

# ISLAM AND AL-ANDALUS

Víctor Marín Navarro

<http://labrujuladeltiempo.wordpress.com>

@VictorMarinNav

# THE MIDDLE AGES

The Middle Ages is a historical period that began with the fall of the Roman empire in the 5th century and ended with the start of the Modern Age in the 15th century

The fall of the Roman Empire led to the fragmentation of its territory:

- The Eastern Roman Empire, which became known as the Byzantine Empire, experienced a Golden Age in the 6th century under Emperor Justinian
- The Western Roman Empire was occupied by the Germanic peoples. They established several kingdoms, such as the Visigoths in Hispania

# Europe During Medieval Times

313

## Constantine's Decree

Roman emperor Constantine issues a decree allowing Christians to worship freely, leading to the recognition of Christianity as the official religion of the Roman Empire.



476

## Fall of Rome

The last Roman emperor in the west is driven from his throne, and the western part of the empire dissolves into separate kingdoms.



## About 500–1453 Byzantine Empire

Straddling two continents, Europe and Asia, the Byzantine Empire gives rise to a new church in the east, the Eastern Orthodox Church.



768–814

## Charlemagne's Reign

As ruler of the Franks, Charlemagne unifies nearly all the Christian lands of Europe into a single empire.



1215

## Magna Carta

King John of England accepts Magna Carta, under which he agrees to protect the rights and privileges of nobles.



1337–1453

## Hundred Years' War

The Hundred Years' War, a series of wars between England and France, shifts power from feudal lords to monarchs and common people.



330

## New Capital of the Roman Empire

Constantine moves the capital of the Roman Empire from Rome to Byzantium. The city is renamed Constantinople.



## About 476–1450 Middle Ages

The Middle Ages begin after the fall of Rome, continue through the rise and decline of feudalism, and end with the fall of the Byzantine Empire.



527–565

## Rule of Justinian I

During his reign over the Byzantine Empire, Justinian I rebuilds the city of Constantinople and creates a systematic body of law known as Justinian's Code.



1076

## Excommunication of Henry IV

Henry IV, emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, is excommunicated from the Roman Catholic Church after disputing Pope Gregory VII's decision that kings could not appoint church officials.



1295

## Model Parliament

King Edward I creates the Model Parliament, a governing body that includes commoners, church officials, and nobles.



