

## American Minute with Bill Federer

### How Islamic Expansion from the East spread Renaissance & Reformation in the West

#### [Read American Minute](#)

In addition to being a **religious leader**, **Mohammed** was a very effective **political and military leader**, involved in **numerous battles, raids, skirmishes, and sieges ... [continue reading here ...](#)**



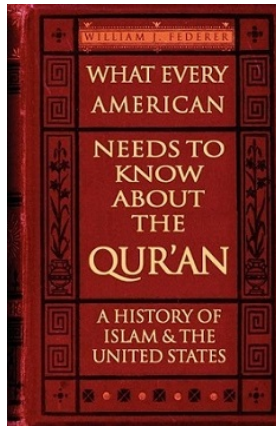
The expansion of Islam in the Middle Ages

These activities included

- **Caravan raids, 623-624 AD;**
- **Battle of Badr, March 13, 624 AD;**
- **Expulsion of Banu Qaynuqa from Medina, April 624 AD ("banu" means "sons of");**
- **Al-Kudr Invasion, May 624 AD;**
- **Raid on Dhu Amar, September 624;**
- **Battle of Uhud, March 23, 625;**
- **Battle of Hamra al-Asad, 625;**
- **Expulsion of Banu Nadir from Medina, 625 AD;**
- **Expedition of Badr al-Maw'id, October 625;**
- **Battle of the Trench, January 627 AD;**
- **Execution of Banu Qurayza in Medina, 627 AD;**
- **Invasion of Banu Lahyan, September 627 AD;**
- **Siege of Khaybar, 628 AD;**
- **Expedition of Wadi al Qura, June 628 AD;**
- **Battle of Mu'tah, 629 AD;**
- **Conquest of Mecca, January, 630 AD;**

- **Battle of Hunayn**, January, 630 AD;
- **Battle of Autas**, 630 AD;
- **Siege of Ta'if**, February, 630 AD;
- **Expedition of Tabuk**, October 630 AD.

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**Mohammed** died in 632 AD, the cause subject to controversy.

His **sword** is in the Topkapi Palace Museum in Istanbul.

**Mohammed** was succeeded by **Caliph Abu Bakr**, father of Mohammed's youngest wife, **Aisha**, reportedly married at the age of 9.

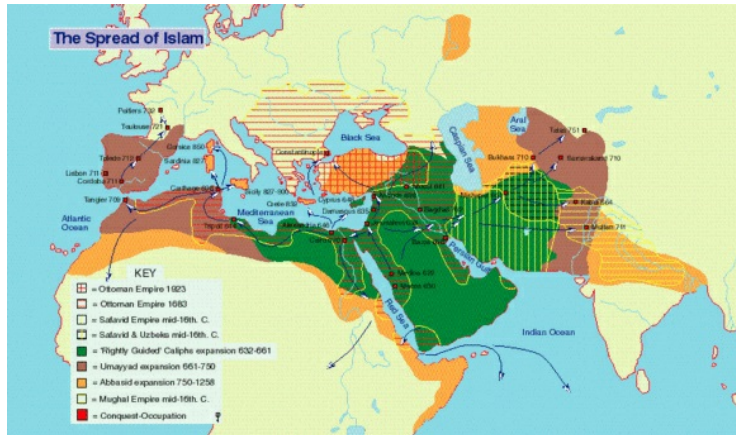
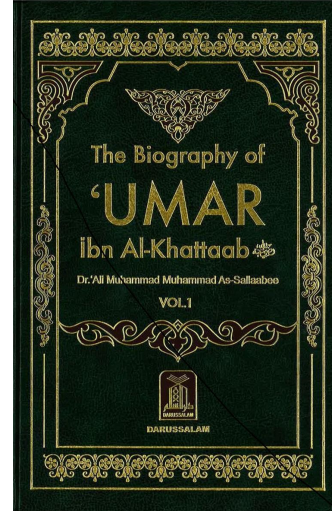


The word "**caliph**" means "**successor**."

**Abu Bakr** is considered the main founder of the **Sunni sect of Islam**, as he fought alongside Mohammed in all of his battle and therefore knew "**the sunna**" which means "**the way**."

When **Abu Bakr** died in 634, he was followed by **Caliph Umar**, father of

Mohammed's wife Hafsa.



**Caliph Umar** conquered enormous territory before being assassinated in 644 AD.

Next was **Caliph Uthman**, whose two wives, **Rugayyah** and **Umm Kulthum**, were both daughters of Mohammed.

**Uthman** ordered the **compilation of Qur'an verses**, which previously had been oral, as early followers of Mohammed did not read or write -- "**qur'an**" meaning "**recitation.**"

**Verses** were **compiled** in order of their **length**, with the **longest first** and **shortest last**.

**Uthman** conquered large areas till he was **assassinated** in 656 AD.

### Assassination of Ali



He was followed by **Ali**, Mohammed's first convert, who was married to Mohammed's daughter **Fatimah**.

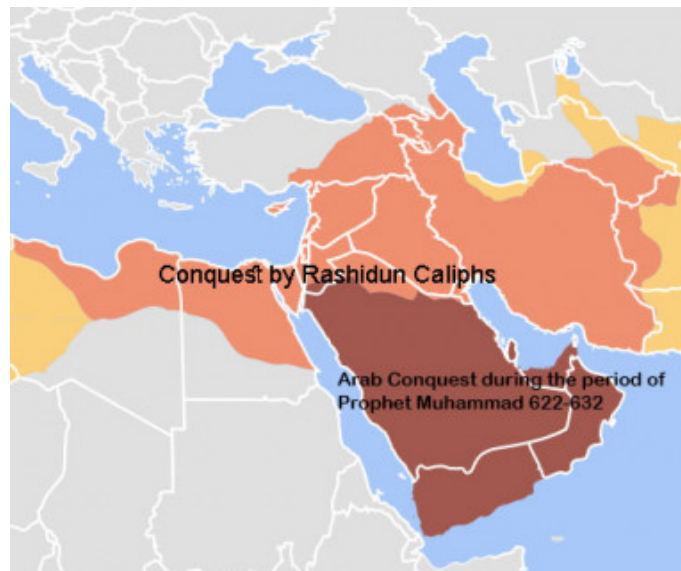
**Ali** is considered by the **Shia sect of Islam** as the **rightful successor of Mohammed**.

