

The Spread of Islam

Islam emerged in Arabia in the 600s A.D. and grew into a major world religion.

- Muhammad was the founder of Islam. He was both a political and a religious leader.
- The early leaders of Islam built large empires. Many of the people they conquered became followers of Islam, or **Muslims**.
- Later, through trade, Islam spread into regions that were not ruled by Muslims.

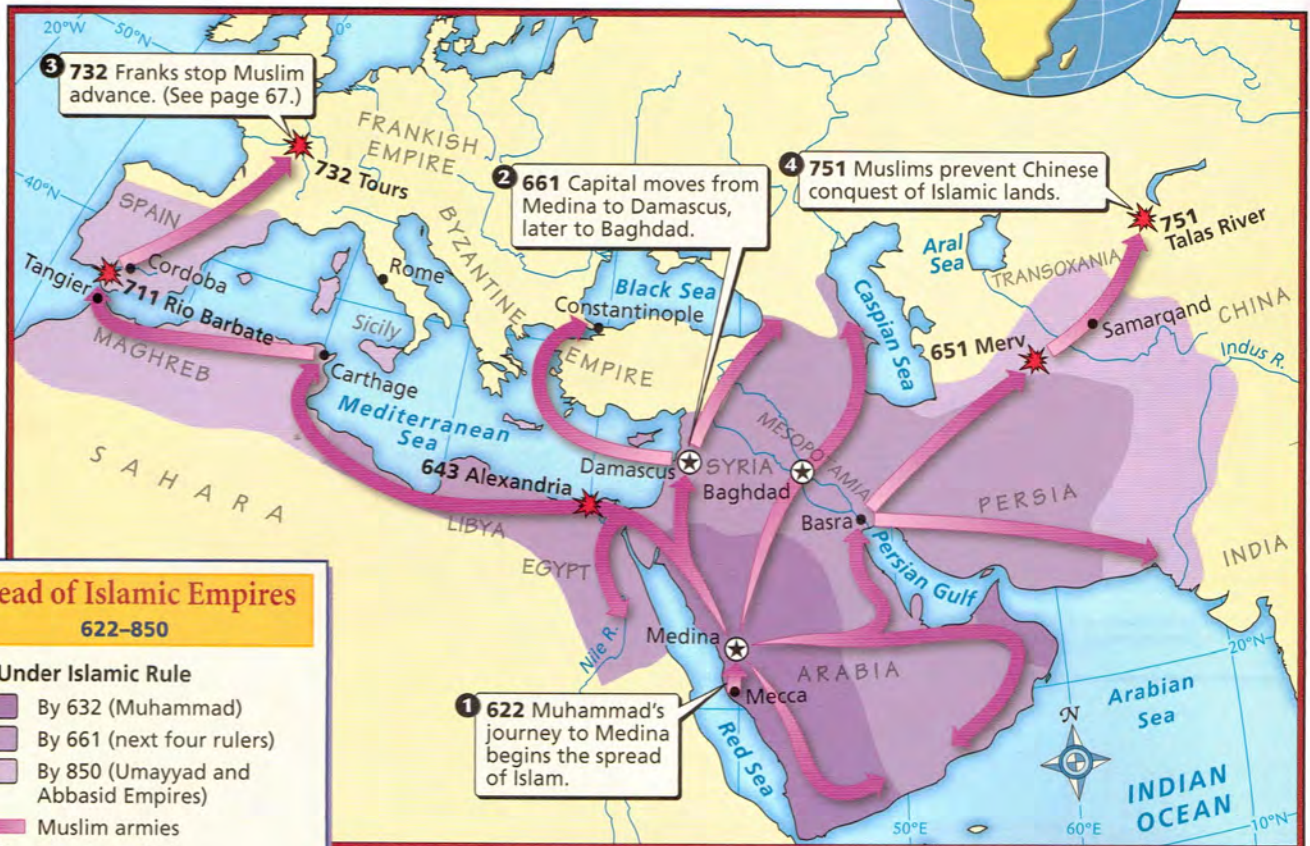


A The Quran, (also spelled Koran) is the holy book of Islam. It includes basic religious duties of all Muslims.

What's Islam?