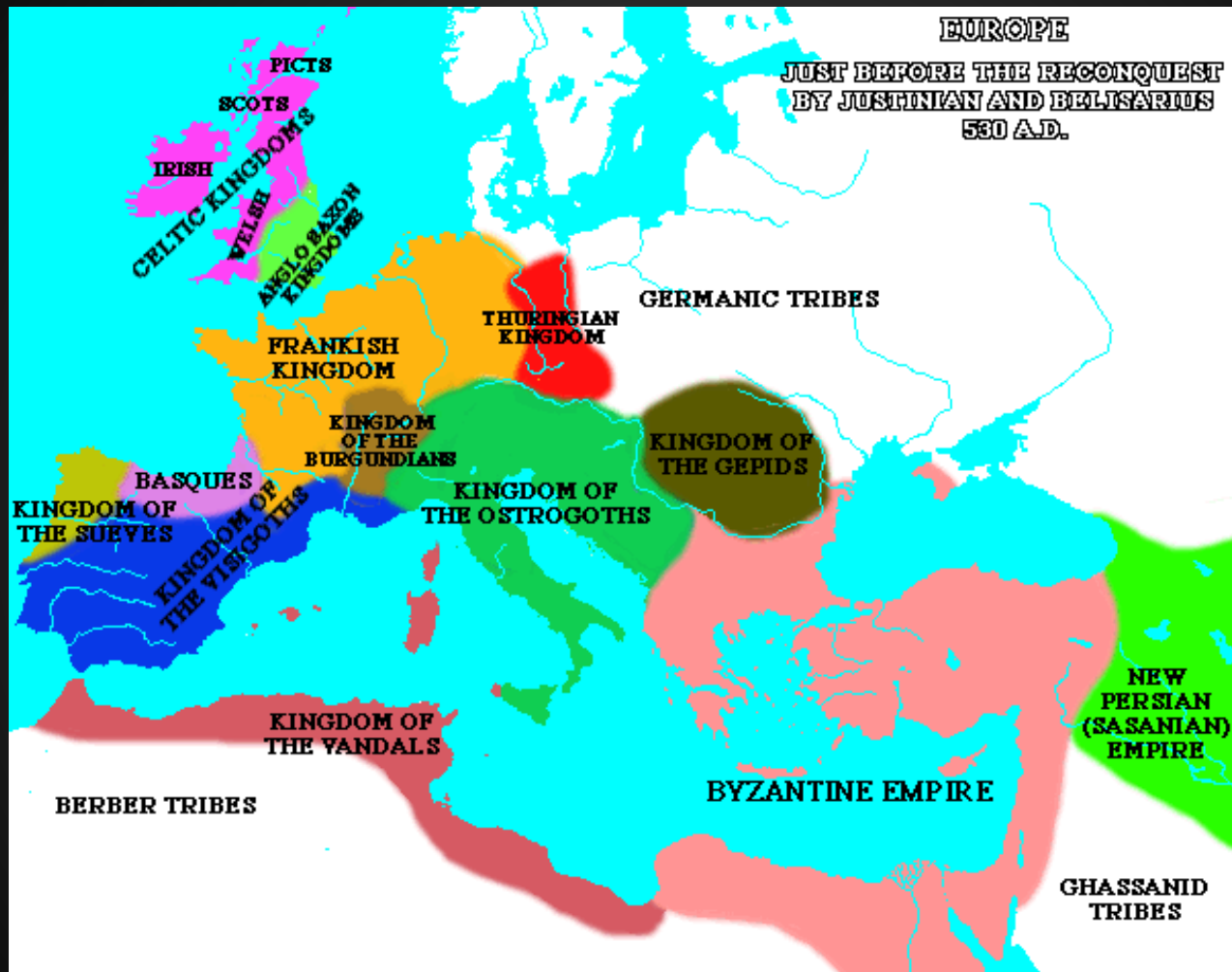
1347

## Bubonic Plague Reaches Europe

The bubonic plague, also known as the Black Death, reaches Europe after sweeping across Asia. The plague forces a shift in power from nobles to the common people.

**EUROPE**

**JUST BEFORE THE RECONQUEST  
BY JUSTINIAN AND BELISARIUS  
530 A.D.**



# The Early Medieval Civilisations

In the 7th century, a new religion called Islam appeared in Arabia. It quickly expanded to the Mediterranean coast and then into Asia and Africa. A new Muslim civilisation developed.

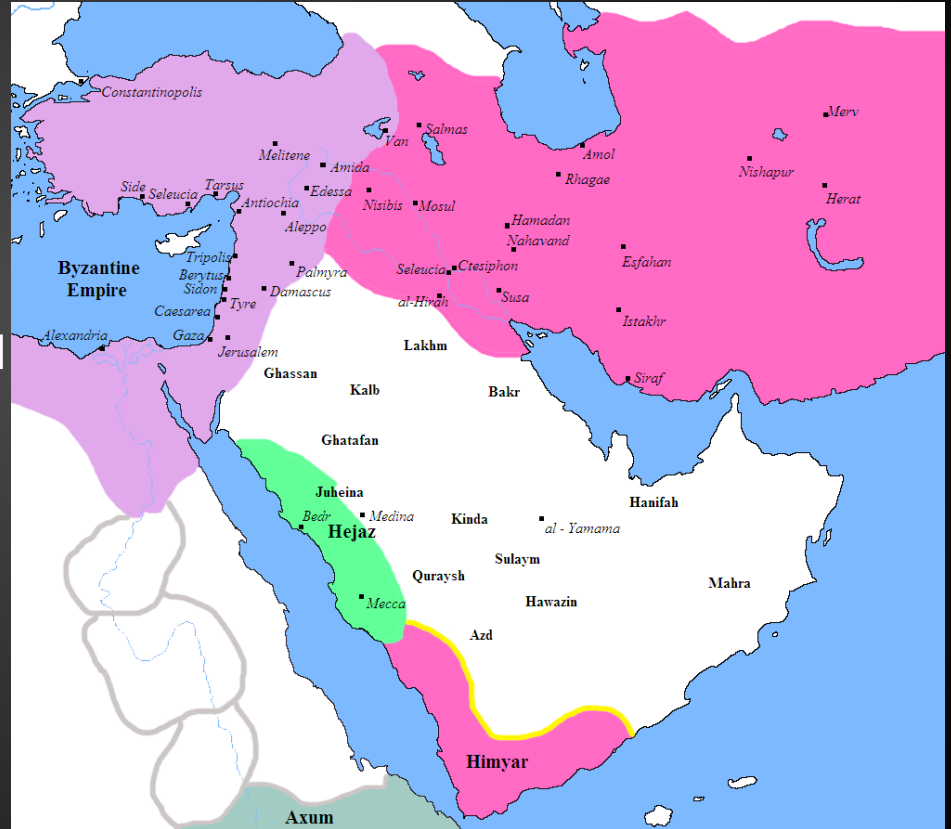
From this moment, the Christians of the West (feudal Europe) and the East (the Byzantine Empire) shared the former territory of the Roman Empire with the Muslims. Together they represented the great civilisations of the Middle Ages.