**Ali** fought many battles till he was **assassinated** in 661 AD.

**Ali** and **Fatimah's** son, **Husayn**, was **killed and beheaded** in 680 AD by **Caliph Yazid's Sunni warriors**, thus beginning a longstanding rift between the **Sunni** and the **Shia**--who memorialize his death during the annual **Ashura**.

The first four **Caliphs**, called "**Rashidun**" meaning "**Rightly-Guided**," had **conquered predominately Christian lands** from 632 to 662 AD:

- **Mesopotamia,**
- **Syria,**
- **Palestine,**
- **Damascus,**
- **Jerusalem,**
- **Egypt,**
- **North Africa,**
- and into parts of **Armenia, Anatolia, Persia,** and the **Eastern Roman Empire.**



**Major Islamic Caliphates, Sultanates, Dynasties, and Empires** include:

**Rashidun Caliphate (632-662);**



**Umayyad Caliphate (661-750);**

**Abbasid Caliphate (750-1517);**

**Fatimid Caliphate (909-1171);**

**Umayyad Caliphate of Córdoba (929-1031);**

**Mamluk Sultanate of Cairo (1261-1517);**

**Almohad Caliphate (1147-1269);**

**Ayyubid Caliphate (1171-1260);**

**Ghurid Dynasty (879-1218);**

**Ghaznavids (977-1186);**

**Delhi Sultanate (1206-1526);**

**Bornu Caliphate (1472–1893);**

**Mughal Empire (1528-1857);**

**Yogyakarta Sultanate (1755-2015);**

**Toucouleur Empire (1848–1893);**

**Sokoto Caliphate (1804–1903);**

**Ottoman Caliphate (1517-1924).**

After the **Ottoman Caliphate ended following World War I, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk** became the **founding father of the modern Republic of Turkey.**



He wrote in his book on citizenship (quoted in *Ataturk, Yurttaslik Bilgileri, Yenigun Haber Ajansi*, June 1997, p. 18):

"Mohammedanism was based on Arab nationalism above all nationalities ...

The purpose of the religion founded by Muhammad, over all nations, was to drag (them into) Arab national politics ... (It) might have suited **tribes in the desert**. It is no good for a modern, progressive state."



Beginning in the 7th century, with the **Battles of the Masts**, 654 AD, Islamic ships successfully plundered coasts and islands in the **Mediterranean**.

This interrupted Mediterranean trade, **economically devastating Byzantium, Rome, and Europe.**



With sea trade blocked, products no longer moved freely from **North Africa** and the **Middle East** to the West, with an important item no longer being shipped was paper, made from papyrus reeds which grew along the Nile delta.

The shortage of paper resulted in a decline of writing, literacy, and fewer books being written.

This was a key factor in the beginning of **THE DARK AGES**.

The **world's largest and oldest library** in Alexandria, Egypt was destroyed, with accounts given by:

- Persian traveler Abd-Al-Latif of Baghdad (1162-1231),
- Jamal Ad-din Al-Kufti (1169-1248), and
- Syrian prelate Bar Hebraeus (1226-1286).



They described that when **Caliph Omar** was asked in 642 AD what should be done with all the books, he instructed his commander **Amr bin al-Ass**:

"Touching the books you mention, if what is written in them agrees with the Qur'an, they are not required; if it disagrees, they are not desired. Destroy them therefore."

The account continued that the books were burned to heat the city's bath-houses for six months.

Other libraries, museums, churches and temples in **Babylon, Syria** and **Greece** were similarly destroyed.

Recent accounts, such as *Breitbart News*, April 13, 2016, reported this behavior continuing:

"ISIS militants also raided the Central Library of Mosul to destroy all non-Islamic books.

'These books promote infidelity and call for disobeying Allah,' announced a militant to the residents. 'So they will be burned.'"

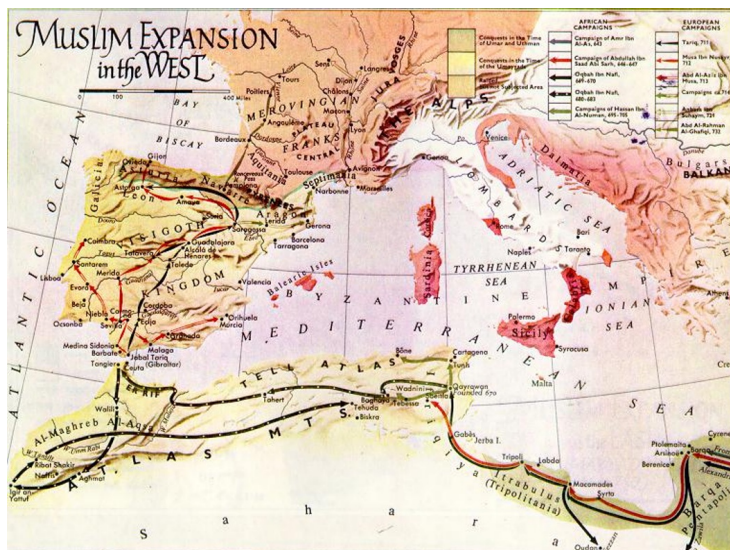
In 711 AD, Umayyad leader **Tariq ibn Ziyad** led Islamic crusaders across the **Strait of Gibraltar**, which was named for him.



"**Gibraltar**" is from the Arabic "**Jebel Tariq**," the **Mount of Tariq**.



Islamist crusaders rode on **Arabian horses with stirrups and light scimitar swords**, while Spaniards were fighting on foot with heavy swords.

