

History 435
Politics and the State in the Medieval Islamic World
Spring, 1992
Time: 2:25 MWF. Place: 1641 Humanities
Instructor: Michael Chamberlain

This course is about relationships among political power, society, and culture in the medieval Middle East. The period we will cover ranges from the life of Muhammad until the appearance of the Ottoman and Safavid Empires around 1500. The course is divided into three parts. In part one we examine long-term social and political continuities of the ancient Middle East, the foundation of Islam, and the establishment of the early Islamic empires. In part two we cover the political collapse of the empire, its replacement by regional courts, and the development of medieval Islamic political, social, and cultural institutions and practices. In part three we will focus on relationships between culture and politics in the Middle Period.

The course will consist of lectures and discussion sessions. Grading is based on a class participation during discussions (1/4), a mid-term exam (1/4), a 10-15 page paper (1/4: for more, see below), and a final (1/4).

Grading policy: I recognize that the subject matter of this course is difficult and unfamiliar to most of you, and feel strongly that students should not be discouraged from taking difficult courses by a strict grading policy. If you do the work you should get a B, although an A will be difficult to obtain without dedication. A = excellent work in all respects. B = work that is excellent in parts and faulty in others or that is of a generally good quality. C = work that while acceptable lacks clarity, organization, or evidence of sustained research. If you are doing D work I hope you will drop the course to spare me the pain of giving and you the humiliation of receiving a D or worse. In general I will not give grades such as AB or BC on tests or papers, and will use these grades only to average out grades. You and I both should be able to discern the difference between an A and a B paper. I am always willing to argue a grade, but you must be prepared to see your grade revised down as well as up.

All work must be done on time.

Office hours are Mondays and Wednesdays 3:30-4:30, 4118 Humanities, and by appointment. My telephone numbers are 265-2673 (office) and 233-7996 (home).

Important Dates: Midterm: March 20. Paper due: April 10. Final: May 13, 7:45 a.m.
Do not take this course if you cannot meet these deadlines!

Texts:

Required:

- Cook, M., Muhammad (Oxford, 1983).
Donner, F., The Early Islamic Conquests (Princeton, 1981).
Lapidus, I., A History of Islamic Societies (Cambridge, UK, 1985).
Lapidus, I., Muslim Cities in the Later Middle Ages (Cambridge, MA, 1967).
Morony, M., Iraq after the Muslim Conquest (Princeton, 1983).
Mottahedeh, R., Loyalty and Leadership in an Early Islamic Society (Princeton, 1980).

A History of Islamic Societies is available at the bookstore. The others, along with the other readings, are on three-hour reserve at Helen C. White. If you are unable to find something, ask me before you give up.

Holidays: March 7-15, Spring break. Good Friday/Passover recess: Apr 17-19; Last class day, May 8,

Course Outline and Reading List: (This is a tentative outline that will change once we have a chance to negotiate it).

1 (Jan 22). Introduction.

I. Human Geography and Political Power in the Ancient Middle East.

2 (Jan 24). Physical and Human Geography of the Middle East.

3 (Jan 27). Empires and Imperial Cultures, Societies, and Economies
from Sumeria to Late Antiquity.

4 (Jan 29). The Middle East in Late Antiquity.

5 (Jan 31). Arabia in Late Antiquity: Tribal Politics I.

6 (Feb 3). Discussion.

Reading (full references are in the resources section below).

Donner, F., The Early Islamic Conquests, pp. 12-49.

Hodgson, M. G. S., The Venture of Islam, I, pp. 103-145.

Lapidus, I. M., A History of Islamic Societies, pp. 3-10.

Recommended:

"al-Arab," art., Encyclopedia of Islam, 2nd. ed.

Brown, P., The World of Late Antiquity, pp. 11-21; 96-112; 160-171.

McNeill, W. M., The Rise of the West, pp. 64-84; 110-144.

Shahid, I., "Pre-Islamic Arabia," in The Cambridge History of Islam, vol. I.

Shahid, I., Rome and the Arabs

II. The Early Islamic State

7 (Feb 5). Muhammad I. Prophecy and Power.

8 (Feb 7). Muhammad II. The Creation of the Islamic State.

9 (Feb 10). The Arab Conquests.