# The Beginning of Islam

Islam first appeared on the Arabian Peninsula

The Arabs who lived there worked in agriculture and livestock farming, and traded with camel caravans

They believed in many gods. Their main religious centre was Mecca, where they made pilgrimages



# The Beginning of Islam

Muhammad was born in Mecca in 570. He was a very religious man.

Legend says that the archangel Gabriel appeared to him and told him that he was the new prophet of Allah (“God” in Arabic).

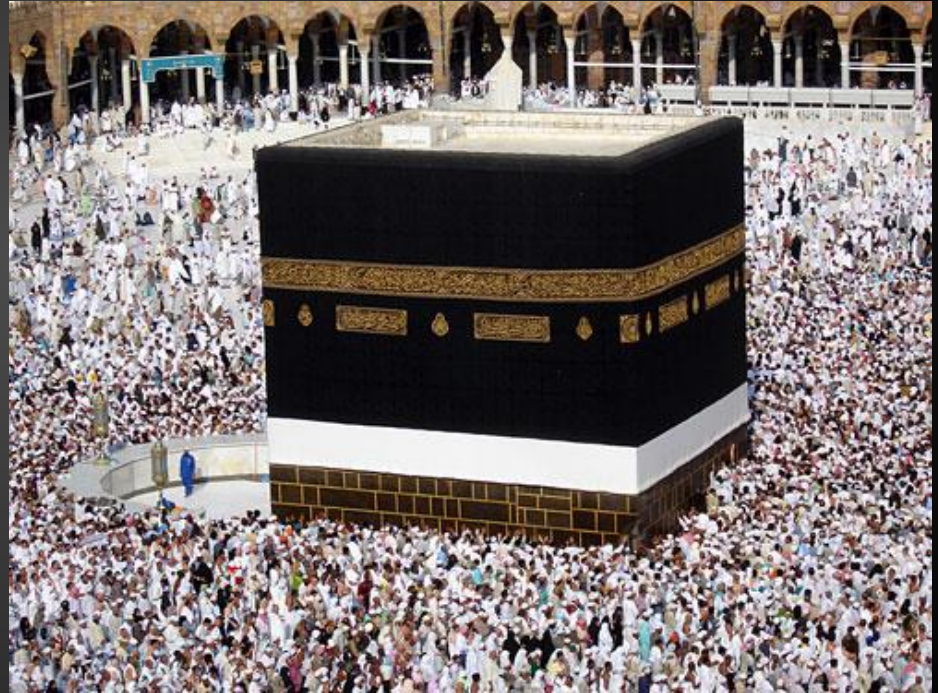
Muhammad began preaching a new religion based on submission to God: Islam. The people of Mecca did not believe Muhammad and he was persecuted.



# The Hijra

In 622, Muhammad escaped from Mecca. He went to the city of Medina. This is known as the Hijra (“flight” in Arabic). It marks the beginning of the Muslim era and the Islamic calendar.

Muhammad converted the people of Medina to Islam. When he died in 632, the majority of Arabs had become Muslims (followers of Islam)



