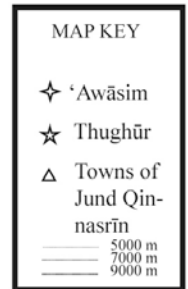


Frontiers and Fortifications

Thinking about the Periphery

The map illustrates the geographical context of the region, highlighting the Taurus Mountains to the north and the Mediterranean Sea to the south. Key locations marked include Tarsus, Adhama, and Antakiya in Cilicia; Ammanus and Kurd DagH in the central region; and various towns and cities such as Mar'ash, Hadath, Zibatra, Malatya, and Kaysūm. The map also shows the Gulf of Issus and the Taurus Mountains. A map key in the bottom right corner provides symbols for 'Awāsim (diamonds), Thughūr (stars), and towns of Jund Qinnasrīn (triangles), as well as elevation markers (5000 m, 7000 m, 9000 m). A compass rose indicates North (N), South (S), East (E), and West (W).



Raqqa – A base for *Jihad*



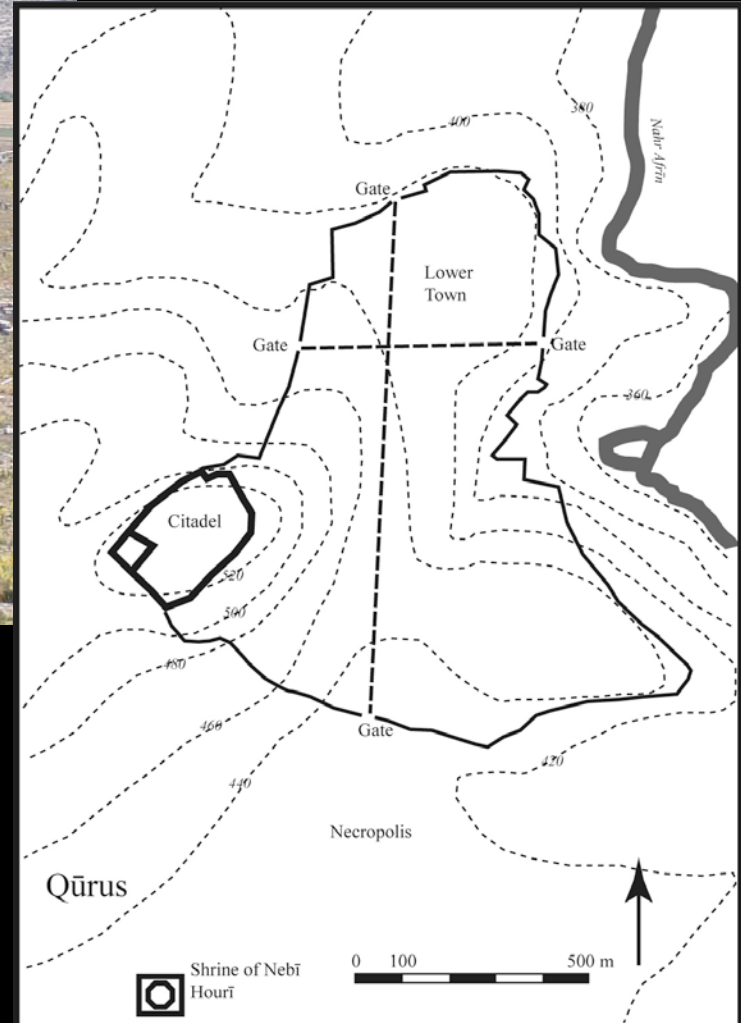
**Final *khutba* (sermon) for the town of Tarsus reported by Abū
‘Amr ‘Uthmān b. ‘Abd Allāh al-Tarsūsī (d. 400/1010)**

O people of Tarsus, I am addressing you, so listen!
This is where God's exalted Book was recited;
From here the expeditions against the Byzantines were launched;
Here is where the whole affair of the frontier towns [*al-thughūr*] had their origin;
Here the Friday congregational worship and the Feasts were celebrated;
This is where those wrapped in supplication took refuge;
This is where those who were restrained and upright would crowd together;
Here delegations would make their way to God;
Here worshipers and ascetics engaged in pious exercises;
(and so it continued with such expressions).