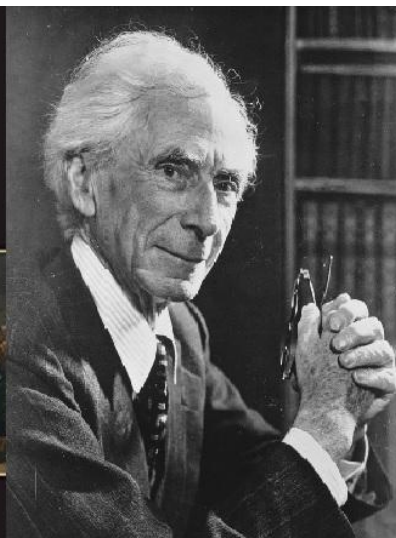
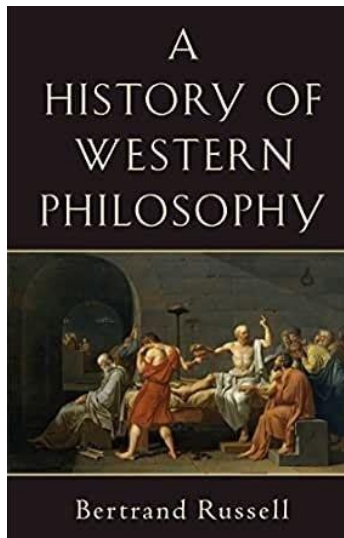


In ten years, they conquered all of Spain.

**Pope Gregory III**



put out a plea for help and **Charles Martel** stopped the Islamic advance just outside of Paris at the **Battle of Tours** in 732 AD, just 100 years after the death of Mohammed in 632 AD.



**Bertrand Russell** wrote in *The History of Western Philosophy* (bk 2, pt 2, ch. 10: Mohammedan Culture):

"Immediately after his death the conquests began,

and they proceeded with rapidity ...

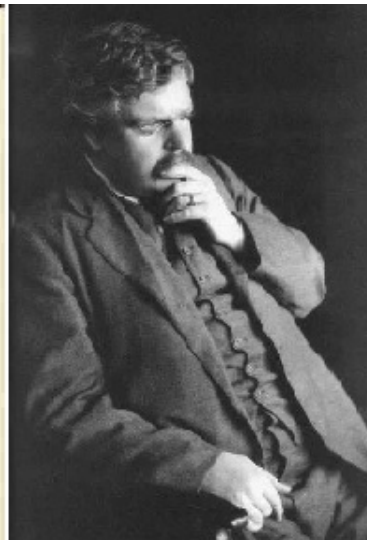
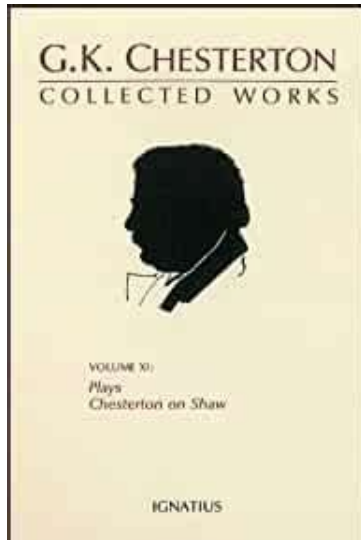
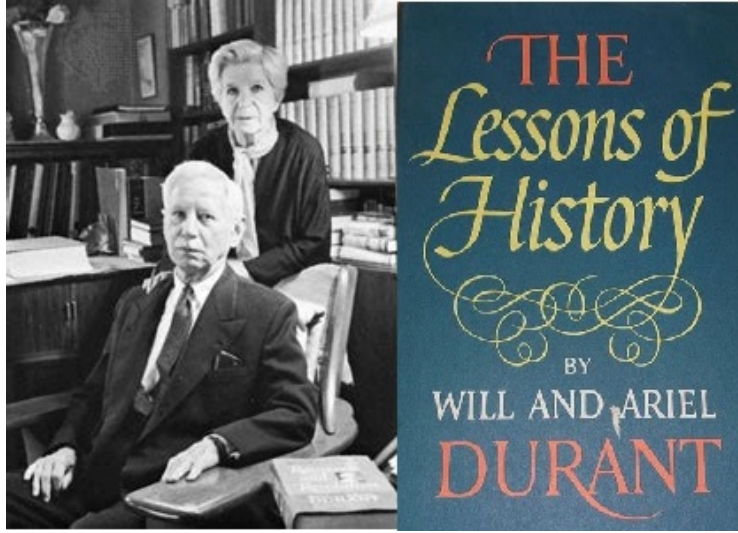
Westward expansion (except in Sicily and Southern Italy) was brought to a standstill by the **defeat of the Mohammedans at the battle of Tours in 732**, just one hundred years after the death of the Prophet ...

It was the duty of the faithful to conquer as much of the world as possible for Islam."

**Will and Ariel Durant** wrote in *The Lessons of History* (1968):

"The **defeat of the Moslems at Tours (732)** kept

France and Spain from replacing the Bible with the Koran."



**G.K. Chesterton** wrote (*The Collected Works of G.K. Chesterton: Vol. XX, Introduction and Notes by James V. Schall, Ignatius Press*):

"They seem entirely to forget that long before the Crusaders had dreamed of riding to Jerusalem, the **Moslems had almost ridden into Paris.**"

***The Song of Roland***, the oldest surviving major work of French literature, commemorated that after **fighting Islamic forces at Zaragoza**, a part of **Charlemagne's army** was annihilated at the **Battle of Roncevaux** in 778 AD.



This is similar to ***The Song of El Cid***, the oldest preserved Castilian epic poem, which commemorated the Castilian hero **El Cid's Reconquista of Spain** from the Muslim Moors in 1094.

In 832 AD, **Caliph Al-Ma'mun** of the Abbasid Dynasty ordered raiders to seek out **Pharaohs' tombs for plundering**.

They broke into the **Great Pyramid of Giza** in search of treasure.

The destruction of Egyptian history was so thorough that within a few generations, Egyptians had no memory of who built the Great Pyramids.

Fundamental Islamists also destroyed:

- City of Ani in Armenia;
- Assyrian Museum;
- Egyptian rioters trashing mummies;
- Ancient Syrian and Chaldean churches dating back to the time of the Apostles;
- Ayotollah Khomeini's attempt to destroy Cyrus' ancient Persian palace at Persepolis;
- the graves of the Prophet Jonah and the Prophet Daniel in Nineveh (Mosul, Iraq) were blown up by ISIS militants on July 24, 2014;
- Taliban destroyed the enormous ancient statues of Buddha, the largest in the world, in the Bamiyan Valley of Afghanistan.