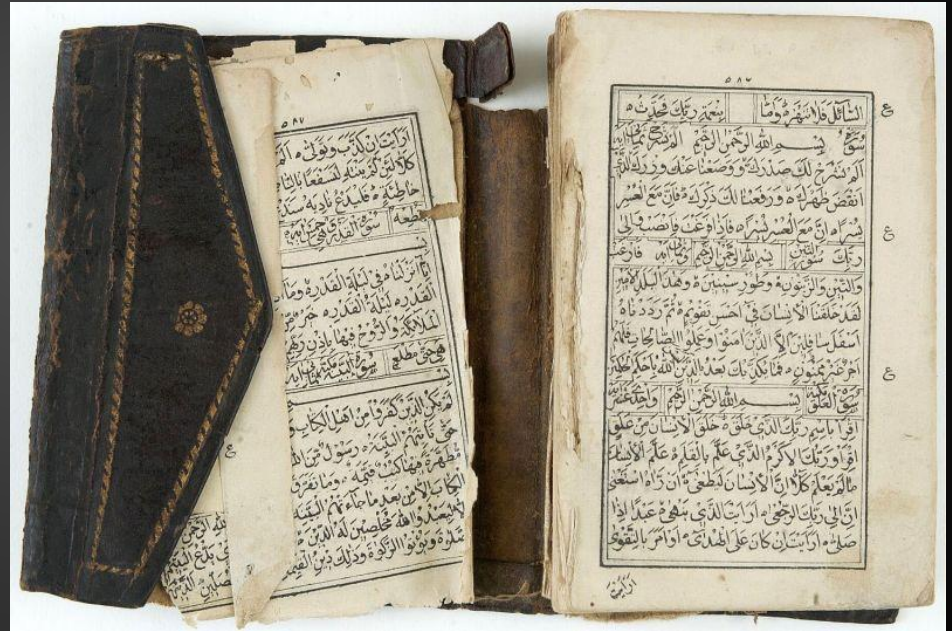


# Islam

The Koran is the sacred book of Islam. It contains the ideas that Allah revealed to Muhammad.

As Islam is a monotheistic religion, Muslims believe that Allah is the only God and that is all-powerful. They believe that Allah sent the Prophet Muhammad to preach the code of conduct that all men should live by.

In Islam, there are preachers (imams), who preach the word of Allah.



# The Islamic Code of Conduct

The main ideas of Islam are:

- Allah is all-powerful and the caliphs represented him on Earth. They controlled politics and religion
- Muslims cannot represent Allah or Muhammad in images
- Muslims must engage in religious struggles called “jihad”
- Allah is the owner of all goods and property. Muslims are required to help each other, to give money to to beggars and to lend money without interest.
- Judges, or qadis, should apply justice as it is described in the Koran



# The Islamic Code of Conduct

- Believe in a single God
- Pray five times in a day
- Fast during the month of Ramadan
- Give money to the needy
- Make pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in a lifetime
- Islam doesn't allow drinking alcohol, eating pork, gambling or betting, dressing immodestly
- Poligamy is allowed



# A mosque

Mosques are places of worship and learning. They are a place for believers to meet. Muslims go to mosques to pray under the direction of an imam.

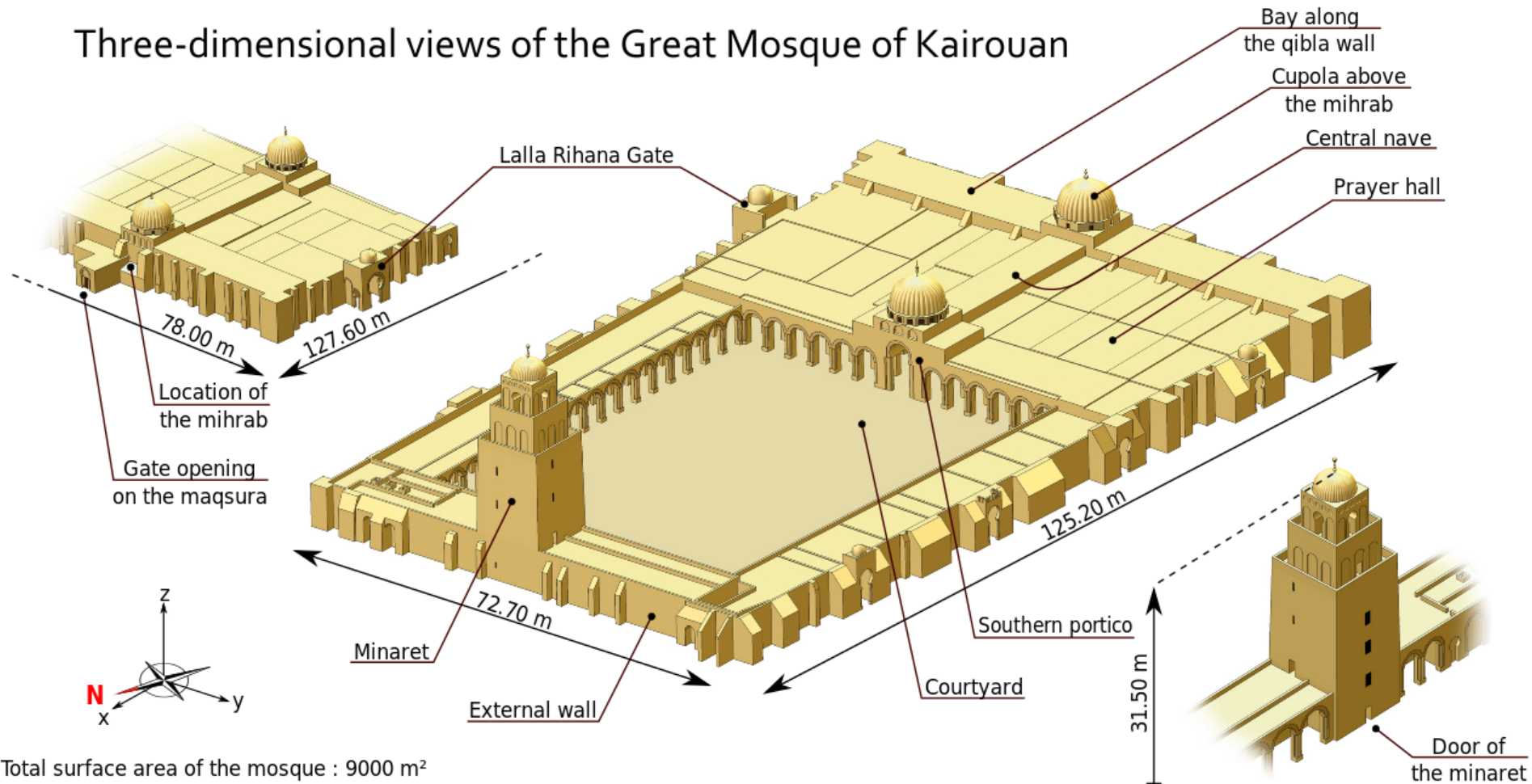
Main parts of a mosque:

