## Recap

- \* Arab land- dry deserts, oases, mountainous regions
- Two groups of people- Bedouin (nomads), and settlers (settled near oases)
- ❖ Before Islam- most Arabs were pagans (many gods)

## Recap

- ❖ 610- Muhammad is said to receive revelations from angel Gabriel→ Qur'an, hadith, and sharia law established→ also Five Pillars of faith
- ❖ Muhammad dies- division over who will become caliph→ Ali supporters (Shi'i) and Umayyad supporters (Sunni)
- Umayyad wins- Islam spreads and empire grows
- Umayyad power declines
- ❖ Approx 760- Abbasids take power

# The Abbasids 750-1258

Textbook pages 122-128

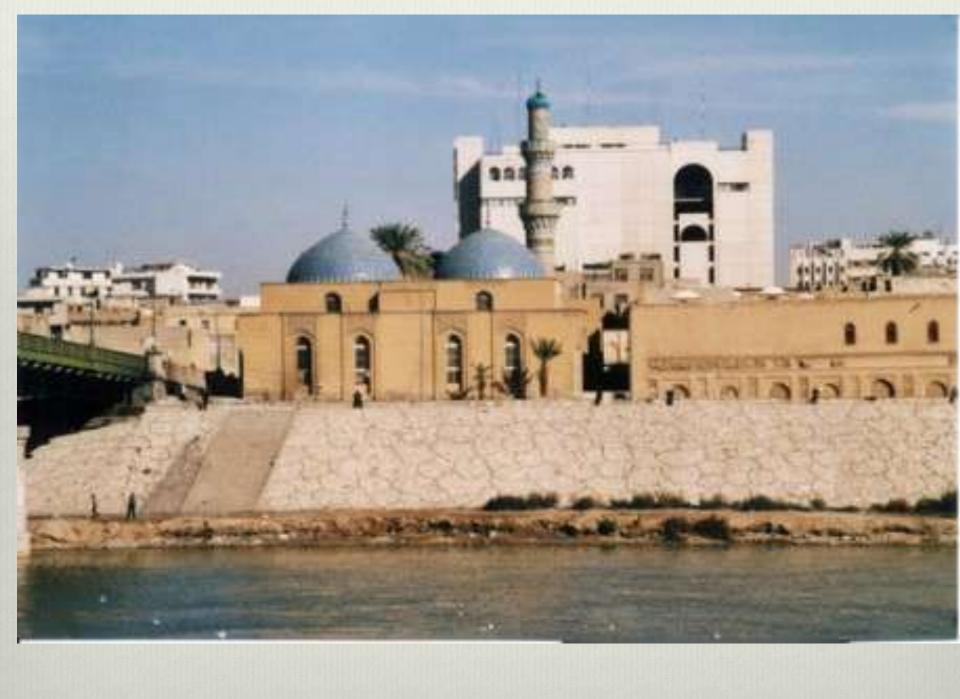
### Abbasids Gain Control

- Caliph= head of state/ruler
- Power of Umayyads declined & Abbasids took control
- ❖ 762- moved the capital from Damascus, Syria, to Bagdad, Iraq
- ❖ Abbasid caliphs → famous courts designed to impress
  - Finest clothes
  - Jewels
  - Armoured soldiers
  - Learned advisors
  - Palaces











#### Abbasids and War

- ❖ Always either at war or getting ready for war → used spread of Islam as an excuse to wage war
- Used spread of Islam as an excuse to wage war
- Divided the world in two
  - Land of Islam
  - Land of War

# Life and Society

- \* 8<sup>th</sup> century- Islamic world became multicultural society
  - \* Allowed, but could not conflict with Islam
- ❖ Islam had a powerful influence→ Music, art, architecture
  - \* For example, artists were not allowed to depict realistic figures
  - \* Beautiful patterns, designs, and written script





