ARBC 2031 Arts Sciences and Technology through History
Fall 2018

Tuesday and Thursday 3:00-4:15 Swann Building 206

School of Modern Languages
Georgia Institute of Technology

Highlights
• Arabs and Arabia before Islam
• The origin and character of Arabian religion
• The Origins of the Idols
• Jahiliyya as Arabic Signifier for Pre-Islamic Arabia
• Prophet Muhammad (Revise and Re-enforce)
• Successors (Briefly)
• Legacy (Qur’an and Hadith)

Arabs and Arabia Before Islam
• Social identity (Kinship (in Arabic “’asabiya”))
• Landscape/Demography
  • (Deseret (Bedouin))
  • Urban (Agrarian))
• Was the “Bedouin” and the “Agrarian” completely isolated?
  • Scarce Sources
    • Islamic Sources such as biography of the Prophet (sira)
    • Roman Sources

The Origin and Character of Arabian Religions
Jews
Christians (Chalcedonians, Monophysites, Nestorian)
Zoroastrians
Hunafa’
Polytheists (dominant religion)/
The Origins of the Idols

- Archeological evidence
  - statues of the Graeco-Egyptian god Harpocrates
- Roman sources
  - Syrian Bishop Theodoret of Cyrrhus (393 – 458/466 C.E.)

Jahiliyya

- General explanation of Jahiliyya often understands the term in contrast to 'Islam.' Jahiliyya is from the root (jhl) and the root means in English “ignorance.”
- This conception is WRONG

- Understanding Jahiliyya is very crucial to understanding how early Muslims perceived pre-Islamic polytheist/ “pagan” times.

Jahiliyya as fanaticism

Philological Evidence from pre-Islamic poetry shows that Muhammad probably used the word in the way it was used in pre-Islamic poetry which refers to jahl (impulsive and fanatic) as an antonym to hilm (patience and deliberation)

The Prophet Muhammad (570-632)

- Family
- Early Childhood
- Revelation Period 610-632
What are the major challenges facing Muhammad after the prophecy?

Challenges after Prophecy (610)
- Rejection from tribe and clan members
- Facing Persecution
- Emigration of Followers to Abyssinia (615?)
- Boycott of the Quraysh tribe against Muhammad's clan (Banu Hashim) (616–619)
- Building alliances outside Mecca (620–622)
- Hijra: Muhammad's emigration in 622

What are the challenges facing Muhammad after the hijra?

Challenges after Hijra (622)
- Water and Securing Trade Routes: 624 Battle of Badr
- Competition over resources with residents of Medina
- “Pact” of Median: Not to extend any support to tribes of Mecca
- Jewish-Muslim Conflict
- 625 Battle of Uhud: defeat of Muhammad and his followers
- Expulsion of some Jews from Medina
- 627 Battle of the Trench (Muslims vs Jewish and Meccan Tribes)
What is the treaty of the Hudaybiya (623)?

Peace: Treaty of Hudaybiya

- Between Muhammad and Mecca
- It opened access to the shrine of Mecca
- Allowed Muslims to expand their network of alliances
- Protecting Alliances: 629 (Battle of Mu'ta) Unsuccessful expedition towards the Byzantine territory
- 630 Violation of the Treaty and Peaceful Conquest of Mecca
- Chiefs of Mecca accept Islam

Triumph of Islam in the Arabian Peninsula

- Battle of Hunayn and siege of al-Taif (630) (defending Mecca against other Arab tribes like Thaqif and Hawazin)
- Campaign against Tabuk (Ghassanis, vessels of Byzantium)

632 Farwell pilgrimage/last sermon and death of Prophet Muhammad
Muhammad Successors

- 632-634 Abu Bakr
- 634-644 The Caliph ‘Umar Ibn al-Khatta
- 644-656 Caliphate of ‘Uthman

The Qur’an

- ‘Uthman’s Qur’an
  - Bibliotheca de France
  - Other fragments in Russia, Rome Vatican, London
  - A copy of a Qur’an is kept in al-Hussien mosque in Cairo. 80 KG Pages 187 paper
  - Other Copies of ‘Uthman’s Quran in Istanbul