

**Islam**

# The Islamic World is not at all a monolithic entity

## Nationality

Arabs

Turks, Central Asians

Iranians, Pakistanis

Indonesians

Sub-Saharan Africa

## Language Family

Semitic

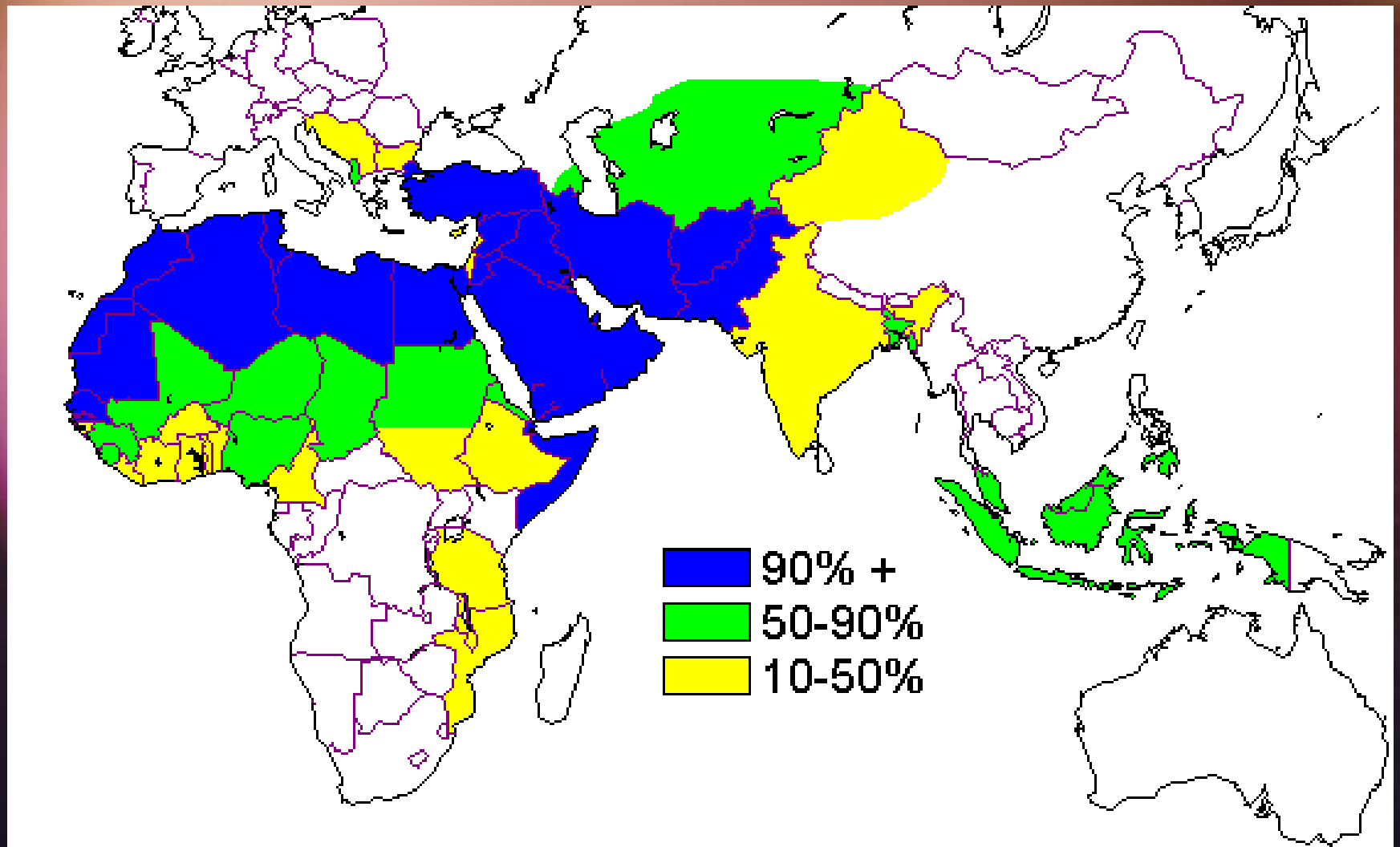
Altaic