(‘Abbās 1988: 455-6 my translation)



Lower town of Qurus (Cyrrhus) – Northern Syria

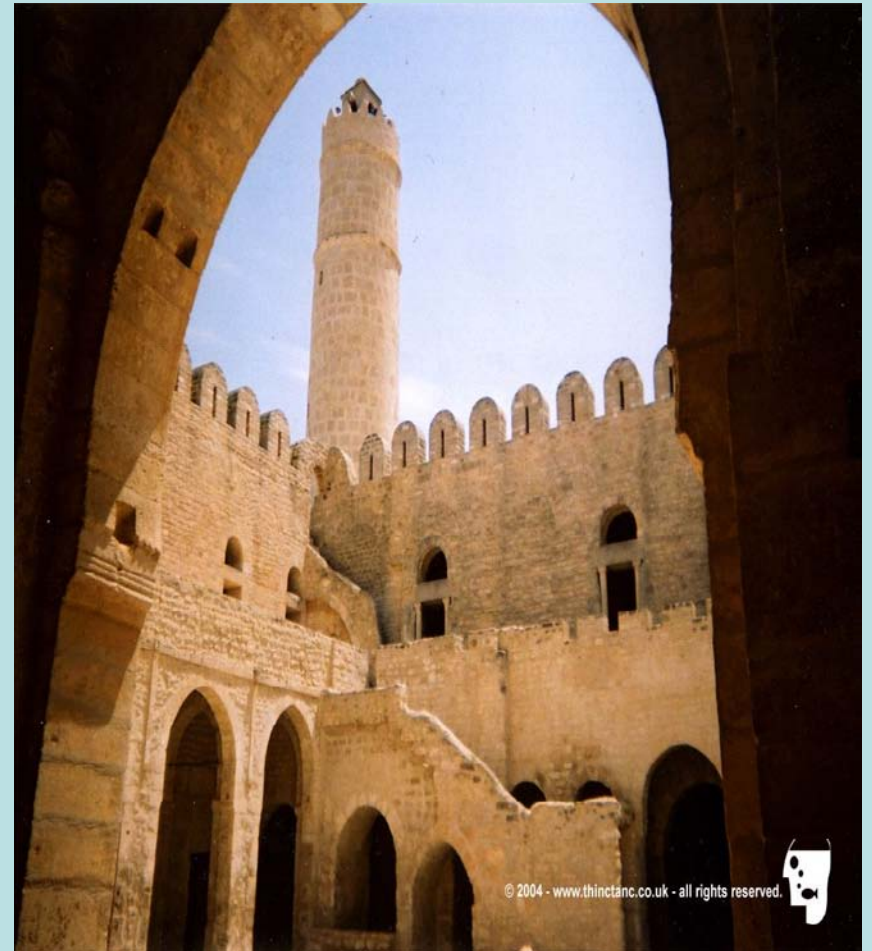


Ribat of Monastir and Sousse

(later period and restoration)



Monastir



Sousse

What is a ribat?

- Does not designate a specific architectural form
- Institution supporting the activities of the *murabit*
 - Seeking *baraka* (divine blessing) by taking up residence on the frontier
 - Engaged in worship and warfare

Identifying the *ribat* archaeologically

- Relating emic institutional typology from the texts with archaeological structures
- No clear distinction of formal attributes between institutional categories:
 - *Husn* (fortress)
 - *Ribat*
 - *Khan* (caravanserai/hostel)
- Focus on activities rather than architecture
- Linkages are tempting but require clear articulation of bridging arguments

Frontiers and Conversion



The Five Ss:

