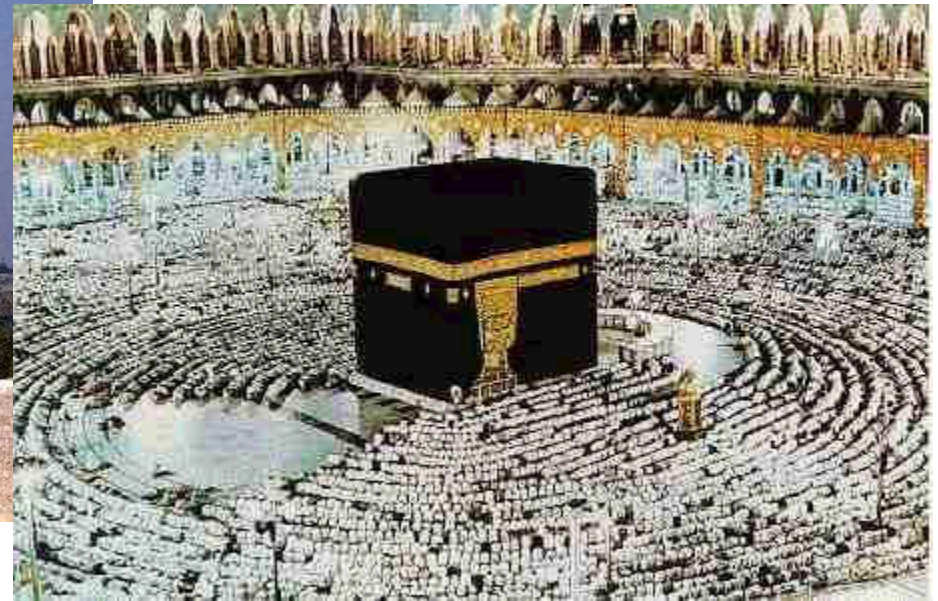


## 3.1 The World of Islam

The Arabs: a Semitic people (ethnic group) and a Nomadic people

They trace their ancestry back to Abraham's son Ishmael  
Believe that Abraham and Ishmael built the Kaaba in Mecca



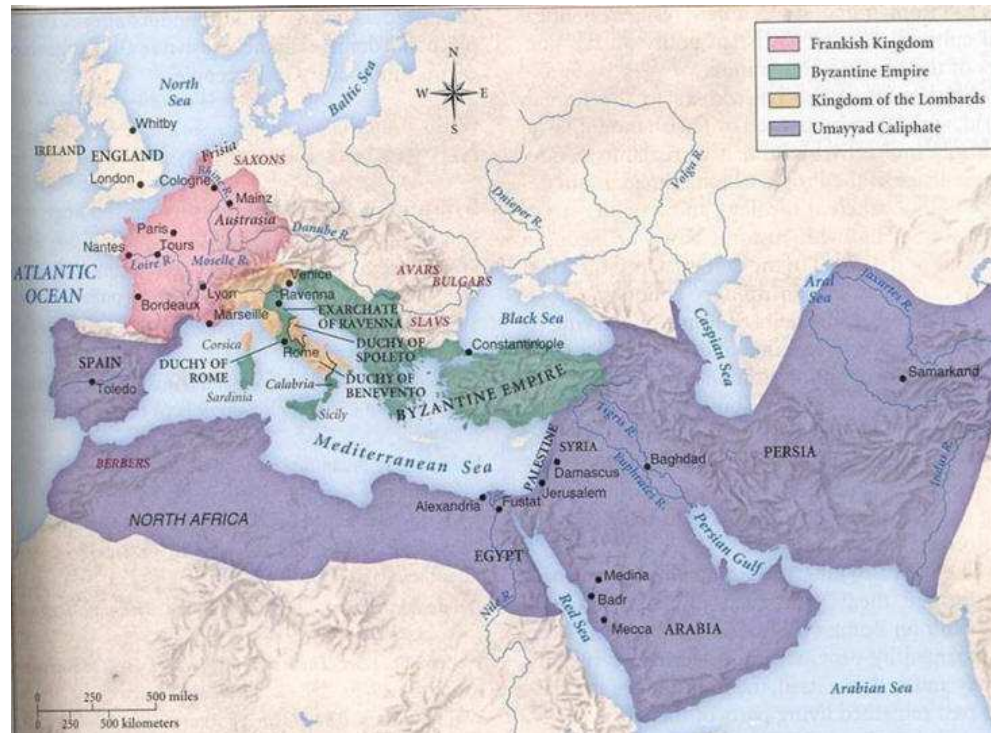
## Muhammad – prophet of Allah

- Married to Khadijah
- Quran (Koran) – the Holy Book of Islam
- AD 622 Muhammad and followers are driven out of Mecca – go to Medina (the Hijrah -this is year 1 in Muslim calendar: 1 AH)
- He returns to conquer Mecca (and much of the Arabian peninsula)
- He later dies without naming a successor --  
his followers choose Abu Bakr as Caliph (successor)
- Abu Bakr continues the Muslim conquests (Byzantine, Egyptian, and Persian lands).



## After Abu Bakr

- 661: Mu'awiyah, the governor of Syria, becomes Caliph and makes it hereditary- continues expansion  
This begins the Umayyad Caliphate – the capital moves to Damascus



## After the Umayyad

- 750 – Abu al Abbas (descendant of Muhammad's uncle) takes over the Caliph. This begins the Abbasid Caliphate. He moves the capital to Baghdad. Continues expanding – controls Spain to India.



- A rival group, the Fatamids, in Egypt hire Seljuk Turks as mercenaries to fight the Abbasid

- 1055: the Seljuks capture Baghdad, but left the Caliph to Abbasids.
- 1258 Mongols invade Muslim lands. Hulegu (Khan) destroys Baghdad – but a few years later the Mongols become Muslim (first non-Arab rulers of Muslim lands)



## 2 Main branches of Islam

- Sunni: believe that any qualified man can be the religious leader
- Shia (Shi'ite): believe that only descendants of Muhammad's daughter Fatima can be the religious leader