Indo-European

Malayo-Polynesian

Various

# The World of Islam





# Arabia in Mohammed's time

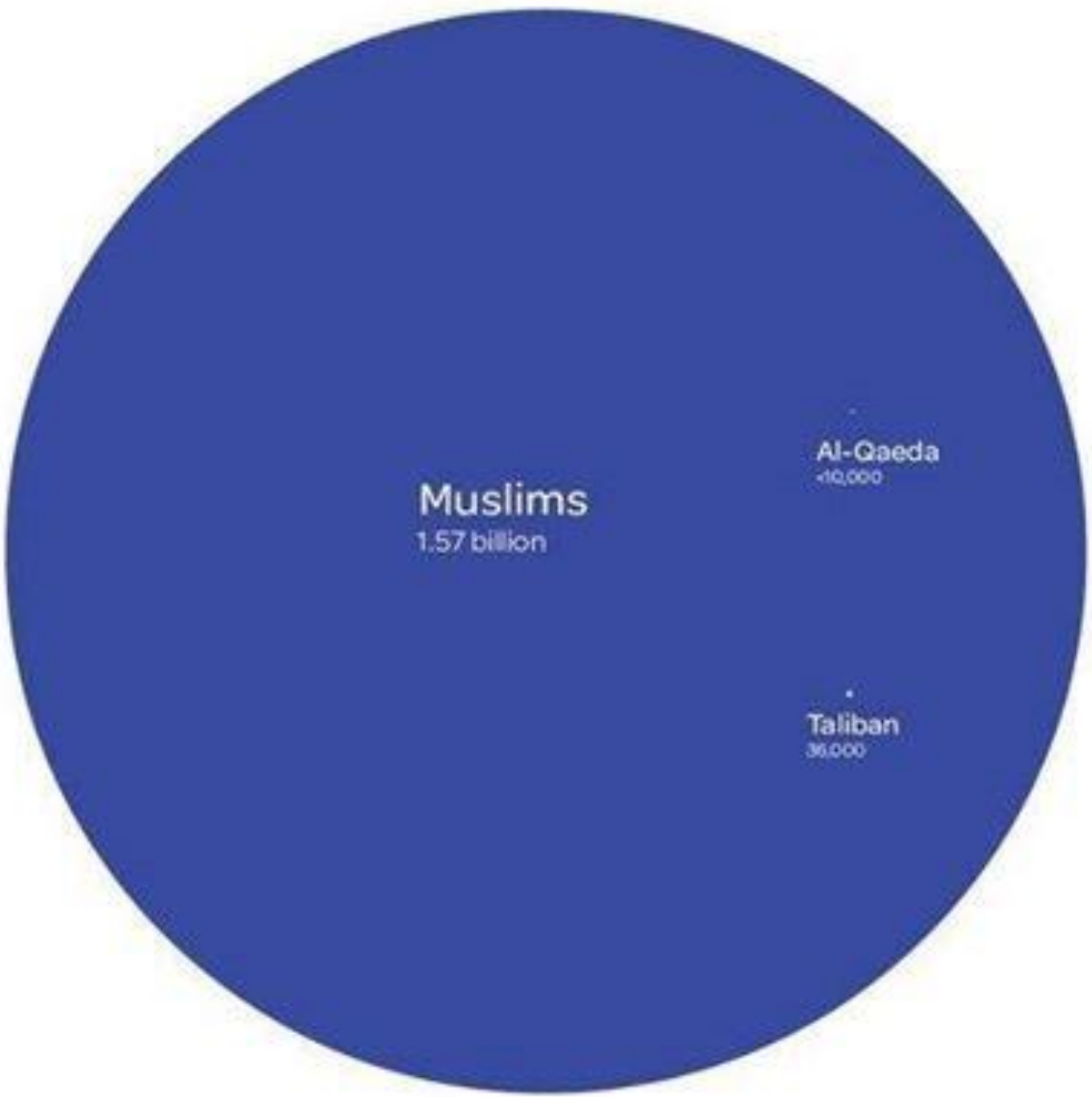
- ◆ Various tribal religions
- Jewish communities
- ◆ Christian communities, usually splinter sects

