. Many classic works of antiquity that would otherwise have been lost were translated into Arabic and Persian and later in turn translated into Turkish, Hebrew and Latin. During this period the Muslim world was a cauldron of cultures which collected, synthesized and significantly advanced the knowledge gained from the ancient Roman, Chinese, Indian, Persian, Egyptian, North African, Greek and Byzantine civilizations.

Science, Philosophy & Literature

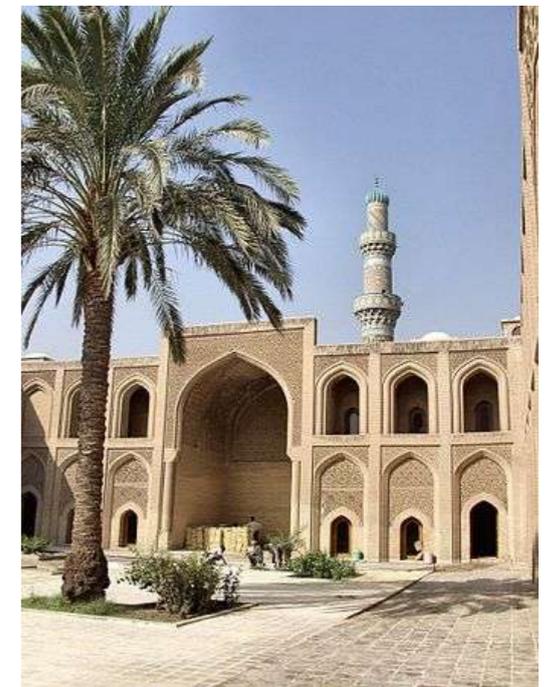
[Ibn al-Haytham](#) (Alhazen) developed an early scientific method in his [Book of Optics](#) (1021). The most important development of the scientific method was the use of experiments to distinguish between competing scientific theories set within a generally [empirical](#) orientation, which began among Muslim scientists.

[Algebra](#) was significantly developed by Persian scientist [Muhammad ibn Mūsā al-Khwārizmī](#) during this time in his landmark text, [Kitab al-Jabr wa-l-Muqabala](#), from which the term *algebra* is derived. He is thus considered to be the father of algebra by some , although the Greek mathematician [Diophantus](#) has also been given this title.

As the power shifted from the Umayyads to the Abbasids, **the architecture styles changed** also. The Christian styles evolved into a style based more on the Sassanian empire utilizing mud bricks and baked bricks with carved stucco. Another major development was the creation or vast enlargement of cities as they were turned into the capital of the empire .

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abbasid_Caliphate

The [One Thousand and One Nights](#) (*Arabian Nights*) is easily the best known of all Arabic literature and which still shapes many of the ideas non-Arabs have about Arabic culture. A second book with a persistent global impact beyond Arabic culture is [Kalila and Dimna](#) written by [Ibn al-Muqaffa'](#) in 750CE. Its journey into Europe began over 500 years earlier through Spain ([Al-Andalus](#)).



Mustansiriya_University,
Abassid Baghdad

The Fatimid Caliphate 909 - 1171 A.D

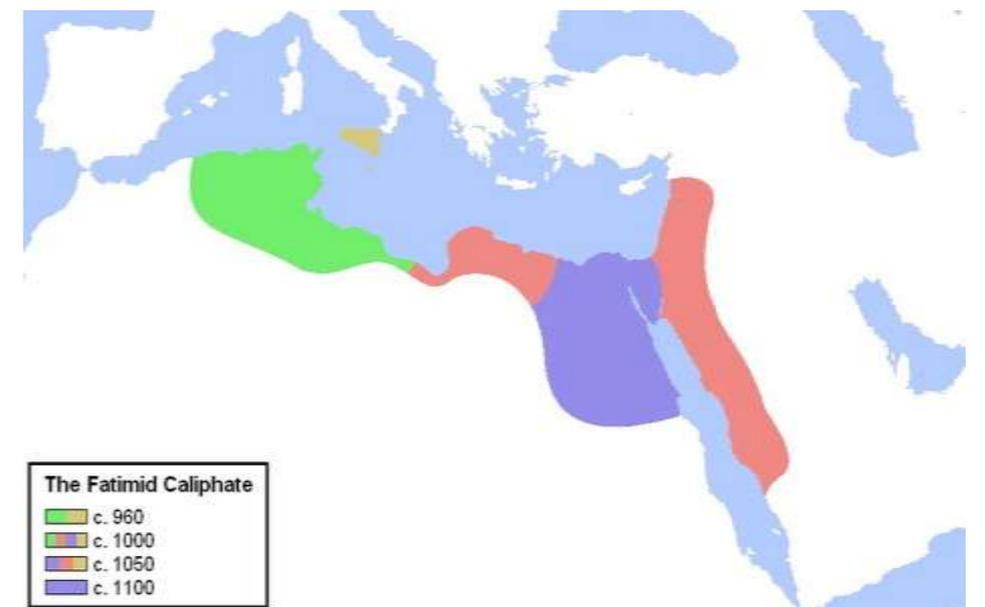
The Fatimid Caliphate (**Arabic:** *الفاطميون*) was a **Shia Islamic caliphate**, which spanned a large area of **North Africa**, from the **Red Sea** in the east to the **Atlantic Ocean** in the west. The dynasty ruled across the **Mediterranean** coast of Africa and ultimately made **Egypt** the centre of the caliphate. At its height, the caliphate included in addition to Egypt varying areas of the **Maghreb**, **Sudan**, **Sicily**, the **Levant**, and **Hejaz**.

The Fatimids claimed to be descended from **Fatima bint Muhammad** (*فاطمة بنت محمد*), the daughter of Islamic prophet **Muhammad**. The Fatimids conquered **North Africa** and their **Fatimid state** took shape among the **Kutama**, in the Western North of Africa, particularly Algeria. In 909 Fatimid established the Tunisian city of **Mahdia** as their capital. In 948 they shifted their capital to **Al-Mansuriya**, near **Kairouan, Tunisia**. In 969 they conquered Egypt and established **Cairo** as the capital of their caliphate, and Egypt became the political, cultural, and religious centre of their empire.

After the initial conquests, the caliphate often allowed a degree of religious tolerance towards non-**Ismaili** sects of Islam, as well as to **Jews**, **Maltese Christians**, and Egyptian **Coptic Christians**. The Fatimid caliphate was also distinguished by the central role of **Berbers** in its initial establishment and in helping its development, especially on the military and political levels.

During the late eleventh and twelfth century, however, the Fatimid caliphate declined rapidly, **and in 1171 the country was invaded by Salāh al-Dīn**. He founded the **Ayyubid dynasty** and incorporated the **Fatimid state into the Abbasid Caliphate**.

Al-Āthid li-Dīn Allāh (**Arabic:** *العاضد لدين الله*), was the fourteenth and last Caliph of the Fatimid dynasty, reigning from 1160 to 1171. He became Caliph as a minor following the death of his brother al-Faiz (r. 1154–60). The rule of the Fatimids was so weak and divided by this time that the Crusaders were able to begin **invasions of Egypt**.



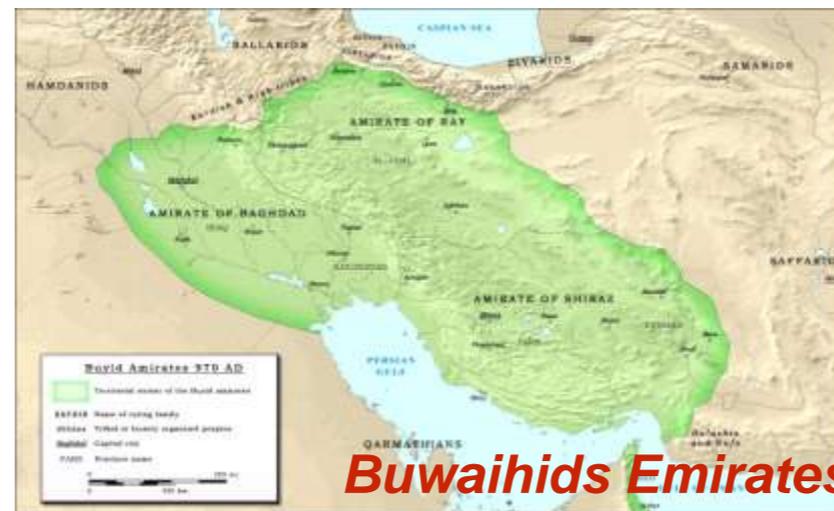
Fragmented Abbasid Kingdoms

The Abbasid Caliphate differed from others in that it did not have the same borders and extent as Islam. Particularly, in the west of the Caliphate, there were multiple smaller kingdoms that existed in relative peace with them.

This list represents the succession of Islamic dynasties that emerged from the fractured Abbasid empire by their general geographic location. Dynasties often overlap, where a vassal emir revolted from and later conquered his lord. Gaps appear during periods of contest where the dominating power was unclear. Except for the Fatimid Caliphate in Egypt and the Andalusian Caliphates of the Umayyads and Almohads, every Muslim dynasty at least acknowledged the nominal suzerainty of the Abbasids as Caliph and Commander of the Faithful.

The **Hamdanid dynasty** (الحمدانيون) was a Shi'a Muslim Arab dynasty of northern Iraq ([Al-Jazirah](#)) and Syria (890-1004). They descended from the ancient [Banu Taghlib](#). The Hamdanid dynasty was founded by Hamdan ibn Hamdun. His son Abdallah (904-929) was in turn appointed governor of Mosul in northern Iraq (906) and even governed Baghdad (914). His sons were installed as **governors in Mosul and Aleppo**.

Ali [Saif al-Daula](#) 'Sword of the State' ruled (945-967) Northern Syria from Aleppo, and became the most important opponent of the Byzantine Empire's (Christian) expansion. His court was a centre of culture, thanks to its nurturing of Arabic literature, but it lost this status after the Byzantine conquest of Aleppo.



Abu Firas al-Hamdani (أبو فراس الحمداني) was an Arab prince and poet. He was a cousin of Sayf al-Dawla. He served Sayf al-Dawla as governor of [Manbij](#) as well as court poet, and was active in his cousin's wars against the Byzantine Empire. He was captured by the Byzantines in 962 and spent four years in their capital, Constantinople, where he composed his most famous work, the collection of poems titled *al-Rūmiyyāt* (الروميات). He was killed in 968, when he raised a revolt against Sayf al-Dawla's successor [Abu'l-Ma'ali](#). He is considered among the greatest figures of classical Arabic poetry.

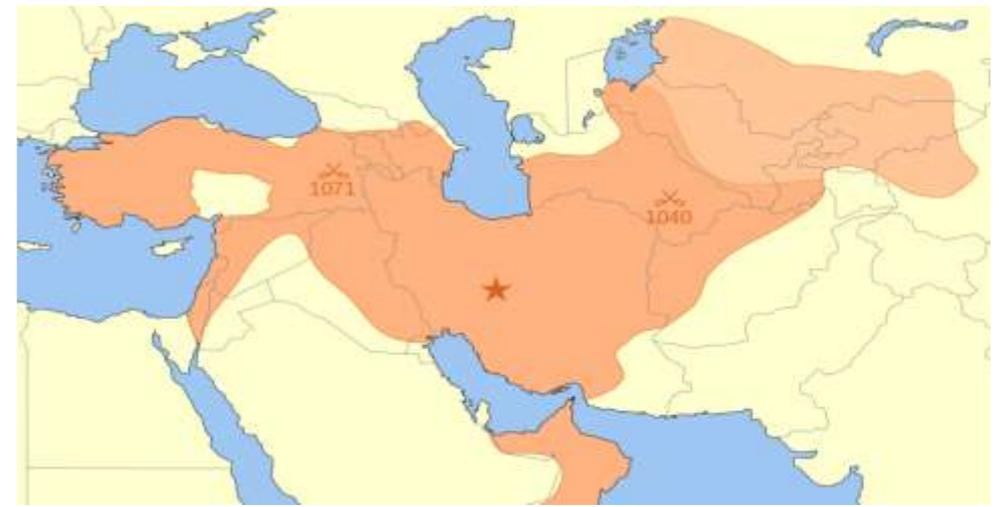


The approximate century of **Buwaihids rule** (البويهيون) (934-1062), coupled with the rise of other Iranian dynasties in the region, represents a period in Iranian history sometimes called the 'Iranian Intermezzo' since it was an interlude between the rule of the 'Abbāsid Arabs and the Seljuq Turks.

The **Seljuq Empire** 1037- 1194 , **Sultanate of Rum** 1077-1307

During the 10th-century migrations of the Turkish peoples from Central Asia and southeast Russia, one group of nomadic tribes, led by a chief named **Seljuq**, settled in the lower reaches of the Syr Darya River and later converted to the Sunni form of Islam. The Seljuq dynasty was a Turkish Sunni Muslim dynasty that gradually adopted Persian culture. **The Seljuqs established both the Seljuq Empire and Sultanate of Rum**, which at their total height stretched from Anatolia through Persia, and were targets of the First Crusade. They played a key role in the first and second crusades.

Malik Shah, moved the capital from Rey to Isfahan. The *Iqta* military system and the **Nizāmiyyah University** at Baghdad were established by Nizām al-Mulk, and the reign of Malikshāh was reckoned the golden age of "Great Seljuq". The Abbasid Caliph titled him "The Sultan of the East and West" in 1087. **For a brief period, Togrul III was the Sultan of all Seljuq except for Anatolia. In 1194, however, Togrul was defeated by Takash, the Shah of Khwarezmid Empire, and the Seljuq Empire finally collapsed. Of the former Seljuq Empire, only the Sultanate of Rûm in Anatolia remained. As the dynasty declined in the middle of the thirteenth century, the Mongols invaded Anatolia in the 1260s and divided it into small emirates called the Anatolian beyliks. Eventually one of these, the Ottoman, would rise to power and conquer the rest.**



For the most part of Seljuq rule in middle-east, the abbasid Caliphs at Baghdad indeed served the role of Islamic authority but was militarily under Seljuq rule.