10 (Feb 12). The Early Conquest State, Structure, Internal Divisions, Forms
and Practices of Appropriation, Ideology.

11 (Feb 14). Conquest State and Society to the Second Civil War: Tribal
Politics II.

12 (Feb 19) Discussion.

Reading:

Lapidus, A History of Islamic Societies, pp. 11-53.

Cook, Michael, Muhammad.

Donner, F., The Early Islamic Conquests, pp. 43-90.

Recommended:

- Bell, R., Introduction to the Quran.
Crone, P., Meccan Trade and the Rise of Islam.
Gabrieli, F., Muhammad and the Conquests of Islam, pp. 103-104, 143-184.
Gibb, H. A. R., Arab Conquest of Central Asia.
Grabar, O., The Formation of Islamic Art.
Hodgson, M. G. S., The Venture of Islam, I, pp. 145-186.
Ibn Hisham, The Life of Muhammad.
Izutsu, T., Ethico-Religious Concepts in the Quran.
Morony, M., Iraq after the Muslim Conquest.
Pederson, E. L., Ali and Mu'awiya in Early Arabic Tradition.
Rodinson, M., Muhammad.
Watt, W. M., Muhammad at Mecca
Watt, W. M., Muhammad at Medina
Watt, W. M., Muhammad: Prophet and Statesman.
Weber, M., The Sociology of Religion pp. 46-79; also in Economy and Society vol. 1, pp. 439-468.

III. The Islamic Empire

- 13 (Feb 21). The Marwanid Caliphate, 692-750.
14 (Feb 24). The `Abbasid Revolt.
15 (Feb 26). The `Abbasid Caliphate, 750-820.
16 (Feb 28). Discussion.
17 (March 2). State and Society in the `Abbasid Period: Bureaucracy vs. Coalition of Elites.
18 (March 4). Power and Culture: the Court, Imperial Architecture, Urbanism.
19 (March 6). Elite Alienation and Piety.
20 (March 16). Resistance.
21 (March 18). Discussion and Review.

Required:

- Lapidus, I., A History of Islamic Societies, pp. 54-125.
Morony, M., Iraq After the Muslim Conquest.
Grabar, O., The Formation of Islamic Art (handout).

Suggested:

Marwanids:

- Dennet, D. B., Conversion and the Poll-Tax in Early Islam.
Hawting, R., The First Dynasty of Islam, pp. 21-71.
Juynboll, G. H. A., Studies on the First Century of Islamic Society
Kennedy, Hugh, The Prophet and the Age of the Crusades: the Islamic Near East. from the Sixth to the Eleventh Century, pp. 51-123.
Shoufany, E., al-Riddah and the Muslim Conquest of Arabia.
Veccia Vaglieri, L., "The Patriarchal and Umayyad Caliphates," in The Cambridge History of Islam, vol. 1, pp. 57-103.
Wellhausen, J., The Arab Kingdom and Its Fall.
Wellhausen, J., The Religio-Political Factions in Early Islam (Amsterdam and New York, 1975).

`Abbasids:

- Bowen, H., The Life and Times of `Ali Ibn Isa
Crone, P., Slaves on Horseback.
Kennedy, H., The Early `Abbasid Caliphate: a Political History.
Kennedy, H., The Prophet and the Age of the Crusades: the Islamic Near East from the Sixth to the Eleventh Century, pp. 124-211.
Lapidus, I. M., "The Evolution of Muslim Urban Society."
Lassner, J., The Shaping of `Abbasid Rule.
Lassner, J., The Topography of Baghdad in the Early Middle Ages.
Pipes, D., Slave Soldiers, and Islam.
Schacht, J., The Origins of Muhammadan Jurisprudence.

22 (March 20). MIDTERM

IV. Successor States: Collapse of Empire and the Transformation of Ancient Society

- 23 (March 23). The Political Collapse of the `Abbasid Caliphate.
24 (March 23). Successor States and Regional Courts, 945-1092.
25 (March 27). The Turkic movements of peoples, Ghaznavids, and Saljuks: tribal politics III.
26 (March 30). Discussion.

Reading:

- Lapidus, I., A History of Islamic Societies, 126-161, 241-267; 344-358.
Mottahedeh, R., Loyalty and Leadership in an Early Islamic Society.