# Mohammed

- ◆ Born about 570 in Mecca
- About 610, claims to receive visions and messages.
- These collected and written down about 650 as the Koran.
- Flees to Medina, 622 (Hijrah)
- Return to Mecca, 630
- Unified Arabia by the time of his death in 632

# The Pillars of Islam

- 1. Creed (shahadah)
- 2. Five daily prayers (salaht)
- 3. Alms (zakaht)
- 4. Fasting during Ramadan (sawm)
- 5. Pilgrimage to Mecca (Hajj)  
[Haji denotes one who has made the Hajj]
- ♦ Some authorities add a sixth pillar:
  6. “Jihad” is defense of Islam and active opposition to evil and injustice.



**Muslims**  
1.57 billion

Al-Qaeda  
10,000

Taliban  
36,000



# Sources of Islamic Doctrine

- ◆ Qur'an (from root meaning read or study)
- ◆ Hadith (tradition): traditional sayings of Mohammed and other early followers
  - ◆ Study and explanation of the Qur'an
- ◆ Sharia (way): Codified Islamic Law

# The Qur'an: Allah's Last Word

- ◆ About as long as the New Testament
- ◆ 114 *surahs*, arranged from longest to shortest
- ◆ Most surahs are collections of Mohammed's teachings with no overall theme
- ◆ Surahs are labeled by distinctive or unusual words found in each
- ◆ No historical chapters
- ◆ Considered the definitive form of Arabic
- ◆ Strictly speaking, cannot be translated, only paraphrased

# Qur'an

- ◆ Praise to Allah
- ◆ Predestination
- ◆ Eschatology



# A Bit About Arabic

- ◆ Semitic Language based on three-letter roots
- ◆ Example: s-l-m connotes wisdom, harmony
  - ◆ Salaam, peace
  - ◆ Suleiman (Solomon)
  - ◆ Islam (submission to divine will)
  - ◆ Muslim (one who submits to divine will)

# A Few Arabic Contributions

- ◆ Alcohol
- ◆ Alkali
- ◆ Alchemy
- ◆ Benzine
- ◆ Boron
- ◆ Zircon
- ◆ Jar
- ◆ Alfalfa
- ◆ Algorithm
- ◆ Algebra
- ◆ Almanac
- ◆ Azimuth
- ◆ Alidade
- ◆ Most Star Names

# Muslim Contributions to Science and Math

- ◆ Concept of zero
- ◆ Development of geometry and algebra
- ◆ Based 10 system and Arabic numerals
- ◆ Medicine
- ◆ Astronomy
- ◆ Engineering
- ◆ Geography

# The spread of Islam

## Inherent appeal

- Simplicity
- Equality
- Rights for Women
- High moral teachings

## Jihad

- Military skill
- Good government
- Tolerance

## Conversion

### Incentives

- Tax on "People of the Book" - Originally Christians and Jews, later Hindus and certain other groups as well.
- Forced conversion of pagans

