



# Muslim Empires

## MAIN IDEA

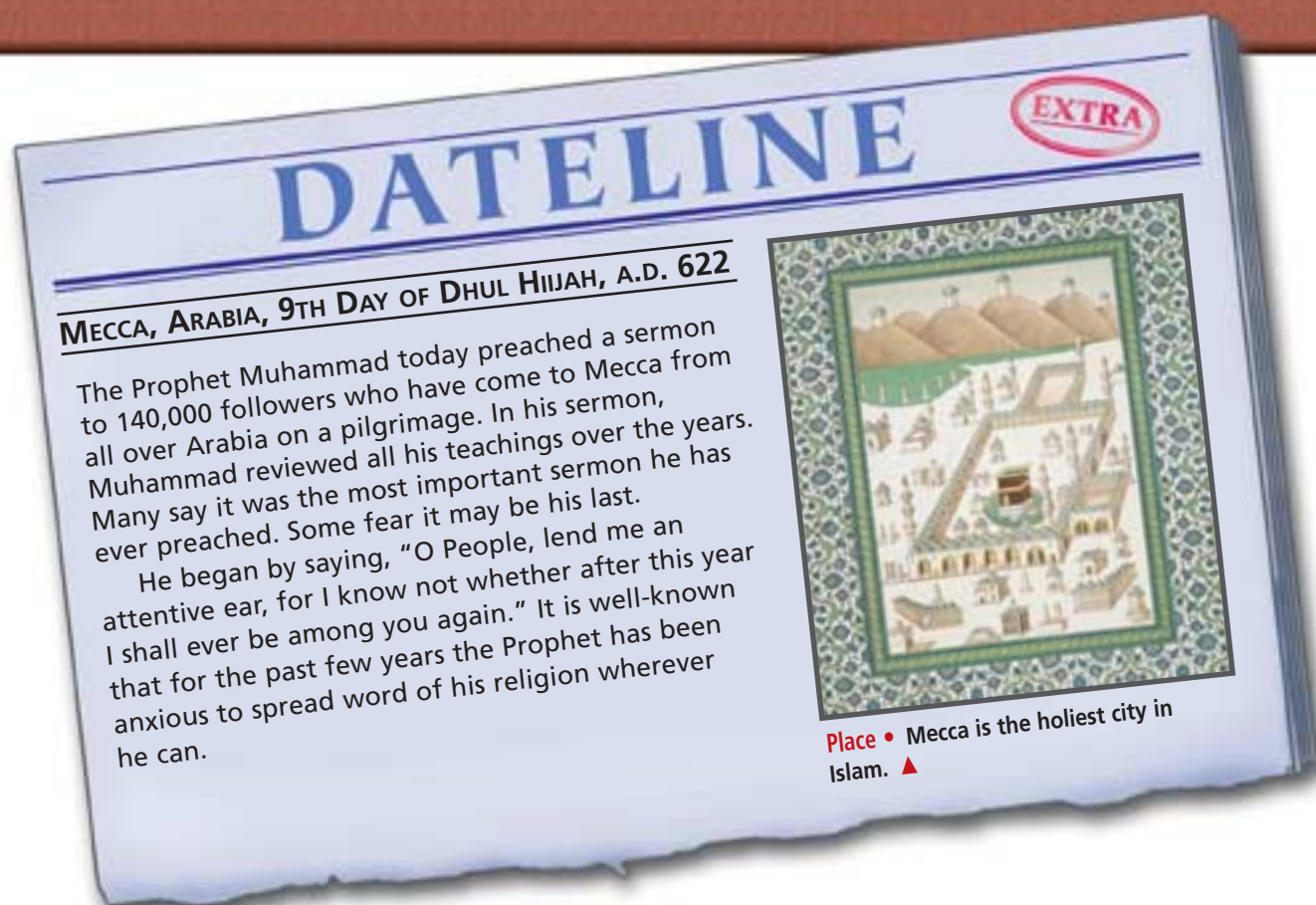
Islamic beliefs and culture spread throughout Southwest Asia and much of the world.

## WHY IT MATTERS NOW

Islam, the world's second largest religion, influences society and governments in most Southwest Asian countries today.