Even before the Seljuk's arrival in Persia the Caliphate had lost its political and military role. As the Seljuk Empire fragmented, the Caliphate regained some of its former glory, namely under Caliph An-Nasir, who escaped foreign tutelage and established an army and some essential services.

The Seljuqs easily defeated the untrained **People's Crusade** arriving in 1096, but they could not stop the progress of the army of the subsequent **Princes' Crusade**,.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seljuk_Empire

*The **Byzantine–Seljuq wars** were a series of decisive battles that shifted the balance of power in Asia Minor and Syria from the Byzantine Empire to the Seljuq Turks. Riding from the steppes of Central Asia, the Seljuq Turks replicated tactics practiced by the Huns hundreds of years earlier against a similar Roman opponent but now combining it with new-found Islamic zeal; in many ways, the Seljuq Turks resumed the conquests of the Muslims in the Byzantine–Arab Wars initiated by the Rashidun, Umayyad and Abassid Caliphate in the Levant, North Africa and Asia Minor.*

The Seljuqs founded universities and were also patrons of art and literature. Their reign is characterized by Persian astronomers such as **Omar Khayyám**, and the Persian philosopher **al-Ghazali**. Under the Seljuqs, New Persian became the language for historical recording, while the center of Arabic language culture shifted from Baghdad to Cairo. [Contents Page](#)



The Zengid Dynasty

Badr al-Din Lu'lu' بدر الدين لؤلؤ

Lu'lu' was an Armenian convert to Islam, in the household of the Zangid ruler

Nur al-Din Arslanshah I.

Recognized for his abilities as an administrator, he rose to the rank of atabeg and, after 1211, served as regent until the death of the last Zengid, Nasir al-Din Mahmud in 1233. From this time on, he ruled independently, careful to preserve his sovereignty through a series of tactical submissions to larger neighbouring powers.

The Zengid dynasty, 1127-1250 was a Muslim dynasty of Oghuz Turk origin, which ruled parts of Syria and northern Iraq on behalf of the Seljuk Empire. The dynasty was founded by **Imad ad-Din Zengi** (or Zangi), who became the Seljuk Atabeg of Mosul in 1127. He quickly became the chief Turkish potentate in Northern Syria and Iraq, taking Aleppo from the squabbling Ortoqid emirs in 1128, and capturing the County of Edessa from the Crusaders in 1144. This latter feat made Zengi a hero in the Muslim world, but he was assassinated by a slave two years later, in 1146.

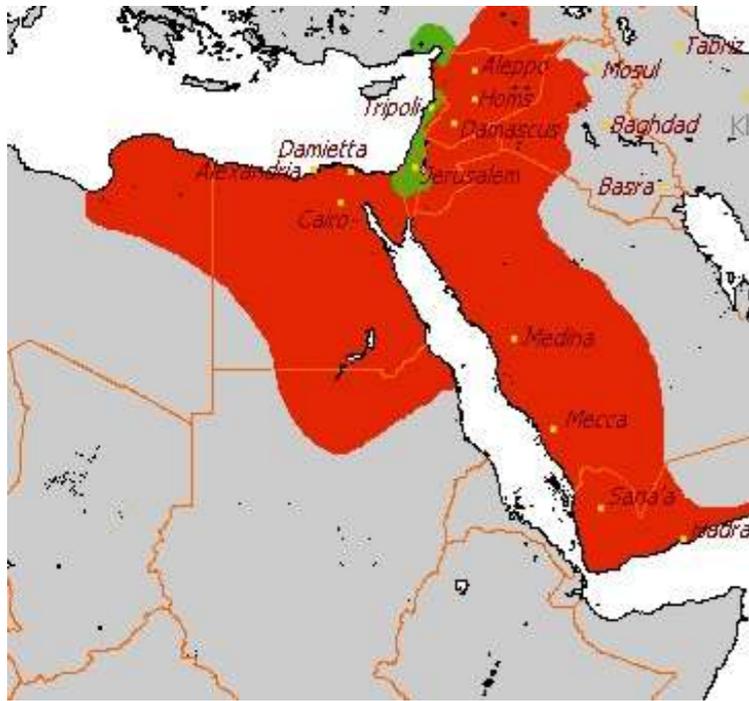
On Zengi's death, his territories were divided, with Mosul and his lands in Iraq going to his eldest son Saif ad-Din Ghazi I, and Aleppo and Edessa falling to his second son, Nur ad-Din Mahmud. Nur ad-Din proved to be as competent as his father. In 1149 he defeated Prince Raymond of Antioch at the battle of Inab, and the next year conquered the remnants of the County of Edessa west of the Euphrates River. In 1154 he capped off these successes by his capture of Damascus from the Burid Emirs who ruled it.

Now ruling from Damascus, Nur ad-Din's success continued. Another Prince of Antioch, Raynald of Châtillon was captured, and the territories of that Principality greatly reduced. In the 1160s, Nur ad-Din's attention was mostly held by a competition with the King of Jerusalem, Amalric I, for control of the Fatimid Caliphate of Egypt. Ultimately, Nur ed-Din's Kurdish general Shirkuh was successful in conquering Egypt in 1169, but Shirkuh's nephew and successor as Governor of Egypt, Saladin, eventually rejected Nur ad-Din's control.

Nur ad-Din was preparing to invade Egypt to bring Saladin under control when he unexpectedly died in 1174. His son and successor As-Salih Ismail al-Malik was only a child, and was forced to flee to Aleppo, which he ruled until 1181, when he was murdered and replaced by his relation, the Atabeg of Mosul.

Saladin conquered Aleppo two years later, ending Zengid rule in Syria.

Zengid princes continued to rule in Northern Iraq well into the 13th century, ruling Mosul until 1234; their rule did not come finally to an end until 1250.



The Ayyubid dynasty الأيوبيون 1171-1330,

*This was a Muslim dynasty founded by **Saladin** ,(Salah AIDin), and centred in **Egypt**. The dynasty ruled much of the **Middle East** during the 12th and 13th centuries CE. Saladin had been the vizier of **Fatimid Egypt** before he brought an end to Fatimid rule in 1171. In 1174, he proclaimed himself Sultan following the death of the Ayyubids' former master, **Zengid** sultan **Nur al-Din**. The Ayyubids spent the next decade launching conquests throughout the region and by 1183, the territories under their control included Egypt, **Syria**, northern **Mesopotamia**, **Hejaz**, **Yemen**, and the **North African** coast up to the borders of modern-day **Tunisia**. Most of the **Kingdom of Jerusalem** fell to Saladin after his famous victory over the Crusaders at the **Battle of Hattin** in 1187.*

After the death of Saladin, his sons contested control over the sultanate, but Saladin's brother al-Adil eventually established himself as Sultan in 1200. In the 1230s, the Ayyubid rulers of Syria attempted to assert their independence from Egypt and remained divided until the Sultan as-Salih Ayyub restored Ayyubid unity by taking over most of Syria, except Aleppo, by 1247. By then, local Muslim dynasties had driven out the Ayyubids from Yemen, the Hejaz, and parts of Mesopotamia. After his death in 1249, as-Salih Ayyub was succeeded in Egypt by al-Mu'azzam Turanshah. However, the latter was soon overthrown by the **Mamluk** generals who had successfully repelled a Crusader invasion of the Nile Delta. **This effectively ended Ayyubid power in Egypt** and a number of attempts by the rulers of Syria, led by an-Nasir Yusuf of Aleppo, to recover it failed. In 1260, the Mongols sacked Aleppo and wrested control of what remained of the Ayyubid territories soon after. The Mamluks, who forced out the Mongols after the destruction of the Ayyubid dynasty, maintained the Ayyubid principality of Hama until deposing its last ruler in 1341.

During their relatively short tenure, the Ayyubids ushered in **an era of economic prosperity** in the lands they ruled and the facilities and patronage provided by the Ayyubids led to a resurgence in intellectual activity in the Islamic world.

The seat of Ayyubid government from Saladin's rule from the 1170s up to al-Adil's reign in 1218 had been **Damascus**. The city provided a strategic advantage in the constant war with the Crusaders and allowed the sultan to keep an eye on his relatively ambitious vassals in Syria and al-Jazira

The Crusade Wars الحروب الصليبية 1095 - 1291

*The Crusades were military campaigns sanctioned by the Latin Roman Catholic Church during the High Middle Ages and Late Middle Ages. In 1095, Pope Urban II proclaimed the First Crusade with the stated goal of restoring Christian access to holy places in and near Jerusalem. Following the First Crusade there was an intermittent 200-year struggle for control of the Holy Land, with seven more major crusades and numerous minor ones. In 1291, **the conflict ended in failure** with the fall of the last Christian stronghold in the Holy Land at [Acre](#), after which Roman Catholic Europe mounted no further coherent response in the east.*

The Byzantine Empire was unable to recover territory lost during the initial Muslim conquests under the expansionist Rashidun and Umayyad caliphs in the Arab–Byzantine Wars and the Byzantine–Seljuq Wars; these conquests culminated in the loss of fertile farmlands and vast grazing areas of Anatolia in 1071, after a sound victory by the occupying armies of Seljuk Turks at the [Battle of Manzikert](#). Urban II sought to reunite the Christian church under his leadership by providing Emperor [Alexios I](#) with military support.

***People's Crusade (1096)** 20,000 people, mostly peasants, towards the Holy Land just after Easter 1096. and was ambushed outside Nicaea by the Turks, with only about 3,000 people escaping the ambush This crusade is considered a part of the First Crusade.*

***First Crusade (1096–1099)** : As many as 100,000 persons, counting both combatants and non-combatants journeyed eastward by land toward Constantinople, where they received a wary welcome from the Byzantine Emperor. Pledging to restore lost territories to the empire, the main army, mostly French and Norman knights under baronial leadership, marched south through Anatolia. When the French crusaders crossed into Germany in spring 1096, units of crusaders massacred hundreds or thousands of Jews in the cities of Speyer, Worms, Mainz and Cologne, despite the efforts by Catholic bishops to protect the Jews.*

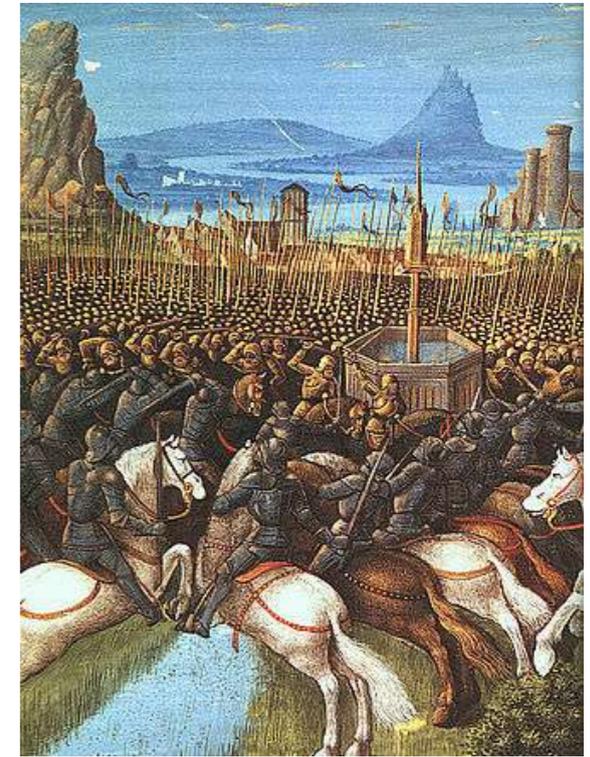
*The crusader armies initially fought the Turks at the lengthy [Siege of Antioch](#) that began in October 1097 and lasted until June 1098. Once inside the city the crusaders massacred the Muslim inhabitants and pillaged the city. A large Muslim relief army under [Kerbogha](#) immediately besieged the victorious crusaders within Antioch. The crusader army defeated Kerbogha's army on 28 June. Most of the surviving crusader army marched south, moving from town to town along the coast, finally reaching the walls of Jerusalem on 7 June 1099 with only a fraction of their original forces. **Jews and Muslims fought together to defend Jerusalem against the invading Franks.** On 15 July 1099 the crusaders entered the city. **They proceeded to massacre the remaining Jewish and Muslim civilians and pillaged or destroyed mosques and the city itself.** As a result of the First Crusade, four main crusader states were created: the County of Edessa, the Principality of Antioch, the County of Tripoli, and the Kingdom of Jerusalem. **The crusader states were initially secure, but [Imad ad-Din Zengi](#), who was appointed [governor of Mosul](#) in 1127, captured Aleppo in 1128 and Edessa in 1144 These defeats led Pope Eugenius III to call for another crusade on 1 March 1145.***

***Second Crusade (1147–1149)**,The new crusade was called for by various preachers, most notably by [Bernard of Clairvaux](#) French and South German armies, under the Kings [Louis VII](#) and [Conrad III](#) respectively, marched to Jerusalem in 1147 but failed to win any major victories, launching a failed pre-emptive siege of Damascus.*

The Battle of Hattin معركة حطين July 3 and 4, 1187

The Muslim armies under Saladin captured or killed the vast majority of the Crusader forces, removing their capability to wage war. As a direct result of the battle, Islamic forces once again became the eminent military power in the Holy Land, re-conquering Jerusalem and several other Crusader-held cities. These Christian defeats prompted the Third Crusade, which began two years after the Battle of Hattin.

The importance of the defeat is demonstrated by the fact that in its aftermath fifty-two towns and fortifications were captured by Saladin's forces. By mid-September, Saladin had taken Acre, Nablus, Jaffa, Toron, Sidon, Beirut, and Ascalon. Tyre was saved by the fortuitous arrival of Conrad of Montferrat. Jerusalem was defended by Queen Sibylla, Patriarch Heraclius, and Balian, who subsequently negotiated its surrender to Saladin on October 2.



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Hattin



The final stages of the Battle of Hattin as depicted in the film "The Kingdom of Heaven"

Various crusades were launched in the 14th and 15th centuries to counter the expanding Ottoman Empire starting in 1396 with Sigismund of Luxemburg, king of Hungary. The Ottomans met the crusaders in the [Battle of Nicopolis](#) on 25 September 1396, defeating the Christian forces and capturing 3,000 prisoners.