## Trade

- Indonesia and sub-Saharan Africa



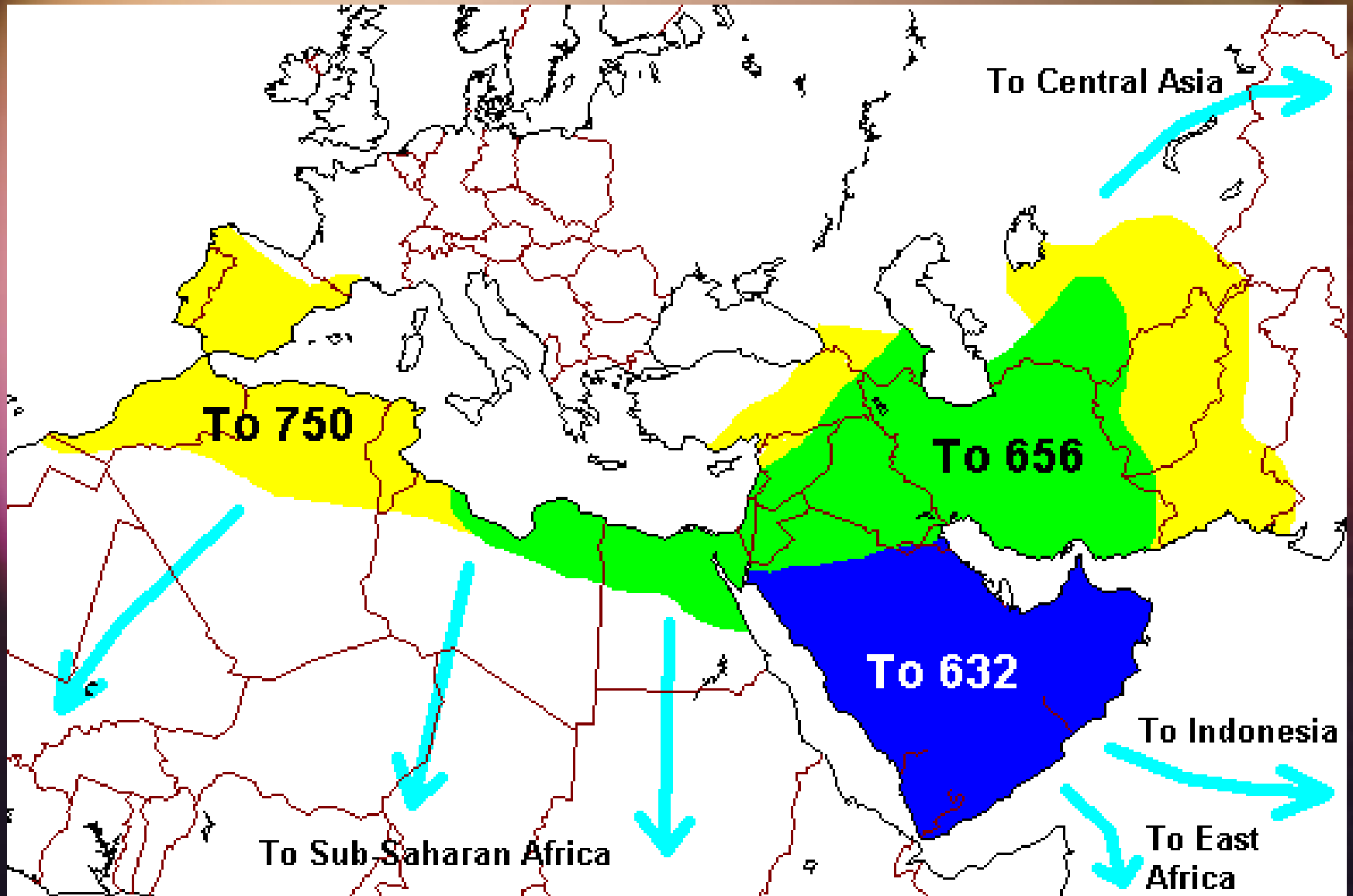
# Schism about 700 A.D.

- Reasons:
  - Succession to Caliphate (*Caliph*, successor; successor of Mohammed)
  - Incorporation of non-Qur'anic elements into Islam
  - Worldliness of Caliphs, discrimination against non-Arab Muslims
- Shiites (*shia*: party or faction) about 10% (mostly Iran)
  - Fundamentalist
  - Sunnis (*Sunna*: beaten path) about 90%