An Islamic Hadiths stated:

"Abu'l-Hayyaj al-Asadi told that 'Ali (b. Abu Talib) said to him ...

Do not leave an image without obliterating it, or a high grave without leveling it. This hadith has been reported by Habib with the same chain of transmitters and he said: Do not leave a picture without obliterating it."  
(Hadith Bk 4, No. 2115)

In 846 AD, just 46 years after **Charlemagne** was crowned Holy Roman Emperor in Rome's old **St. Peter's basilica**, **11,000 Islamist warriors** attacked.



They **sacked Rome**, looted old St. Peter's basilica and St. Paul Outside the Wall Church, **desecrating the graves of both St. Peter and St. Paul**.

As a result, **Pope Leo IV** built a wall, **39 feet high**, all around the **Vatican** to keep the Islamist invaders out. It took four years to complete the wall.

In 849 AD, **Saracen raiders** set sail from **Sardina** with a fleet to **invade Rome**.

**Pope Leo** rallied the cities of Amalfi, Gaeta and Naples to send ships to block the **mouth of the Tiber River** near **Ostia**.

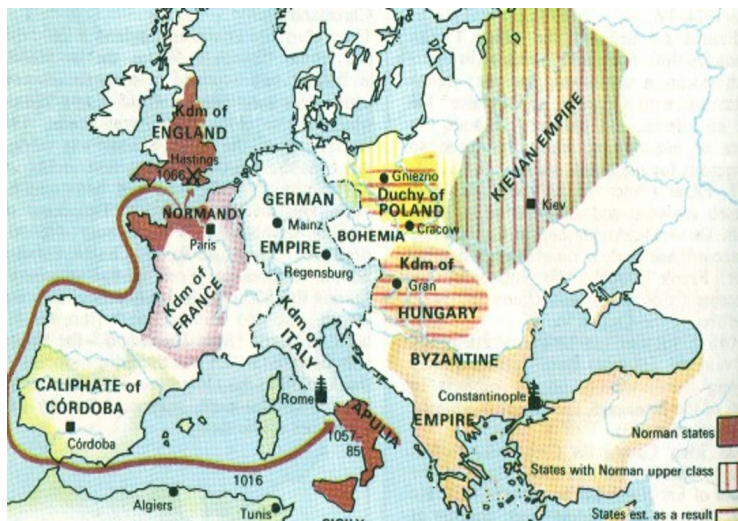
Islamists attacked. The fighting was fierce, when suddenly a **violent storm arose**, dividing the Christians fleet from the Islamist attackers in the **Battle of Ostia**.



Christian ships were able to make it back to port and weather the storm, but the **Islamist ships were severely damaged and scattered**. When the storm subsided, the remaining Muslim ships were easily captured.

Calls for the **Crusades** can be traced to 1009, when “**Mad Caliph**” **Al-Hakim bi-Amr Allah** ordered the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre** in Jerusalem **destroyed**.

Pilgrims returning from the Holy Land shared reports of **Islamist persecution and cruelty toward "dhimmi" Christians**.



In 1057, the **Norman Viking adventurer Robert Guiscard** took control of **Calabria** in the “**toe of Italy**” and **fought against the Islamists of Sicily**.

In 1071, Islamists delivered a **major**

defeat to the Byzantine Christians at the Battle of Manzikert and took control of all but the coastlands of Asia Minor.



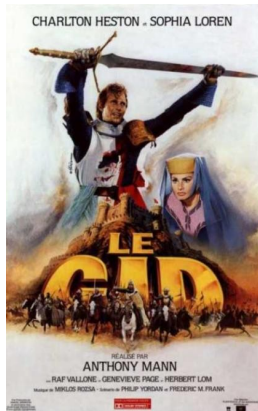
## Seljuk Turks



Pope Urban II Preaches the First Crusade

In desperation, the **Byzantine Emperor Alexius I Comnenus** humbled himself and sent ambassadors to the **Council of Piacenza** in March of 1095, appealing for help from his religious rival, the **Roman Catholic Pope**.

With **Spain** exuberant after driving Islamists from **Toledo** and **Leon** by 1085, **Pope Urban II** gave an impassioned plea at the **Council of**

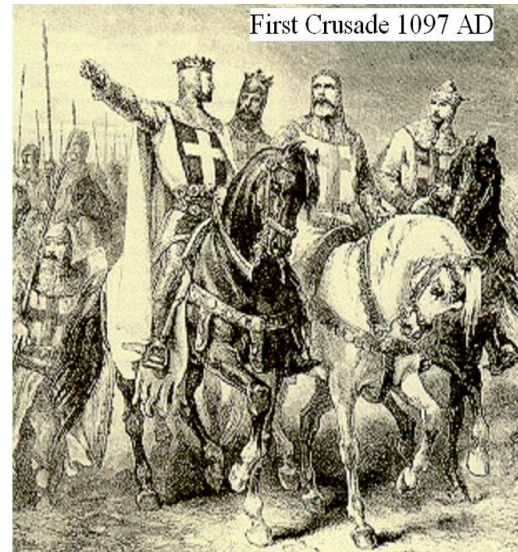


**Clermont in 1095 for Western leaders to help their Byzantine Christians brethren, whom Islamic armies:**

"... compel to extend their necks and then, attacking them with naked swords, attempt to cut through the neck with a single blow." (Robert the Monk, *Medieval Sourcebook*, Fordham University.)

**The First Crusade** began in 1097. In the next two centuries there were a total of **9 major Crusades** to return the Holy Land to its pre-Islamic inhabitants.

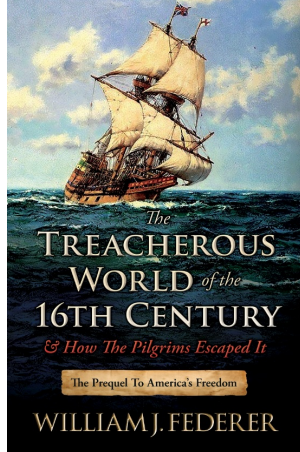
The Crusades bought Europe a few centuries of time to prepare for future Islamic invasions.



