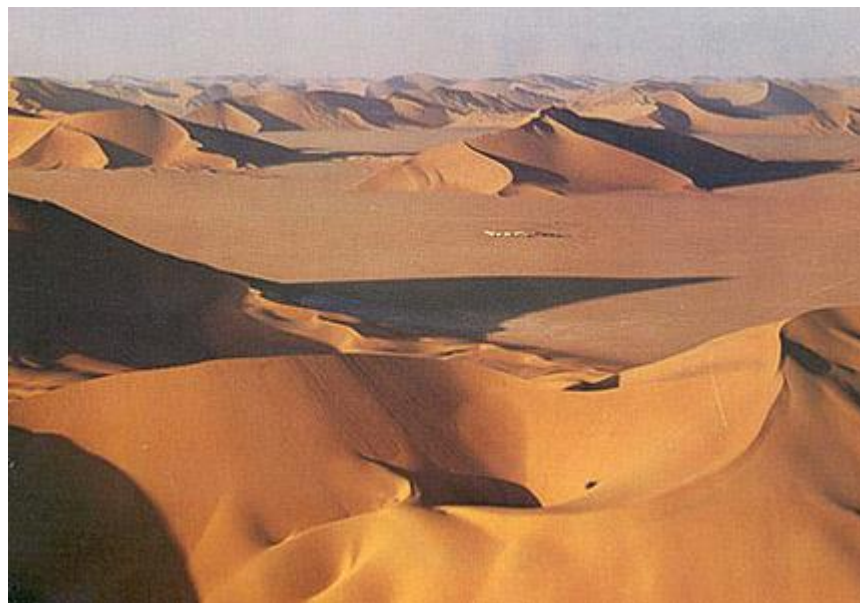




Islam

Origins and Spread

The Arabian Peninsula



The Origins of Islam



- Muhammad ibn Abd Allah born 570 AD
- Became wealthy merchant in Mecca
- Arabians believed in many gods; Muhammad was influenced by Judaism and Christianity
- Muhammad often spent extended time in caves to pray and reflect
- In 610, was visited by an angel



Muhammad's Revelations

- One true, all-powerful god-Allah
- Instructions on how to live
- Began preaching his message
- Faith known as Islam: “achieving peace through submission to God”

Islam Gets Established

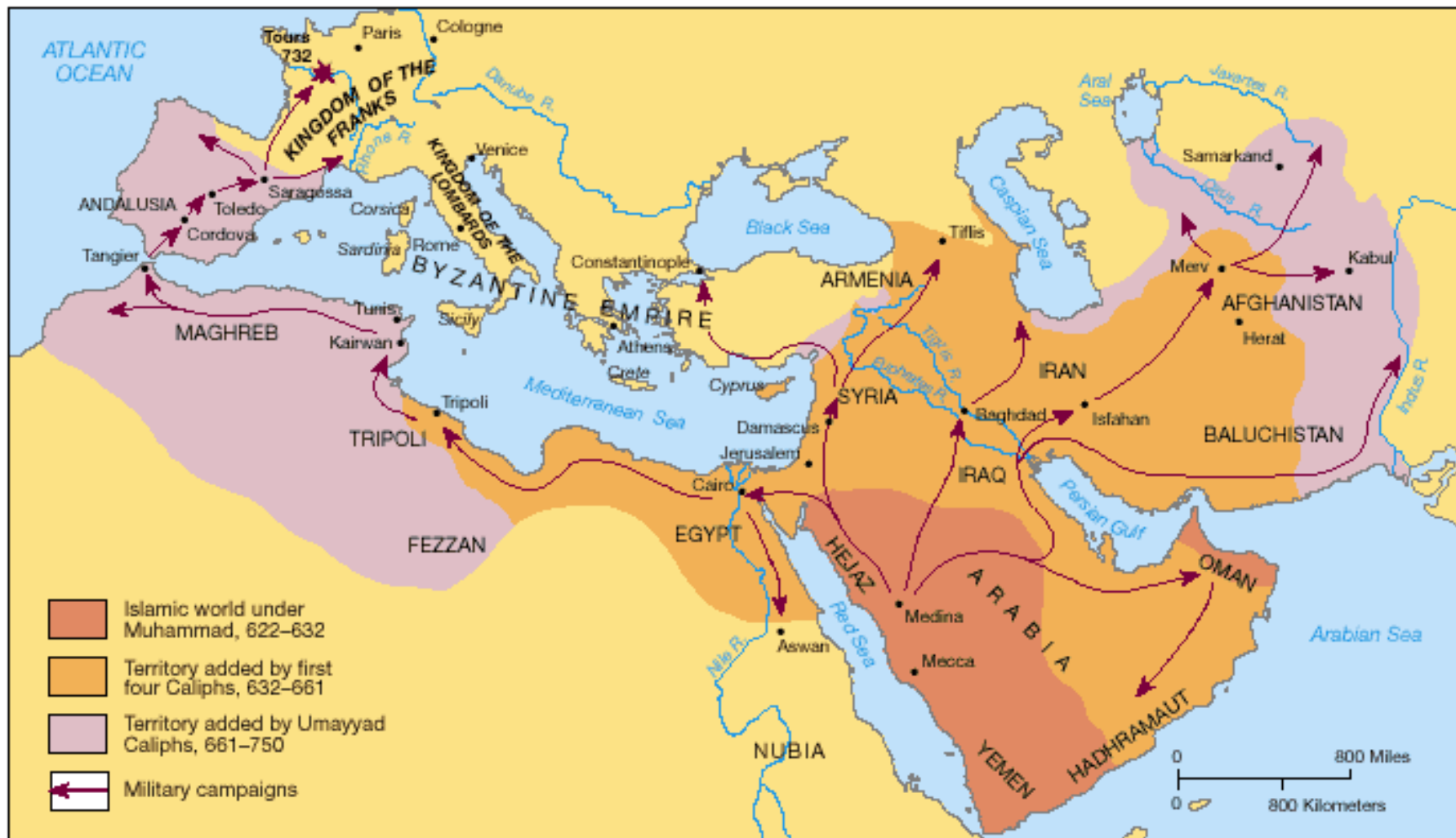
- As Islam grew, the powerful in Mecca wanted it stopped
- Several battles between Meccans and Muslims
- Muslims prevail, and Muhammad gains control of most of the Arabian Peninsula






After Muhammad

- Muhammad dies 632; Abu Bakr chosen as caliph, or successor
- Abu Bakr builds strong military force
- Bakr and successors attack Persian Empire, Byzantine Empire
- Create an empire



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



Internal Conflict and Division

- Conflict over who would become caliph after Muhammad
- Some supported Ali, Muhammad's cousin
- Others supported Uthman of the Umayyad clan
- Uthman assassinated
- Civil war
- Ali killed
- Umayyads take control
- Those who accepted Umayyad rule called Sunnis
- Those who refused Umayyad rule called Shia

Connection to Today

- Read “The Sunni-Shia Divide,” p. 265
- [News clip from 2005](#)



The Spread of Islam

- Study map on p.268-269

