

A large crowd of people is seen from behind, kneeling in prayer on the floor of a vast mosque courtyard. The architecture of the mosque, featuring multiple domes and minarets, is visible in the background. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent purple filter. A solid magenta rectangle is located in the top right corner.

Rise of Islam

UNIT 2: THE MIDDLE AGES

Abrahamic Religions

- ▶ Abrahamic religions are religions that are derived from the biblical patriarch Abraham and are monotheistic (believe in 1 god).
- ▶ There are 3 Abrahamic religions:
 - ▶ Judaism (Jews) (1500 BCE)
 - ▶ Christianity (Christians) (1 CE)
 - ▶ Islam (Muslims) (7 CE)
 - ▶ Each religion builds upon the last.



Islam's Creation

- ▶ Islam came from the Arabian Peninsula.
- ▶ Muhammad received a revelation from the angel Gabriel at the age of 40, marking the beginning of his role as a prophet in the legacy of Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and others.
- ▶ The revelations continued over 22 years and came to be known as the Qur'ān, the holy book of Islam and the literal word of God (Allāh).



Islam's Creation

- ▶ When faced with persecution in Mecca, Muhammed moved the Muslim people to Yathrib (later renamed to Medina).
- ▶ United several wandering tribes under one banner.



Spread of Islam

- ▶ The empires in the area were the Byzantines (Eastern Roman Empire) and the Sasanians (Persian Empire).
- ▶ These empires were weak and didn't treat their subjects well anymore.
- ▶ Many decided to convert to Islam as the Muslims gave stability.
- ▶ This made the area easy for the Muslims to conquer.





Cementing Power

The Umayyad and Abbasid Dynasties changed the way power was maintained.

Before, the various Muslim tribes would elect a new leader when the old one died.

Now it was a hereditary process like kings in Europe (King dies → relative becomes king).

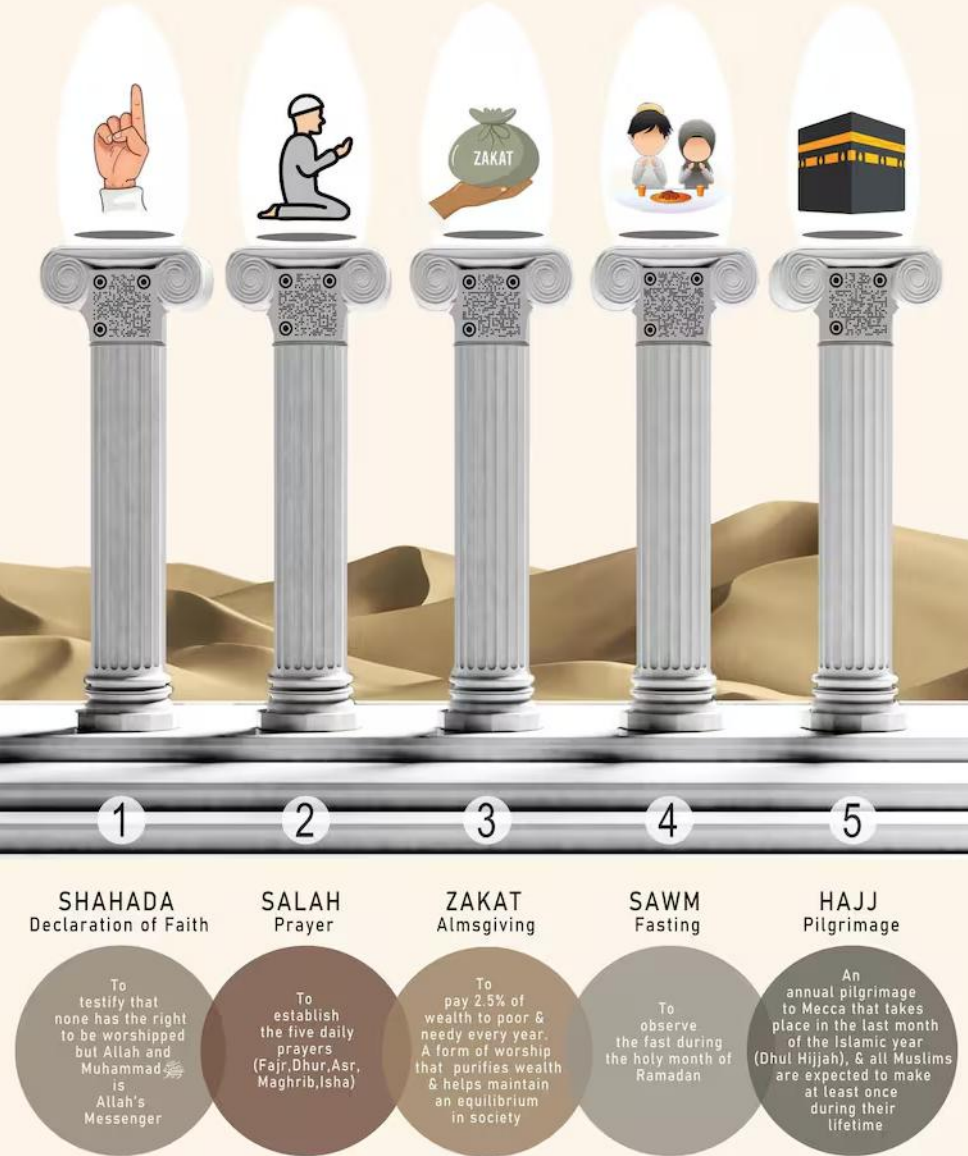
This made the transfer of power easier and faster.