Recommended:

- Bosworth, C. E., Sistan under the Arabs: from the Arab Conquest to the Rise of the Saffarids.
Bosworth, C. E., The Ghaznavids.
Bulliet, R., The Patricians of Nishapur.
Kennedy, H., The Prophet and the Age of the Caliphates, chap. 12: "Early Islamic Egypt and the Fatimid Empire," pp. 309-345.

V. Power, Culture, and Society in the Middle Period

- 27 (April 1). Outsiders and Political Power: Mamluks, Tribal Peoples, and Political-Military Organization.
28 (April 3). Power and Society in the Middle Period I.
29 (April 6). Power and Society in the Middle Period II.
30 (April 8). The Nature of Political and Social Power: Structure vs. Practice.
31 (April 10). Elites and Practices of Social Control.
32 (April 13). Discussion.

- 33 (April 15). Imagining Politics I: the Sharî'a and the Juridical Theory of Politics.
- 34 (April 20). Imagining Politics II: Neo-Platonic Political Philosophy.
- 35 (April 22). Imagining Politics III: Shi'i Political Theory.
- 36 (April 24). Imagining Politics IV: Ibn Khaldun.
- 37 (April 27). Discussion
- 38 (April 29). Political Culture: Ceremonial, Patronage, and Political Theater.
- 39 (May 1). Power and Urban Form.
- 40 (May 4). Resistance.
- 41 (May 6). Discussion

Readings:

Lapidus, I., A History of Islamic Societies, 181-191.
 Lapidus, I., Muslim Cities in the Later Middle Ages.
 Ibn Khaldun, al-Muqaddima (handout).

Recommended:

Abu Lughod, J., Cairo: 1000 Years of the City Victorious.
 Bagley, F. R. C., al-Ghazali's Book of Counsel for Kings.
Cambridge History of Iran, vol. 4.
 Coulson, N. J., A History of Islamic Law.
 Coulson, N. J., Conflicts and Tensions in Islamic Jurisprudence
 Darke, H., Nizam al-Mulk's Book of Government
 Gibb, H. A. R., "Constitutional Organization."
 Goldziher, I., Introduction to Islamic Theology and Law.
 Goldziher, I., Muslim Studies, 2 vols.
 Hodgson, M. G. S., The Order of Assassins (The Hague, 1955).
 Hodgson, M., The Venture of Islam, II, 3-151; 152-254; 255-268; 272-292.
 Lambton, A. K. S., Theory and Practice in Medieval Persian Government.
 Lapidus, I., Middle Eastern Cities.
 Schacht, J., Introduction to Islamic Law.
 Staffa, S., Conquest and Fusion

- 42 (May 8). Review.

Paper Topics:

Papers are due Friday, April 10, in class.

1. "The career of the prophet Muhammad can only be understood as a response to the social and economic transformation of Mecca caused by changing patterns of world trade." Comment.

Crone, P., Meccan Trade and the Rise of Islam (Princeton, 1987).
 Shaban, M. A., Islamic History: a New Interpretation, vol. I (London, 1971).
 Watt, W. M., Muhammad at Mecca. (Oxford, 1953).
 Watt., W. M., Muhammad at Medina. (Oxford, 1956).

2. Were the Arab conquests directed from Medina as a deliberate policy, or were they haphazard and unplanned? Account for the classical Muslim view, and for disputes among modern scholars. What does this issue tell us about the nature of the early Islamic state?

Donner, F., The Early Islamic Conquests (Princeton, 1981)

Hodgson, M. G. S., The Venture of Islam, vol 1.

Lapidus, I., "The Arab Conquests and the Formation of Islamic Society." in G. H. A. Juynboll ed., Studies on the First Century of Islamic Society (Carbondale Il.

Shaban, M. A., Islamic History: a New Interpretation, vol 1.

3. "The Arab conquests wrought a revolutionary transformation of the social, political, cultural, and economic structures of the ancient Middle East." Do you agree or disagree?

Morony, M., Iraq after the Muslim Conquests (Princeton, 1983).

Grabar, O., The Formation of Islamic Art (New Haven, 1973).