The Crusades were **neither noble nor worthwhile**. For many, they were an excuse to seek wealth and adventure, and they failed to achieve their main goals. The cost in life and suffering was huge. While the deeds of individual leaders like Lionheart and Saladin were exciting and inspirational, this did not outweigh the costly failures.

Third Crusade (1187–1192): The Muslims had long fought among themselves, but they were finally united by Saladin, who created a single powerful state. Following his victory at the Battle of Hattin he easily overwhelmed the disunited crusaders in 1187 and retook Jerusalem on 29 September 1187. Terms were arranged and the city surrendered, with Saladin entering the city on 2 October 1187.

Richard the Lionheart captured the island of Cyprus from the Byzantines in 1191. He then recaptured the city of Acre after a long siege. The crusader army headed south along the Mediterranean coast, defeated the Muslims near [Arsuf](#), recaptured the port city of [Jaffa](#), and was in sight of Jerusalem, but supply problems forced them to end the crusade without taking Jerusalem. Richard left the following year after negotiating a treaty with Saladin. The terms allowed trade for merchants and unarmed Christian pilgrims to make pilgrimages to Jerusalem, while it remained under Muslim control.

The Fourth Crusade never reached the Holy Land. Instead, it became a vehicle for the political ambitions. They agreed to divert the crusade to Constantinople and share what could be looted as payment. The crusaders met with limited resistance in their initial siege of Constantinople, sailing down the Dardanelles and breaching the sea walls. However, Alexios was strangled after a palace coup, robbing them of their success, and they had to repeat the siege in April 1204. This time the city was sacked, churches pillaged, and large numbers of the citizens butchered. The crusaders took their rewards, dividing the Empire into Latin fiefs and Venetian colonies. Venice was the sole beneficiary in the long run.

The Fifth Crusade (1221–1217), Efforts by the papal legate, Pelagius, to invade further into Egypt led to no gains. Blocked by forces of the [Ayyubid Sultan Al-Kamil](#), the crusaders were forced to surrender. Al-Kamil forced the return of Damietta and agreed to an eight-year truce and the crusaders left Egypt.

The sixth Crusade : (1229–1228) :There were no battles as king Frederick made a peace treaty with Al-Kamil, the ruler of Egypt. This treaty allowed Christians to rule over most of Jerusalem and a strip of territory from Acre to Jerusalem, while the Muslims were given control of their sacred areas in Jerusalem. In return, Frederick pledged to protect Al-Kamil against all his enemies, even if they were Christian.

The Seventh Crusade : In the summer of **1244**, a [Khwarezmian](#) force summoned by the son of al-Kamil, al-Salih Ayyub, stormed and took Jerusalem. The Franks allied with Ayyub's uncle Ismail and the emir of Homs and their combined forces were drawn into battle at [La Forbie](#) in Gaza. The crusader army and its allies were defeated within forty-eight hours by the Khwarezmian tribesmen.

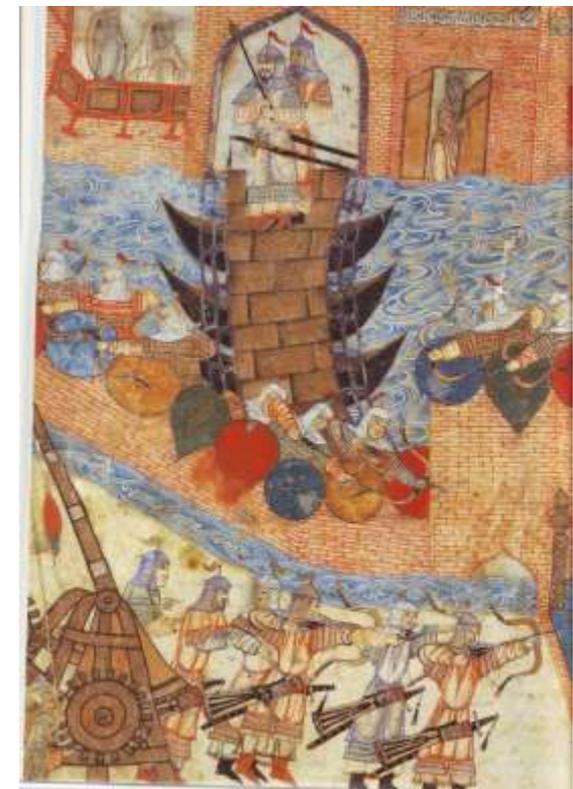
The Eighth and Ninth Crusades did not achieve much. The Mamluks, led by [Baibars](#), eventually drove the Franks from the Holy Land. From **1265** through **1271**, Baibars drove the Franks to a few small coastal outposts.

With its power and prestige raised by the crusades, the papal [curia](#) had greater control over the entire western Church and extended the system of papal taxation throughout the whole ecclesiastical structure of the West. The [indulgence](#) system grew significantly in late medieval Europe, later to spark the [Protestant Reformation](#) in the early 1500s.

The need to raise, transport and supply large armies led to a flourishing of trade throughout Europe between Europe and the Outremer. **Genoa and Venice flourished** through profitable trading colonies in the crusader states, both in the Holy Land and later in captured Byzantine territory.

The Mongol Destruction of Abbasids Baghdad سقوط و تدمير بغداد على يد المغول 1258

On January 29, the Mongol army began its siege of Baghdad, constructing a palisade and a ditch around the city. Employing siege engines and catapults, the Mongols attempted to breach the city's walls, and, by February 5, had seized a significant portion of the defenses. Realizing that his forces had little chance of retaking the walls, Al-Musta'sim attempted to open negotiations with Hulagu, who rebuffed the Caliph. Around 3,000 of Baghdad's notables also tried to negotiate with Hulagu but were murdered. Five days later, on February 10, the city surrendered, but the Mongols did not enter the city until the 13th, beginning a week of massacre and destruction.



Persian painting of Hūlegū's army attacking Baghdad with siege engine

Many historical accounts detailed the cruelties of the Mongol conquerors.

The Grand Library of Baghdad, containing countless precious historical documents and books on subjects ranging from medicine to astronomy, was destroyed. Survivors said that the waters of the Tigris ran black with ink from the enormous quantities of books flung into the river and red from the blood of the scientists and philosophers killed.

Citizens attempted to flee, but were intercepted by Mongol soldiers who killed in abundance, sparing neither women nor children. Martin Sicker writes that close to **90,000 people may have died**. Other estimates go much higher.

The Mongols looted and then destroyed mosques, palaces, libraries, and hospitals. **Grand buildings that had been the work of generations were burned to the ground**. The caliph was captured and forced to watch as his citizens were murdered and his treasury plundered. According to most accounts, the caliph was killed by trampling. Hulagu had to move his camp upwind of the city, due to the stench of decay from the ruined city.

Baghdad was a depopulated, ruined city for several centuries and only gradually recovered some of its former glory.

The Mongol **vassal** and ruler of **Mosul**, Badr al-Din's sons sided with the **Mamluks of Egypt** and rebelled against the rule of Hulagu. This led to the destruction of the city state and the Mongols finally suppressed the rebellion in 1265.

"Iraq in 1258 was very different from present day Iraq. Its agriculture was supported by canal networks thousands of years old. Baghdad was one of the most brilliant intellectual centers in the world. The Mongol destruction of Baghdad was a psychological blow from which Islam never recovered. With the sack of Baghdad, the intellectual flowering of Islam was snuffed out.

Hulagu left 3,000 Mongol soldiers behind to rebuild Baghdad. Ata-Malik Juvayni was appointed governor of Baghdad, Lower Mesopotamia, and Khuzistan. At the intervention of the Mongol Hulagu's Nestorian Christian wife, Dokuz Khatun, the Christian inhabitants were spared. Hulagu offered the royal palace to the Nestorian Catholicos Mar Makikha, and ordered a cathedral to be built for him.

The Mamluks Dynasty, عصر المماليك 1250-1570

<http://www.historytoday.com/james-watson/mamluks>

The Mamluks ruled Egypt and Syria from 1250 until 1517, when their dynasty was extinguished by the Ottomans. But Mamluks had first appeared in the Abbasid caliphate in the ninth century and even after their overthrow by the Ottomans they continued to form an important part of Egyptian Islamic society and existed as an influential group until the 19th century. **They destroyed the Crusader kingdoms of Outremer, and saved Syria, Egypt and the holy places of Islam from the Mongols.** They made Cairo the dominant city of the Islamic world in the later Middle Ages, and under these apparently unlettered soldier-statesmen's rule, craftsmanship, architecture and scholarship flourished. Yet the dynasty remains virtually unknown to many in the West.

The dynasty had two phases. From 1250 to 1381 the Bahri clique produced the Mamluk Sultans; from 1382 until 1517 the Burgi Mamluks were dominant. These groups were named after the principal regiments provided by the Mamluks for the last Ayyubid Sultan As-Salih whom they served before overthrowing him in 1250; the Bahirya or River Island regiment, based on a river island in the centre of Cairo and the Burgi or Tower regiment.

Boys of about 13 would be captured from areas to the north of the Persian empire, and trained to become an elite force for the personal use of the sultan or higher lords. The Arabic word *Ghulam* (boy) was sometimes employed for the bodyguards they would become. The boys would be sent by the caliph or sultan to enforce his rule as far afield as Spain (Venice and Genoa were major players in their transportation despite Papal interdictions) and sold to the commanders of the Islamic governments of the region. Under their new masters they were manumitted, converted to Islam, and underwent intensive military training.

Although warfare was the primary concern of these slave soldiers, their contribution to the Islamic arts and architecture was immense.



The battle of Wadi al-Khazandar, 1299. depicting Mamluk cavalry and Mongol archers

Timur Leng *تيمور لنگ* **1370-1405** : historically known as **Tamerlane**, was a Turko-Mongol conqueror and the founder of the Timurid dynasty in Central Asia. Born into the Barlas confederation in [Transoxiana](#) during the 1320s or 1330s, he gained control of the [Western Chagatai Khanate](#) by 1370. From that base, he led military campaigns across West, South and Central Asia and emerged as the most powerful ruler in the Muslim world after defeating the Mamluks of Egypt and Syria, the emerging Ottoman Empire and the declining Sultanate of Delhi. From these conquests he founded the **Timurid Empire**, although it fragmented shortly after his death. He is considered the last of the major nomadic conquerors of the Eurasian Steppe. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timur>

In 1401, in Syria, Timur defeats a Mameluke army from Egypt. He then takes and destroys Damascus, despatching a new consignment of talented craftsmen back to Samarkand. Later in the same year Baghdad is stormed and sacked, and 20,000 of its population massacred.

In May 1401 Baghdad was subjected to a forty day siege by Timur Leng; when it still refused to surrender he order the city stormed. Once it was taken, nearly all of the men, women and children were massacred and most of the public buildings were destroyed. The destruction was so widespread that Timur did not even bother to install a governor.

He converted nearly all the [Borjigin](#) leaders to Islam during his lifetime. His armies were inclusively multi-ethnic. Timur also decisively defeated the Christian Knights Hospitaller at Smyrna. he captured almost all of Persia by 1387. Of note during the Persian campaign was the capture of Isfahan. He treated the city with relative mercy as he normally did with cities that surrendered. However, after the city revolted against Timur's taxes by killing the tax collectors and some of Timur's soldiers, ***Timur ordered the massacre of the city's citizens***; the death toll is reckoned at between 100,000 and 200,000. An eye-witness counted more than 28 towers constructed of about 1,500 heads each. This has been described as a "***systematic use of terror*** against towns...an integral element of Tamerlane's strategic element" http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahmad_Jalayir



Timur's legacy is a mixed one. While Central Asia blossomed under his reign, other places such as Baghdad, Damascus, Delhi and other Arab, Georgian, Persian, and Indian cities were sacked and destroyed and their populations massacred. He was responsible for the effective destruction of the Christian Church in much of Asia. Thus, while Timur still retains a positive image in Muslim Central Asia, he is vilified by many in Arabia, Persia, and India, where some of his greatest atrocities were carried out. Such vicious acts by Timur and his dynasty qualifies him as a mass murderer, who left a trail of destruction of land, nations and culture from India to Persia and across Iraq to Turkey.

The Safavid dynasty العهد الصفوي 1501 to 1722

The Safavid converted Iran from Sunnism to Shiism made **Iran** the spiritual bastion of **Shia Islam** against **Sunni Islam**, in 1508. For the Safavids, Iraq was not only important for strategic reasons. The existence there of the major Shia shrines at Najaf, Karbala, Kazim and Samarra made its control an important source of prestige and legitimacy.

The Safavid entry into Baghdad was accompanied by a massacre of many of the leading Sunni figures and the desecration of Sunni shrines like the Abu Hanifa Mosque.

Christians were also singled out for persecution and within a short period and they were completely wiped out of the city.

This was followed by an advance on the south where **Basra** surrendered without a fight. Despite the importance of the Shia shrines, Safavid control of Iraq remained tenuous.

There is little doubt that the Safavid Empire was poised to dominate Iraq and the heartland of Islam were it not for the Ottoman Turks. Baghdad was taken by the Ottoman Empire in 1534.

The **Ottoman Turks** and Safavids fought over the fertile plains of Iraq for more than 150 years. The capture of **Baghdad** by Ismail I in 1509 was only followed by its loss to the Ottoman Sultan **Suleiman I** in 1534. After subsequent campaigns, the Safavids recaptured Baghdad in 1623 yet lost it again to **Murad IV** in 1638. Henceforth a treaty, signed in **Qasr-e Shirin**, was established delineating a border between Iran and Turkey in 1639, a border which still stands in northwest Iran/southeast Turkey.

The 150-year tug-of-war between the Safavid and the Ottoman Turks accentuated the Sunni and Shi'a rift in Iraq.



The Safavid dynasty at its peak

The Ottoman Empire 1299 - 1918

The **Ottoman Empire** was founded by **Osman I**.