After the **Crusades** ended, in the 1300s, the Islamic jihad conqueror **Tamerlane** killed **17 million** across **central Asia**, annihilating Christianity and leaving **pyramids of skulls** in **Delhi, India**.



[The Treacherous World of the 16th Century and How the Pilgrims Escaped It: The Prequel to America's Freedom](#)



In 1400s, as Islamists invaded **Byzantium**.

When the **Ottomans** sacked **Constantinople** in 1453, it ended the land trade routes from **Europe to India and China**.



This led **Columbus** to looking for a sea route, beginning **THE AGE OF DISCOVERY**.

Socialist historian **Howard Zinn** wrote in *A People's History of the United States* (1980):

"Now that the **Turks had conquered Constantinople** and the eastern Mediterranean, and **controlled the land routes to Asia**, a **sea route was needed**.





**Portuguese sailors** were working their way around the southern tip of **Africa**. **Spain** decided to gamble on a long sail across an unknown ocean."

As **Ottomans** invaded the **Greek Byzantine Empire**, they destroyed **churches, libraries, museums, artwork, and graves of the Christian saints**.



**Greek scholars** fled west to **Florence, Italy**, reintroducing their **Greek art, architecture and philosophy to western Europe**.

This led to a flood of **Greek treasures**, art and literature hurriedly carried to **Florence, Italy**.

This renewed interest in Greek culture is called **THE RENAISSANCE**.

President Obama referred to this while giving a speech in Egypt, June 4, 2009:

"It was Islam ... paving the way for Europe's Renaissance."



Jean-Jacques Rousseau  
"Europe ... it was the Muslim, the eternal blight on learning, who brought about its rebirth ... The collapse of the throne of Constantine carried into Italy the debris of ancient Greece."

**Jean-Jacques Rousseau** (1712-1778), considered the **Father of the French Revolution**, owned a dog named "Sultan."

**Rousseau** wrote in *Discourse on*

*the Arts and Sciences* (1750, translated by Ian Johnston):

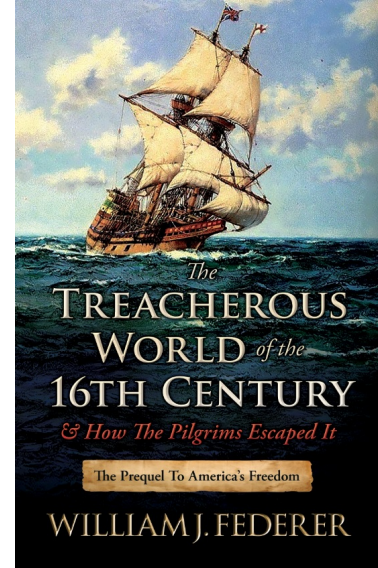
"Europe had fallen back into the barbarity ...

A revolution was necessary to bring men back to common sense, and it finally came from a quarter where one would least expect it. It was the (brutish) Muslim, the eternal blight on learning, who brought about its rebirth among us.

**The collapse of the throne of Constantine** carried into Italy the **debris of ancient Greece**.

France, in its turn, was enriched by **these precious remnants**. The sciences soon followed letters. To the art of writing was joined the art of thinking."

[The Treacherous World of the 16th Century and How the Pilgrims Escaped It: The Prequel to America's Freedom](#)



As Muslims invaded Greece, scholars fled west to Florence, Italy, bringing Greek Art, Architecture, Literature

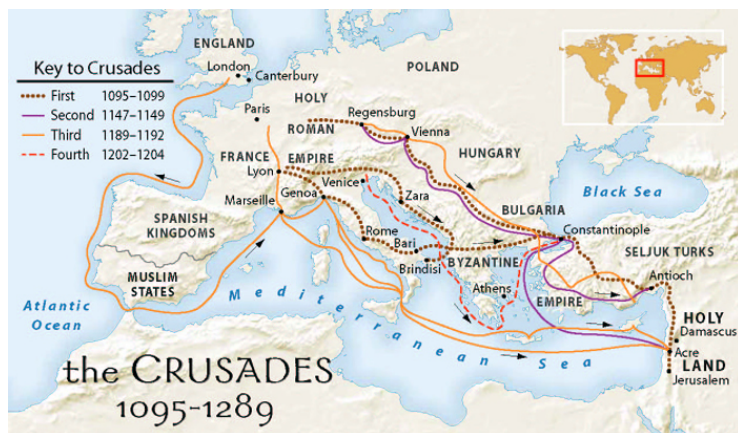


leading to the **RENAISSANCE**

In retrospect, Islamic expansion was instrumental in bringing about "The Dark Ages" with the conquering of Egypt and cutting off trade across the

**Mediterranean**, including that of papyrus; and Islamic expansion was instrumental in "The Renaissance" with the invasion of Greece, causing scholars to flee to Italy.

In fact, the very concepts of "Europe" and "Christendom" came into being in response to the Islamic invasion, as previously Europe viewed itself as innumerable separate kingdoms.



This is similar to how the 13 American colonies viewed themselves as separate colonies but had to work

together against the King of England, giving birth to the concept of the "united" States.

As the **wealth of Greek Byzantine Empire** flowed into **Florence, Italy**, many were made rich, most notably the families of **Medici** and **Borgia**, who influenced European politics for centuries and financed artists, such as **Michelangelo** and **Leonardo DaVinci**.

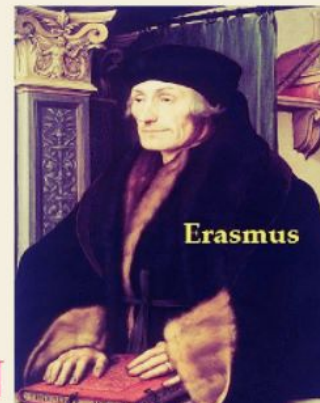
Condemning the rising materialism and sensualism in **Florence** was the preacher **Savonarola**. He led a notable Christian **revival** till he was excommunicated, tortured and executed.