Dennett, D. B., Conversion and the Poll-Tax in Early Islam (Cambridge, MA, 1950).

Lapidus, I., "The Arab Conquests and the Formation of Islamic Society." in G. H. A. Juynboll ed., Studies on the First Century of Islamic Society (Carbondale Il.)

4. "As the Arabs conquered the settled peoples of the Middle East, they were in turn conquered by them." Comment.

Morony, M., Iraq after the Muslim Conquest (Princeton, 1983).

Grabar, O., The Formation of Islamic Art (New Haven, 1973).

Dennett, D. B., Conversion and the Poll-Tax in Early Islam (Cambridge, MA, 1950).

Lapidus, I., "The Arab Conquests and the Formation of Islamic Society." in G. H. A. Juynboll ed., Studies on the First Century of Islamic Society (Carbondale Il.)

5. How did the military elites who dominated the Middle East in the Middle Period exploit the societies they ruled? Were states held together by formal bureaucratic structures and hierarchies? If not, what accounts for the success of ruling groups in administering large complex societies over time?

Lapidus, I., Muslim Cities in the Later Middle Ages (Cambridge, MA, 1967).

Mottahedeh, R., Loyalty and Leadership in an Early Islamic Society (Princeton, 1980).

6. "Muslim cities are not governed by city councils or bureaucratic administrations. Civilian elites had none of the landholdings, charters, or military training that guaranteed the autonomy of urban notables elsewhere. Artisans and craftsmen were without guilds or trade organizations to defend their interests." How did these societies hold together as complex human communities?

Bulliet, R., The Patricians of Nishapur (Cambridge, MA, 1972).

Lapidus, I., Muslim Cities in the Later Middle Ages (Cambridge, MA, 1967).

Bosworth, C. E. The Ghaznavids, (Beirut, 1973) pp. 145-202. 252-268.

7. The written sources on the pre-Ottoman Middle East often express a partial and defective view of politics, and reflect the interests of a single group of literate elites. What can architecture and the planning of cities tell us about relations between power and society that written sources can not?

Grabar, O., The Formation of Islamic Art (New Haven, 1973).

Lassner, J., The Topography of Baghdad in the Early Middle Ages (New Haven, 1973).

Resources in English:

I. General:

Encyclopedia of Islam. The major reference work for the field. Thousands of entries with bibliographies. The first edition, 4 vols and supplement, Leiden 1913-1942, is complete but dated. The second edition, Leiden, 1954, has reached the further reaches of the letter M. Entries are alphabetical, most under their Arabic, Turkish, or Persian word, so if you are looking for Cairo you will be directed to al-Qahira. Ignore the Arabic definite article al-

Cahen, C., Sauvaget's Introduction to the History of the Muslim East A useful guide to the literature, methods, and materials of the field.

The Cambridge History of Iran, IV, The Period from the Arab Invasions to the Saljuks, R. N. Frye ed. (Cambridge, 1975);

The Cambridge History of Iran, V, The Saljuk and Mongol Periods, J. A. Boyle ed. (Cambridge, 1968)

The Cambridge History of Islam, vol. 1, P. Holt, A. Lambton, and B. Lewis eds. (Cambridge, 1970)

Eickelman, D., The Middle East: an Anthropological Approach (Englewood Cliffs, 1981).

Pitcher, D. E., An Historical Geography of the Ottoman Empire (Leiden, 1972).

Robinson, Francis, Atlas of the Islamic World since 1500 (Oxford, 1982).

Roolvink, R., Historical Atlas of the Muslim Peoples (Amsterdam, 1957).

II. Economic History.

Pirenne, H., Muhammad and Charlemagne (New York, 1958).

Havighurst, The Pirenne Thesis, 3rd. ed. (Lexington, MA, 1976).

Byrne, E. H., Genoese Shipping in the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries (Cambridge, MA, 1930).

Udovitch, A., ed., The Islamic Middle East: 700-1900: Studies in Economic and Social History (Princeton, 1981).

Ashtor, E., A Social and Economic History of the Near East (London, 1976).

Richards, D. S., Islam and the Trade of Asia (Oxford, 1970).

Watson, A. M., Agricultural Innovation in the Early Islamic World: The Diffusion of Crops and Farming Techniques, 700-1100 (Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, 1983).

