

I. Abbasids

1. 750 CE they defeated the Umayyads
2. Led by Abu Abbas
3. Good administrators, efficient bureaucracy
4. A bureaucracy is the administration of a government through bureaus or departments staffed with non-elected officials.
5. 762 CE move the capital to Baghdad
6. Good farming production, ex. Rice, sugar, citrus fruits
7. Large and growing population
8. Cities were urban centers
9. Merchants traded with Africa, Russia and India

II. Women

- a) 7th century women had rights
- b) They could inherit property, own business, divorce men, get an education
- c) Men and women equal in the eyes of Allah
- d) Shariah and Quran enforce male dominance
- e) Abbasids create the use of the veil and the harem
- f) Wives of caliphs were concubines kept in secluded quarters
- g) Women were always chaperoned
- h) All classes of women wore veils

III. Achievements

- i Golden Age of Islam began in 750, and lasted for centuries. Some say until 1400
- ii Mawali became integrated into the empire, no special taxes, worked in gov't
- iii Creation of universities of Cordoba and Baghdad
- iv Literature: 1001 Arabian Nights
- v Trade: coffee, sugar, alcohol, the sofa
- vi First to use a credit based economy
- vii Steel swords
- viii Arts and sciences improved
- ix Advances in medicine
- x Under Al-Razi was a great doctor known for treating diseases such as small pox and measles
- xi Wrote over two-hundred works on medicine
- xii Use of algebra and math from India
- xiii Alhazen developed better optics
- xiv Influenced by Western culture

IV. Decline

- 1) Mid 9th century
- 2) Empire became too big to control
- 3) Many civil wars
- 4) Peasants rebellions
- 5) Empire became divided into separate states
- 6) Mongols invaded from Asia
- 7) The empire fell in 1258