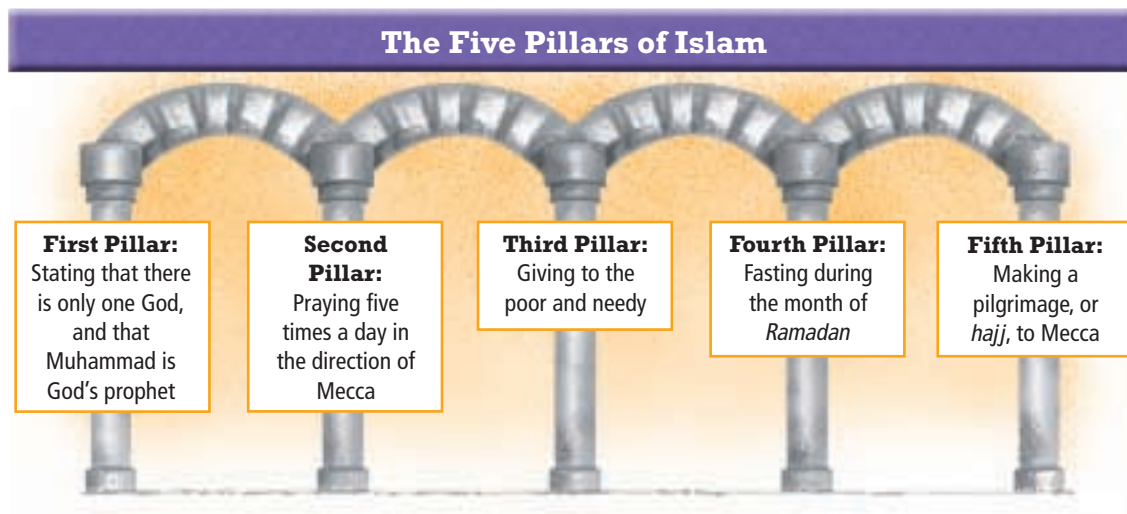
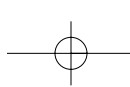
## TERMS & NAMES

Five Pillars of Islam  
caliph  
theocracy  
Ottoman Empire  
Constantinople  
Suleiman I  
Janissary  
Sultan Mehmed VI



## The Five Pillars of Islam

The most important teachings of Muhammad are summed up in the **Five Pillars of Islam**. All members of the Muslim community believe in the central importance of these five religious duties. The Five Pillars of Islam unite Muslims around the world.



## Muslim Empires

Muhammad died without choosing someone to continue his work. His close associates soon selected a **caliph** (KAY•lih•f) to succeed him. The title of caliph was used by rulers of the Muslim community from 632 until 1924. The caliph's duty was to spread God's rule. In carrying out this task, the caliphs founded a new empire, the caliphate. The caliphate was a **theocracy** (thee•AHK•ruh•see), a government ruled by a religious leader.

### Reading Social Studies

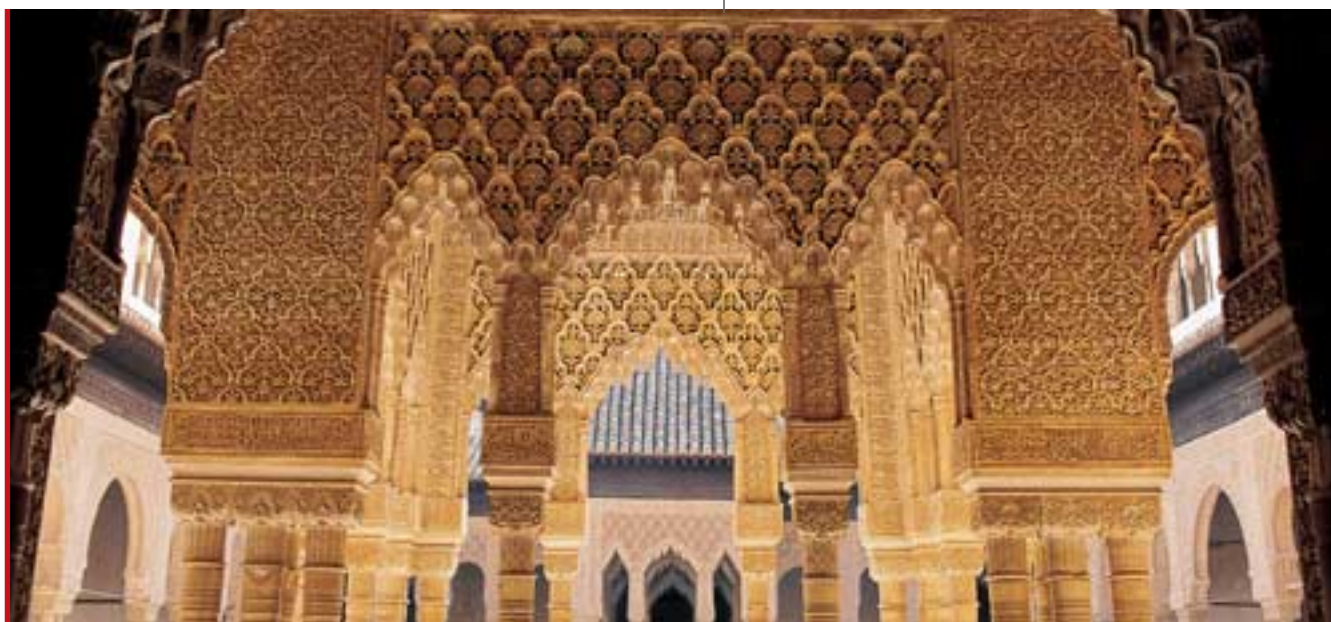
**A. Analyzing Causes** How did the caliphs' trading system lead to the spread of culture?

