

# Islam

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**Part 1**

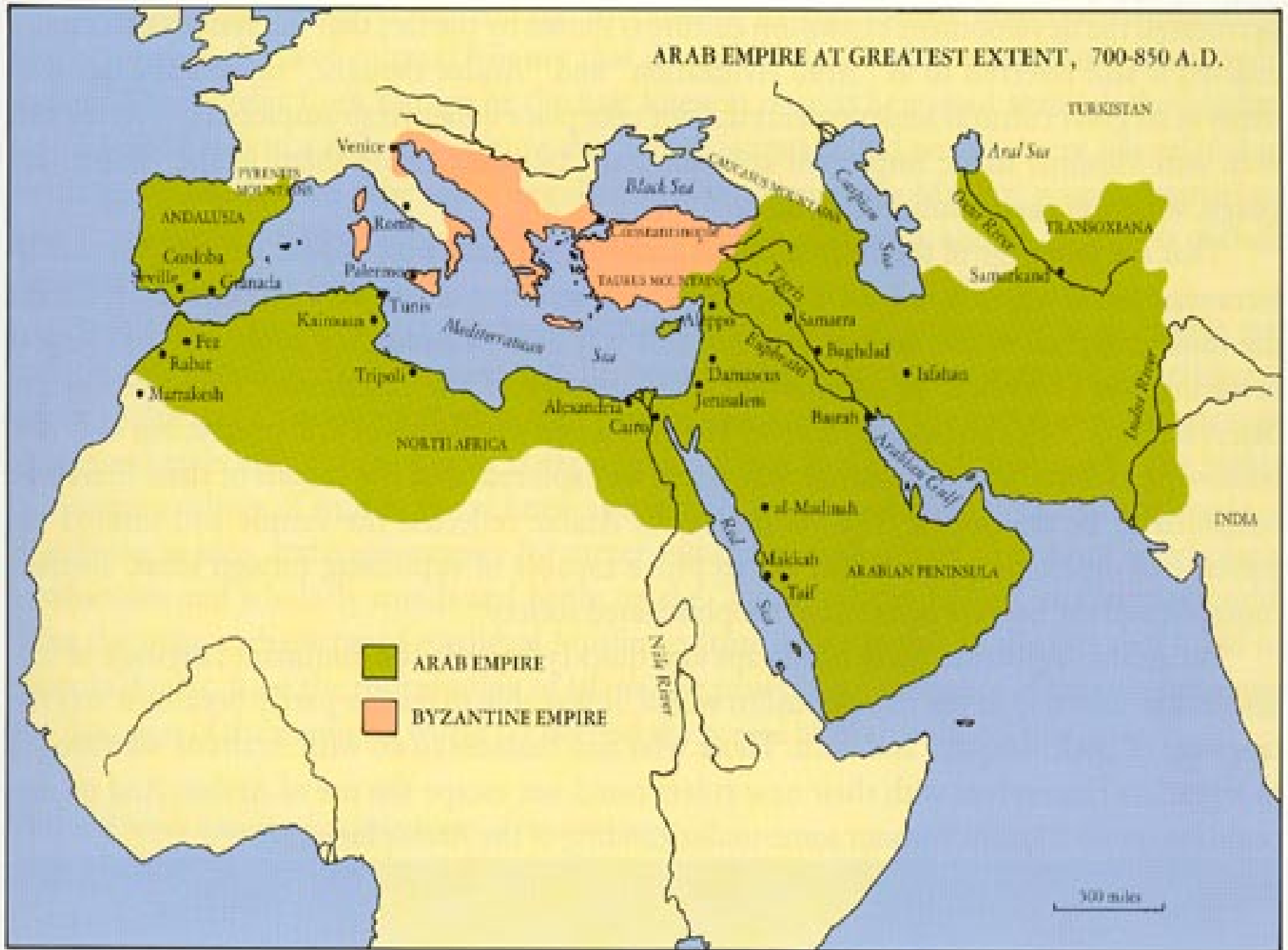
**General Introduction**



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**Islam is a world religion which has approximately 1.3 billion followers. That means that one in every five people on the planet is a Muslim. In short, Islam is not a minority phenomenon.**

ARAB EMPIRE AT GREATEST EXTENT, 700-850 A.D.



# What is Islam?

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**The word Islam is best translated into English as 'commitment'. Followers of Islam, called Muslims, commit their lives to truthfulness, good works, charity, harmony, neighborliness, almsgiving, acceptance of religious pluralism, and diversity. Islam is a way of life. Islam is a religion of peace, mercy and forgiveness. One of the basic precepts of Islam is the equality of all people regardless of race, ability, or gender.**

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# What is a Muslim?