- The Sword
- Settlement
- The Scholars
- The Sufis
- The Soil

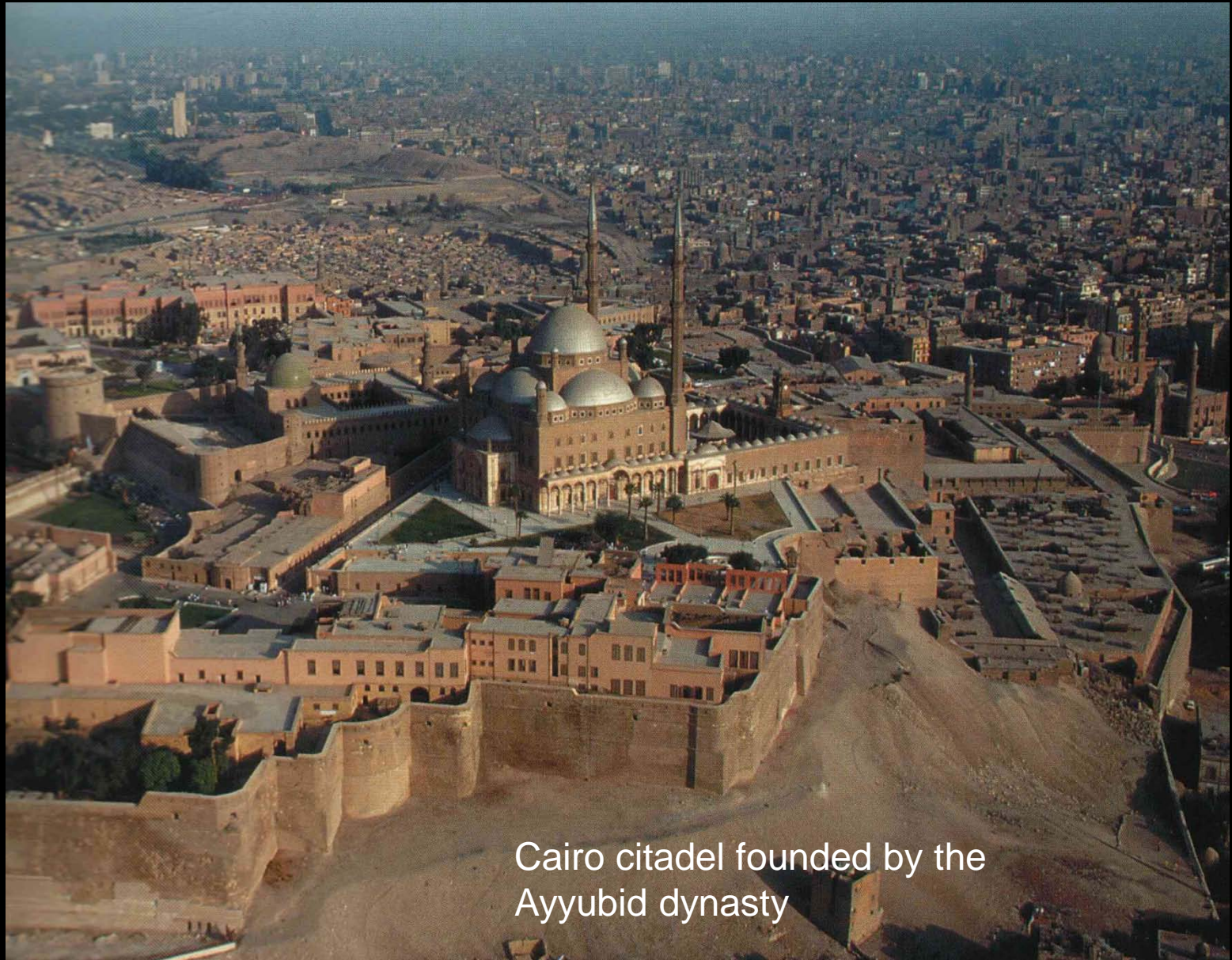
...And the Sixth S:

Syncretism

Citadels (al-qala') and the internal frontier



Entrance gate to the
Aleppo Citadel



Cairo citadel founded by the
Ayyubid dynasty

Al-Andalus

The European Caliphate

The conquest of Spain and Portugal

The Visigothic kings had expelled Byzantine authority from the south of Spain a century earlier and the Byzantines were now limited to the Balearic Islands. Meanwhile the city of Sabta (Ceuta) in northern Morocco had passed, perhaps only nominally, from Byzantine to Visigothic control. The Visigoths had, however, lost their earlier territories in southern France, with the exception of Narbonne and some neighboring cities.

The still largely pagan Basques were in revolt in northern Spain while the Visigothic kingdom itself was wracked by various political, social, and religious tensions. Furthermore, persecution of Iberia's large Jewish community was causing deep disquiet among powerful Jewish Berber tribes in Morocco. This was the situation that Uqbar Ibn Nafi and Musa Ibn Nusayr exploited as, in turn, they pushed westward across North Africa.

This map illustrates the military campaigns of the Umayyad Caliphate into the Iberian Peninsula and North Africa. It shows the progression of Islamic conquest from the Mediterranean coast inland, highlighting key battles and the establishment of the Umayyad dynasty in Cordoba. The map also depicts the extent of Islamic influence beyond the peninsula, including raids into Gaul and Provence, and the eventual loss of Ceuta and Tangier to the Moors.