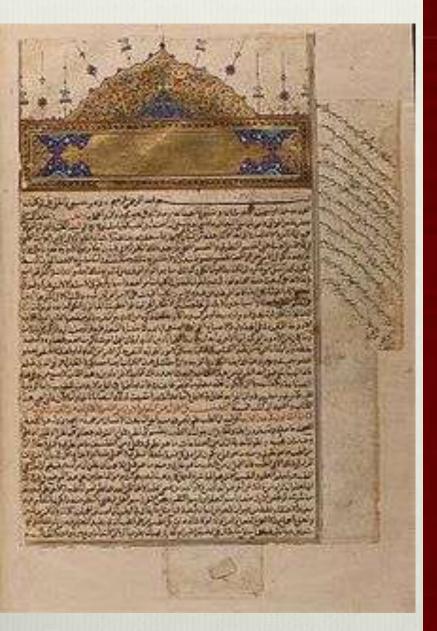




# The City (continued)

- Many cities were surrounded by walls for protection
  - Poor- lived near walls
  - \* Rich-lived in palaces with gardens
- Arab cities bustled with activity: marketplaces, workshops, universities
- Scholars- studied medicine and science, translated ancient books

  - \* Wrote- Canon of Medicine, described anesthesia



#### The Canon of Medicine (al-Qānūn fi'l-ṭibb)

Avicenna

(Abū 'Alf al-Husayn ibn 'Abd Allah ibn Sina)

Adapted by Laten Bakintian

From Translations by
O. Cameron Groner and Maser H. Shah
Correlated with the Areido by Jay R. Crook
with Notes by O. Cameron Gruner

Great Books of the Islande World, Inc

Quiz!! (ish)

❖ What is the head of state called?

❖ To what city did the Abbasids move the capital?

Describe the Abbasid courts.

What was the purpose of the Abbasid courts being so lavish?

What important advance was made during Abbasid rule?

# Arab Society

- ❖ Arab ruler and rich merchants supported the arts→ cities were cosmopolitan
  - Arab civilization- refined and wealthy
  - Silks, fine glassware, paper, jewellery, carpets, perfumed soaps, brass, silver, gold

## The Countryside

- Contrasted cosmopolitan life of Arab cities
  - People lived with extended family
  - \* pastured flocks, grew crops, used wells owned by clans
  - Lived in houses of plastered mud brick
  - \* Ate simple foods
  - Men owned almost all of the property
- ❖ Village life= slow moving and regular
  - Separated from outside world



### Status of Women

- ❖ Women in Muhammad's time- had rights
  - Muhammad's wife= business woman
  - ♦ Women → prayed, taught, worked, fought
- \* Abbasid women- few rights
  - Few rights
  - \* Could not take part in government

#### Status of Women

- Women- still economically important
  - Working class- contributed through labour
  - Wealthy class- lived in a harem
- Outdoors- physically covered and accompanied by a male guardian
- Divorce
  - \* Easy to achieve for men, difficult for women
- Polygamy
  - Men- up to 4 wives
  - Women- 1 husband

#### Government

- Caliphs- in theory, had supreme control, but ruling was difficult
  - Some Muslims did not accept Umayyd and Abbasid caliphs→ Shi'i (Ali supporters)
    - \* Rival families
    - \* Assassinations and rebellions were common
- ❖ Ulama- learned, pious men→ advised caliph

#### Government

- \* Government-
  - \* Prime minister/wazir- in charge of all government officials
    - Districts- governors
    - Cities- council

# Islamic Arab Empire Changes

- ❖ 9<sup>th</sup> century- Islamic Arab Empire grew too large to be ruled by the caliph
  - Local rulers across the empire became powerful enough to defy the caliph
- ❖ Separate kingdoms established- Spain, Morocco, and eastern provinces → sometimes attacked by Caliph's forces
  - \* Aided by Turkish, African, and European slave soldiers

## Egyptian Conflict

- http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/organizations/m/muslim\_brotherhood\_egypt/index.
  html
- http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-20829911
- http://www.nypost.com/p/news/international/new\_egypt\_uprising\_mU2G6kUUu3MURT5hpvEDPI