- Courtyard: open space surrounded by columns or pillars
- Ablution fountain: for washing and purification
- Minaret: tower used for the call to prayer

- Prayer room
- Mihrab: niche in the qibla wall to show the direction of Mecca
- Mimbar: the pulpit where the imam delivers sermons



# Three-dimensional views of the Great Mosque of Kairouan



Total surface area of the mosque : 9000 m<sup>2</sup>

# The expansion of Islam

## The Umayyad Caliphate of Damascus

- From 661 to 750
- The empire was ruled from Damascus (Syria) by caliphs from the Umayyad family
- The Muslims conquered a vast territory from the Iberian Peninsula to North Africa and the Indus River
- The caliphs held absolute power but they delegated duties to the vizier (prime minister) and the emir (governor)



# The expansion of Islam

## The Abbasid Caliphate of Bagdad

- From 750 to 11th century
- The Abbasids of Baghdad took control from the Umayyads of Damascus
- The Abbasids lost control of parts of their territory, such as al-Andalus, which achieved political and religious independence



# Islam on the Iberian Peninsula: al-Andalus

At the beginning of the 8th century, the Muslims conquered the Iberian Peninsula.

The majority of the conquerors were North African called Berbers, led by an Arab minority. They were managed by Tariq and Muza.

They crossed the Strait of Gibraltar and defeated the Visigoths in the Battle of Guadalete (711).

A few Visigoths and a very small part of the general population fled to the areas of Cantabria and Asturias, which were not conquered by the Muslims





# The Independent Emirate

Al-Andalus became in a province, or a dependent emirate of the Umayyad Caliphate.

But when the Abbasids of Baghdad killed the last Umayyad caliph, the only survivor of the Umayyads, Abd al-Rahman I, took refuge in al-Andalus. In 756, he declared himself emir and gained independence from the Caliphate of Baghdad.

The Independent Emirate experienced a period of economic and cultural development.



# The Caliphate of Cordoba

In 912, Abd al-Rahman III became emir. He governed very well. By 929 he was powerful enough to declare religious independence and appoint himself caliph of al-Andalus. He had absolute power.

The Caliphate of Cordoba was formed and a golden age began. There was stability within al-Andalus, economic development and cultural prosperity.



