Muhammad’s Missions and Campaigns to 632

- Muhammad moves to Medina
- Campaigns
- Conquered by Muhammad to 632
- Conquered by Abu Bakr 632–34
- Battle site with date

Map showing key locations and movements, including:
- Mecca
- Medina
- Medina
- Qudsiyah 636
- Battle of Uhud 624
- Battle of Badr 625
- Battle of the Trench 625
- Battle of Yamama 630
- Battle of al-Badar 630
- Battle of al-Hisab 632
The Death of Muḥammad (632 CE)

- Crisis of succession
- Rebellion of Arab tribes
- Sustainability of the Arab state
The Conquerors Arrive

- 636: Battles of Yarmuk (Syria) and Qādisiyya (Iraq)
- 639–42: Conquest of Egypt
- 642: Battle of Nahāvand.
- 650: Merv in Central Asia captured. Last Sasanian king Yazdgird III (r. 632–651) killed.
- 711: Sind and Andalusia invaded
- 751: Muslims meet the armies of the Tang Chinese at Talas in Central Asia.
nomadic predators would have taken the plunder or held onto land, dispersing as landlords or peasants among the conquered peoples. In a farsighted decision Caliph Umar encouraged the tribes to settle
What Drove the Conquests?

- Ecological Thesis: The Byzantine-Sasanian Wars (602–628), along with the outbreak of disease (plague of 619) and climate change severely depleted the region’s resources.

- Nationalist Thesis: Concentrated effort of united tribes could be directed to conquest outside the borders of Arabia.

- Accidental Thesis

- Money:
  - Spoils of War: ‘Umar establishes the ḍīwān, a list that divides the spoils of conquest up among the armies according to seniority in conversion
  - Question of Centralization: centralized on a strategic but not tactical level
Islam and Taxes

• Muslim Isolation:
  — *Miṣr (amṣār)*: garrison cities
  — Laws for non-Muslims (*dhimmī*): religious freedom, separate dress, no weapons

• Non-Muslims & Taxes:
  — The *jizya* (poll tax) as ‘compensation’ for religious freedom taken from non-Muslim adult males; exempted from *zakāt* (alms tax)

• Result: Conversion is Slow
  — In Iraq in 800 CE, only 18% Muslim
  — Majority of Egypt is not Muslim until the 11th century
Leadership and Authority

- Succession to Muhammad: religious and/or political authority?
- Caliph: ‘khalīfat allāh’ or ‘khalīfat rasūl allāh’ – Deputy of God or Deputy of the Messenger of God?
- The Partisans of ‘Ali
- First Civil War 656-660
  - ‘Ā’isha (defeated at Battle of the Camel by ‘Alī in 656)
  - Mu‘āwiya, a relative of the third caliph ‘Uthmān and governor of Syria since 639
  - Ali and his partisans (face-off with Mu‘āwiya at Battle of Ṣifṭīn in 657)
  - The Khārijites: the first radicals, secede from ‘Alī’s party after arbitration with Mu‘āwiya (defeated by ‘Alī in 658, assassinate him in 661)
The Battle of Șiffīn,
from a 13th century illustrated *Book of History* of Balʿamī
Qur’an as a Book

• Types of material:
  — Hortatory/didactic: believe, do good deeds, fear God, beware the Day of Judgment, obey God and his Prophet
  — Narrative: tales of Moses, Abraham, Noah, Yusuf, Zulaykha
  — Predictive/Eschatological: fate of believers and unbelievers, creation and end of the world
  — Polemical: claims of Muhammad’s opponents, the failings of the ‘People of the Book’
  — Doctrinal: the nature of God
  — Legal: less than 500 verses deal with law and ritual

• Structure of Quran:
  • Not a continuous narrative
  • Contextual: *asbāb al-nuzūl* = occasions of revelation
  • Ellipticalism: assumes audience knowledge
  • Person: God as beyond language… ‘He’, ‘I’ ‘We’ and ‘God’