# HISTORY OF THE ARABS

FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES TO THE PRESENT



# PHILIP K. HITTI

EIGHTH EDITION

PAPERMAC 37

35s net

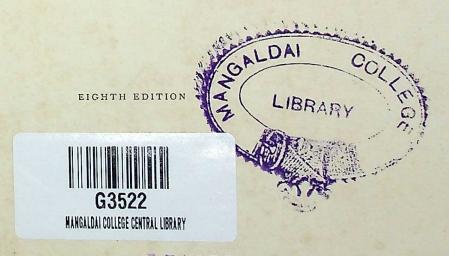
# HISTORY OF THE ARABS

FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES
TO THE PRESENT

BY

# PHILIP K. HITTI

PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF SEMITIC LITERATURE PRINCETON UNIVERSITY



# MANGALDAI COLLEGE

LONDON
MACMILLAN & CO LT LIBRARY
NEW YORK · ST MARTIN'S PRESS No 3522

Class No 953

Book No 117

This book is copyright in all countries which are signatories to the Berne Convention

First Edition 1937
Second Edition 1940
Third Edition 1943, Reprinted 1946
Fourth Edition 1949
Fifth Edition, enlarged, 1951, Reprinted 1953
Sixth Edition 1956, Reprinted 1958
Seventh Edition 1960, Reprinted 1961
Eighth Edition 1963
Reprinted 1964

MACMILLAN AND COMPANY LIMITED

St Martin's Street London WC2

also Bombay Calcutta Madras Melbourne

THE MACMILLAN COMPANY OF CANADA LIMITED 70 Bond Street Toronto 2

ST MARTIN'S PRESS INC 175 Fifth Avenue New York 10 NY

# CONTENTS

# PART I

# THE PRE-ISLAMIC AGE

# CHAPTER I

THE ARABS AS SEMITES: ARABIA THE CRADLE OF THE SEMITIC	PAGE
RACE	3
Claims on our interest—Modern explorations—Ethnic relationship: the Semites—Arabia, the cradle of the Semites.	
CHAPTER II	
THE ARABIAN PENINSULA	14
The setting of the stage—Climatic conditions—Vegetation—The date-palm—Fauna—The Arabian horse—The camel.	
CHAPTER III	
	00
BEDOUIN LIFE	23
The nomad—Razzia—Religiousliess—The clair— Mydolyan—The shekii.	
CHAPTER IV	
EARLY INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	30
South Arabians—I. Relations with Egypt—Sinaitic copper—Frankin-cense—2. Relations with the Sumerians and Babylonians—3. Assyrian penetration—4. Neo-Babylonian and Persian relations: Taymā'—5. Contacts with the Hebrews—Biblical association: Old Testament references—6. In classical literature—Roman expedition—The aromatic land—Gold.	
CHAPTER V	
THE SABAEAN AND OTHER STATES OF SOUTH ARABIA	49
The South Arabians as merchants—South Arabic inscriptions—1. The Sabaean kingdom—Ma'rib dam—2. The Minaean kingdom—3. Qatabān and Hadramawt—4. The first Himyarite kingdom—The Semitic origin of the Abyssinians—The castle of Ghumdān—The Romans displace the Arabians in maritime trade—5. The second Himyarite kingdom—Christianity and Judaism in al-Yaman—The period of Abyssinian rule—The breaking of Ma'rib dam—The Persian period.	
vi	