As **sultan Mehmed II** conquered **Constantinople** (today named **Istanbul**) in **1453**, the state grew into a mighty empire. The Empire reached its apex under **Suleiman the Magnificent** in the 16th century when it stretched from the **Arabian Gulf** in the east to **Hungary** in the northwest; and from **Egypt** in the south to the **Caucasus** in the north. During the 16th and 17th centuries, in particular at the height of its power under the reign of **Suleiman the Magnificent**, the Ottoman Empire was a powerful multinational, multilingual empire **controlling much of Southeast Europe, Western Asia, the Caucasus, North Africa, and the Horn of Africa**. At the beginning of the 17th century the empire contained 32 provinces and numerous vassal states.



The son of Murad II, Mehmed the Conqueror, conquered Constantinople on 29 May 1453. Mehmed allowed the Orthodox Church to maintain its autonomy and land in exchange for accepting Ottoman authority. Because of bad relations between the states of western Europe and the later Byzantine Empire, the majority of the Orthodox population accepted Ottoman rule as preferable to Venetian rule.

The Ottomans absorbed some of the traditions, art and institutions of cultures in the regions they conquered, and added new dimensions to them. Numerous traditions and cultural traits of previous empires (in fields such as architecture, cuisine, music, leisure and government) were adopted by the Ottoman Turks, who elaborated them into new forms, which resulted in a new and distinctively Ottoman cultural identity.

With **Constantinople** as its capital and control of lands around the Mediterranean basin, the **Ottoman Empire was at the centre of interactions between the Eastern and Western worlds for six centuries**. Following a long period of military setbacks against European powers and gradual decline into the late nineteenth century. **The empire allied with Germany in the early 20th century**, with the imperial ambition to recover the lost territories, but it **collapsed and was dissolved by the Allied Powers** in the aftermath of World War I. This resulted in the **emergence of the new state of Turkey** in the Ottoman Anatolian heartland, as well as **the founding of modern Balkan and Middle Eastern states**.

Mosul Siege in 1743 ,by Persian king Nader Shah

Nader Shah dreamed of an empire which would stretch from the Indus to the Bosphorus. Therefore he raised an army of 200,000, which consisted largely of rebellious Central Asian tribesmen, and he planned to march towards **Constantinople**, but after he learned that the Ottoman **ulema** was preparing for a holy war against Persia, he turned eastward. He captured **Kirkuk, Arbil** and **besieged Mosul** on 14 September .1743The siege lasted for 40 days. The **Pasha** of Mosul, **Hajji Hossein Al Jalili**, successfully defended Mosul and **Nader Shah was forced to retreat**.

Sultan Selim I (1512–1520) dramatically expanded the Empire's eastern and southern frontiers by defeating Shah Ismail of Safavid Persia, in the Battle of Chaldiran. Selim I established Ottoman rule in Egypt, and created a naval presence on the Red Sea. After this Ottoman expansion, a competition started between the Portuguese Empire and the Ottoman Empire to become the dominant power in the region



Mehmed VI, the last Sultan of the Ottoman Empire, leaving the country after the abolition of the Ottoman sultanate, 17 November 1922.)

The [Arab Revolt](#) which began in 1916 turned the tide against the Ottomans at the Middle Eastern front

Suleiman the Magnificent (1520–1566) captured Belgrade in 1521, conquered the southern and central parts of the Kingdom of Hungary as part of the **Ottoman–Hungarian Wars**, and, after his **historical victory in the Battle of Mohács** in 1526, he established Turkish rule in the territory of present-day Hungary and other Central European territories. He then laid **siege to Vienna in 1529**, but failed to take the city. Transylvania, Wallachia and, intermittently, Moldavia, became tributary principalities of the Ottoman Empire. In the east, the Ottoman Turks **took Baghdad from the Persians in 1535**, gaining control of Mesopotamia and naval access to the Arabian Gulf.

By the end of Suleiman's reign, the Empire's population totaled about 15,000,000 people extending over three continents, In addition, the Empire became a dominant naval force, controlling much of the Mediterranean Sea, By this time, the Ottoman Empire was a major part of the European political sphere.

Stagnation of the Ottoman Empire (1566–1827), most historians point to "**degenerate Sultans**, incompetent Grand Viziers, debilitated and ill-equipped armies, **corrupt officials**, avaricious speculators, grasping enemies, and treacherous friends. The main cause was a **failure of leadership**, as Lee argues the first 10 sultans from 1292 to 1566, with one exception, had done quite well. The next 13 sultans from 1566 to 1703, with two exceptions, were lackadaisical or incompetent rulers, says Lee, In a highly centralized system, the failure at the center proved fatal. A direct result was the strengthening of provincial elites who increasingly ignored Constantinople. Secondly the military strength of European enemies grew stronger and stronger, while the Ottoman armies and arms scarcely improved.

The last quarter of the 19th and the early part of the 20th century saw some 7–9 million Turkish-Muslim refugees from the lost territories of the Caucasus, Crimea, Balkans, and the Mediterranean islands, migrate to Anatolia and Eastern Thrace. The Empire lost its Balkan territories except East Thrace and the historic Ottoman capital city of Edirne during the the Balkan Wars (1912–13). Fearing religious persecution, around 400,000 Muslims fled to present-day Turkey. Due to a cholera epidemic, many did not survive the journey, 56According to the estimates of Justin McCarthy, during the period from 1821 to 1922 alone, the ethnic cleansing of Ottoman Muslims in the Balkans led to the death of several million individuals and the expulsion of a similar number.

World War I, was a global war centred in Europe that began on 28 July 1914 and lasted until 11 November 1918. **More than 9 million combatants and 7 million civilians died as a result of the war**, a casualty rate exacerbated by the belligerents' technological and industrial sophistication, and tactical stalemate. It is estimated that the use of **chemical weapons** employed by both sides throughout the war had inflicted 1.3 million casualties. **It was one of the deadliest conflicts in history, paving the way for major political changes, including revolutions in many of the nations involved.**

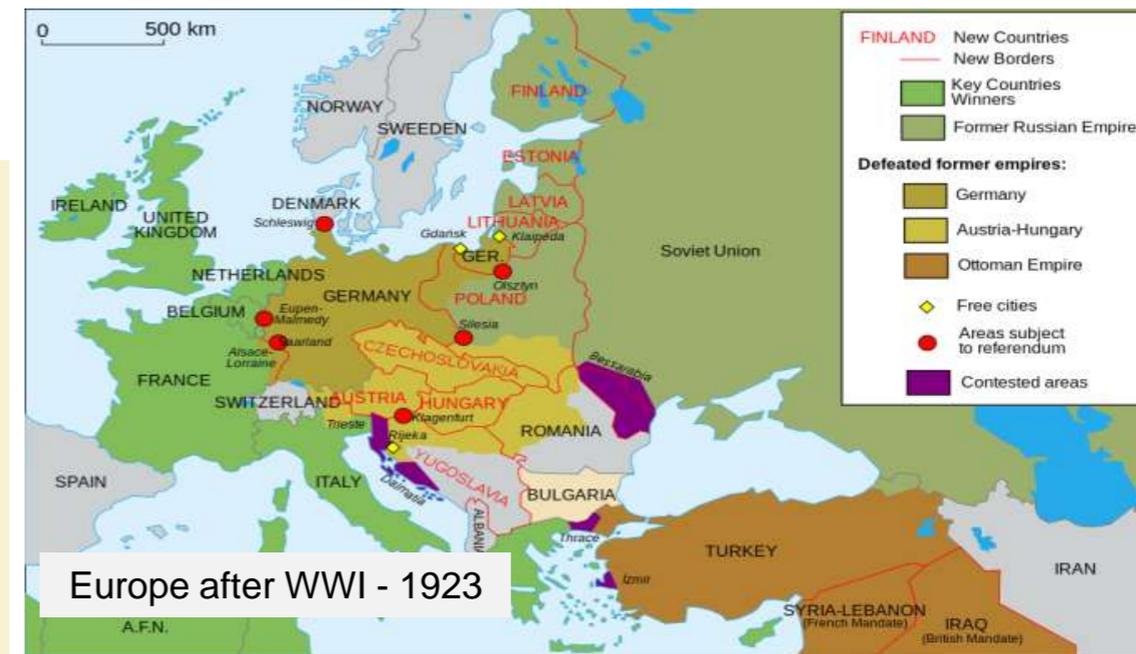
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_I

The war drew in all the world's economic great powers, assembled in two opposing alliances: **the Allies (based on the Triple Entente of the United Kingdom, France and the Russian Empire)** and the **Central Powers of Germany and Austria-Hungary**. Although Italy had also been a member of the Triple Alliance alongside Germany and Austria-Hungary, it did not join the Central Powers, as Austria-Hungary had taken the offensive against the terms of the alliance. These alliances were reorganised and expanded as more nations entered the war: **Italy, Japan and the United States joined the Allies, and the Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria the Central Powers**. More than 70 million military personnel, including 60 million Europeans, were mobilised in one of the largest wars in history.

In November 1914, the Ottoman Empire joined the Central Powers, opening fronts in the Caucasus, Mesopotamia and the Sinai.

The Siege of Kut Al Amara (7 December 1915 – 29 April 1916), also known as the First Battle of [Kut](#), was the besieging of an 8,000 strong British-Indian garrison in the town of Kut, 100 miles south of Baghdad, by the Ottoman Army. In 1915, its population was around 6,500.

In early 1915, a number of **Armenians** joined the Russian forces, and the Ottoman government used this as a pretext to issue the Tehcir Law (Law on Deportation). This authorized **the deportation of Armenians** from the Empire's eastern provinces to Syria between 1915 and 1917. The exact number of deaths is unknown, however the International Association of Genocide Scholars estimates over 1 million.



In the Middle East, Arab nationalism soared in Ottoman territories in response to the rise of Turkish nationalism during the war, with Arab nationalist leaders advocating the creation of a pan-Arab state. In 1916, the Arab Revolt began in Ottoman-controlled territories of the Middle East in an effort to achieve independence. The rise of Nazism and Fascism included a revival of the nationalist spirit and a rejection of many post-war changes.

By the end of the war, the German Empire, Russian Empire, Austro-Hungarian Empire and the Ottoman Empire had ceased to exist. The maps were redrawn, with several independent nations restored or created. The League of Nations was formed with the aim of preventing any repetition of such an appalling conflict. This, however, failed with weakened states, economic depression, renewed European nationalism, and the German feeling of humiliation contributing to the rise of Nazism. These conditions eventually contributed to World War II.

The Arab Revolt , الثورة العربية 1916–1918

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_Revolt

It was initiated by the **Sherif Hussein bin Ali** with the aim of securing independence from the ruling **Ottoman Turks** and creating a single unified **Arab** state spanning from **Aleppo in Syria** to **Aden in Yemen**.

In 1913, intellectuals and politicians from the Arab Mashriq met in Paris at the **First Arab Congress**. They produced a set of **demands for greater autonomy within the Ottoman Empire**.

The flag of the resistance was designed by Sir **Mark Sykes**, in an effort to create a feeling of "Arab-ness" in order to fuel the revolt.

The first Arab Revolt forces to reach Damascus were Sharif Naser's Hashemite camel cavalry and the cavalry of the **Ruwallah** tribe, led by **Nuri Sha'lan**, on 30 September 1918. The bulk of these troops remained outside of the city with the intention of awaiting the arrival of **Sharif Faisal**. However, a small contingent from the group was sent within the walls of the city, where they found the Arab Revolt flag already raised by surviving Arab nationalists among the citizenry. Later that day **Australian Light Horse** troops marched into Damascus. Auda Abu Ta'yi, T. E. Lawrence and Arab troops rode into Damascus the next day, 1 October. At the end of the war, the **Egyptian Expeditionary Force** had seized **Palestine, Transjordan, Lebanon**, large parts of the **Arabian** peninsula and southern Syria. Medina, cut off from the rest of the Ottoman Empire, would not surrender until January 1919.



The revolt began on June 5, **1916 with the proclamation of the independent state of Hejaz (1)** and Hussein its King on November 2nd. Hussein's sons, Faysal and Abdallah (2) led Arab armies north. Faysal entered Damascus on October 3, 1918, and thus put an **end to Turkish presence** in the Arab countries of the Middle East. A Syrian National Council was convened in June 1919 and proclaimed him King of Syria in March 1920.

In the meantime **Great Britain, France and Russia had concluded secret agreements on May 16, 1916** (which were revealed and denounced by the Bolshevik powers in 1917) known later as the **Sykes-Picot agreements** laying down **a partition of the region to be placed under separate European powers**.

The British government topped it all with its public promise on November 2nd, 1917 **to create a Jewish homeland with the Balfour Declaration**.

History of Iraq 1920-1932

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mandatory_Iraq

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The Iraqi revolt against the British, Three important anticolonial secret societies had been formed in Iraq during 1918 and 1919. **The League of the Islamic Awakening** (*Jamiyat an Nahda al Islamiya*) was organized **at Najaf**. **The Muslim National League** (*Al Jamiya al Wataniya al Islamiya*) was formed with the object of organizing and mobilizing the population for major resistance. In February 1919, **in Baghdad, a coalition of Shia merchants, Sunni teachers, and civil servants, Sunni and Shia ulama, and Iraqi officers formed the Guardians of Independence** (*Haras al Istiqlal*). The Istiqlal had member groups in **Karbala, Najaf, Kut, and Hillah**. The Grand Mujtahid of Karbala, **Imam Shirazi**, and his son, **Mirza Muhammad Riza**, began to organize the insurgent effort. **Shirazi then issued a fatwa** (religious ruling), pointing out that it was against Islamic law for Muslims to countenance being ruled by non-Muslims, and he called for a **jihad against the British**. **By July 1920, Mosul was in rebellion against British rule, and the insurrection moved south down the Euphrates River valley.**



British troops in Baghdad, 1920



Jafar Abu Eltimman:
Born 1881; died 1945.
Iraqi political and governmental figure and a great entrepreneur. **Abu al-Timman took part in the anti-British uprising of 1920.**



First Iraqi Parliament 1924

For Iraqis the revolt served as part of the founding of Iraqi nationalism although this conclusion is debated by scholars. It also showed unprecedented co-operation between Sunni and Shia Muslims although this co-operation did not last much longer than the end of the revolt

6,000 to 10,000 Iraqis and around 500 British and Indian soldiers died during the revolt, The RAF flew missions totalling 4,008 hours, dropped 97 tons of bombs and fired 183,861 rounds for the loss of nine men killed, seven wounded and 11 aircraft destroyed behind rebel lines. The revolt caused British officials to drastically reconsider their strategy in Iraq. The revolt cost the British government 40 million pounds, which was twice the amount of the annual budget allotted for Iraq and a huge factor in reconsidering their strategy in Iraq. It had cost more than the entire British-funded Arab rising against the Ottoman Empire in 1917-1918.