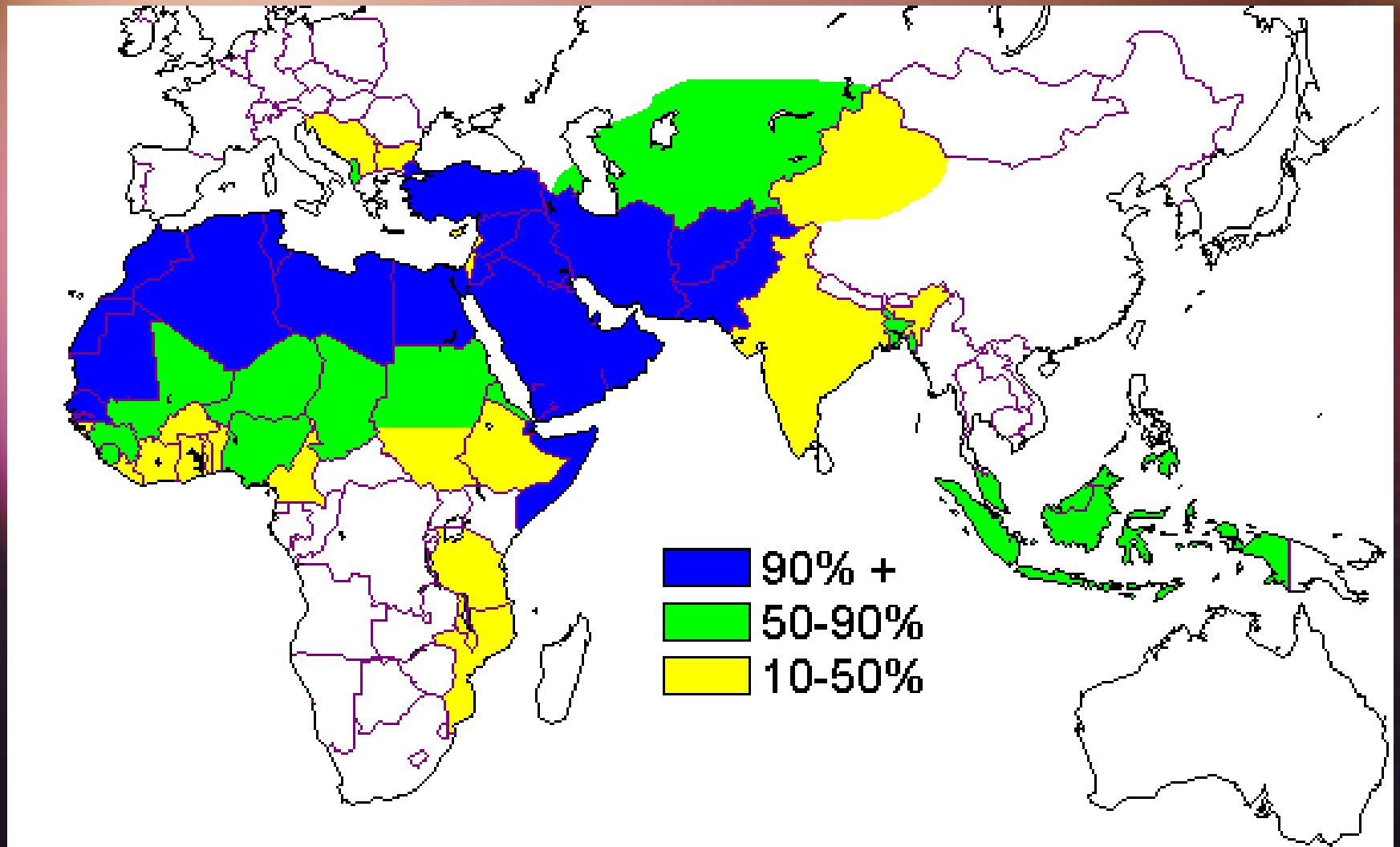
# Dynasties

- ◆ Orthodox Caliphs (632-661)
  - abu-Bakr (632)
  - Umar (634)
  - Uthman (644)
  - Ali (murdered in 661)
- ◆ Umayyad Dynasty (661-750)
  - Damascus (Syria)
- ◆ Abbasid Dynasty (750-1258)
  - Baghdad (Iraq)
- ◆ Ottoman Empire (1299-1922)
  - Istanbul

# The spread of Islam



# The World of Islam



# Sufi Islam

- ◆ Sufi (woolen)
  - ◆ Refers to the coarse, woolen garments worn by early Sufis
  - ◆ Poverty and rejection of earthly pleasures
  - ◆ Mysticism and emotionalism
  - ◆ Fakir or Dervish (convert to Sufiism)

