

# Orienting Questions for the early Caliphate

- Is there a state that emerges from the Medinan society of the Prophet?
- Why the conquests? Is there something wrong with Arabia? Is this what states do?
- What are the consequences of the conquests? Was it worth it?
- What are the factions that emerge? Are these divisions unavoidable?

# Emerging Socio-Political Factions

- Quraysh elites
- Kharajites
- Qurra' (preference of *sabiqa*)
- Ashraf
- Sahaba

# Challenges for the Umayyad Dynasty (661-750 CE)



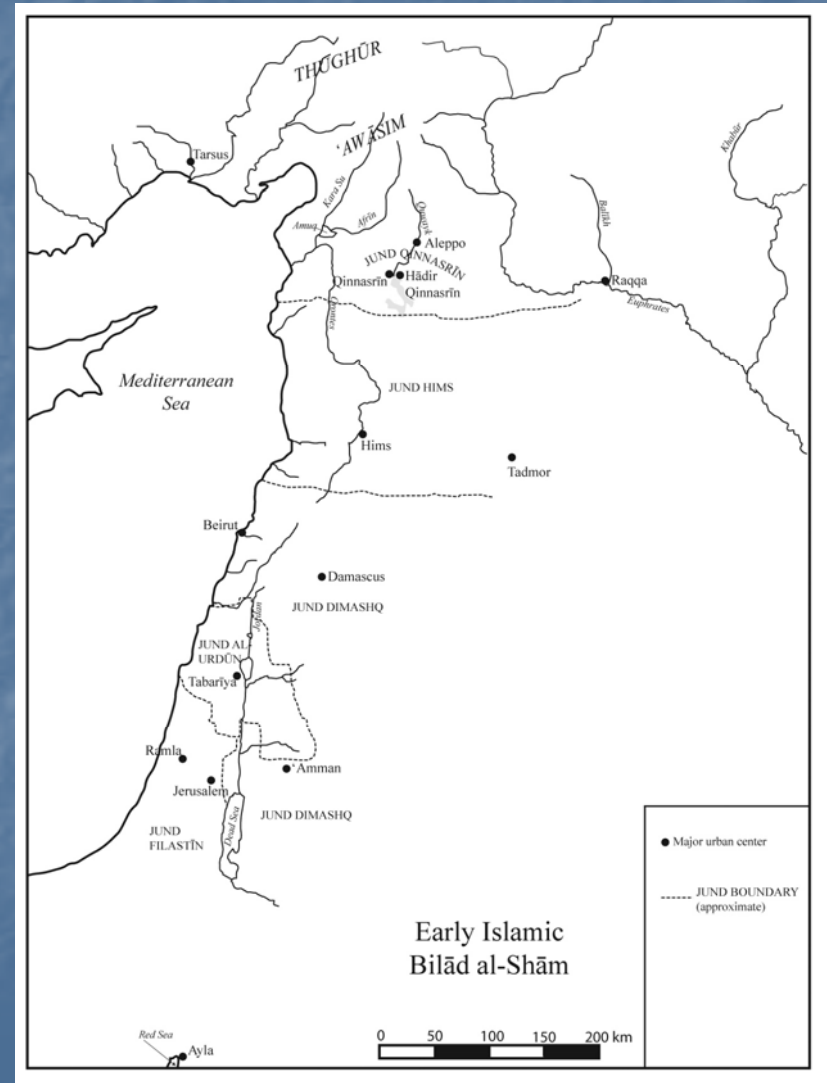
Dome of the Rock - Jerusalem



# Challenges for the Umayyad Dynasty (661-750 CE)

- Syria v Iraq
- Consolidation and Administration of Empire and Territory
- Managing the Tribes - Qays/Mudar v. Yaman
- Establishing dynastic Succession
- Maintaining the conquests
- Cultural assimilation

# Why Syria?



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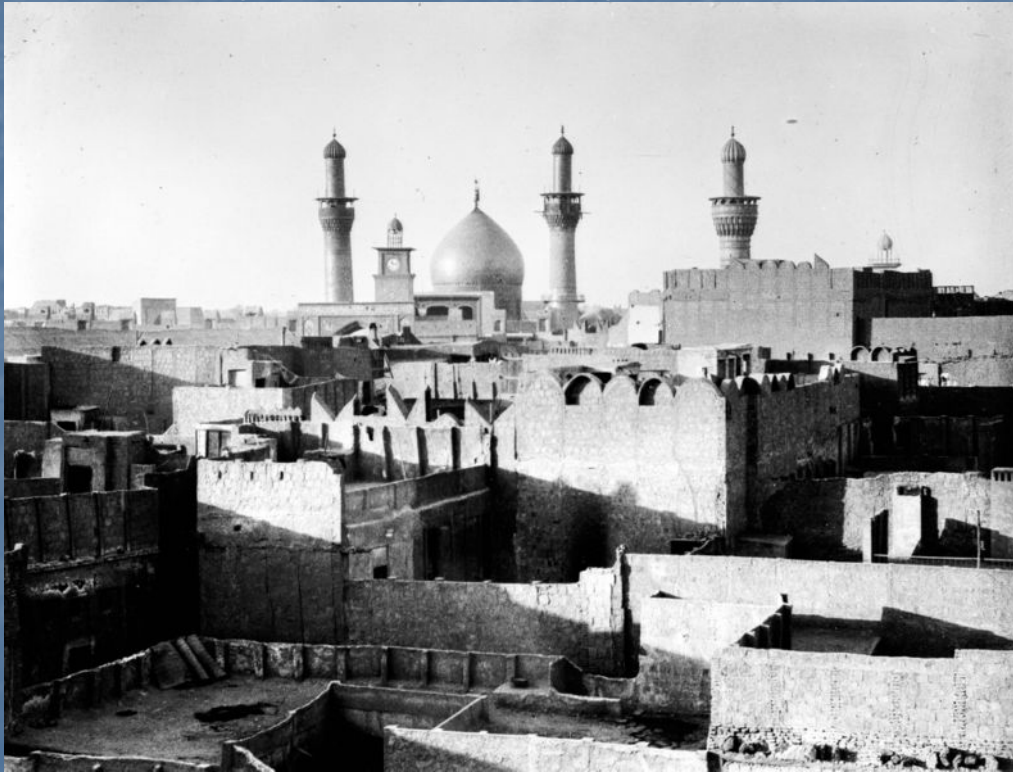
Jerusalem Medallion from the  
Madaba Mosaic Map, 7<sup>th</sup> c,  
Jordan

- Arab Cultural Ties
- It's not Iraq
- Byzantine Legacy
- The Holy Land



# Emergence of Iraqi Discontent

Grand mosque of Karbala honoring  
the martyrdom of al-Husayn



- Ahl al-Bayt v. The house of Bani Umayya
- Emergence of the *ashraf*
- Beginnings of the *Shia*
- The pesky *kharijites*

# Towards an Imperial Social Order

- Direct v Indirect rule
- Those without a tribe – *dhimmi* and *mawali*
- The economics of the Muslim polity
  - Taxation
  - Land tenure
  - The spoils of conquest



# Trouble with the Tribes

- Political parties or the tribe as usual?
- Maintaining Arab hegemony in the face of imperial expansion
- A share in prosperity – scarcity breeds discontent
- Succession is tricky business

# Assessing the Umayyads – Imperial Immaturity or Foundations for the Future?



Umayyad Royal Scene from the  
baths at Qusayr 'Amra, Jordan



# Assessing the Umayyads

- Centralization and social unification
- Institution building
- Cultural production
- Territorial Expansion/Spread of Islam