

CLASS:-11TH,

HISTORY NOTES

CHAPTER:- 4

RISE OF ISLAM

Political Factors of the Caliphates After death of Muhammad in 632 AD –

The biggest innovation for creation of the institution of caliphate are as follows:

a) Umayyads and Polity

- The third caliph, Uthman (644-56) was assassinated and Ali became the fourth caliph
- The rifts among the Muslims deepened after Ali (656-61) fought two wars against those who represented the Meccan aristocracy.
Ali's supporters and enemies later came to form the two main sects of Islam: Shias and Sunnis.
Ali established himself at Kufa and defeated an army led by Muhammad's wife, Aisha, in the Battle of the Camel (657). He was, however, not able to suppress the faction led by Muawiya, a kinsman of Uthman and the governor of Syria.
- The first Umayyad caliph, **Muawiya** became the next caliph in 661, and founded the Umayyad dynasty in 661 which lasted till 750.
- **Muawiya** moved his capital to Damascus and adopted the court ceremonies and administrative institutions of the Byzantine Empire.

b) Abbasid Revolution

- A well-organised movement, called *dawa*, brought down the Umayyads and replaced them with another family of Meccan

origin, the Abbasids (descendants of Abbas, the Prophet's uncle) in 750.

- The Abbasids came to power in 750. The foundation Abbasids dynasty was laid by Abu-ol-Abbas.
- Under Abbasid rule, Arab influence declined, while the importance of Iranian culture increased. The Abbasids established their capital at Baghdad
- The ninth century witnessed the downfall of Abbaside empire, which created space for the emergence of several sultanates

c) **Break-up of the Caliphate and the Rise of Sultanate**

- The Abbasid state became weaker from the ninth century because Baghdad's control over the distant provinces declined, and because of conflict between pro-Arab and pro-Iranian factions in the army and bureaucracy.
- In 810, a civil war broke out-between Amin and Mamun, sons of the caliph Harun al-Rashid.
- From the eleventh to the thirteenth centuries, there was a series of conflicts between European Christians and the Arab states.

7. **Economic factors –**

a) **Agriculture**

- The economic condition of the Islamic world, during medieval period was very prosperous.
- Agriculture was the principal occupation of the settled populations in the newly conquered territories

- **The lands conquered by the Arabs that remained in the hands of the owners were subject to a tax (kharaj), which varied from half to a fifth of the produce, according to the conditions of cultivation.**

- **When non-Muslims started to convert to Islam to pay lower taxes, this reduced the income of the state. To address the shortfall, the caliphs first discouraged conversions and later adopted a uniform policy of taxation.**
- **Agricultural prosperity went hand in hand with political stability**

Islamic law gave tax concessions to people who brought land under cultivation