

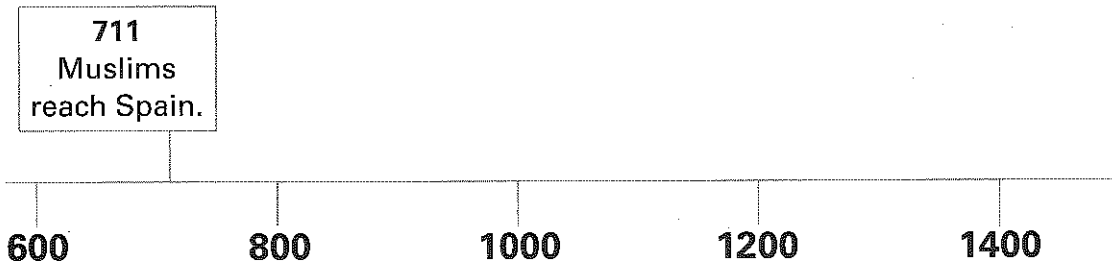
CHAPTER
10
SECTION 2

Note Taking Study Guide

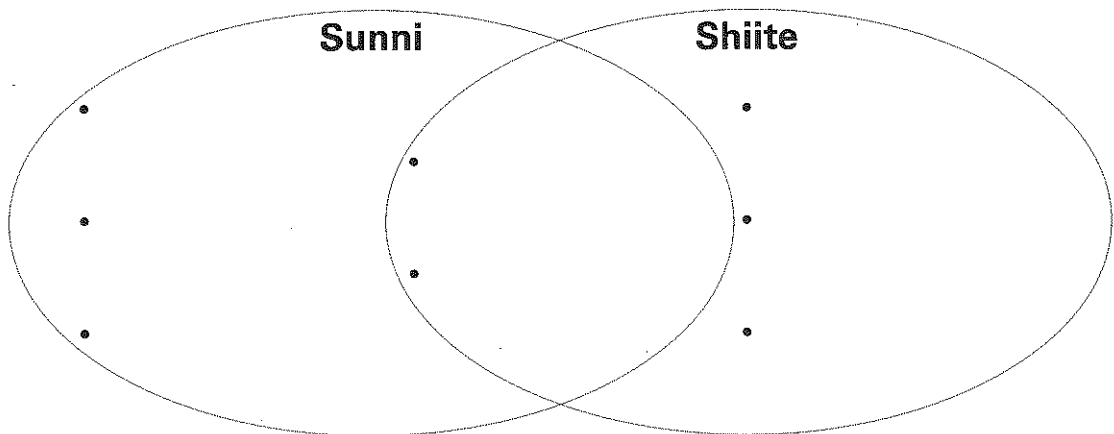
BUILDING A MUSLIM EMPIRE

Focus Question: How did Muhammad’s successors extend Muslim rule and spread Islam?

A. As you read this section in your textbook, complete the following timeline to record the major events in the spread of Islam and the rise and fall of Muslim empires.



B. As you read the section “Divisions Emerge Within Islam” in your textbook, complete the Venn diagram to record points on which Sunni and Shiite Muslims agree and differ.



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Section Summary

BUILDING A MUSLIM EMPIRE

In 632, **Abu Bakr** became the first **caliph**, or successor to Muhammad. He united all Arab tribes as Muslims. Once united, the Arabs defeated the Persian empire and parts of the Byzantine empire. However, a schism between Sunni and Shiite Muslims occurred after Muhammad's death, and still exists today.

Shiites believe that Muhammad's successors must be descendants of his son-in-law, Ali. They also should be religious leaders and interpret the Quran. **Sunnis** believe that any pious male Muslim from Muhammad's tribe can lead without performing religious functions. Today, about 90 percent of Muslims are Sunni. Both groups believe in the same God, the Quran, and the Five Pillars of Islam, but they differ in religious practices and laws. **Sufis**, who may be Sunni or Shiite, meditate and fast to gain communion with God.

In the 700s, a powerful Meccan clan set up the Sunni **Umayyad** caliphate. They directed conquests that extended Muslim rule from Spain to the Indus River Valley. Their empire lasted until 750. The Muslims brought many people under their rule. Muslim leaders imposed a special tax on non-Muslims, but Jews, Christians, and Zoroastrians could worship and some held important positions. Many people converted to Islam.

However, the Umayyads later faced economic tensions and opposition from those who did not have the same privileges as Muslims. After capturing Damascus in 750, with strong support from Shiites and non-Arabs, Abu al-Abbas founded the **Abbasid** dynasty. The Abbasids ended conquests and supported education and learning. They enjoyed a golden age, with a more efficient government and a beautiful new capital, **Baghdad**, in the former Persian empire. Mosques with **minarets**, or slender towers, graced the cities, and markets sold goods from far-off lands.

In Spain, one of the Umayyads established a separate state. Muslims ruled parts of Spain until 1492. They were tolerant of other religions, supported scholars, and constructed grand buildings.

As the empire declined, independent dynasties took power. Seljuk Turks gained power and their **sultan**, or ruler, controlled Baghdad by 1055, keeping the Abbasid caliph as a figurehead. Beginning in 1216, the Mongols attacked across southwest Asia. In 1258, they burned and looted Baghdad, ending the Abbasid dynasty.

Review Questions

1. What are the differences between Shiite and Sunni beliefs?

2. What two groups took power from the Abbasid dynasty?

READING CHECK

Which dynasty enjoyed a golden age?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *schism* mean in the underlined sentence? Read the nearby words, sentences, and phrases to find clues to its meaning. What do the context clues tell you about the meaning of *schism*?

READING SKILL

Recognize Sequence Number the following events to show their correct sequence:

- ___ Umayyads take power.
- ___ Damascus becomes the capital.
- ___ Abu Bakr becomes the caliph.
- ___ Muslim empire expands into Persia and Byzantine empire.