CHAPTER VI	
THE NABATAEAN AND OTHER PETTY KINGDOMS OF NORTH	PAGE
AND CENTRAL ARABIA	67
1. The Nabataeans—The Sinaitic origin of the alphabet—Petra—2. Palmyrena—Odaynath and Zenobia—3. The Ghassānids—The Syro-Arab kingdom at its height—Al-Mundhir, son of al-Ḥārith—Fall of the banu-Ghassān—4. The Lakhmids—Al-Ḥīrah at the height of its power—The royal family Christianized—5. Kindah.	
CHAPTER VII	
AL-ḤIJĀZ ON THE EVE OF THE RISE OF ISLAM	87
The Jāhilīyah days—The "days of the Arabians"—The Basūs War—The Day of Dāḥis—North Arabic in its influence as a language—The heroic age—Poetry—The ode in the classical period—The Muʻallaqāt—The pre-Islamic poet—Bedouin character as manifested in poetry—Bedouin heathenism—Solar aspects—Jinn—The daughters of Allah—The Makkan Kaʻbah—Allah—The three cities of al-Ḥijāz: al-Ṭāʾif—Makkah—Al-Madīnah—Cultural influences in al-Ḥijāz: 1. Sabaʾ—2. Abyssinia—3. Persia—4. Ghassānland—5. The Jews.	
PART II	
THE RISE OF ISLAM AND THE CALIPHAL	
STATE	
CHAPTER VIII	
Muhammad the Prophet of Allah	111
CHAPTER IX	
THE KORAN THE BOOK OF ALLAH	123
CHAPTER X	0
ISLAM THE RELIGION OF SUBMISSION TO THE WILL OF ALLAH	128
Dogmas and beliefs—The five pillars: 1. Profession of faith—2. Prayer—3. Almsgiving—4. Fasting—5. Pilgrimage—Holy War.	
CHAPTER XI	
PERIOD OF CONQUEST, EXPANSION AND COLONIZATION, A.D.	139
The orthodox caliphate: A patriarchal age—Arabia conquers itself— The economic causes of the expansion.	
The economic causes of the	

CONTENTS	xiii
CHAPTER XII	
THE CONQUEST OF SYRIA	I47
CHAPTER XIII	
AL-'IRĀQ AND PERSIA CONQUERED	155
CHAPTER XIV	
EGYPT, TRIPOLIS AND BARQAH ACQUIRED	160
CHAPTER XV	
THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE NEW POSSESSIONS	169
'Umar's constitution—The army—The so-called Arab civilization—Character and achievements of the orthodox caliphs.	
CHAPTER XVI	
THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN 'ALI AND MU'AWIYAH FOR THE CALIPHATE	178
The elective caliphate—The caliphate of 'Ali—Periods of the great caliphates—The caliphate, a pre-eminently political office.	
PART III	
THE UMAYYAD AND 'ABBĀSID EMPIRES	
CHAPTER XVII	
THE UMAYYAD CALIPHATE: Mu'āwiyah establishes a Dynasty	189
The claimants to the caliphate disposed of—Mu'āwiyah, the model Arab sovereign.	
CHAPTER XVIII	
HOSTILE RELATIONS WITH THE BYZANTINES	199
The Mardaites.	

# CHAPTER XIX

THE ZENITH OF UMAYYAD POWER	PAG 20
An energetic viceroy: al-IIajjāj—Conquests "beyond the river"—Conquests in India—Against the Byzantines—Conquests in northern Africa and south-western Europe—Nationalizing the state—Fiscal and other reforms—Architectural monuments.	201
CII A DEED AND	
CHAPTER XX	
POLITICAL ADMINISTRATION AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS UNDER THE UMAYYADS	224
Military organization—Royal life—The capital—Society—Clients—Dhimmis—"The covenant of 'Umar''—Slaves—Al-Madīnah and Makkah.	
CHAPTER XXI	
INTELLECTUAL ASPECTS OF LIFE UNDER THE UMAYYADS .	240
Al-Başrah and al-Kūfah—Arabic grammar—Religious tradition and canon law—History-writing—St. John of Damascus—Khārijites—Murji'ites—The Shī'ah—Oratory—Correspondence—Poetry—Education—Science—Alchemy—Architecture—The Mosque of al-Madīnah—Early mosques in the provinces—The Dome of the Rock—The Aqşa Mosque—The Umayyad Mosque—Palaces: Quşayr 'Amrah—Painting—Music.	
CHAPTER XXII	
DECLINE AND FALL OF THE UMAYYAD DYNASTY	279
Qays versus Yaman—The problem of succession—The partisans of 'Ali—'Abbāsid claimants—The Khurāsānians—The final blow.	
CHAPTER XXIII	
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE 'ABBASID DYNASTY	288
Al-Manşūr, the real founder of the dynasty—Madīnat al-Salām—A Persi vizirial family.	an
CHAPTER XXIV	
THE GOLDEN PRIME OF THE 'ABBASIDS	297
Relations with the Franks—With the Byzantines—The glory that was Baghdād—Intellectual awakening—India—Persia—Hellenism—Translators—Ḥunayn ibn-Isḥāq—Thābit ibn-Qurrah.	
CHAPTER XXV	
THE 'ABBASID STATE	317
The 'Abbāsid caliph—Vizir—Bureau of taxes—Other governmental bureaux—Judicialadministration—Military organization—The governor.	