**Greek scholars** also fled west with their **Greek Septuagint Old Testament, Greek New Testament, and other ancient Greek Biblical manuscripts**.

As Muslims invaded Greece,  
**scholars fled west**

bringing  
*Greek  
New Testaments  
& Scriptures*

leading to the  
**REFORMATION**



Soon, **western European scholars, like Erasmus** -- a friend of **Martin Luther** -- began translating the **Bible** not just from Latin, but from **Greek**.

This interest in the original New Testament language of **Greek** contributed to **THE REFORMATION**.

In 1517, **Martin Luther** began the **Reformation** by posting Ninety-Five Theses, or debate questions, on the Wittenberg Church door in



## 1517 Reformation Martin Luther



Saxony,  
Germany.

Different German kings became **Lutheran** or "**Reformed Christian**" and broke away from the **Catholic Holy Roman Empire**.

In 1529, a hundred thousand **Ottoman** warriors surrounded **Vienna, Austria**, under the command of **Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent**.



## 1529 Muslim Siege of Vienna Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent



He sent suicide bombers at the gates and had miners tunnel under the walls.

Providentially, **Vienna** was saved by torrential freezing rain which fell for weeks, resulting in sickness among **Suleiman's** troops. He abandoned the attack and left, but not before beheading 4,000 Christian hostages.



**Suleiman**

attempted to attack **Vienna** again in 1532, but was turned back, resulting in him focusing on conquering the Shi'a of **Persia (Iran)** in 1534.



**Suleiman** annexed most of the **Middle East** and huge areas of **North Africa**, including the **Barbary States of Tripoli, Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco**.

**Catholic Spain** used the **gold from the New World** to finance the **defense of Europe** against the **Ottoman invasion**.

A graphic comparing King Charles V and Sultan Suleiman. It features portraits of both rulers, maps of their respective empires, and the text 'In 1500s world's most powerful KINGS'. The King Charles V side shows a portrait of Charles V, a map of the Holy Roman Empire, and the text 'King Charles V Holy Roman Empire'. The Sultan Suleiman side shows a portrait of Suleiman, a map of the Ottoman Empire, and the text 'Sultan Suleiman Ottoman Empire'. The central text is in large red letters: 'In 1500s world's most powerful KINGS'.

Holy Roman Emperor **Charles V of Spain**, fought **Suleiman's** ships which attacked the southern coasts of Europe.

In 1535, **Charles** won a victory against Islamists at **Tunis**.

But like the West's political disunity prior to the fall of the Byzantine Empire, **France** decided in 1536 to begin **allying itself with Sultan Suleiman** against



## Spain's Charles V.

As a result, **Charles V** was forced to sign a humiliating treaty with the **Ottomans**, allowing them to gain naval dominance on the **Mediterranean Sea**.

Later notable **battles** against the **Ottomans** include:

- **Siege of Malta**, September 11, 1565;
- **Battle of Lepanto**, October 7, 1571;
- **Battle of Vienna**, September 11, 1683;
- **Battle of Zenta**, September 11, 1697.

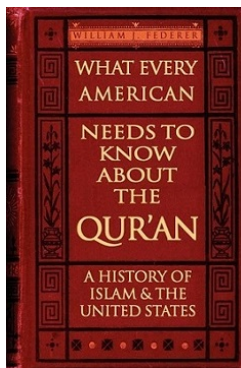
September 11, 1565  
Siege of Malta



September 11, 1682  
Battle of Vienna



September 11, 1697  
Battle Zenta



[An in depth look at the 1,400 year Islamic conquest is in the book: What Every American Needs to Know about the Qur'an -- A History of Islam and the United States.](#)

## STATEMENTS FROM LEADERS

To fully understand how seriously Europe felt threatened, it is insightful to read quotes from notable leaders.



**Luther** wrote in *Preface to Book of Revelation* (1530):

"2nd woe ... the 6th [evil] angel, the shameful

Mohammed with his companions, the Saracens, who inflicted great plagues on Christendom, with his doctrine and with the sword."

As recorded in *Luther's Works-American Edition*, 55 volumes (Philadelphia: Fortress; St. Louis: Concordia, 1955-1986, vol. 46:170-171), **Martin Luther** stated:

"The Turk is the rod of the wrath of the Lord our God ... If the Turk's god, the devil, is not beaten first, there is reason to fear that the Turk will not be so easy to beat ...

Christian weapons and power must do it ... (The fight against the Turks) must begin with repentance, and we must reform our lives, or we shall fight in vain.

(The Church should) drive men to repentance by showing our great and numberless sins and our ingratitude, by which we have earned God's wrath and disfavor, so that He justly gives us into the hands of the devil and the Turk."

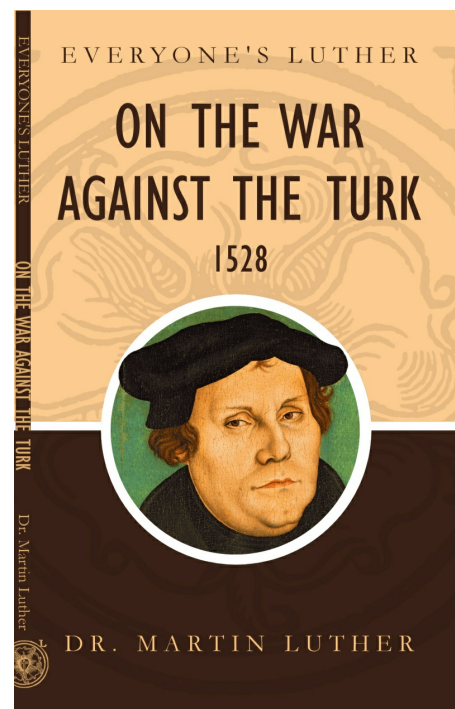
In *On War Against the Turk* (1529), **Luther** wrote:

"The Turk is the very devil incarnate ... The Turk fills heaven with Christians by murdering their bodies."

In *Luther's Works* (3:121-122), **Luther** wrote:

"Yet it is more in accordance with the truth to say that the Turk is the Beast, because he is outside the church and openly persecutes Christ."