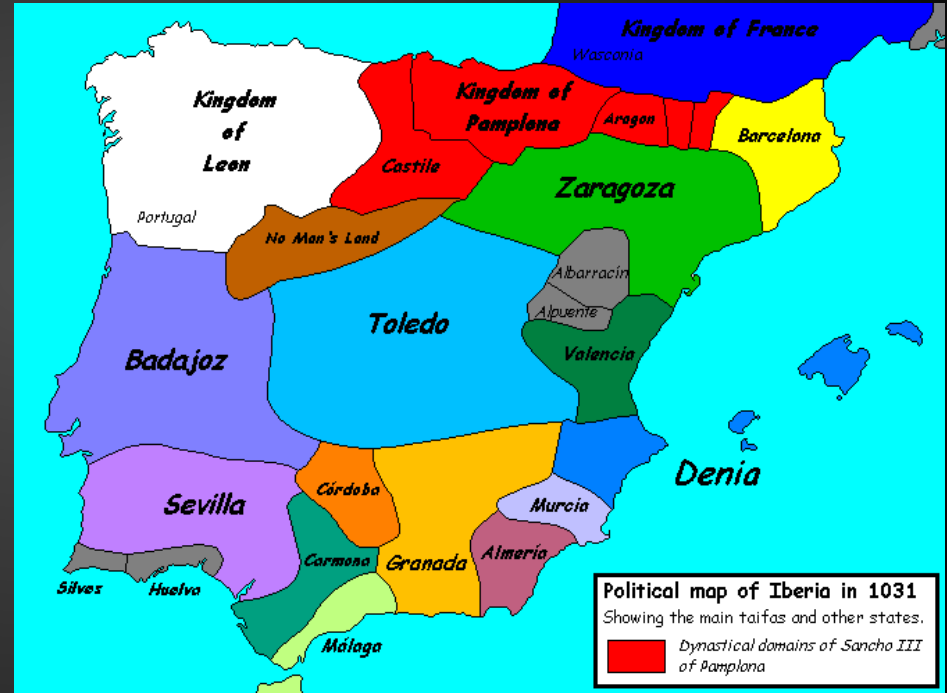
# The Caliphate of Cordoba



# Taifas

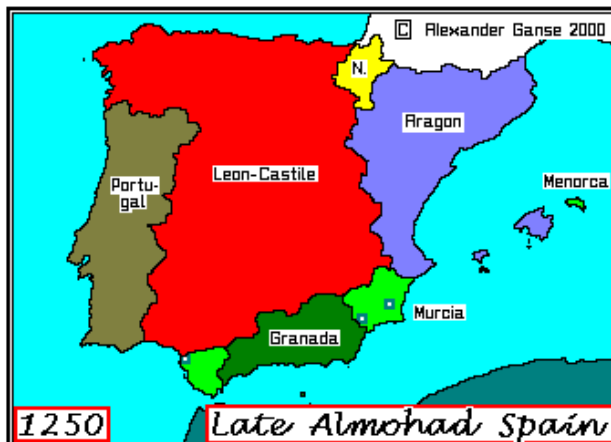
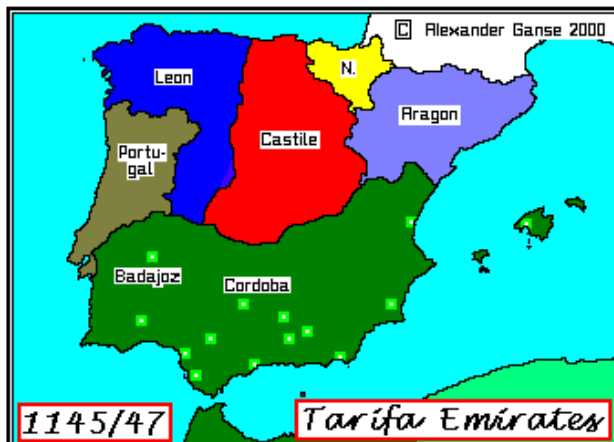
From the year 1008, the Caliphate of Cordoba was no longer unified. Top civil servants, aristocrats and the army fought for power and al-Andalus was divided into 25 kingdoms, called taifas.

Despite help from the North African Almoravid and Almohad armies, almost all of the taifas were conquered by the Christian kingdoms in the 13th century.