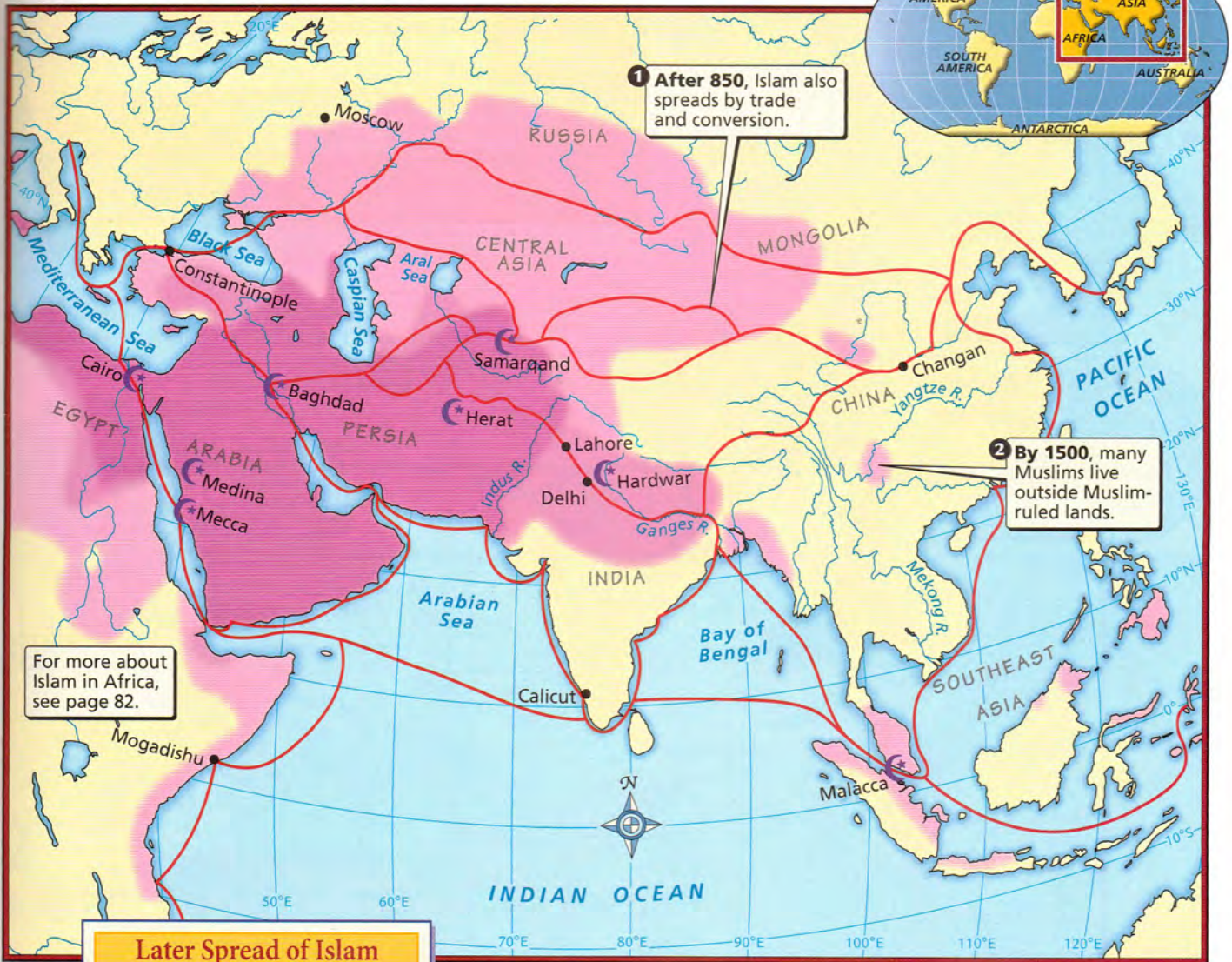
Islam is a religion based on the teachings of Muhammad, whom Muslims believe was the messenger of God (called Allah in Arabic). Today Islam is one of the world's most widespread religions.

Area shown in map B



B Islam first expanded through military conquest. The rulers of the Islamic Empires were also religious leaders.

C After 850 the Islamic Empire had begun to lose power, but Islam continued to spread. Muslim traders introduced Islamic culture into China, Southeast Asia, and Africa.



Later Spread of Islam
850-1500

Predominantly Muslim

- by 850
- by 1200
- by 1500
- Major trade route, 1200-1500
- Major Muslim site

0 500 1000 miles
0 500 1000 kilometers



D Mecca, the birthplace of Muhammad, is one of the holy cities of Islam. Traveling to Mecca to pray is a religious duty for Muslims.