The Kingdom of Iraq under British Administration

or **Mandatory Iraq**, was created in 1921 following the **1920 Iraqi Revolt** against the proposed **British Mandate of Mesopotamia**, and enacted via the 1922 **Anglo-Iraqi Treaty**. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraqi_revolt_against_the_British

Faisal ibn Husayn, who had been proclaimed **King of Syria** by a **Syrian National Congress in Damascus** in March 1920, was **ejected** by the French in July of the same year. **Faisal was then granted by the British the territory of Iraq, to rule it as a kingdom, with the British Royal Air Force (RAF) retaining certain military control, though de facto; the territory remained under British administration until 1932.**



The Kingdom of Iraq (Arabic: المملكة العراقية) was founded on 23 August 1921 under British administration following the defeat of the Ottoman Empire in the Mesopotamian campaign of WWI. Although a League of Nations mandate was awarded to Britain in 1920, the 1920 Iraqi revolt resulted in the scrapping of the original mandate plan in favor of a British administered semi-independent kingdom, under the Hashemite allies of Britain, via the Anglo-Iraqi Treaty.

The kingdom of Iraq was granted full independence in 1932. A series of Shia tribal uprisings in the mid-Euphrates region against the Sunni dominated authority of the Kingdom of Iraq. In each revolt, the response of the Iraqi government was to use military force to crush the rebellions with little mercy. In 1936, the first military coup took place in the Kingdom of Iraq, as Bakr Sidqi succeeded in replacing the acting Prime Minister with his associate. Multiple coups followed in a period of political instability, peaking in 1941.

During World War II, Iraqi regime of Regent 'Abd al-Ilah was overthrown in 1941 by the Golden Square officers, headed by Rashid Ali. The short living pro-Nazi government of Iraq was defeated in May 1941 by the allied forces in Anglo-Iraqi War. Iraq was later used as a base for allied attacks on Vichy-French held Mandate of Syria and support for the Anglo-Soviet invasion of Iran. At the same time, the Kurdish leader Mustafa Barzani led a rebellion against the central government in Baghdad. After the failure of the uprising Barzani and his followers fled to the Soviet Union.

In 1945, during the final stages of WWII, Iraq joined the United Nations and became a founding member of the Arab League. In 1948, massive violent protests, known as the Al-Wathbah uprising broke out across Baghdad as a popular demand against the government treaty with the British, and with communist part support. More protests continued in spring, but were interrupted in May, with the martial law, when Iraq entered the 1948 Arab-Israeli War along with other members of the Arab League.

In February 1958, King Hussein of Jordan and `Abd al-Ilāh proposed a union of *Hāshimite* monarchies to counter the recently formed Egyptian-Syrian union. The resulting Arab Federation, formed on 14 February 1958 was short-lived. It ended in 1958, when the monarchy was overthrown in a military coup, led by Abd al-Karim Qasim.



Faisal I League of nations 1932

Iraq's Oil :

Lord Curzon, the British Foreign Secretary, denied that oil interests influenced policy in Iraq, but the archives show that the British government rushed troops to Mosul in 1918 to gain control of the northern oil fields. Britain and France clashed over Iraq's oil during the Versailles Conference and after, but Britain eventually took the lion's share by turning its military victories into colonial rule. The powerful Iraq Petroleum Company, in which US and French firms held minority positions, acted always in the cartel interests of the Anglo-American companies. To the fury of the Iraqis and the French, it held down production to maximize profits elsewhere. The company kept a monopoly of Iraq's oil sector until nationalization in 1972.

1936–1939 Arab revolt in Palestine

The 1936–1939 Arab revolt in Palestine was a nationalist uprising by Palestinian Arabs in Mandatory Palestine against British colonial rule, as a demand for independence and opposition to mass Jewish immigration. In 1930 Sheikh [Izz ad-Din al-Qassam](#) organized and established the Black Hand, an anti-Zionist and anti-British militant organization.

The revolt consisted of two distinct phases. The first phase was directed primarily by the urban and elitist Higher Arab Committee (HAC) and was focused mainly on strikes and other forms of political protest. By October 1936, this phase had been defeated by the British civil administration using a combination of political concessions, international diplomacy (involving the rulers of Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Transjordan and Yemen and the threat of martial law). The second phase, which began late in 1937, was a violent and peasant-led resistance movement that increasingly targeted British forces. During this phase, the rebellion was brutally suppressed by the British Army and the Palestine Police Force using repressive measures that were intended to intimidate the Arab population and undermine popular support for the revolt.

The revolt in Palestine was unsuccessful, and its consequences affected the outcome of the 1948 Palestine war. It caused the British Mandate to give crucial support to pre-state Zionist militias like the Haganah whereas on the Palestinian Arab side, the revolt forced the fleeing into exile of the main Palestinian Arab leader of the period, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem Haj Amin al-Husseini.

The dissent in Palestine was influenced also by the discovery in October 1935 at the port of Jaffa of a large arms shipment destined for the Haganah, sparking Arab fears of a Jewish military takeover of Palestine, Jewish immigration also peaked in 1935, just months before Palestinian Arabs began a full-scale, nationwide revolt. In the four years between 1933 and 1936 more than 164,000 Jewish immigrants arrived in Palestine, and between 1931 and 1936 the Jewish population more than doubled from 175,000 to 370,000 people, increasing the Jewish population share from 17% to 27%, bringing about a significant deterioration in relations between Palestinian Arabs and Jews.

The *Haganah* (Hebrew for "defence"), a Jewish paramilitary organisation, actively supported British efforts to suppress the uprising, which reached 10,000 Arab fighters at their peak during the summer and fall of 1938. Although the British administration did not officially recognise the *Haganah*, the British security forces cooperated with it by forming the Jewish Settlement Police, Jewish Supernumerary Police, and Special Night Squads. The Special Night Squads engaged in activities described by colonial administrator Sir Hugh Foot, as 'extreme and cruel' involving torture, whipping, abuse and execution of Arabs.

World War II : The start of the war in Europe is generally held to be 1 September 1939, beginning with the German invasion of Poland; Britain and France declared war on Germany two days later. Others say it was in 1935. The exact date of the war's end is also not universally agreed upon. It was generally accepted at the time that the war ended with the armistice of 14 August 1945 (V-J Day), rather than the formal surrender of Japan (2 September 1945).

Adolf Hitler, after an unsuccessful attempt to overthrow the German government in 1923, eventually became the Chancellor of Germany in 1933. He aboFrom 1922 to 1925, the Fascist movement led by Benito Mussolini seized power in Italy, and soon began a massive rearmament campaign. In July 1937, Japan captured the former Chinese imperial capital of Beijing after instigating the Marco Polo Bridge Incident, which culminated in the Japanese campaign to invade all of China. The Soviets quickly signed a non-aggression pact with China to lend materiel support, effectively ending China's prior co-operation with Germany.

On 22 June 1941, Germany, supported by Italy and Romania, invaded the Soviet Union in Operation Barbarossa, with Germany accusing the Soviets of plotting against them. The British and Soviets invaded Iran to secure the Persian Corridor and Iran's oil fields, In August, the United Kingdom and the United States jointly issued the Atlantic Charter.

by early February 1941 Italy had lost control of eastern Libya and large numbers of Italian troops had been taken prisoner. The Allies quashed an uprising in Iraq which had been supported by German aircraft from bases within Vichy-controlled Syria, then, with the assistance of the Free French, invaded Syria and Lebanon to prevent further such occurrences. By early February 1943, the German Army had taken tremendous losses; German troops at Stalingrad had been forced to surrender.

On 12 April 1945, President Roosevelt died and was succeeded by Harry Truman. Benito Mussolini was killed by Italian partisans on 28 April 1945, Two days later, Hitler committed suicide, and was succeeded by Grand Admiral Karl Dönitz.

On the night of 9–10 March, B-29 bombers of the US Army Air Forces struck Tokyo with incendiary bombs, which killed 100,000 people within a few hours. Over the next five months, American bombers firebombed 66 other Japanese cities, causing the destruction of untold numbers of buildings and the deaths of between 350,000–500,000 Japanese civilians. In early August the United States dropped atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of [Hiroshima](#) and [Nagasaki](#). Like the Japanese cities previously bombed by American airmen

In an effort to maintain peace, the Allies formed the United Nations, which officially came into existence on 24 October 1945, and adopted the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) in 1948, as a common standard for all member nations, The great powers that were the victors of the war—the United States, Soviet Union, China, Britain, and France—formed the permanent members of the UN's [Security Council](#).

In the Middle East, the Arab rejection of the United Nations Partition Plan for Palestine and the creation of Israel marked the escalation of the Arab-Israeli conflict, which sadly remains unsolved until today.

The 1948 Arab–Israeli War was fought between the newly created State of Israel and a military coalition of Arab states. There had been tension and conflict between the Arabs and the Jews, and between each of them and the British forces, ever since the 1917 Balfour Declaration and the 1920 creation of the British Mandate of Palestine. British policies dissatisfied both Arabs and Jews. The Arabs' opposition developed into the 1936–1939 Arab revolt in Palestine, while the Jewish resistance developed into the Jewish insurgency in Palestine (1944–1947). In 1947 these ongoing tensions erupted into civil war, following the 29 November 1947 adoption of the United Nations Partition Plan for Palestine which planned to divide Palestine into three areas: an Arab state, a Jewish state and the Special International Regime for the City of Jerusalem.

On 15 May 1948 the ongoing civil war transformed into an inter-state conflict between Israel and the Arab states, following **the Israeli Declaration of Independence** the previous day. A combined invasion by Egypt, Jordan and Syria, together with expeditionary forces from Iraq, entered Palestine. They took control of the Arab areas and immediately attacked Israeli forces and several Jewish settlements. The 20 months Conflict, interrupted by several truce periods, took place mostly on the former territory of the British Mandate and for a short time also in the Sinai Peninsula and southern Lebanon. **As a result of the war the State of Israel retained the area that the UN General Assembly Resolution 181 had recommended for the proposed Jewish state as well as almost 60% of the area of Arab state** proposed by the 1948 Partition Plan. **Transjordan took control of the remainder of the former British mandate**, which it annexed, and the **Egyptian military took control of the Gaza Strip. No state was created for the Palestinian Arabs!!**

The conflict triggered **significant demographic change throughout the Middle East**. Around 700,000 Palestinian Arabs fled or were expelled from the area that became Israel and they became Palestinian refugees. In the three years following the war, about 700,000 Jews fled from Arab lands and immigrated to Israel, with one third of them having been expelled from their previous countries of residence in the Middle East. Irregular Jewish troops from **Irgun** and **Lehi** formations massacred a substantial number of Arabs at [Deir Yassin](#), an event that, had a deep impact on the morale of the Arab population and contributed to generate the [exode of the Arab population](#).

The 1948 war in Palestine transformed the political landscape of the Middle East for ever. Arab Palestine was destroyed and the state of Israel created. Arab nationalist feelings and opinions after the humiliating defeat focussed on blaming its leaders acting under the control of the colonial powers of Britain and France. Various conspiracy theories, emerged, such as faulty weapons used by some Arab forces. Historical accounts remained unclear until 30 years later when archives in Israel were made available to historians. Sadly such archives within the Arab states are still locked in secrecy. It can be said with reasonable accuracy now that **Arab forces could have had much more success if they had a coordinated plan and conducted the war under a unified leadership; instead of each force ordered to go after its own territorial interests and not that of the Palestinians.** The Arab states war efforts suffered from French and British colonial presence; which ensured by direct and indirect means, that the Arabs could not possibly win an overall victory. The Jewish military efforts on the other hand were highly motivated and quickly expanded and became effective with extensive help from Europe, namely (Czechoslovakia, France and others), in supplying arms and building the air-force with the active help from world war veteran trained pilots and advisers.. **The actual historical events since the end of the Ottoman rule in the Middle East and the colonial policies in the fragmented and politically unstable Arab states on the one hand and the combined Allied polices and international Jewish support to create an Israeli state, on the other hand, made the outcome of the 1948 war inevitable.**

The Egyptian revolution of 1952, began on 23 July 1952, by the **Free Officers Movement**, a group of army officers led by **Muhammad Naguib** and **Gamal Abdel Nasser**. The movement moved to abolish the constitutional monarchy and aristocracy of Egypt and Sudan, establish a republic, end the **British** occupation of the country, and secure the independence of Sudan. The revolutionary government adopted a staunchly **nationalist, anti-imperialist** agenda, which came to be expressed chiefly through **Arab nationalism**, and international **non-alignment**.

The Suez Crisis, also named the Tripartite Aggression, was an invasion of Egypt in late 1956 by Israel, followed by Britain and France. The aims were to regain Western **control of the Suez Canal and to remove Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser from power**. The three allies had attained a number of their military objectives, but the Canal was now useless and heavy pressure from the United States and the USSR forced them to withdraw. U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower had strongly warned Britain not to invade; he now threatened serious damage to the British financial system. Historians conclude the crisis "**signified the end of Great Britain's role as one of the world's major powers**".

Egypt and the Arab leadership, In regard to the Arab leadership, particularly venomous was **the feud between Nasser and the Prime Minister of Iraq, Nuri el-Said**, for Arab leadership, with the Cairo-based Voice of the Arabs radio station regularly calling for the overthrow of the government in Baghdad.