# Al Andalus, 1035-1250

- C. Castile
- N. Navarre
- Taifa Emirates



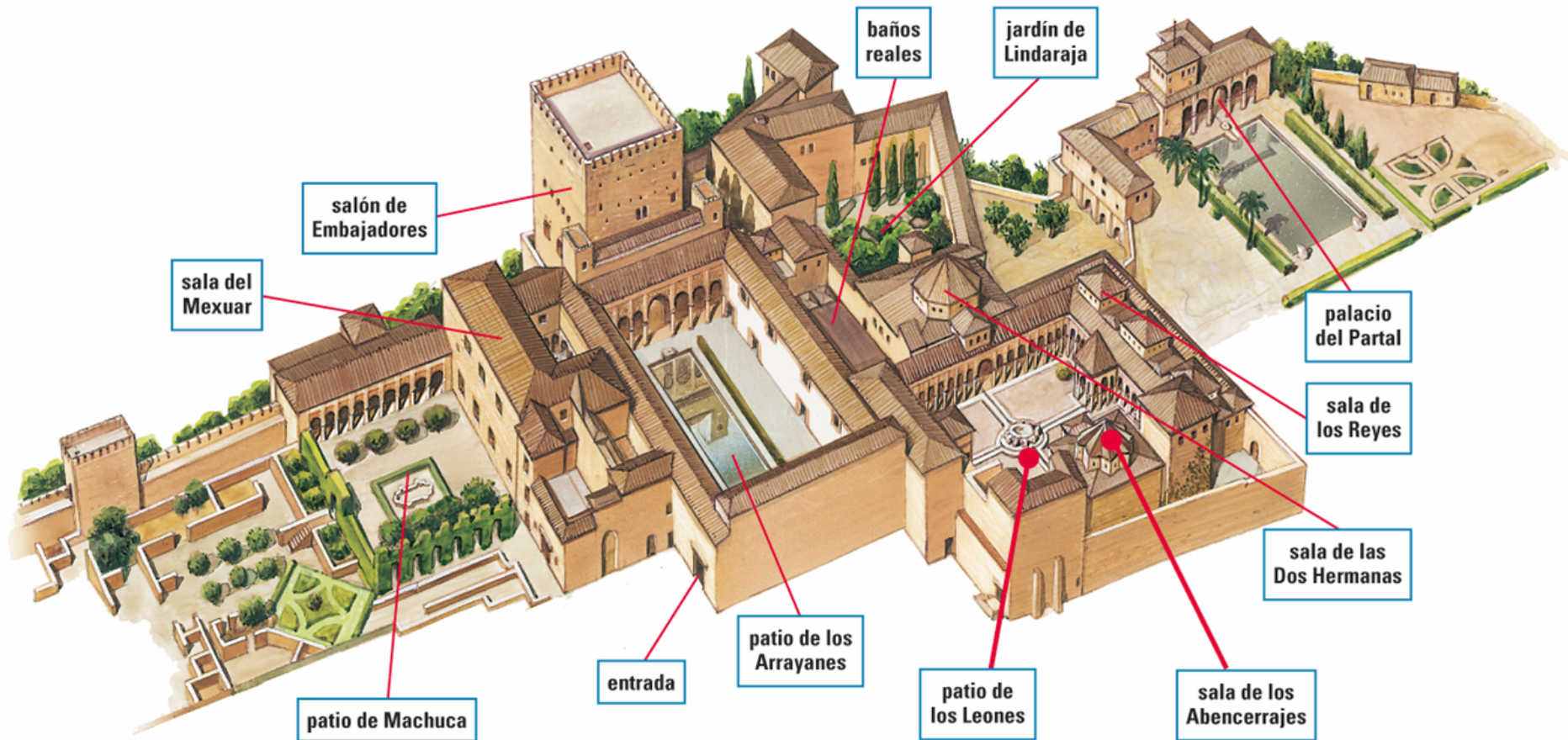
# The Taifa of Granada

The Taifa of Granada was the only taifa to survive, from 1232 to 1492. It included Almería, Granada, Málaga and a part of Cádiz.

The extensive wealth and economic activity of the Taifa allowed it to pay taxes to the Christian kings. This ensured its survival until 1492.

The Alhambra was built in Granada during the 14th and 15th centuries. It was the home of the Nasrid dynasty and it is the best-preserved medieval palace in the world.