Bulliet, R., The Camel and the Wheel (Cambridge, MA, 1975).

III. The Prophet Muhammad and Late Antique and Early Islamic Arabia.

Andrae, Muhammad: the Man and his Faith, T. Menzel trans. (London, 1956).

Ataya, A. S., A History of Eastern Christianity (London, 1968).

Bell, R., An Introduction to the Qur'an (Edinburgh, 1953).

Bell, R., The Origins of Islam in its Christian Environment (London, 1968)

Brown, P., "Late Antiquity and Islam: Parallels and Contrasts," in B. Metcalf ed., Moral Conduct and Authority: the Place of Adab in South Asian Islam (Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1984).

Brown, P., Religion and Society in the Age of Saint Augustine (New York, 1972).

Brown, P., Society and the Holy in Late Antiquity (Berkeley, 1982).

Brown, P., The World of Late Antiquity (London, 1971).

Burton, J., The Collection of the Qur'an (Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, 1977).

Cook, M., Muhammad (Oxford, 1983).

Crone, P., Meccan Trade and the Rise of Islam (Princeton, 1987).

Izutsu, T., Ethico-Religious Concepts in the Quran (Montreal, 1966).
 Shahid, I., Rome and the Arabs (Washington, 1984).
 Trimingham, J., Christianity and the Arabs in Pre-Islamic Times, 243-286.
 van Ess, J., and Wansbrough, J., book reviews in Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies 43 (1980).
 Weber, M., The Sociology of Religion (Boston, 1963), pp. 46-79; also in Guenther Roth and Claus Wittich eds., Economy and Society vol. 1, pp. 439-468.

IV. The Arab Conquests and the Conquest State.

al-Baladhuri, The Origins of the Islamic State, P. Hitti and E. C. Murgotten trans., 2 vols., (New York, 1916, 1924).
 Donner, F., The Early Islamic Conquests (Princeton, 1981)
 Donner, F., "The Formation of the Islamic State," Journal of the American Oriental Society, 106 (1986), pp. 283-296.
 Lapidus, I., "The Arab Conquests and the Formation of Islamic Society," in G.H.A. Juynboll ed., Studies on the First Century of Islamic Society (Carbondale, Ill.)
 Shoufany, E., al-Riddah and the Muslim Conquest of Arabia (Toronto, 1972).
 Shaban, M. A., Islamic History: a New Interpretation, vol. 1 (London, 1971).
 Morony, M., Iraq after the Muslim Conquest (Princeton, 1983).
 Pederson, E. L., Ali and Mu'awiya in Early Arabic Tradition (Copenhagen, 1984).

V. The Umayyads and Umayyad Opposition Movements.

Because of the unreliability of the written sources, many of the best studies on the Umayyad period are treatments of non-narrative evidence, such as law, dogma, art, and architecture.

Beeston, A. F. L., et al., Arab Literature to the End of the Umayyad Period (Cambridge, 1983).
 Cook, M., Early Muslim Dogma: a Source-Critical Study (Cambridge, 1981).
 Coolson, N.J., A History of Islamic Law (Edinburgh, 1964).
 Cresswell, K. A. C., Early Muslim Architecture (Oxford, 1969).
 Crone, P., and Hinds, M., God's Caliph: Religious Authority in the First Centuries of Islam (Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, 1986).
 Crone, P., Slaves on Horseback (Cambridge, 1980).
 Dennet, D. B., Conversion and the Poll-Tax in Early Islam (Cambridge, Mass, 1950).
 Ettinghausen, R., From Byzantium to Sasanian Iran and the Islamic World: Three Modes of Artistic Influences (Leiden, 1972).
 Goldziher, I., Introduction to Islamic Theology and Law, A. Hamori and R. Hamori trans. (Princeton, 1980).
 Grabar, O., "Islamic Art and Byzantium," Dumbarton Oaks Papers 18 (1964): 113-32.
 Grabar, O., Studies in Medieval Islamic Art (London, 1972).
 Grabar, O., "The Umayyad Dome of the Rock," Ars Orientalis 3 (1959): 33-62.
 Grabar, O., "Umayyad Palaces and the Abbasid Revolution," Studia Islamica 18 (1963): 5-18.
 Grabar, Oleg, and Ettinghausen, Richard, The Art and Architecture of Islam, 650-1250 (Penguin, 1987).
 Grabar, Oleg, The Formation of Islamic Art (New Haven, 1973).
 Hawting, G. R., The First Dynasty of Islam: the Umayyad Caliphate AD 661-750 (Carbondale, IL, 1987).
 Juynboll, G. H. A., Studies on the First Century of Islamic Society (Carbondale, 1982)