Nasser's first choice for buying weapons was the United States, but his frequent anti-Israeli speeches and his sponsorship for the **fedayeen** who were making raids into Israel had made it difficult for the Eisenhower administration to get the approval of Congress to sell weapons to Egypt. American public opinion was deeply hostile towards selling arms to Egypt that might be used against Israel. **In a May 1956 gathering of French veterans, Louis Mangin spoke in place of the unavailable Minister of Defence and gave a violently anti-Nasser speech, which compared the Egyptian leader to Hitler. He accused Nasser of plotting to rule the entire Middle East and of seeking to annex Algeria, whose "people live in community with France", Mangin urged France to stand up to Nasser, and being a strong friend of Israel, urged an alliance with that nation against Egypt**

According to the prominent historian Abd al-Azim Ramadan, the events leading up to the nationalization of the Suez Canal Company, as well as other events during Nasser's rule, **showed Nasser to be far from a rational, responsible leader**. Ramadan notes Nasser's decision to nationalize the Suez Canal without political consultation as an example of his predilection for solitary decision-making.

the Egyptian writer **Tawfiq al-Hakim** wrote about the links between the 1956 and 1967 wars. He wrote that: "**Were bluffing and histrionics in the nature of Nasser?** It was bluffing that led to the crushing of Egypt in 1967, because of the **mass self-deception exercised by leaders and followers alike** ever since the non-existent 'Stalingrad which was Port Said' in 1956."

The 14 of July 1958 Iraqi Revolution

On 14 July 1958, a group that identified as the Free Officers, a secret military group led by [Brigadier Abd al-Karim Qasim](#), and his associate, [Colonel Abdul Salam Arif](#) overthrew the monarchy. This group was markedly Pan-Arab in character. King Faisal II, the Regent and Crown Prince Abd al-Ilah, and Nuri al-Said were all killed.

A result of several different grievances with Hashemite Iraqi policies, the coup established the Republic of Iraq. From 14 July 1958 until 2003, Iraq remained a de facto Arab nationalist and socialist one-party state. During World War II, Iraq housed a growing presence of Arab nationalist sympathizers. The Arab nationalists aimed, in part, to remove British imperial influence in Iraq.

This sentiment grew from a politicized educational system in Iraq and an increasingly assertive and educated middle class. **The Schools served as instruments to internalize Pan-Arab nationalist identity** because the leaders and the designers of the Iraqi educational system in the 1920s and 1930s were Pan-Arab nationalists who made a significant contribution in the expansion of that ideology in Iraq as well as the rest of the Arab world. **coup in Iraq, which was in part inspired by Nasser, compromised Washington's position in the Middle East.** Indeed, the Americans saw developments in Iraq in epidemiological terms. Qasim was to reap the greatest reward, being named Prime Minister and Minister of Defense. Arif was to become Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, as well as deputy Commander in Chief.



Abdul Salam Arif and
Abd al-Karim Qasim,

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/14_July_Revolution

On 9 March 1959, the New York Times reported that the situation in Iraq was initially "confused and unstable, with rival groups competing for control. Cross currents of communism, Arab and Iraqi nationalism, anti-Westernism and the 'positive neutrality' of President Gamal Abdel Nasser of the United Arab Republic have been affecting the country. In the wake of the successful coup, the new Iraqi Republic was to be headed by a Revolutionary Council . At its head was a three-man sovereignty council, composed of members of Iraq's three main communal/ethnic groups. Muhammad Mahdi Kubbah represented the Shi'a population; Khalid al-Naqshabandi the Kurds; and Najib al Rubay'l the Sunni population. This tripartite was to assume the role of the Presidency.

A cabinet was created, composed of a broad spectrum of Iraqi political movements: this included two National Democratic Party representatives, one member of al-Istiqlal, one Ba'ath representative and one Marxist. By March 1959, Iraq withdrew from the Baghdad Pact and created alliances with left-leaning countries and communist countries, including the Soviet Union. Because of their agreement with the USSR, Qasim's government allowed the formation of an Iraqi Communist Party.

Iraq : Abdulkarim Qasim Years in Power , 1959 - 1963

Despite the encouraging tones of the temporary constitution, the new government descended into an autocracy with Qasim at its head. The genesis of Qasim's elevation to "Sole Leader" began with a schism between himself and his fellow conspirator Arif. Despite one of the major goals of the revolution being to join the pan-Arabism movement and practice qawmiyah policies, Qasim soon modified his views, once in power. **Qasim, reluctant to tie himself too closely to Nasser's Egypt.**

Qasim's ability to remain in power depended, therefore, on a skillful balancing of the communists and the pan-Arabists. For most of his tenure, Qasim sought to counterbalance the growing pan-Arab trend in the army by supporting the communists who controlled the streets. He authorized the formation of a communist-controlled militia, the People's Resistance Force, and he freed all communist prisoners.

Qasim is said by his admirers to have worked **to improve the position of ordinary people in Iraq**, after the long period of self-interested rule by a small elite under the monarchy which had resulted in widespread social unrest. **Qasim passed law No. 80 which seized 99% of Iraqi land from the British-owned Iraq Petroleum Company**, and distributed farms to more of the population. This increased the size of the middle class.

A power struggle developed between Qasim and Arif over joining the Egyptian-Syrian union. Arif's pro-Nasserite sympathies were supported by the Baath Party, while Qasim found support for his anti-unification position in the ranks of the Iraqi Communist Party. Aref was arrested, and **charged with attempted assassination of Qasim and attempts to overthrow the regime.** He was brought to trial for treason and **condemned to death in January 1959**; but was subsequently **pardoned in December 1962** and was sentenced to life imprisonment.

After a period of relative calm, the issue of Kurdish autonomy (self-rule or independence) went unfulfilled, sparking discontent and eventual rebellion among the Kurds in 1961. Kurdish separatists under the leadership of **Mustafa Barzani** chose to **wage war against the Iraqi establishment.** Qasim's response was to sanction a **military campaign against Barzani's peshmerga forces in September 1961.** This proved to be a **grave mistake**, as the anti-insurgency campaign became a drain upon Iraqi resources as well as further undermining Qasim's esteem within the officer classes

The Mosul uprising ,1959 :Qasim's growing ties with the communists served to provoke rebellion in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul by Arab nationalists in charge of military units under Colonel Abdel Wahab Shawaf . The rebellion was crushed, but added fuel to future divisions in Iraq.

Qasim was overthrown by the Ba'athist coup of February 8, 1963, motivated by fear of communist influence and state control over the petroleum sector. **The British and American governments denied complicity in the coup** although some speculate there may have been some. Qasim was given a short trial and he was shot soon after. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abd_al-Karim_Qasim

Iraqi Leaders , 1963-1979

President Abdulsalam Arif 1963-1966 :Qasim was overthrown on February 8, 1963, by a coalition of Ba'athists, army units, and other pan-Arabist groups. ***Abdulsalam Arif*** was elected president of Iraq due to his popularity. On November 18, Arif, with the support of disaffected elements in the military ousted the Ba'athists government. Arif formed a new cabinet, retaining a few Ba'athists, but mostly made up of Nasserist army officers and technocrats. He maintained his presidency and appointed himself chief-of-staff. On May 26, 1964, Arif established the Joint Presidency Council with Egypt. On July 14, the anniversary of the revolution, he declared the establishment of the ***Arab Socialist Union*** (ASU) of Iraq, commending it as the "threshold of the building of the unity of the Arab nation under Arab socialism." It was nearly identical in structure the ASU of Egypt and like in Egypt, many of the Arab nationalist parties were dissolved and absorbed by the ASU. Also, all banks and over thirty major Iraqi businesses were nationalized. Arif undertook these measures in an effort to bring Iraq closer with Egypt to help foster unity and on December 20, plans for union were announced. Despite this, in July 1965, the Nasserist ministers resigned from the Iraqi cabinet. President Arif played a major role in Iraq construction and developing its infrastructure. ***President Abdul Salam Arif was killed on April 13, 1966, in a mysterious helicopter crash, on the banks of the Shatt-al-Arab river in Southern Iraq.***

Abulrahman Arif 1966-1968, was appointed president by the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council. He continued his brother's policies, but with a more nationalistic profile. Like his brother Abdul Salam, he was an overt supporter of Egypt's pan-Arabist president Gamal Abdel Nasser. He sent Iraqi troops to fight in the Six-Day War of June 1967 against Israel which ended in considerable Arab casualties. Nonetheless, the Iraqi military performed better than the troops of other Arab states.

Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr 1968-1979

On July 17, 1968, while president Abdulrahman Arif was sleeping, his own assistants along with members of the Ba'ath Party, Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr, overthrew him in a bloodless coup. Al-Bakr and the Ba'ath Party regained power in the coup of 1968, later referred to as the 17 July Revolution. In the coup's aftermath, al-Bakr was elected Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council and President; he was later appointed Prime Minister. ***Saddam***, the Ba'ath Party's deputy, ***became Deputy Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council and Vice President***, and was responsible for Iraq's security services. During al-Bakr rule, ***Iraq was blossoming***; high economic growth due to high international oil prices strengthened Iraq's role in the Arab world and increased the people's standard of living. Land reforms were introduced, and wealth was distributed more equally. A sort of socialist economy was established in the late-1970s, under the direction of ***Saddam***.

Under al-Bakr conflicts intensified between the government and the Kurds. In early 1974 heavy fighting erupted in northern Iraq between government forces and Kurdish nationalists, who rejected as inadequate a new Kurdish autonomy law based on a 1970 agreement. The Kurds, ***led by Mustafa al-Barzani***. Bakr's government also ***strengthened Iraq's ties with the Soviet Union***: On April 9, 1972, Iraq and the Soviet Union signed a treaty of friendship. The two countries agreed to cooperate in political, economic, and military affairs. The Soviet Union also agreed to supply Iraq with arms. ***Al-Bakr gradually lost power to Saddam in the 1970s***, when the latter strengthened his position within the party and the state through security services. In 1979, al-Bakr resigned from all public offices for "health reasons" and died in 1982.

Iraq's Wealth : OIL

After the nationalisation of the IPC, and with massive increase in the price of oil in the aftermath of the 1973 Arab–Israeli War; Iraq's oil revenues strengthened the political elite's patrimonial system; the means of patronage exceeded "anything available to" previous rulers. revenue increased from, 219 million Iraqi Dinars in 1972 to 1.7 billion ID in 1974, to 3.7 billion ID in 1978, to 8.9 billion ID in 1980. In short, Iraq increased its oil revenue by over 40 times in less than a decade. With the success of the Iranian revolution, Iraq became the second largest oil exporter in the world. The increase in oil export rejuvenated the country's economy; nearly all economic indexes increased to unprecedented levels. From 1970 to 1980 Iraq's economy grew by 11.7 percent.

The growth rates of the 1970s were not sustainable; the economy was depended on high oil prices and Iraq's oil exporting capabilities, once oil was cut out of the picture, Iraq's growth would decrease dramatically.

Saddam Hussein

Al-Bakr appointed Saddam Hussein, as ***Vice President*** upon attaining power in 1968. In 1976, Saddam (who had never served in the armed forces) took the title of general in the Ba'th party's Popular Army and rapidly became the strongman of the government. As the weak and elderly al-Bakr became unable to execute his duties, Saddam took on an increasingly prominent role as the face of the government both internally and externally, eventually becoming ***de facto leader of Iraq*** some years before he formally became president. As vice president under the ailing General Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr, and at a time when many groups were considered capable of overthrowing the government, Saddam created security forces through which he tightly controlled conflict between the government and the armed forces. ***In the early 1970s, Saddam nationalized oil and other industries. Saddam formally rose to power in 1979***, although he had been the *de facto* head of Iraq for several years prior. ***He suppressed several movements, particularly Shi'a and Kurdish movements***, seeking to overthrow the government or gain independence, and maintained power during ***the Iran–Iraq War*** and the ***Gulf War***. Whereas ***some venerated Saddam for his opposition to Israel*** —which included the use of military force, ***he was widely condemned for the brutality of his dictatorship.***

Saddam actively fostered the modernization of the Iraqi economy along with the creation of a ***strong security apparatus*** to prevent coups within the power structure and insurrections apart from it. Ever concerned with broadening his base of support among the diverse elements of Iraqi society and mobilizing mass support, he closely followed the administration of state welfare and development programs.

At the center of this strategy was Iraq's oil. On 1 June 1972, Saddam oversaw the seizure of international oil interests, which, at the time, dominated the country's oil sector. A year later, world oil prices rose dramatically as a result of the 1973 energy crisis, and ***skyrocketing revenues enabled Saddam to expand his agenda.***

Education flourished in Iraq:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saddam_Hussein

[Contents Page](#)

Within just a few years, Iraq was providing **social services that were unprecedented among Middle Eastern countries**. Saddam established and controlled the "National Campaign for the **Eradication of Illiteracy**" and the campaign for "**Compulsory Free Education in Iraq**," and largely under his auspices, the government established **universal free schooling** up to the highest education levels; hundreds of thousands learned to read in the years following the initiation of the program. The government also supported families of soldiers, granted free hospitalization to everyone, and gave subsidies to farmers. **Iraq created one of the most modernized public-health systems in the Middle East**, earning Saddam an award from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

With the help of increasing oil revenues, Saddam diversified the largely oil-based Iraqi economy. Saddam implemented a national infrastructure campaign that made great progress in building roads, promoting mining, and developing other industries. The campaign helped Iraq's energy industries. **Electricity was brought to nearly every city in Iraq, and many outlying areas**. Before the 1970s, most of Iraq's people lived in the countryside and roughly two-thirds were peasants. This number would decrease quickly during the 1970s as global oil prices helped revenues to rise from less than a half billion dollars to tens of billions of dollars and the country invested into industrial expansion.

Repression : In July 1978 a decree was passed which made all non-baathist political activity illegal and membership of any other political party punishable by death for all those who were members or former members of the Armed Forces. Saddam had several top members of the Ba'ath party arrested and later executed under the allegations of espionage.

The Kurdish Conflict : Under Bakr conflicts intensified between the government and the Kurds. In early 1974 heavy fighting erupted in northern Iraq between government forces and Kurdish nationalists, who rejected as inadequate a new Kurdish autonomy law based on a 1970 agreement. The Kurds, led by Mustafa al-Barzani, received arms and support from Iran. Around this same time he founded the National Progressive Front in an effort to broaden the support base for his government.

