



IMPACT OF ISLAM UPON CHRISTIANS

The Imposition of *Dhimmi* [Arabic for “Contract”] Status

“Fight those who believe not in God [i.e., *Allah*] and the Last Day and do not forbid what God and His Messenger [i.e., *Muhammad*] have forbidden -- such men as practice not the religion of truth [i.e., *Islam*], being of those who have been given the Book [i.e., *Christians & Jews*] -- until they pay the tribute [i.e., *jizyah*] out of hand and have been humbled.” (Sura 9, Verse 29 of the Qur’an)

By paying the annual *jizyah*, a *dhimmi* demonstrated acceptance of Islamic rule.

- A *dhimmi* had to adhere to *sharia* law.
- A *dhimmi* could practice his own faith, provided doing so did not conflict with *sharia* law.
- A *dhimmi* could not serve in the military or have personal armament.
- A *dhimmi* had to depend fully upon the protection of the Islamic state.
- Any *dhimmi* attempting to leave the area under Islamic control was subject to arrest & punishment.

The Rise of *Iconoclasm* [from the Greek for “image breaker”]

- In AD 630, Muhammad had the images in the Ka’aba at Mecca destroyed.
- Islam forbade the use of images in houses of worship, in direct contrast to within “Christendom.”
- In AD 722, a Muslim Caliph ordered all Christian images within his Caliphate destroyed.
- Byzantine Emperor Leo III (AD 714-740) followed suit, forbidding the adoration of Christian icons.
- The Pope responded in favor of the *iconodules* [Greek for “image server”] or *iconophiles* [“image lover”]
- The debate was supposedly resolved by the Second Council of Nicea in AD 787

- 1.If anyone does not *confess* that Christ our God can be represented in his humanity, let him be **anathema**.
- 2.If anyone does not *accept* representation in art of evangelical scenes, let him be **anathema**.
- 3.If anyone does not *salute* such representations as standing for the Lord and his saints, let him be **anathema**.
- 4.If anyone *rejects* any *written or unwritten* tradition of the church, let him be **anathema**.

The Establishment of the Holy Roman Empire

- On 25 December AD 800, Pope Leo III crowned Charlemagne as Roman Emperor, since there was no male heir reigning in Constantinople. This caused an even wider rift between Western Christianity & Eastern Christianity. Other issues included:
 - Eastern Christians still preferred to link the celebration of Easter with the Jewish calendar.
 - Eastern Christians still used Greek rather than Latin.
 - Eastern Christians still refused to recognize the Pope as the supreme head of Christianity.
 - FYI: The final “Great Schism” would take place in AD 1054, when they would excommunicate one another over the words “and the Son” being added to the Nicene Creed.
- Despite the continued existence of the Byzantine Empire in the East, the Popes continued to crown the Roman Emperors in Europe.
- On 2 February AD 962, Pope John XII crowned Otto (a German) as “Holy” Roman Emperor.
- This “First Reich” lasted until 1806, when Emperor Francis II abdicated during the Napoleonic Wars.
 - FYI: A “Second Reich” existed under Emperors Wilhelm I & II from 1871-1918.
 - FYI: A “Third Reich” existed under Adolf Hitler from 1933-1945.



The Crusades

- During the last quarter of the 11th Century, the Byzantine Empire lost most of Anatolia (Turkey) to the Seljuk Muslims.
- The Emperor at Constantinople responded by seeking the assistance of the Pope & the Holy Roman Empire.
- In AD 1095, Pope Urban II called for a Crusade, not only in support of the Byzantines, but to free the “Holy Lands” from Muslim control.
- When Jerusalem fell to the Crusaders in 1099, they killed all the Muslims & Jews who had resisted them, destroying or pillaging their holy sites.
- Saladin, the Muslim Sultan of Egypt, recaptured Jerusalem in AD 1187. Since the Christians surrendered, he spared both them & their holy sites. Pope Gregory VIII called for another crusade (now called “The Third Crusade”). Many powerful European leaders responded, among them Richard I of England (a.k.a. “The Lionhearted”). Despite many victories that brought him to within sight of Jerusalem in AD 1191, Richard did not feel he could hold it after taking it, so he settled for a treaty with the Muslims that permitted unarmed Christians to visit holy sites there.
- In AD 1202, Pope Innocent III called for another crusade (“The Fourth”) to take Jerusalem via Egypt. The crusaders gathered at Constantinople, but when funding for the crusade fell through, they looted the city & made one of their own, Baldwin I, Emperor of a “Latin Empire.” This pretty much solidified the recent falling out between Rome & Constantinople regarding the “Great Schism.”
- During “The Sixth Crusade” (AD 1228-1229), Jerusalem, Nazareth & Bethlehem were regained to Christian control via negotiation by Frederick II, Holy Roman Emperor, who agreed that the Muslims would remain in control of the Dome of the Rock & the Al-Aksa mosque.
- In AD 1244, the Muslims took back the city of Jerusalem by force.
- Despite further crusades throughout the balance of the 13th Century, Jerusalem remained under Islamic control. European interest in crusading to retake Jerusalem soon faded away.