Legend:

- Islamic territory, c.740
- Christian territory recognizing Islamic sovereignty
- Frankish territory briefly recognizing Islamic sovereignty, or under Islamic occupation

Key Events and Campaigns:

- Campaign of Uqbah Ibn Nafi, 680-3
- Conquest of North Africa by Musa Ibn Nusayr, 695-705
- Conquest of Iberian peninsula by Tariq Ibn Ziyad and Musa Ibn Nusayr (711-14), Abd al-Aziz Musa (713-14), al-Hurr Ibn Abd al-Rahman and al-Samh Ibn Malik (716-21)
- Raid into Aquitaine and Frankish Provence/Gaul, 614-32

Geographical Labels:

- Gaul
- Aquitaine
- Provence
- Pyrenees
- Mediterranean Sea
- Balearic Islands (Byzantine empire until c.900, then occupied by Muslims)
- Iberian Peninsula
- Atlantic Ocean
- Alboran Sea
- North Africa

Major Cities and Regions:

- Lyon
- Toulouse
- Narbonne
- Barcelona
- Valencia
- Seville
- Cordoba
- Granada
- Malaga
- Guadalquivir
- Ecija 711
- Guadalete 711
- Tangier
- Sabta (Ceuta)
- Melilla
- Fez
- Wali
- Oum el-Bila
- Ribat Shakir
- Aghmat
- Qud
- Coimbra
- Santarem
- Lisbon
- Evora
- Merida
- Toledo
- Talavera
- Guadajajara
- Zaragoza
- Huesca
- Gerona
- Avignon
- Dijon
- Langres
- Sens
- Jong
- Orleans
- Poitiers
- Poitiers 732
- Amaya
- Leon
- Gijón
- Oviedo

Other Labels:

- Bay of Biscay
- Douro
- Tagus
- Guadiana
- Gulf of Cadiz
- Tehuaca 683

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A map of the Asturian region in northern Spain. The Bay of Biscay is labeled at the top right. The region is labeled 'ASTURIAS'. A red line indicates a route starting from Gijón, passing through Oviedo, Astorga, León, and Amaya. The map shows the coastline and some inland features.




Walli was the ancient Roman colony town of Volubilis

Walli

Fez

This map shows the location of Walli (ancient Roman colony town of Volubilis) and Fez. A green arrow points from the text 'Walli was the ancient Roman colony town of Volubilis' to the location of Walli. A dotted green line runs along the coast, and a solid green line runs inland. The terrain is depicted with brown and green shading.

A map of the Oum el Khna region. A green area represents the Oum el Khna area. A dotted line runs through it. A solid line runs along the bottom. A dashed line runs along the right. A small area is labeled 'Oud'. Two points are marked with dots: 'Ribat Shakir' and 'Aghmat'. 'Aghmat' is located south of 'Ribat Shakir' and west of 'Oud'.

-  Islamic territory, c.740
-  Christian territory recognizing Islamic sovereignty
-  Frankish territory briefly recognizing Islamic sovereignty, or under Islamic occupation

- campaign of Uqbah Ibn Nafi, 680-3
- conquest of North Africa by Musa Ibn Nusayr, 695-705
- conquest of Iberian peninsula by Tariq Ibn Ziyad and Musa Ibn Nusayr (711-14), Abd al-Ayyi Musa (713-14), al-Hurr Ibn Abd al-Rahman and al-Samh Ibn Malik (716-21)
- raids into Aquitaine and Frankish Provence/Gaul, 614-32