The Al-Anfal Campaign was a campaign against the Kurdish people (and many others) in Kurdish regions of Iraq led by the government of Saddam Hussein and headed by Ali Hassan al-Majid. Human Rights Watch estimates that between 50,000 and 100,000 people were killed. Some Kurdish sources put the number higher, estimating 182,000 Kurds were killed

Saddam believed in his own greatness as an Arab leader of historical importance. He was ruthless, merciless to anyone who dared to even voice an opinion that may disagree with him. He rendered the spirit of the Baath party redundant and assumed power as an absolute dictator. He dragged Iraq to great many disasters that ended in weakening Iraq by wars and conflicts that he invited due to his arrogance and self misguided policies.

The Editor

The Iran–Iraq War , 1980 – 1988 : was an armed conflict between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Iraq lasting from September 1980 to August 1988, making it the 20th century's longest conventional war. It was initially referred to as the "Gulf War" prior to the Gulf War of the early 1990s.

In 1969, Saddam Hussein, Iraq's deputy prime minister, stated: "Iraq's dispute with Iran is in connection with Khuzestan, which is part of Iraq's soil and was annexed to Iran during foreign rule. Soon, Iraqi radio stations began exclusively broadcasting into "Arabistan", encouraging Arabs living in Iran and even [Balūchīs](#) to revolt against the Shah's government. Basra TV stations began showing Iran's Khuzestan province as part of Iraq's new province Nasiriyah, renaming all its cities with Arabic names.

As a retaliation for Iraq's claims to Khuzestan, Iran became the main patron of Iraq's Kurdish rebels in the early 1970s, giving the Iraqi Kurds bases in Iran and arming the Kurdish groups. Both states encouraged separatist activities by Kurdish nationalists in the other state.

Tensions between Iraq and Iran were fuelled by Iran's Islamic revolution and its appearance of being a Pan-Islamic force, in contrast to Iraq's Arab nationalism. Despite Iraq's goals of regaining the Shatt al-Arab, the Iraqi government seemed to initially welcome Iran's Revolution, which overthrew Iran's Shah, who was seen as a common enemy. It is difficult to pinpoint when tensions began to build, but there were frequent cross-border skirmishes, largely at Iran's instigation

Iraq soon after expropriated the properties of 70,000 civilians believed to be of Iranian origin and expelled them from its territory, Many, if not most, of those expelled were in fact Arabic-speaking Iraqi Shias who had little to no family ties with Iran, This caused tensions between the two nations to increase further

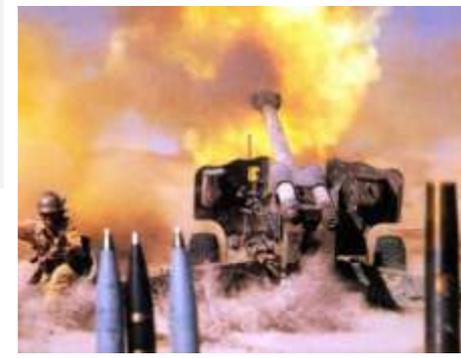
The Iran–Iraq War began when Iraq invaded Iran via air and land on 22 September 1980. It followed a long history of border disputes, and was motivated by fears that the Iranian Revolution in 1979 would inspire insurgency among Iraq's long-suppressed Shia majority as well as Iraq's desire to replace Iran as the dominant Persian Gulf state.

According to Iraqi documents, assistance in developing chemical weapons was obtained from firms in many countries, including the United States, West Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and France.

An embargo was placed on sales of military equipment to Iran and Iraq. The Plan was approved by the U.S President and later affirmed by the G-7 leaders headed by Margaret Thatcher in the London Summit of 1984.

*The war cost both sides dearly in lives and economic terms: half a million Iraqi and one million Iranian soldiers and of civilians, are believed to have died, with many more injured; however, **the war brought neither reparations nor changes in borders.***

Iraq's main financial backers were the oil-rich Persian Gulf states, most notably Saudi Arabia (\$30.9 billion), Kuwait (\$8.2 billion), and the United Arab Emirates (\$8 billion. In all, Iraq received \$35 billion in loans from the West and between \$30 and \$40 billion from the Persian Gulf states during the 1980s.



Iranian youths, known as baseeji , had led the way, running over fields of mines to clear the ground for the Iranian ground assault

Gulf War : Desert Storm Jan 1991 : By the time the ceasefire with Iran was signed in August 1988, Iraq was heavily debt-ridden and tensions within society were rising. ***Most of its debt was owed to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Iraq pressured both nations to forgive the debts, but they refused.*** The Iraq–Kuwait dispute also involved Iraqi claims to Kuwait as Iraqi territory. Kuwait had been a part of the Ottoman Empire's province of Basra, something that Iraq claimed made it rightful Iraq territory. The UK drew the border between the two countries in 1922, ***making Iraq virtually landlocked.*** Kuwait rejected Iraqi attempts to secure further provisions in the region.

Iraq also accused Kuwait of exceeding its OPEC quotas for oil production. In order for the cartel to maintain its desired price of \$18 a barrel, discipline was required. The United Arab Emirates and Kuwait were consistently overproducing; the latter at least in part to repair losses caused by Iranian attacks in the Iran–Iraq War and to pay for the losses of an economic scandal. The result was a slump in the oil price – as low as \$10 a barrel – with a resulting loss of \$7 billion a year to Iraq, equal to its 1989 balance of payments deficit. Resulting revenues struggled to support the government's basic costs, let alone repair Iraq's damaged infrastructure. Jordan and Iraq both looked for more discipline, with little success, The Iraqi government described it as a form of economic warfare, which it claimed was aggravated by Kuwait slant-drilling across the border into Iraq's Rumaila oil field

The initial conflict to expel Iraqi troops from Kuwait began with an aerial and naval bombardment on 17 January 1991, continuing for five weeks. This was followed by a ground assault on 24 February. This was a decisive victory for the Coalition forces, who drove the Iraqi military from Kuwait and advanced into Iraqi territory. The Coalition ceased its advance, and declared a cease-fire 100 hours after the ground campaign started. Aerial and ground combat was confined to Iraq, Kuwait, and areas on Saudi Arabia's border. Iraq launched Scud missiles against Coalition military targets in Saudi Arabia and against Israel.



The cost of the war to the United States was calculated by the U.S. Congress to be \$61.1 billion. About \$52 billion of that amount was paid by other countries: \$36 billion by Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and other Arab states of the Persian gulf.

Over 1,000 Kuwaiti civilians were killed by Iraqis, More than 600 Kuwaitis went missing during Iraq's occupation, and approximately 375 remains were found in mass graves in Iraq. In one noted incident, two USAF stealth planes bombed a bunker in ***Amiriyah, causing the deaths of 408 Iraqi civilians*** who were in the shelter, Scenes of burned and mutilated bodies were subsequently broadcast, and controversy arose over the bunker's status, with some stating that it was a civilian shelter, while others contended that it was a centre of Iraqi military operations. ***Depleted uranium*** was used in the war in tank kinetic energy penetrators and 20–30 mm cannon ordnance. Significant controversy regarding the long term safety of depleted uranium exists, although detractors claim pyrophoric, genotoxic, and teratogenic heavy metal effects

The sanctions against Iraq 1990 – 2003

The sanctions against Iraq were a near-total financial and trade embargo imposed by the United Nations Security Council on the Iraqi Republic. They began August 6, 1990, four days after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, stayed largely in force until May 2003, and persisted in part, including reparations to Kuwait, through the present.

Aims: Eliminating weapons of mass destruction and extended-range ballistic missiles, prohibiting any support for terrorism, and forcing Iraq to pay war reparations and all foreign debt. a non-expressed goal of the sanctions was the removal of Saddam Hussein.

Effects on the Iraqi people during sanctions

High rates of malnutrition, lack of medical supplies, and diseases from lack of clean water were reported during sanctions. In 2001, the chairman of the Iraqi Medical Association's scientific committee sent a plea to the BMJ to help it raise awareness of the disastrous effects the sanctions were having on the Iraqi healthcare system.

The claim that sanctions have caused upwards of one million deaths in Iraq has been so often repeated, it is now accepted as unquestioned truth. The per capita income in Iraq dropped from \$3510 in 1989 to \$450 in 1996, heavily influenced by the rapid devaluation of the Iraqi dinar.

"During the past ten years, sanctions have led to an almost complete breakdown in economic, medical, social, and educational structures." When resigning from his UN post, Denis Halliday, the former United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator in Iraq, declared,

"We are in the process of destroying an entire society",

"I don't want to administer a programme that satisfies the definition of genocide".

The **overall literacy rate in Iraq** had been 78% in 1977 and 87% for adult women by 1985, but declined rapidly since then, **Between 1990 and 1998, over one fifth of Iraqi children stopped enrolling in school, consequently increasing the number of non-literates and losing all the gains made in the previous decade.** Researcher [Richard Garfield](#) estimated that "a minimum of 100,000 and a more likely estimate of 227,000 excess deaths among young children from August 1991 through March 1998" from all causes including sanctions.

The 2003 invasion of Iraq

The 2003 invasion of Iraq lasted from 19 March to 1 May 2003 and signaled the start of the conflict that later came to be known as the Iraq War. The invasion consisted of 21 days of major combat operations, in which a combined force of troops from the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia and Poland invaded Iraq and deposed the Ba'athist government of Saddam Hussein. The invasion phase consisted primarily of a conventionally fought war which concluded with the capture of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad by American forces.

According to U.S. President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair, the coalition mission was "to disarm Iraq of weapons of mass destruction, to end Saddam Hussein's support for terrorism, and to free the Iraqi people.

In a January 2003 CBS poll, 64% of Americans had approved of military action against Iraq; however, 63% wanted Bush to find a diplomatic solution rather than go to war, and 62% believed the threat of terrorism directed against the U.S. would increase due to war.

The invasion of Iraq was strongly opposed by some long-standing U.S. allies, including the governments of France, Germany, and New Zealand. Their leaders argued that there was no evidence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq and that invading the country was not justified in the context of UNMOVIC's 12 February 2003 report.

On 15 February 2003, a month before the invasion, there were worldwide protests against the Iraq War, including a rally of three million people in Rome, which is listed in the Guinness Book of Records as the largest ever anti-war rally. According to the French academic Dominique Reynié, between 3 January and 12 April 2003, 36 million people across the globe took part in almost 3,000 protests against the Iraq war.

United States Ohio Congressman [Dennis Kucinich](#) held a press conference on the evening of 24 April 2007, revealing [US House Resolution 333](#) and the three articles of impeachment against Vice President [Dick Cheney](#). He charged Cheney with manipulating the evidence of Iraq's weapons program, deceiving the nation about Iraq's connection to al-Qaeda.



Iraq - 2003-2011 : *The history of Iraq from 2003 to 2011 is a period in Iraqi history characterized by a large American troop deployment in Iraqi territory. A period of violence and political turmoil with strong foreign influence exerted on Iraqi politics. A stronger-than-expected militant Iraqi insurgency, led to difficult living conditions for the population of Iraq throughout this period.* In April 2003, a military occupation was established and run by the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA), which later appointed and granted limited powers to an Iraq Interim Governing Council. In June 2004, a caretaker government was established – the Iraqi Interim Government. Following parliamentary elections in January 2005, this administration was replaced in May by the Iraqi Transitional Government. A year later, the **Al Maliki Government** took office.

*The U.S. rationale for the Iraq War has faced heavy criticism from an array of popular and official sources both inside and outside the United States. Putting this controversy aside, both proponents and opponents of the invasion have also criticised the prosecution of the war effort along a number of lines. Most significantly, critics have assailed the U.S. and its allies for not devoting enough troops to the mission, **not adequately planning for post-invasion Iraq, and for permitting and perpetrating widespread human rights abuses.***

As the war has progressed, critics have also railed against the **high human and financial costs**. Some academics see such costs as inevitable until US foreign policy turns away from expanding US [hegemony](#). Professor Chip Pitts asserts that an American empire exists, but argues that it is profoundly at odds with better instincts of US citizens and policymakers, and that **rejecting neo-colonialism by military means as employed in the Iraq War is a prerequisite to restoring domestic civil liberties and human rights that have been infringed upon by an imperial presidency.** critics of the Iraq War have argued that the U.S. planning for the post-invasion period was "woefully inadequate. In particular, critics have argued that the U.S. was unprepared for the widespread looting and the violent insurgency that immediately followed the invasion.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Criticism_of_the_Iraq_War

One of the most important lessons that Obama derived from the war in Iraq was: **just don't get caught up in a second dumb war.** This led the United States to hold back during the tumult dubbed the Arab Spring. [Der Spiegel](#)

Iraq 2015 -2011

Shiia majority government.
Sunni population feel marginalized
Kurdistan made good progress
Rise of private militia armies
Iraq torn apart under:
Influence of External Powers
Confused and arrogant Iraqi leadership
Poor performance of new Iraqi army
Extreme corruption on all levels
Sunni- Shia violent divisions
The Rise of Ethnic & Religious Violent Clashes in Iraq
Non- Muslim population mass
Migration out of Iraq
Massive Refugees Crisis
Increasing Sunni – Shiia divisions
The Rise of ISIS

ISIS : At the top the organisation is the self-declared leader of all Muslims, [Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi](#), a radical chief executive officer of sorts, who handpicked many of his deputies from among the men he met while a prisoner in **American custody at the Camp Bucca detention centre** a decade ago. He had a preference for military men, and so his leadership team includes many officers from Saddam Hussein's long-disbanded army. Its leaders augmented traditional military skill with terrorist techniques refined through years of fighting American troops, while also having deep local knowledge and contacts.

According to a map of the group developed by Mr. Alhashimi, the Iraqi expert, Mr. Baghdadi has 25 deputies across Iraq and Syria. **About one-third were military officers** during Mr. Hussein's rule, and **nearly all were imprisoned by American forces**. Former officers also had professional, personal and tribal relationships that had strengthened ISIS's coalition.



Political changes after the American invasion accelerated their rise. Members of Mr. Hussein's **Baath Party were barred from government positions**, and the political dominance of Iraq's Shiite majority made many **Sunnis feel disenfranchised**.