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**A Muslim is a person who follows the precepts of Islam. Muslims believe in one God called Allah. Muslims believe in a chain of prophets beginning with Adam and including Noah, Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, David, and Jesus. The word Muslim, like Islam, comes from the three-letter Arabic root s-l-m, and literally means "one who submits (to God)." Salaam is an Arabic/Islamic greeting. It means also peace.**

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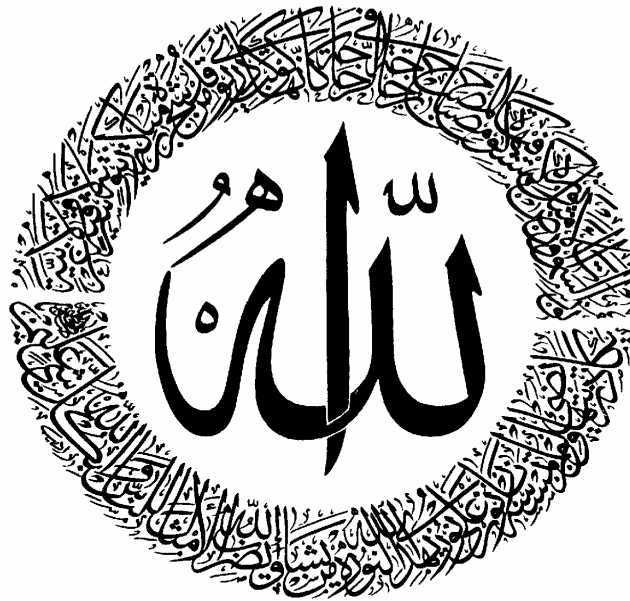
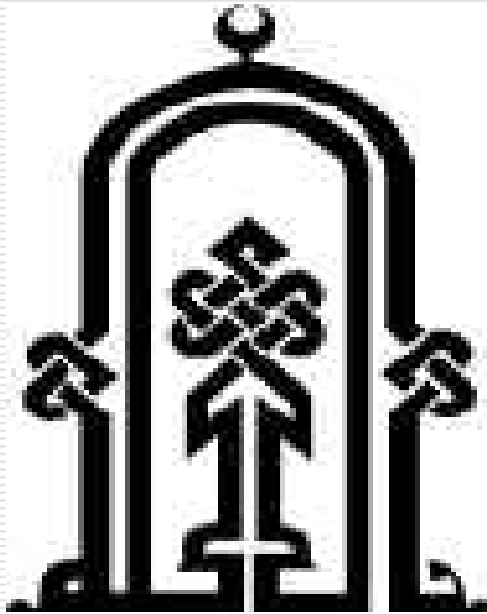
# How do people become a Muslim?

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You are either born to a Muslim mother, or father or by saying the 'Shahadeh' (pronounced La-Ilaha Ila Allah, Muhammad-un Rasool Allah) witnessing that "there is no deity but Allah (God), and Muhammad is His Messenger."



# What does the word “Allah” mean?



“Allah” is an Arabic word used by Arabic-speaking Christians, Muslims, and Jews as the word for God. As a matter of fact the fusion of the definite article *Al* (the) with the word *ilah* (God) is done in a unique way to emphasize the uniqueness of God in Islam.

# Who are Muslims?

Muslims are of every ethnicity on earth, in Africa, Asia, Europe, in North and South America. There are more than 50 million Muslims in China and more than 150 million in Indonesia. It is estimated that there are more than 8 million Muslims in the United States. Islam is the fastest growing religion in the United States. A few years ago, the United States Postal Service recognized the growing presence of Islam in the US mainstream by issuing the first U.S. stamp bearing Arabic writing and wishing "Eid Mubarak" or "Happy Feast", and referring to the three-day religious holiday marking the end of Ramadan. This year, Ramadan started on September 23.





بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



الحمد لله الذي هدانا لهذا  
ما كنا لنهتدي لولا أن هدانا الله  
والحمد لله الذي هدانا لهذا  
ما كنا لنهتدي لولا أن هدانا الله  
والحمد لله الذي هدانا لهذا  
ما كنا لنهتدي لولا أن هدانا الله

بسم

الحمد لله الذي هدانا لهذا  
ما كنا لنهتدي لولا أن هدانا الله  
والحمد لله الذي هدانا لهذا  
ما كنا لنهتدي لولا أن هدانا الله  
والحمد لله الذي هدانا لهذا  
ما كنا لنهتدي لولا أن هدانا الله

# Who are Arabs?

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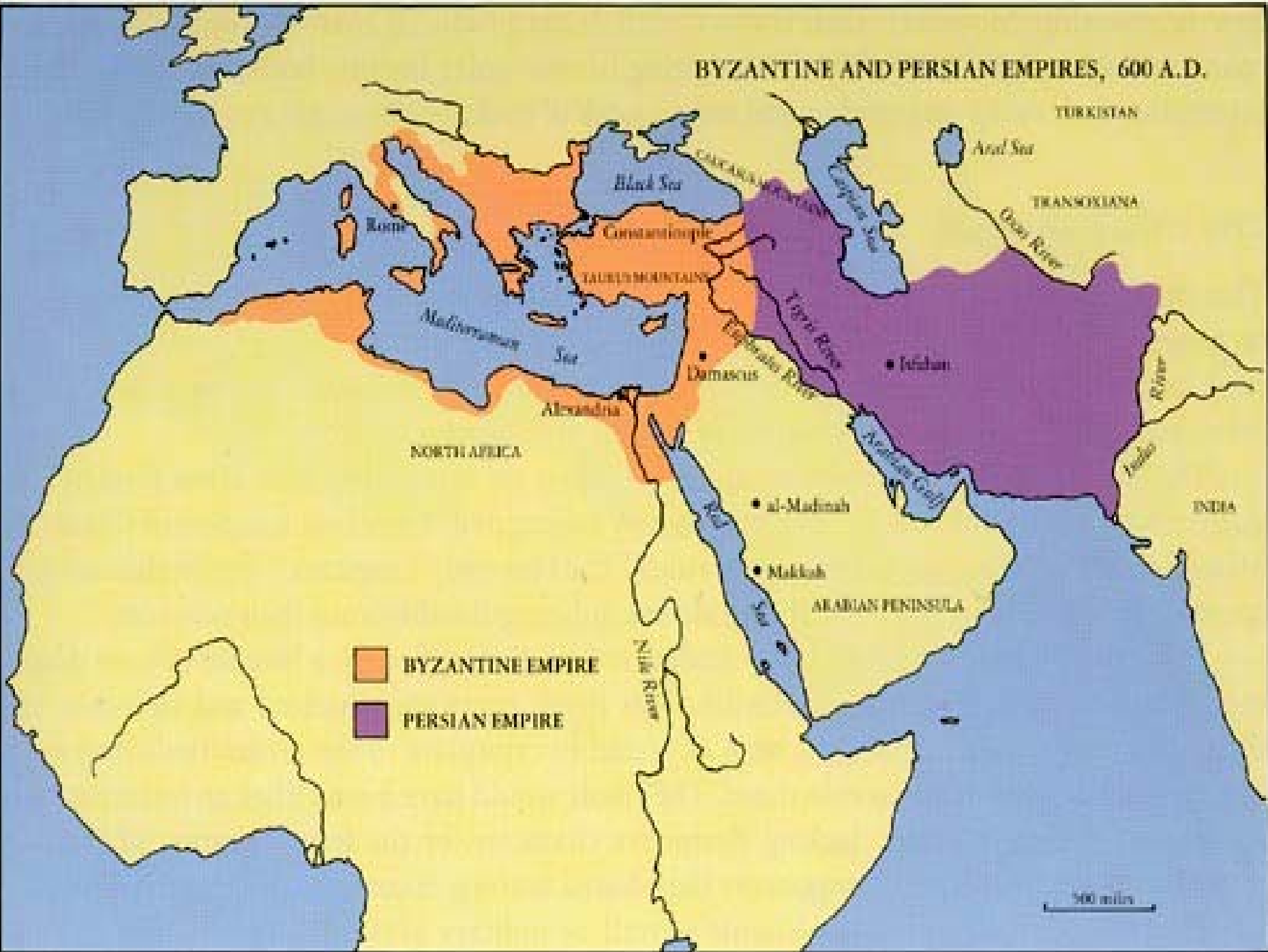
**'Arab,' on the other hand, is an ethnicity; it refers to a person from the Arabian Peninsula. Of the 1.3 billion Muslims in the world, only 15% are Arabs. Many Arabs are not Muslims. There are large Christian populations in Egypt, Syria, Palestine and Lebanon.**

# What is Arabic?

**Arabic is a language spoken throughout the world. Not every speaker of Arabic is an Arab, just like not every speaker of English is an Englishman.**

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BYZANTINE AND PERSIAN EMPIRES, 600 A.D.



- BYZANTINE EMPIRE
- PERSIAN EMPIRE

500 miles