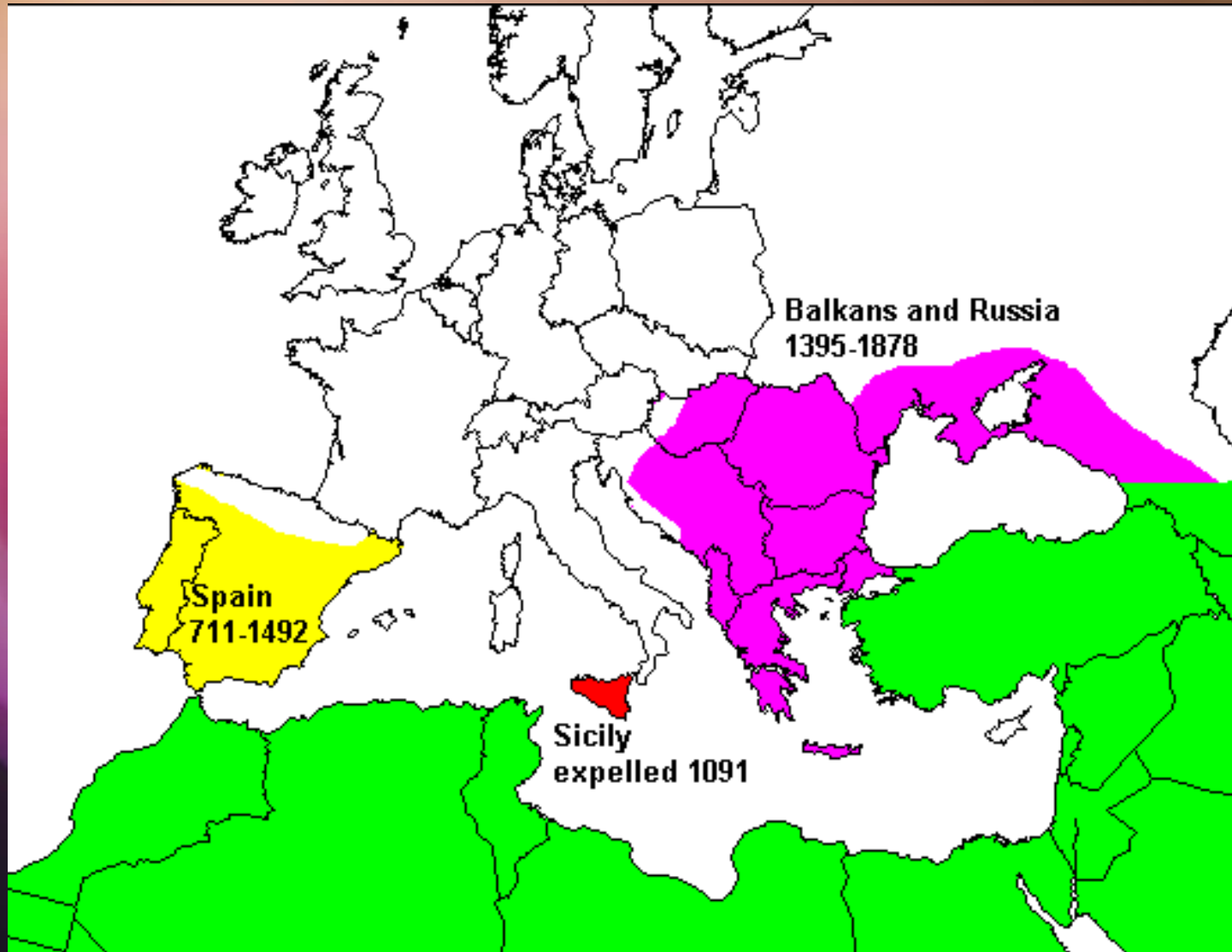
# Effects of Islam

- Preserve classical learning
- Innovations in astronomy and mathematics
- Link between East and West
- "Arabic" numbers from India
- Trigonometry also from India
- Sanctuary for Judaism

# The Spanish Connection

- ♦ Wadi-al-yahara (Valley of Flowing Water) → Guadalajara
- ♦ Al-ghattas (type of sea bird) → Alcatraz (pelican)
- ♦ Al-amir-al-bahr (lord of the sea) → Almirante → Admiral
- ♦ Jebel Tariq (Tariq's mountain) → Gibraltar
- ♦ Much "Spanish" architecture is actually Arabic

# Islam Penetrates Europe





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# The Islamic World Today

- OIL!
- Sunni vs. Shiite
- Secularism vs. Dogmatism
- Russian Southward Expansionism. Began in 1700's. Temporarily halted by collapse of Soviet Union.
- Israel and the Palestinian Problem