

Muslim Chronology

Muhammad	(Arabia – Sunni, Shi'a)	570 – 632
Umayyad Dynasty	(Syria)	661 – 750
Abbasid Dynasty	(Iraq)	750 – 1258
Umayyad Dynasty	(Spain – Moors)	756 – 1031
Ayyubid Dynasty	(Egypt, Syria)	1171 – 1250
Mamluk Dynasty	(Egypt, Syria, Arabia)	1250 – 1517
Seljuk Dynasty	(Turkey, Iraq) (Crusades 1096 – 1291)	1077 – 1307
[Yuan Dynasty	(China – Mongols) (Marco Polo in China 1271 – 1295)	1271 – 1368]
Ottoman Dynasty	(Turkey, Syria, North Africa)	1281 – 1924
Ilkhanid Dynasty	(Iran, Iraq)	1256 – 1353
Timurid Dynasty	(Iran, Central Asia)	1381 – 1501
Safavid Dynasty	(Iran)	1501 – 1732
Mughal Dynasty	(India)	1526 – 1857

Three great powers rule Islamic lands during the “Age of Empire”:

Ottoman Turks (1281-1924)

Descendents of Turkish rulers

Mehmed II regains Constantinople in 1453 (capital of Byzantine Empire for about 1000 years) and renames it Istanbul

Hagia Sophia/Aya Sofia (Holy Wisdom) – great Byzantine church of Justinian is transformed into an Islamic mosque in 1453

Safavids of Persia (1501-1732)

Descendents of Ali ibn Abi Talib, son-in-law and successor to Muhammad, who claim semi-divine status as reincarnations of the Shi’ite (Shi’a) Imams

Sunni Muslims claim the first four caliphs are the rightful successors of Muhammad

Isfahan – capital of Safavid empire, ruled by Abbas I

maidan – walled open area within a complex of shops, mosques, and other buildings

Mughals of India (1526-1857)

Descendents of Timur/Timurids and Genghis Khan/Mongols

Six great Mughal rulers:

Babur (r. 1526-30)

Humayun (r. 1530-56)

Akbar (r. 1556-1605)

Jahangir, means “World-Grasper” (r. 1605-27)

Shah Jahan, means “King of the World” (r. 1627-58)

Aurangzeb (r. 1658-1707)

Fatehpur Sikri – “City of Victory” founded by Akbar as his capital

Taj Mahal – monumental tomb set in a vast garden overlooking the Jumna River; built by Shah Jahan for his favorite wife, Mumtaz Mahal

pietra dura – style of semi-precious stone inlay first developed in Italy and used by Mughals on buildings such as the Taj Mahal