CONTENTS	χV
CHAPTER XXVI	
ABBĀSID SOCIETY	332
Home life—Baths—Pastimes—Slaves—Economic life: commerce—Industry—Agriculture—Dhimmis: Christians—Nestorians—Jews—Şābians—Magians and other dualists—The Islamization of the empire—The conquest of Arabic.	
CHAPTER XXVII	
SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY PROGRESS	363
Medicine — 'Ali al-Ṭabari — Al-Rāzi — Al-Majūsi — Ibn-Sīna — Philosophy—Al-Kindi—Al-Fārābi—The Brethren of Sincerity—Astronomy and mathematics — Al-Battāni — Al-Bīrūni — 'Umar al-Khayyām — Astrology—The Arabic numerals—Al-Khwārizmi—Alchemy—Al-Jāḥiz — Lapidaries — Geography—Greek antecedents — "World cupola" — Literary geographers—Yāqūt—Historiography—Early formal historians — Al-Ṭabari—Al-Mas'ūdi — Theology—The science of ḥadīth—The six canonical books—Jurisprudence—The four orthodox schools—Ethics—Literature—Belles-lettres—The Arabian Nights—Poetry.	
CHAPTER XXVIII	
	0
EDUCATION  Elementary—Institutions of higher education—Adult education—Libraries—Bookshops—Paper—General level of culture.	408
CHAPTER XXIX	
THE DEVELOPMENT OF FINE ARTS	416
Architecture — Painting — Industrial Arts — Calligraphy — Music — Musical theorists.	
CHAPTER XXX	
Moslem Sects	429
Rationalism versus orthodoxy—Moslem inquisition—The Ash'arite system prevails—Al-Ghazzāli—Sufism—Asceticism—Mysticism—Theosophy—Pantheism—Mystic poetry and philosophy—Fraternal orders—The rosary—The cult of saints—Shī'ah—Ismā'ilites—Bāṭin-ites—Qarmaṭians—The Assassins—Nuṣayris—Other Shī'ite heterodoxies.	
CIIA DEED VVVI	
CHAPTER XXXI	
THE CALIPHATE DISMEMBERED: PETTY DYNASTIES IN THE WEST	450
1. In Spain—2. The Idrīsids—3. The Aghlabids—4. The Ṭūlūnids—Public works—5. The Ikhshīdids—A negro eunuch—6. The Ḥamdānids—Literary efflorescence—Raids into "the land of the Romans".	

# CONTENTS

# CHAPTER XXXII

SUNDRY DYNASTIES IN THE EAST	
r The Talling	PAGE 461
CHAPTER XXXIII	
THE COLLAPSE OF THE 'ABBASID CALIPHATE	
Hūlāgu in Baghdād—Last champions of Islam.	84
PART IV	
THE ARABS IN EUROPE: SPAIN AND SICILY	
CHAPTER XXXIV	
CONQUEST OF SPAIN	3
CHAPTER XXXV  THE UMAYYAD AMĪRATE IN SPAIN	
CHAPTER XXXVI  CIVIL DISTURBANCES  The "slaughter of the ditch"—Race for martyrdom—Flora and Eulogius —Provinces in revolt—Ibn-Ḥafṣūn.	
CHAPTER XXXVII  CHAPTER XXXVII  FUNDA STATE OF CORDOVA  Caliph 'Abd-al-Raḥmān al-Nāṣir—Al-Zahrā'.	)

