Islamic World

CIRCA 570
Prophet Muhammad is born in Mecca

610
Prophet Muhammad receives first revelations of the Qur'an in Mecca

622
Prophet Muhammad migrates from Mecca to Medina; Hijra marks beginning of Islamic calendar

632
Prophet Muhammad dies

638–42
Muslim armies expand into modern-day Syria, Palestine, Lebanon, Iraq, Iran, and North Africa

661–750
Damascus is capital of new Umayyad dynasty

691–92
Umayyad caliph Abd al-Malik builds Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem

711
Muslims enter Spain and India

750
Abbasid dynasty is established

762
Baghdad is founded as new Abbasid capital

CIRCA 751
Paper-making techniques are introduced from China

800
Harun al-Rashid becomes Abbasid caliph; his court is setting for *One Thousand and One Nights*

900–950
Arab Spain emerges as center of learning under Abd al-Rahman III

969
Fatimids conquer Egypt and make Cairo their capital

1071
Seljuqs defeat Byzantines at Battle of Manzikert in Anatolia

1099
European Crusaders take Jerusalem from Muslims

1187
Salah al-Din reconquers Jerusalem from the Crusaders

1258
Mongols sack Baghdad, bringing down the Abbasid dynasty

1291
Mamluks conquer last Crusader state in the Levant

1363–65
Ottoman armies expand into Bulgaria and Thrace

1370
Timur (Tamerlane) founds the Timurid dynasty and later conquers Iran, Iraq, Armenia, Central Asia, and northern India

1460
Construction begins on the Topkapı Palace in Istanbul

1453
Ottoman Sultan Mehmed II conquers Constantinople and changes its name to Istanbul

1492
Muslim rule ends in Spain when King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella retake Granada

1501
Isma'il I establishes the Safavid dynasty in Iran

1514
Ottoman Sultan Selim I defeats Shah Isma'il of Iran at Battle of Chaldiran

1517
Ottomans capture eastern Anatolia, Syria, Egypt, and Arabia from Mamluks

1520
Süleyman the Magnificent becomes sultan of Ottoman Empire

1556
Akbar recognized as Mughal emperor of India

1571
Coalition of European Catholic states defeats Ottomans at naval battle of Lepanto

1611
Construction begins on the Masjid-i Shah in Isfahan, Iran

1616–19
Sultan Ahmed I builds the "Blue Mosque" in Istanbul

1632
Construction begins on the Taj Mahal in Agra, India

1682–83
Austrian-Polish army defeats Ottomans at second siege of Vienna, Austria

1710–11
War with Russia ends with Ottoman victory over Peter the Great

1722
Safavid Empire falls

1756
Fire destroys much of Istanbul

500 | 600 | 700 | 800 | 900 | 1000 | 1100 | 1200 | 1300 | 1400 | 1500 | 1600 | 1700 | 1800

Global Context

537
Justinian I rebuilds and refurbishes the Hagia Sophia in Constantinople

CIRCA 600
Book printing begins in China

618
Tang dynasty takes power in China

732
Charles Martel defeats Muslim armies at Battle of Tours in France, halting westward expansion of Islam in Europe

756
Umayyad prince Abd al-Rahman escapes Abbasids and establishes Arab rule in Spain (al-Andalus)

800
Charlemagne is crowned Holy Roman Emperor

CIRCA 900
Vikings settle Greenland

1054
Schism occurs between Eastern and Roman churches

1066
William of Normandy invades England and triumphs at Battle of Hastings

1117
University of Oxford is founded in England

CIRCA 1200
Inca Empire formed in South America

1202
Arabic numerals introduced to Europe

1206
Ghengis Khan establishes Mongol Empire

1215
King John signs the Magna Carta

1271
Marco Polo leaves Venice, Italy, on a mission to China

1324
Mansa Musa, leader of the Mali Empire in Africa, makes a pilgrimage to Mecca

1337
Hundred Years War begins in Europe

1347–53
Bubonic plague decimates Europe

1368
Zhu Yanzhang establishes Ming dynasty in China

1440
Montezuma I is recognized as ruler of Aztecs in Mesoamerica

1450
Florence, Italy, emerges as center of Renaissance arts and learning

1453
Johannes Gutenberg produces first Bible on printing press

1492
Christopher Columbus lands in the New World

1517
Martin Luther posts his Ninety-five Theses, sparking the Protestant Reformation

1537
Qur'an first printed in Venice, Italy

1556
Elizabeth I crowned queen of England

1606
European mariners sight Australia

1607
Jamestown founded as first permanent English settlement in North America

1611
First publication of King James Bible

1666
Great Fire of London destroys much of the city

1682–83
Louis XIV expands Versailles as seat of political power in France

1757
British Empire expands into India

1776
Declaration of Independence signed

1789
French Revolution begins

1790
Washington, D.C., selected as capital of the United States