The Ta'ifa kingdoms of Iberia, c.1035

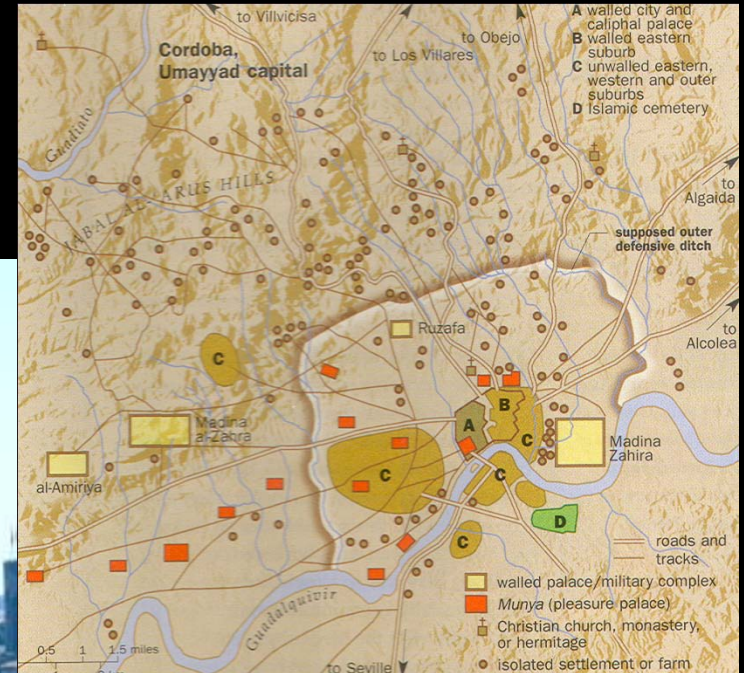
Ta'ifa states with year of breakaway from central rule, where known

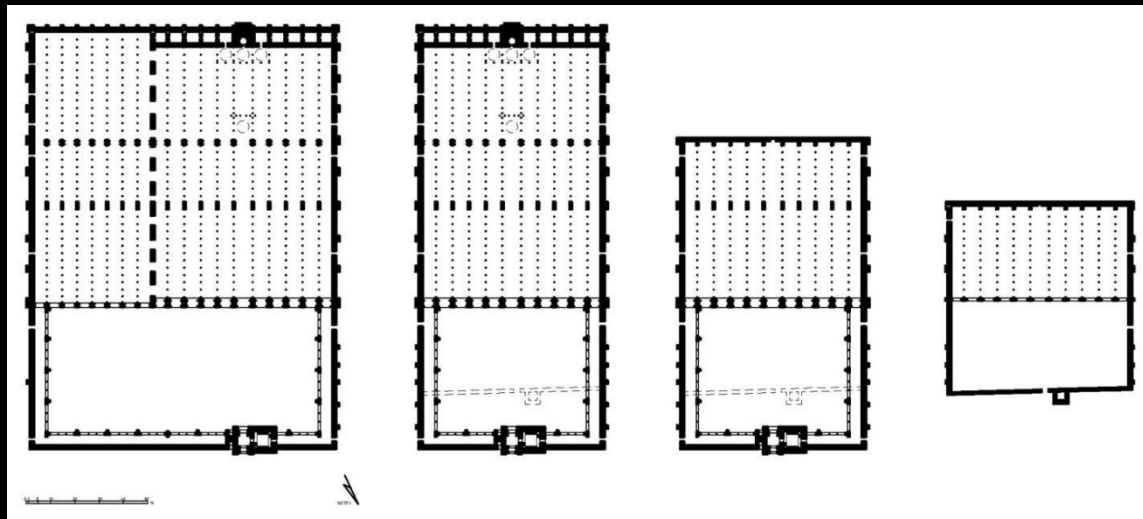
- 1 Badajoz 1012
- 2 Toledo 1036
- 3 Saragossa 1017
- 4 Lérida
- 5 Tortosa
- 6 Albarracin 1010
- 7 Alpont
- 8 Valencia 1016
- 9 Denia 1009
- 10 Almería 1012
- 11 Granada 1012
- 12 Málaga
- 13 Córdoba 1031
- 14 Seville 1023
- 15 Silves 1048
- 16 Algarve
- 17 Huelva 1012
- 18 Mértola
- 19 Niebla 1023
- 20 Carmona 1013
- 21 Morón 1013
- 22 Arcos
- 23 Ronda 1034
- 24 Algeciras 1035