- Empire was less vulnerable.

Cementing Power

- ▶ Less of a focus on converting people to Islam and more on gaining new territory.
- ▶ People of other religions in the Empire were tolerated but treated as lower class citizens.
- ▶ Most were fine with this deal since they were still allowed to own property and businesses if they paid a special tax.
- ▶ The Islamic Empire started printing its own coins.



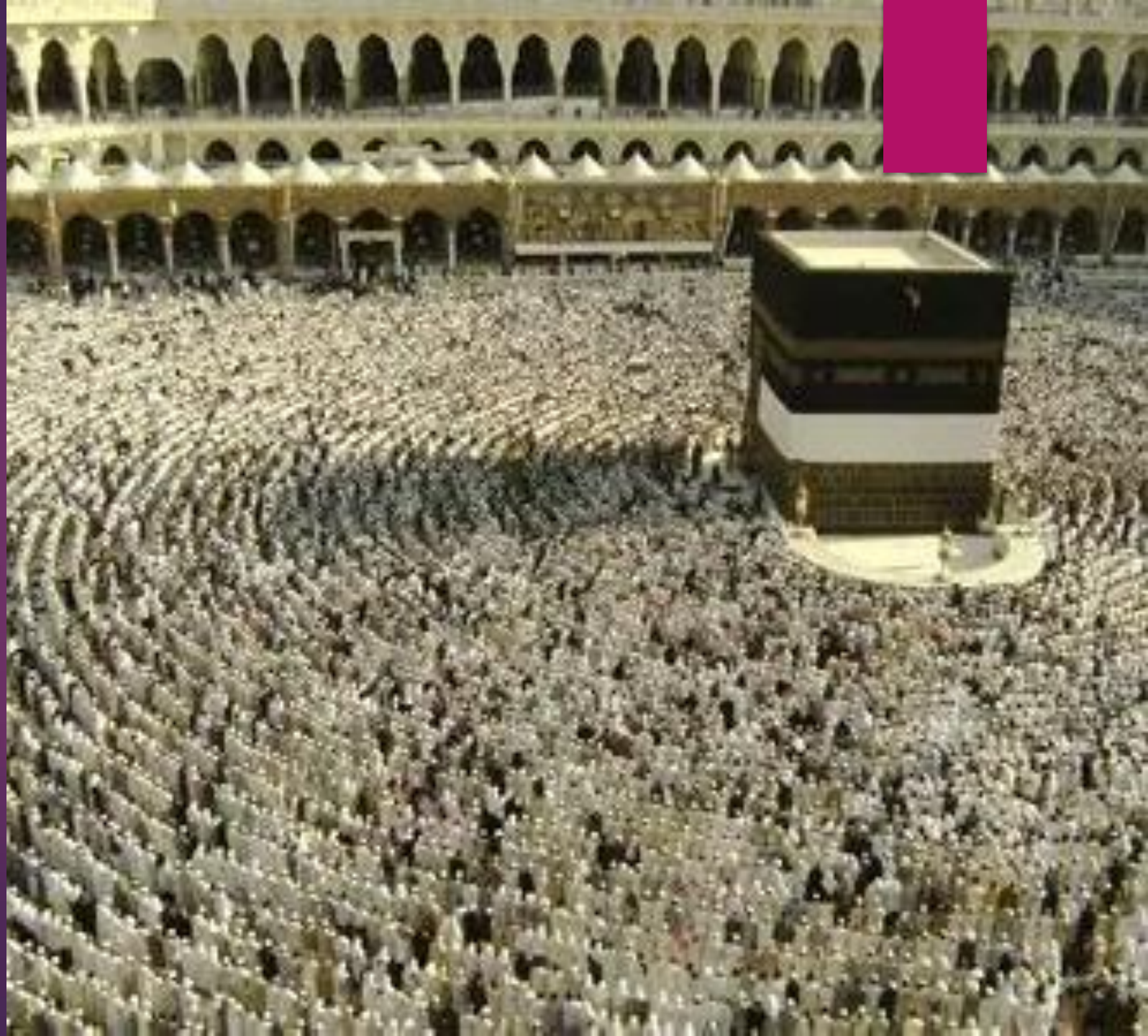


The 5 Pillars of Islam

- ▶ 1. Shahada (Declaration of Faith)
 - ▶ Declare oneself to Allah (the one true god).
- ▶ 2. Salah (Prayer)
 - ▶ Pray 5 times a day facing Mecca.
- ▶ 3. Zakat (Almsgiving)
 - ▶ Donate 2.5% of your wealth to the needy.
- ▶ 4. Sawm (Fasting during Ramadan)
 - ▶ Fast during the month of Ramadan commemorating the first revelation of the Qur'an.
- ▶ 5. Hajj (Pilgrimage to Mecca)
 - ▶ Make at least 1 visit to Mecca in your life if able.

The Kaaba

- ▶ This is where one would journey to during a hajj.
- ▶ A stone building and most holy mosque in Islam.
- ▶ “The House of God”
- ▶ Need to circle it seven times counter-clockwise.



Jerusalem

- ▶ Jerusalem is a city holy to all the Abrahamic religions.
- ▶ The Muslims “take over” Jerusalem in 637 CE by signing a treaty with the Byzantines.
 - ▶ It was this or war.
- ▶ Still allow for Christians and Jews to make pilgrimages (a holy journey) to Jerusalem.
- ▶ Lots of money to be made through taxes.
- ▶ This made Christians in Europe very upset, and they vowed to take it back with a crusade (holy war).

