

Lesson 1 The Expansion of Muslim Rule

MAIN IDEAS

Government The Umayyads expanded Muslim rule to the east and westward into Europe.

Government The Umayyads built a unified empire based on a strong government, a common language, and a common coinage.

Government By 750, religious and political differences caused the Muslim Empire to split.

Expansion Under the Umayyads

ESSENTIAL QUESTION What lands did the Umayyads add to the Muslim Empire?

Expansion to the East

- After Muhammad's death in 661, Umayyads won control of Muslim world
 - greatly expanded Muslim Empire through raids, organized conquests
- Armies conquered Persia and much of Central Asia

Westward Expansion

- By 710, Umayyads controlled North Africa from Nile to Atlantic Ocean
- Conquered **Iberian Peninsula**—southwestern tip of Europe (Spain)
- In 732, Christian forces stopped Muslim advance into Europe at Tours

REVIEW QUESTION

How did the Umayyads expand the Muslim world?

Uniting Many Peoples

ESSENTIAL QUESTION How did the Umayyads build a unified empire?

Umayyad Government

- Leaders needed to unite, govern vast Muslim Empire
- Patterned government after that of conquered lands in Byzantine Empire
 - **bureaucracy**—system of departments, agencies doing government’s work
- Umayyad caliphs ruled from capital city of Damascus, appointed emirs
 - **emirs**—Muslim governors—used local leaders to help govern

A Common Language and Coinage

- Parts of empire had different languages, creating barrier to unity
- **Abd al-Malik**—caliph in 685—solved language problem
 - declared Arabic official government language across Empire
- Abd al-Malik unified commerce with common coinage for Empire
 - engraved with quotes from Qur’an, helped spread Islam, Arabic language

The Pilgrimage

- Muslims across empire made annual pilgrimage (hajj) to Mecca
 - on the way, shared language and cultures
 - returned to homelands with knowledge of Arabic and Umayyad government

REVIEW QUESTION

How did the Umayyads unify the scattered Muslim states?

The Overthrow of the Umayyads

ESSENTIAL QUESTION What caused the Muslim Empire to split?

Rising Protests

- By mid-700s, some Muslims thought Umayyads lax in their duties
 - thought rulers were too interested in wealth, power; protests began

The Abbasids

- Abbasids led the Muslim opposition to Umayyads
 - hosted peace talk, then murdered all but one Umayyad leader
 - Abd al-Rahman escaped, reestablished Umayyad dynasty in Spain
- After 750, Muslim Empire forever split into eastern, western sections

REVIEW QUESTION

Why did the Umayyads lose power?

Lesson Summary

- The Umayyads rose to control all Muslims and create a huge empire.
- Umayyad caliphs created a large bureaucracy to serve the far-flung Muslim lands.
- Religious and political differences among Muslim groups eventually ended Umayyad rule.

Why It Matters Now . . .

Muslims continue to learn the Arabic language in order to practice their religion, as they did in Umayyad times.