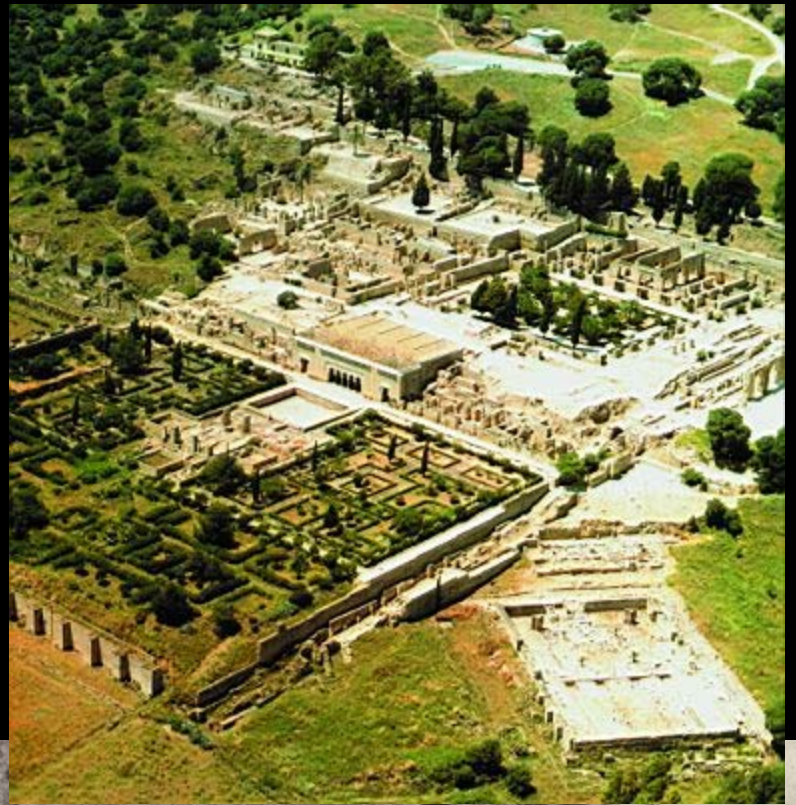
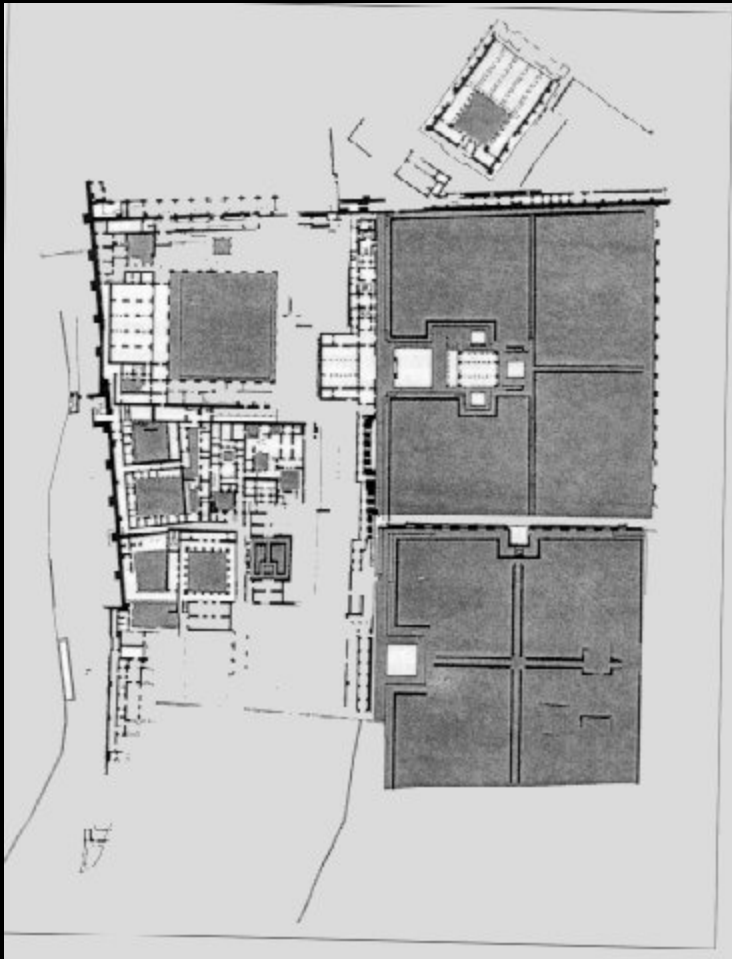


Syria in the Iberian Peninsula: The Umayyad rebuilding





The *Madinat al-Zahra* (936-978): Outside of Cordoba, Spain, founded by Abd al-Rahman III, the first Umayyad to declare himself a caliph. Its "Salon Rico" has a basilical plan and overlooks a huge pool to the south.



The Hisn/Qarya Complex

Ares



Morella



The Alhambra Palace - Granada