Source : nytimes.com

ISIS: A Priority in the Region at the Expense of Palestine and Other Issues

ISIS has become an instrument that diverts attention away from Iran's rise on the US list of priorities and the fall of Palestine and Syria on the Arab list of priorities.

Read the full article : [The World Post](#)

Uneasy alliances as fractured Iraq battles IS group, by Associated Press.

Many of the Sunni tribes that took part in the Sahwa, or Awakening, feel they were later betrayed by the Shiited government, which neglected them after the Americans left. They also harbor a deep distrust of the Shiite militias, which rights groups say have terrorized Sunni civilians. The Islamic State group has meanwhile severely punished those who have opposed it, massacring scores of men, women and children from unruly tribes in a brutal warning to others.

Iraq's Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi has tried to reach out to Sunnis following the divisive rule of his predecessor Nouri al-Maliki, pushing for the creation of a new National Guard force reminiscent of the Sahwa. But many Shiites in his government distrust the Sunni tribes, viewing them as a holdover from the cruel reign of Saddam Hussein's Sunni-dominated government. And it's not yet clear whether enough Sunnis in the Islamic State's self-styled caliphate see the Baghdad government as a better option.

Source : [Mail OnLine](#)

The Arab–Israeli conflict :refers to the political tension and military conflicts between certain Arab countries and Israel. The roots of the modern Arab–Israeli conflict are bound in the rise of Zionism and Arab nationalism towards the end of the 19th century. Territory regarded by the Jewish people as their historical homeland is also regarded by the Pan-Arab movement as historically and currently belonging to the Palestinians, and in the Pan-Islamic context, as Muslim lands. The sectarian conflict between Palestinian Jews and Arabs emerged in the early 20th century, peaking into a full-scale civil war in 1947 and transforming into the First Arab-Israeli War in May 1948 following the Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel.

A deep sense of injustice lies deep in the hearts of Arabs and Muslims since then.

The so called Arab Spring and the turmoil across the Middle East that followed became a fertile land for ISIS. It is clear that international and local focus has shifted from the Palestinian struggle for a homeland to the political earthquakes following the Arab Spring and the emerging ISIS. This has taken the pressure from Israel, with its even more hardened policies towards the creation of a Palestinian state. It is understandable that some conspiracy theories point to Israeli role in the creation of ISIS!

The Invasion of Iraq: According to U.S. President **George W. Bush** and **British Prime Minister Tony Blair**, the coalition mission was "to disarm Iraq of weapons of mass destruction, to end Saddam Hussein's support for terrorism, and to free the Iraqi people. **The only positive outcome was the removal of a dictator.** The confused policy after the war helped to create a vacuum with no effective power to control the emerging groups and exploding sectarian violence and ethnic tensions. **The War did not end the suffering of the Iraqi people; but rather created new terrors and threats that haunts Iraq and the entire Arab countries today.**

Imposing Western Democracy on a Tribal structured Middle East.

The Editor

Due to the power politics and struggle over the control of resources in the Middle East, various powers have supported numerous controversial regimes. The western attempt to install democratic governments in the Middle East is flawed and misguided. Before that can happen, we need to address the core issues that matter like Religious divisions, Ethnic problems, Tribal loyalties and most of all the level of education which certainly need to be raised dramatically. A firm hand is needed but not unjust like deposed dictators. Social justice, wise management of existing religious and ethnic groups based on a just system.

The vicious schism between Sunni and Shia has been poisoning Islam for 1,400 years - and it's getting worse

The rift between the two biggest Muslim factions goes right back to the beginning - and a row over who should succeed the Prophet Mohamed as leader of the emerging Islamic community when he died in the early 7th century.

The majority of his followers thought his closest associate, Abu Bakr, should take over. They became the Sunnis. But a minority thought the Prophet's closest relative, his son-in-law and nephew Ali, should succeed.

Shia is an abbreviation of 'Shiat Ali'; "the party of Ali". Intrigues and violence followed, with Mohamed's widow Aisha (who was also the daughter of Abu Bakr) leading troops against Ali. Eventually Ali was killed, as was his son Hussein, and persecution and martyrdom became ingrained in the Shia psyche. As the years passed rift hardened into schism. The seeds of civil war had been sown.

The [Safavid](#) dynasty converted Iran from Sunnism to Shiism , in 1508 and made Iran the spiritual bastion of Shia Islam against Sunni Islam. The [Ayyubid dynasty](#) under [Salah Eldin](#) put an end to the Shiite Fatimid Caliphate in 1171 A.D. Many battles were fought over Iraq between the Turk Ottoman empire and the Iranian Safavid empire. These tensions are still present today between the Islamic republic of Iran and the Muslim Arab countries of the Middle East.

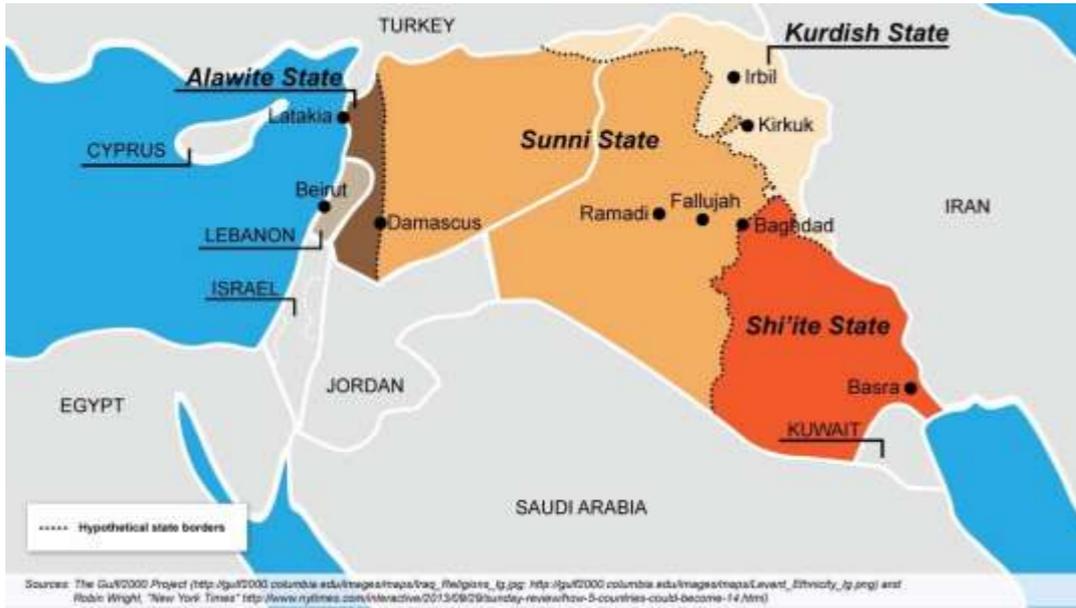
The chief Shia religious festival became [Ashura](#) when devotees would beat themselves to [commemorate the death of the Prophet's grandson Hussein at the Battle of Karbala in 680.](#)

Various Shia sub-sects formed, including the Alawites in Syria and the Ismailis, whose leader is the Aga Khan.

Some mystical sufi movements created a bridge between Sunni and Shia but hardline Sunnis regard the Shia practice of venerating saints and visiting shrines as heretical .

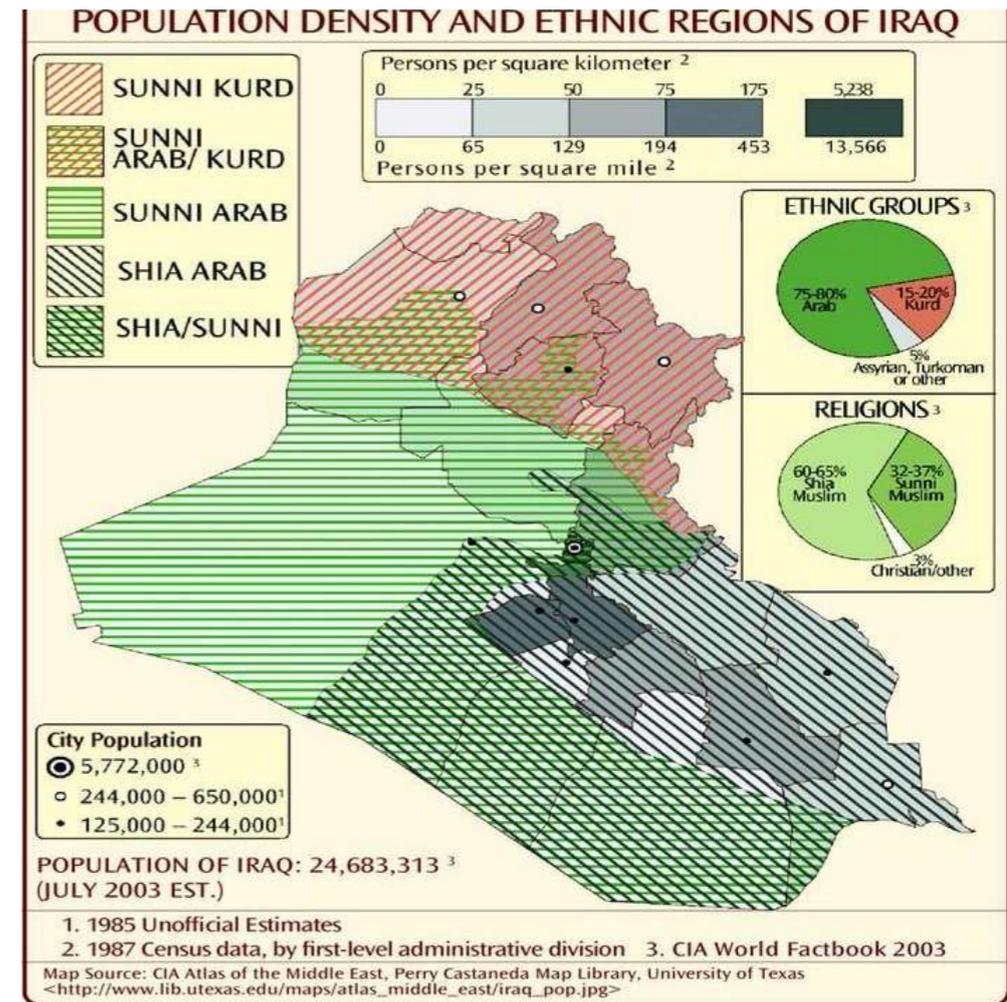
Redrawing Middle East Maps !

Conspiracy Theories ?, Or hidden Plans to Fragment the Middle East into small ineffective states That can be easily controlled ?!!



What and who is behind the upheavals in Syria, Iraq, Libya, Egypt, Yemen, Bahrain, etc Was the Arab Spring a Mirage?!

These two maps have no accurate basis. It is based on speculations and political games .



Maps should reflect accurate statistics and solid accepted information



Polarization is deepening throughout the Arab world, destroying the hopes created by the Arab Spring. The West badly needs to rethink its strategy in the region.

Many in the region believe that the real Western agenda is not about democracy and justice, but about stable energy resources, the fight against terrorism and the security of Israel.

The fragmentation of the region, whether between secular movements and Islamists, or between Sunnis, Christians and Shiites, must be stopped before it is too late. It has already destroyed Syria. It could claim Iraq and other victims.

The shape of the future Iraq may be unpredictable, but certain trends can certainly be identified from the aforementioned factors. It could safely be said that Iraq will be a more decentralised country with more than one federal region. The Sunni and some Shia provinces in the south may form their own federal regions. Alongside, the Kurds will consolidate their federal region assuming more powers. But, in the long term, it is not possible to predict whether Iraq will retain its traditional borders.

The anarchic atmosphere in the Middle East may well transform the political map of Iraq.

A country where dictators are prone to emerge, ethnicities and sects shape the trend of the politics, radical groups are easily created, political parties are manipulated by external powers, the rule of law is almost absent in several regions witnessing civil war and sectarian violence, and which has artificial borders drawn by the colonial powers at the beginning of the twentieth century will certainly face grave difficulties in keeping itself together as one state

Current Issues

A Joint Israeli-Palestinian SOS!

The failure of peace negotiations for more than twenty years, and the shift within Israeli society toward right-wing and extreme nationalist views, leaves no hope that the solution will come as a result of change in Israeli government policies. *Netanyahu's* statements on the eve of the elections that his government, if he won the elections, would never allow the creation of a Palestinian state ***leaves no doubt about the real intentions of the Israeli leadership and no hope that Israel and the Palestinians will be able resolve their problems on their own.***

Peace and stability in the Middle East are not only in the Palestinians' interest but also in the Israelis' interest, and a regional and global one as well. An end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict would positively contribute to the resolution of other regional disputes and bloody conflicts and, by restraining religious fanatics in Israel and their counterparts in the region at the same time, would stop or prevent further deterioration down the path of religious fanaticism and extremism. Internationalization of the conflict is an SOS distress signal from both peoples — the people of Israel and the people of Palestine. Ref: [Palestine-Israel Journal](#)

The Middle East today looks frighteningly similar to the Europe of the early 20th Century. For years, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have competed—Iran, as the champion of the Shia Islamic world, the House of Saud as the de facto leader of the Sunni world.

The Middle East Breakdown today as seen by the Harvard Gazette - USA

“When we broke Iraq, the theory is that we would engage in regime change, not that we would lead to a broader destabilization of boundaries and borders, but that is nevertheless what has ultimately happened. And that almost certainly was a combination of our destabilization of Iraq and the breakdown of the state there in the wake of our unsuccessful occupation, followed by the Arab Spring,” said Feldman, who writes frequently about Middle East law and politics. Losing control of Yemen’s two biggest cities would represent a troubling new low in terms of loss of sovereignty, “and that’s obviously worrisome because that’s exactly the environment in which ISIS or ISIS-like entities will flourish,” he said. “That’s a similar danger which exists presently in Libya, where there are at least some actors who would like to present themselves as solutions to the breakdown of sovereignty there.”

End of Presentation

Here are some quotes about 'History'

Most history is guessing, and the rest is prejudice.

~Will and Ariel Durant, *Our Oriental Heritage*

Each time history repeats itself, the price goes up.

~Author Unknown

The Present is the living sum-total of the whole Past.

~Thomas Carlyle

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