**Conquest, Trade, and Learning** The caliphs created a vast trading system throughout their empires. Islamic ideas spread as books were exchanged along trade routes. Metalwork, pottery, and fabrics exposed other people to new and unique Muslim artwork.

In the early Middle Ages, Muslims collected and translated important books and papers in order to preserve knowledge. During the 1100s and 1200s, these ancient texts were translated from Arabic into Hebrew and Latin. European scholars could now study the knowledge of the ancient world. They could see how Islamic thinkers had further developed this knowledge.

**Islam in Europe** The caliphs conquered Christian Spain and introduced Islamic culture there. They had hoped to spread their influence elsewhere in Europe. In 732, however, that hope was dashed. Muslim armies trying to capture Tours, in what is now west-central France, were defeated by Charles Martel (sharl•mar•TELL), Charlemagne's grandfather. By 1400, however, the Muslims had succeeded in conquering parts of Europe.





## The Ottoman Empire

The Muslim **Ottoman Empire** controlled what is now Turkey and parts of North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Southeast Europe. The Ottomans made **Constantinople**, called Istanbul in present-day Turkey, their capital city. The rulers of the Ottoman Empire were called sultans. The vast Ottoman Empire included people of different backgrounds. The sultans were tolerant of other religions. Christians and Jews could pay a tax that allowed them to worship as they pleased. Some achieved prominent positions in banking and business.

**Region** • Suleiman I was a 16th-century sultan of the Ottoman Empire. ▼



**Suleiman, "The Magnificent"** From 1520 to 1566, **Suleiman I** (SOO·lay·MAHN) ruled the Ottoman Empire. Christians called Suleiman "The Magnificent." Muslims called him "The Lawgiver." Suleiman published a code of laws that established a system of justice throughout his empire. Suleiman's chief architect, Sinan (SY·nihn), transformed Christian Constantinople into an Islamic capital. Sinan designed famous mosques in Istanbul and elsewhere in the Ottoman Empire. As long as Suleiman ruled the Ottoman Empire, it was the richest and most powerful empire in Europe and Southwest Asia.

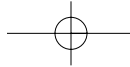
**Culture** • The influence of Islamic art left its mark in southern Spain, where Muslims built such works of art as the Alhambra, a magnificent palace. ▲

### Reading Social Studies

**B. Forming and Supporting Opinions** Do you think Suleiman I deserved to be called "The Magnificent"?

## Slaves and Soldiers

Not everyone shared in the empire's wealth and glory. Many people were slaves, often prisoners from conquered nations. They served at court or in the homes of wealthy people. Many of the male slaves became soldiers.



**The Janissaries** A special group of soldiers loyal to the sultan, called **Janissaries**, developed in the late 1300s out of a small force of slaves. By the 1600s, they had become so powerful that even the sultans feared them. They refused to learn modern ways of fighting, however, and grew weak. In 1826, a group of Janissaries attacked the sultan. Forces loyal to the sultan fired on the attacking Janissaries, killing 6,000. The sultan then disbanded the force.



**Culture** • Three Janissaries (on the right) stand in front of their sultan. ▲

## The Decline of the Ottoman Empire

Over the centuries, the Ottoman Empire grew weak. It fought wars constantly to hold on to its empire. By the 1800s, the empire came close to bankruptcy several times. It also had trouble competing in trade with industrialized Europe. **Sultan Mehmed V** fought on the losing side of World War I. After the war ended, the empire lost control of Arab lands. By 1924, the Ottoman Empire no longer existed. The modern country of Turkey had taken its place.

### SECTION 5 ASSESSMENT

#### Terms & Names

- 1. Identify:** (a) Five Pillars of Islam (b) caliph (c) theocracy (d) Ottoman Empire  
(e) Constantinople (f) Suleiman I (g) Janissary (h) Sultan Mehmed V

#### Taking Notes

- 2.** Use a time line like this one to record major events in the spread of Islamic empires.



#### Main Ideas

- 3. (a)** How did the caliphs contribute to the growth of Islamic empires?  
(b) What regions of the world did the Ottoman Empire include?  
(c) What was Constantinople?

#### Critical Thinking

- 4. Hypothesizing** How might the modern world be different if Muslim armies had won the battle of Tours?

#### Think About

- ♦ cultural change
- ♦ religious differences

#### ACTIVITY -OPTION-

Create an illustrated **report** on the religious buildings of Judaism, Christianity, or Islam.