**Luther** wrote (Tischreden, 1532, Weimer, ed., 1, 330):





"The Turk is the flesh of Antichrist ... (which) slaughters bodily by the sword."

**John Calvin** wrote to Philip Melanchthon in 1543 (*Selected Works of John Calvin: Tracts & Letters*, I:373):



"I hear of the sad condition of your Germany! ... The Turk again prepares to wage war with a larger force. Who will stand up to oppose his marching throughout the length and breadth of the land, at his mere will and pleasure?"

**Calvin** wrote in *Commentary of 2nd Thessalonians*:

"Since Mohammed was an apostate, he turned his followers, the Turks, from Christ ... The sect of Mohammed was like a raging overflow, which in its violence tore away about half of the Church."

**Calvin** wrote in *Commentary on Daniel*:

"Turks have spread far and wide, and the world is filled with impious despisers of God."

**John Calvin** wrote in *Sermons on Timothy & Titus*:

"The Turks at this day, can allege and say for themselves: 'We serve God from our ancestors!' -- It is a good while since Mahomet gave them the cup of his devilish dreams to drink, and they got drunk with them. It is about a thousand years since cursed hellhounds were made drunk with their follies -- Let us be wise and discreet! -- For otherwise, we shall be like the Turks and Heathen."

**Calvin** wrote in *Institutes of the Christian Religion* (Book II, Chapter VI):

"For even if many men once boasted that they worshiped ... the Maker of heaven and earth, yet because they had no Mediator it was not possible for them truly to taste God's mercy, and thus be persuaded that he was their Father ...

So today the Muslim Turks, although they proclaim at the top of their lungs that the Creator of heaven and earth is God, still, while repudiating Christ, substitute an idol in place of the true God."

**John Wesley**, the founder of Methodism, wrote in *The Doctrine of Original Sin* (1817, p. 35; Works, 1841, ix. 205):

"Let us now calmly and impartially consider what manner of men the Mahometans in general are ... Men who have but a moderate share of reason, cannot but observe in his Koran ... the most gross and impious absurdities ...



Who can swallow such absurdities as divinely revealed. Mahometans not only condemn all who cannot swallow them to everlasting fire; not only appropriate to themselves the title of ... true believers: but even anathematise ... all their brethren ... who contend for a figurative interpretation."

**Wesley**  
continued:

"That these men then have no knowledge or love of God is

undeniably manifest, not only from their gross, horrible notions of him, but from their not loving their brethren ...



Mahometans will butcher each other by thousands ... Why is it that such numbers of Turks and Persians have stabbed one another in cool blood?

Truly, because they differ in the manner of dressing their head. The Ottoman vehemently maintains ... that a Mussulman should wear a round turban ... whereas the Persian insists upon his liberty of conscience, and will wear it picked before.

So, for this wonderful reason ... they beat out each other's brains from generation to generation."

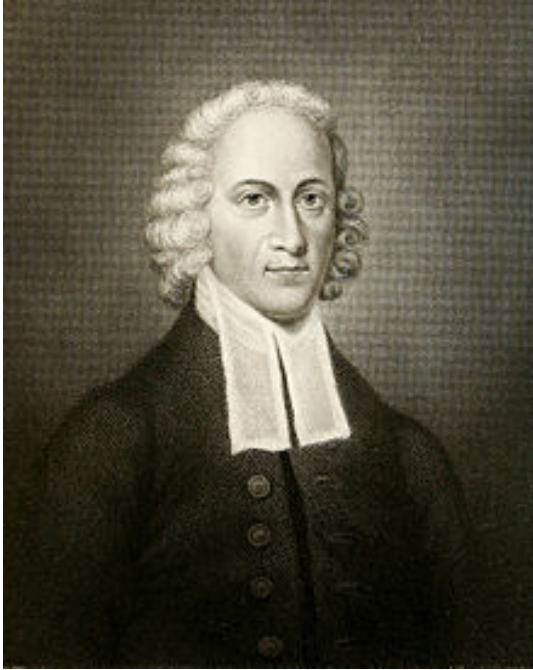
**Wesley** concluded:

"Ever since the religion of Mahomet appeared in the world, the espousers of it, particularly those under the Turkish emperor, have been as wolves and tigers to all other nations; rending and tearing all that fell into their merciless paws, and grinding them with their iron teeth ...



Numberless cities are razed from the foundation, and only their name remaining ... Many countries which were

once as the garden of God, are now a desolate wilderness ... Such was, and is at this day, the rage, the fury, the revenge, of these destroyers of humankind!"



**Jonathan Edwards**, first President of Princeton, wrote in *A History of the Work of Redemption* (1739):

"Those mighty kingdoms of Antichrist and Mohammed ... trampled the world under foot ... Great works of the devil ... swallowed up the Ancient Roman Empire ... Satan's Mohometan kingdom (swallowed) the

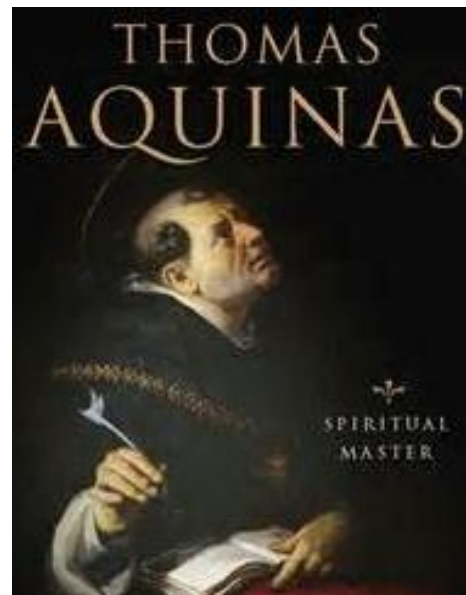
Eastern Empire."

**Jonathan Edwards** stated in *The Fall of Antichrist* (1829, NY: S. Converse pub., part vii, p. 395):

"By the false prophet ... here an eye seems to be had to Mahomet, whom his followers call the great prophet of God. Revelation 16:13"

Two centuries before the Reformation, in 1258, **Thomas Aquinas** had written in *Summa contra Gentiles* (translated by Anton C. Pegis, University of Notre Dame Press, 1975, Book 1, Chapter 6):

"Mohammed ... seduced the people by promises of carnal pleasure to which the concupiscence of the flesh goads us ... and he gave free reign to carnal pleasure.