Kennedy, H., The Prophet and the Age of the Caliphs: the Islamic Near East from the Sixth to the Eleventh Century (London, 1986).

Wellhausen, J., The Arab Kingdom and Its Fall (Calcutta, 1927).

Wellhausen, J., The Religio-Political Factions in Early Islam (Amsterdam, 1975).

VI. `Abbâsid Empire

Bowen, H., The Life and Times of `Alî Ibn `Isâ, the Good Wazir (Cambridge, 1928).

Daniel, E. L., The Political and Social History of Khurasan under `Abbasid Rule (Minneapolis and Chicago, 1979).

Erhan Y., ed., The Cambridge History of Iran, vol. 3 (Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, 1983).

Kennedy, H., The Early `Abbasid Caliphate: a Political History (London, 1981).

Lapidus, I. M., "The Evolution of Muslim Urban Society," in Comparative Studies in Society and History, XV (1973).

Lapidus, I., "The Separation of State and Religion," International Journal of Middle East Studies, iv, (1975).

Lassner, J., The Topography of Baghdad in the Early Middle Ages (Detroit, 1970).

Lassner, Jacob, The Shaping of `Abbasid Rule (Princeton, 1980).

Omar, F., The `Abbasid Caliphate (Baghdad, 1969).

Schacht, J., The Origins of Muhammadan Jurisprudence (Oxford, 1953).

Shaban, M. A., The `Abbasid Revolution (Cambridge, 1970).

VII. Middle Period Politics, Society, Culture.

Bosworth, C. E., Sistan under the Arabs: from the Arab Conquest to the Rise of the Saffarids (Rome, 1968).

Bulliet, R., The Patricians of Nishapur (Cambridge, MA, 1972).

Cahen, C., Pre-Ottoman Turkey, 1071-1330, J. Jones-Williams trans. (London, 1968).

Dunn, R. E., The Adventures of Ibn Battuta: a Muslim Traveller of the 14th Century (London and Berkeley, 1986).

Gibb, H. A. R., "Constitutional Organization," in M. Khadduri and H. Liebesny eds., Law in the Middle East (Washington, D. C., 1955).

Goitein, S. D., A Mediterranean Society: the Jewish Communities of the Arab World as Portrayed in the Documents of the Cairo Geniza, 4 vols., (Berkeley, 1967-78).

Goldziher, I., Muslim Studies, 2 vols., C. Barber and S. M. Stern eds. (London, 1968-71)

Hodgson, M. G. S., The Order of Assassins (The Hague, 1955).

Hodgson, M. G. S., "The Isma`ili State," in Cambridge History of Iran, V. (Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, 1968)

Ibn Battuta, Travels of Ibn Battuta, H. A. R. Gibb trans., 2 vols. (London, 1969).

Lapidus, I., Muslim Cities in the Later Middle Ages (Cambridge, 1984)

Makdisi, G., "Muslim Institutions of Learning in Eleventh-century Baghdad," Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies, xxiv (1961).

Massignon, L., The Passion of al-Hallaj, 4 vols., H. Mason trans. (Princeton, 1982).

Mez, A., The Renaissance of Islam, trans. Khuda Bakhsh (London, 1937).

Mottahedeh, R., Loyalty and Leadership in an Early Islamic Society (Princeton, 1980).

Pipes, D., Slave Soldiers and Islam: the Genesis of a Military System (New Haven, 1981).

Richards, D. S., ed., Islamic Civilisation, 950-1150 (Oxford, 1973).

Vatikiotis, P., The Fatimid Theory of State (Lahore, 1957).

Vryonis, S., Jr., The Decline of Medieval Hellenism in Asia Minor (Berkeley, 1971).