

Aim: What were the characteristics of the Umayyads?

I. After Muhammad's Death

- i. Abu Bakr in 632 becomes first caliph or successor of Muhammad
- ii. 634 all of Arabia under the caliph's control
- iii. Caliph was a spiritual leader of Islam, they were able to expand into Syria, Palestine, Mesopotamia, India, and North Africa
- iv. Issue of succession caused division

II. Umayyads

- i. 656-661 Ali had become the fourth caliph
- ii. Cousin of Muhammad
- iii. He was assassinated by other Muslims
- iv. 661 Mu'awiyah becomes new caliph
- v. Umayyads rule all of Arabia
- vi. Move capital from Mecca to Damascus
- vii. This caused a permanent shift in Islam
 - a. Shi'a: only follow Ali and his descendants
 - b. Sunni: Follow all caliphates
- viii. Umayyads: tax the mawali
- ix. They could not serve in army or in government
- x. Dome of the Rock is built
- xi. Allow for religious toleration with Jews and Christians but they could not spread their religion

III. Decline

- i. Luxurious living for the caliphates
- ii. Revolts began
- iii. Civil wars between Shi'a and Sunni
- iv. Abbasids murdered the Umayyads in battle in 750