



Caliphates

History Study Guide Version 3.1

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Caliphates are political entities that claim to be successors to Muhammad.

Caliphate	Period	Details
Rashidun	600s CE	also called the Rightly-Guided Caliphs ; group of the first four caliphs to rule after Muhammad's death, starting with Abu Bakr ; ended with the First Fitna , an internal conflict resulting from the assassination of Uthman and that lasted through the reign of Ali
Umayyad	600s-700s	capital at Damascus ; founded by Muawiyah after the First Fitna; Abd al-Rahman was defeated at the Battle of Tours by Charles Martel in 732 while invading Gaul; included internal conflict between groups called the Sufyanids and Marwanids
Abbasid	700s-1500s	capital at Baghdad ; defeated the Tang dynasty at the Battle of Talas (Battle of the Talas River); defeated by Hulagu Khan , who destroyed their House of Wisdom during the sack of Baghdad; Caliph Harun al-Rashid sent a water-powered clock to Charlemagne as a diplomatic gift
Fatimid	900s-1100s	based in Egypt ; named for claiming descent from Fatima, a daughter of Muhammad; defeated the First Crusade; Al-Hakim, sometimes nicknamed the "Mad Caliph," destroyed the Church of the Holy Sepulchre