# The economy and society of al-Andalus

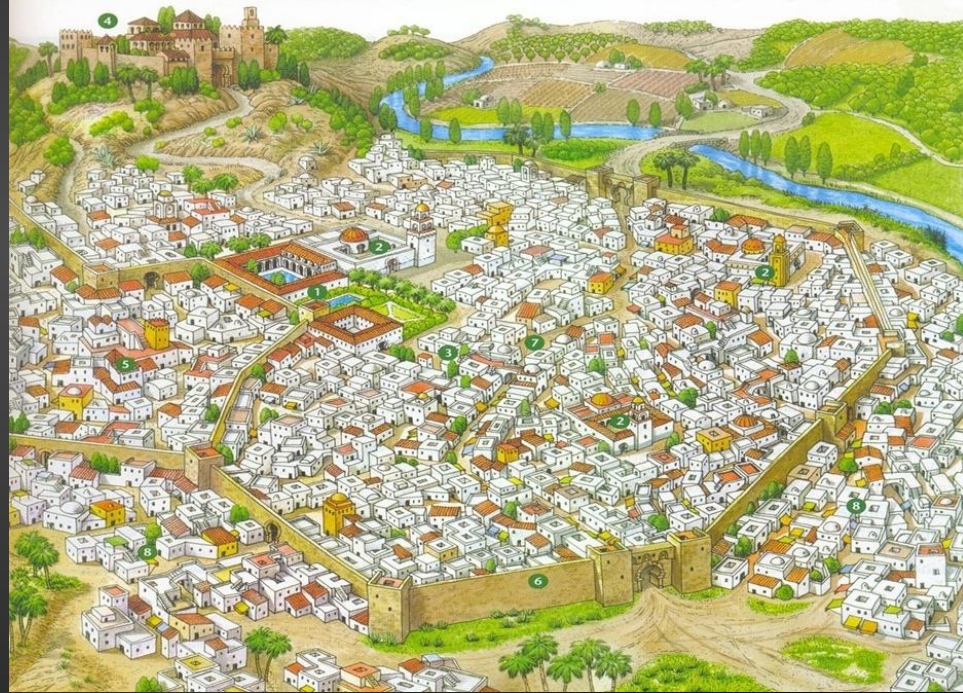
In the Islamic world, the city was the centre of economic activity with markets (souqs) selling all types of products. Moreover, trade and artisan communities were very important.

However, the majority of the population in al-Andalus worked in agriculture:

- They developed irrigation through the use of waterwheels and ditches
- They introduced new crops such as rice, citrus fruits and hemp



# The economy and society of al-Andalus



# The economy and society of al-Andalus

In al-Andalus, society was made up of many cultures and religions. The Muslim population included:

- Arabs. They had political and social power and could own land
- Berbers. They were relatively poor people who worked as shepherds
- Muladi. They were visigoths who had converted to Islam. Most of the population were in this group.

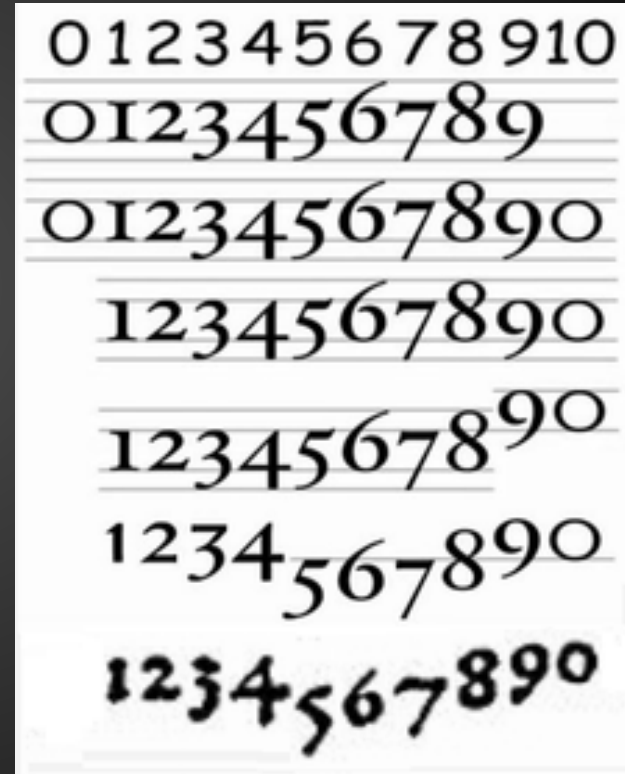
There were also non-Muslim minorities, who paid higher taxes and had fewer rights:

- Mozarabs. They were Visigoths who remained Christian. Many emigrated to Northern Christian kingdoms.
- Jews. They worked as artisans, traders, doctors or scientists.

# Islamic art and culture

The Islamic civilisation was very important.

- Islam encouraged learning a single language, Arabic
- The Muslims introduced Arabic numerals
- Important advances in the fields of medicine, philosophy, engineering, chemistry, mathematics and astronomy



# Islamic art and culture

- As it was forbidden to represent the sacred pictures, sculpture and paintings, the Muslims specialised in architecture and decorative art
- Islamic architecture used bricks
- It included many arches and domes
- The buildings were decorated using marble and mosaics
- The most representative buildings from this period were mosques and palaces



