

Short Summary of "Islam - a short history" by Karen Armstrong
Ken Kitteridge
Shared as a help in simplifying Armstrong's more detailed history.
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Ch 1. The Beginnings 600-660

Basic principles most muslims agree with.

Sunna -> Sharia

Where:

- Quran = Revelations of Mohammed
- Hadith = Mohammed's Works and Actions
- Sirah = Mohammed as Perfect Man
- Sunna = Essential pillars of faith, morals ...
- Sharia = Islamic Moral Code

Rashidum 632-660 = rule by justly guided caliphs.

- outwardly directed justified offensives
- acquired Persia and Byzantium

Five Essentials of Islam - Pillars

- Belief in one God
- Daily Prayer - 5 times
- Giving to Charity
- Fasting - month of Ramadan
- Pilgrimage (Hajj) to Mecca if one can afford it

Ch 2. Development 660-935

Complicated by the Ali split and acquiring a huge empire.

Sunni (Sectarianism)

- Consensus and Unity
- Caliph or Sultan
- Manifest Success Doctrine (win=god's favour. loss=god's disfavour)
- acceptance of all schools of jurisprudence
- includes Sufis.

Shiite (Fundamentalism)

- Culture of suffering and the importance of bloodlines
- Imams (legendary figures since Ali)
- Championing those suffering (social justice)
- Hanbalis school of jurisprudence accepted only
- includes Ismailis.

Sharia Based On Schools of Jurisprudence

- Hanafi - most tolerant of different opinions.
 - Turkey, Balkins, Central Asia, Turkistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India
- Malikis - legal practices
 - Medina, Muslim Spain, North and West Africa, India
- Shafis - hadith and the use of analogy
- Hanbalis - authentic hadith and no analogy
 - pioneer of fundamentalism and theology
 - dominates in Arabian Peninsula

Changing Capitals - Islamic Rivalry

- Mecca/Medina in Saudia Arabia -> Bagdad in Iraq -> Damascus in Syria