CONTENTS	xvii
CHAPTER XXXVIII	
POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS .  Cordova—Governmental institutions—Industry—Agriculture—Trade— The caliph in his glory—Educational activity—'Āmirid dictatorship— Collapse of Umayyad power.	526
CHAPTER XXXIX	
PETTY STATES: FALL OF GRANADA	.537
The 'Abbādids of Seville—Al-Mu'tamid—The Murābiţs—Coinage—Persecution—The would-be Arabs—My Cid the Challenger—Collapse of the Murābiţs—The Muwaḥḥids—Founder of the Muwaḥhid dynasty—Al-Manṣūr—Banu-Naṣr—Alhambra—The last days of Granada—Morisco persecution.	337
CHAPTER XL	
Intellectual Contributions	557
Language and literature—Poetry—Muwashshaḥs—Education—Books—Paper—Historiography—Geography—Travels—Influence over the West—Astronomy and mathematics—Botany and medicine—Ibn-al-Bayṭār—Medicine—Al-Zahrāwi—Ibn-Zuhr—Transmission to Europe—Philosophy—Ben-Gabīrōl—Ibn-Bājjah—Ibn-Rushd—Ibn-Maymūn—Ibn-'Arabi, the mystic—Toledo, centre of translation.	
CHAPTER XLI	
ART AND ARCHITECTURE	591
Minor arts—Ceramics—Textiles—Ivories—Architecture—Alhambra—The arch—Music—Influence in Europe.	
CHAPTER XLII	
In Sicily	602
Conquest—In Italy—Across the Alps—Withdrawal from Italy—The Sicilian amīrate—Norman conquest—Arab-Norman culture—Al-Idrīsi—Frederick II—Sicily's place in transmitting thought—Via Italy.	
PART V	
THE LAST OF THE MEDIEVAL MOSLEM STATES	
CHAPTER XLIII	
A SHĪ'ITE CALIPHATE IN EGYPT: THE FĀṬIMIDS  Ismā'īlite propaganda—The enigmatic Sa'īd—The first Fāṭimid—The fleet—The commander Jawhar—Fāṭimid power at its height—A deranged caliph—Decadence—Fall.  B	617

## CHAPTER XLIV

LIFE IN FATIMID EGYPT	625
High life—Administration—Scientific and literary progress—Hall of Science—Astronomy and optics—The royal library—Art and architecture—Decorative and industrial arts.	
CHAPTER XLV	
MILITARY CONTACTS BETWEEN EAST AND WEST: THE CRUSADES	633
Saljūqs of Syria—Complexity of causation and motivation—1. Period of conquest—The Byzantines recover Asia Minor—First Latin principality—Antioch reduced—Jerusalem captured—Italian fleets reduce seaports—Baldwin I, king of Jerusalem—The third Frankish principality established—Social contacts—2. Moslem reaction: The Zangids and Nūrids—Enter Saladin—Ḥiṭṭīn—Siege of 'Akka—3. Period of civil and petty wars: The Ayyūbids—The Frankish camp—Egypt, the centre of interest—St. Louis—The Ayyūbids give way to the Mamlūks—The last blows: Baybars—Qalāwūn—'Akka.	
CHAPTER XLVI	
CULTURAL CONTACTS	659
Nūrid contributions—Ayyūbid contributions—In science and philosophy—In letters—In military art—Gunpowder—In architecture—Agriculture and industry—Water-wheels—Trade—Compass—Racial admixture.	
CHAPTER XLVII	
THE MAMLUKS, LAST MEDIEVAL DYNASTY OF ARAB WORLD	671
Dynasty established—Baḥri and Burji Mamlūks—Ayyūbids and Tartars repelled—Baybars—The caliphal episode—Qalāwūn and the Mongols—His hospital—Al-Ashraf—Mongols repulsed—Egypt at its cultural height—Famine and plague—The downfall of the Baḥris.	
CHAPTER XLVIII	683
INTELLECTUAL AND ARTISTIC ACTIVITY	003
Scientific contribution—Medicine—Jewish physicians of the series of the	
CHAPTER XLIX	694
THE END OF MAMLUK RULE	
THE END OF MAMLÜK RULE  Specimens of Burji sultans—Desperate economic situation—Indian trade lost—Monumental works—Foreign relations—Cyprus conquered trade lost—Monumental works—Foreign relations—Cyprus conquered—Tīmūr—Tīmūrids—Ottoman Turks—Şafawids—The decisive battle of Marj Dābiq—Egypt conquered—The Ottoman caliphate.	

#### CONTENTS

XIX .

#### PART VI

# UNDER THE OTTOMAN RULE

#### CHAPTER L

709

#### CHAPTER LI

EGYPT AND THE ARAB CRESCENT

719

Mamlūks remain in control—'Ali Bey declared sultan—Napoleon Bonaparte—Muḥammad 'Ali: founder of modern Egypt—Syria—Provincial administration—Economic decline—Fakhr-al-Dīn, enlightened amīr of Lebanon—The 'Azms in Syria—Palestine has its dictators—Bashīr al-Shihābi—Autonomy of Lebanon internationally recognized—Al-'Irāq—Arabia—Wahhābis—Ibn-Su'ūd—Intellectual activity.

## CHAPTER LII

THE CHANGING SCENE: IMPACT OF THE WEST . . 745

Cultural penetration: Egypt—Syria and Lebanon—Political penetration—The British occupy Egypt—French and British mandates—An Egyptian reformer—Nationalism—Trend toward union.