In all this, as is not unexpected, he was obeyed by carnal men. As for proofs of the truth of his doctrine, he brought forward only such as could be grasped by the natural ability of anyone with a very modest wisdom. Indeed, the truths that he taught he mingled with many fables and doctrines of the greatest falsity.

... He did not bring forth any signs produced in a supernatural way, which alone fittingly gives witness to divine inspiration ...



On the contrary, Mohammed said that he was sent in the power of his arms -- which are signs not lacking even to robbers and tyrants ... Those who believed in him were brutal men and desert wanderers, utterly ignorant of all divine teaching, through whose numbers Mohammed forced others to become his followers by the violence of his arms ...

He perverts almost all the testimonies of the Old and New Testaments by making them into fabrications of his own, as can be seen by anyone who examines his law. It was, therefore, a shrewd decision on his part to forbid his followers to read the Old and New Testaments, lest these books convict him of falsity ... Those who place any faith in his words believe foolishly."

**Voltaire** (1694-1778) wrote the play *Fanaticism, or Mahomet*, explaining to Pope Benedict XIV, August 17, 1745:

"Your holiness will pardon the liberty taken by ... this performance written in opposition to the founder of a false and barbarous sect. To whom could I with more propriety inscribe a satire on the cruelty and errors of a false prophet."

**Voltaire** wrote to Frederick II of Prussia, December 1740, referring to Muhammad:

"But that a camel-merchant should stir up insurrection in his village; that in league with some miserable followers he persuades them that he talks with the angel Gabriel; that he boasts of having been carried to heaven, where he received in part this unintelligible book, each page of which makes common sense shudder;

that, to pay homage to this book, he delivers his country to iron and flame; that he cuts the throats of fathers and kidnaps daughters; that he gives to the defeated the choice of his religion or death: this is assuredly nothing any man can excuse, at least if he was not born a Turk, or if superstition has not extinguished all natural light in him."

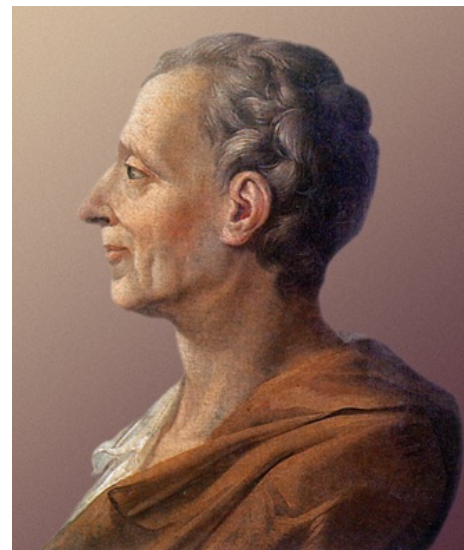
**Montesquieu** wrote in *The Spirit of the Laws* (1748):

"Moderate government is most agreeable to the Christian Religion, and a despotic government to the Mahometan

...

While the Mahomedan princes incessantly give or receive death, the religion of the Christians renders their princes ... less cruel ...

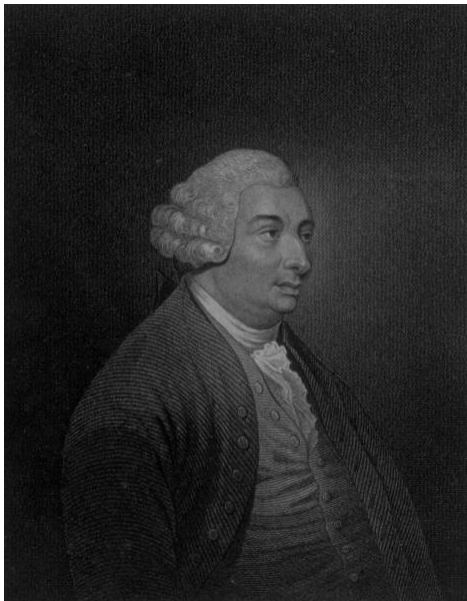
It is the Christian religion that ... has hindered despotic



power ...

From the characters of the Christian and Mahometan religions, we ought, without any further examination, to embrace the one and reject the other:

The Mahometan Religion, which speaks only by the sword, acts still upon men with that destructive spirit with which it was founded."



Scottish philosopher **David Hume** (1711-1776) wrote in *Of the Standard of Taste* (1760):

"Followers of the Qur'an insist on the excellent moral precepts interspersed through that wild and absurd performance.

It is to be supposed, that the Arabic words, which correspond to the English, equity, justice, temperance, meekness, charity ... must always be taken in a good sense; and it would have argued the greatest ignorance, not of morals, but of language, to have mentioned them with any epithets, besides those of applause and approbation.

But would we know, whether the pretended prophet had really attained a just sentiment of morals?

Let us attend to his narration; and we shall soon find, that he bestows praise on such instances of treachery, inhumanity, cruelty, revenge, bigotry, as are utterly incompatible with civilized society.

No steady rule of right seems there to be attended to; and every action is blamed or praised, so far only as it is beneficial or hurtful to the true believers."

## THE PEACE OF AUGSBURG

The most powerful man in the Western World was **Charles V** of Spain.

Being the Catholic Holy Roman Emperor, he exercised controlled over most of Europe, as well as areas in the Americas and the Philippines.

**Charles V** was faced with a double dilemma:

- 1) Protestant Reformation on one hand;
- 2) Muslim invasion on the other hand.

As the Turks rapidly advanced up the Danube River, **Charles V** of Spain decided to strike a deal with the Protestants.

In 1532, an initial truce was negotiated in Nuremberg. Then in 1555, **Charles V** negotiated the monumental **Peace of Augsburg**.

1500's Holy Roman Emperor  
**CHARLES V** of Spain



**CHARLES V** of Spain  
Holy Roman Emperor,  
faced  
DOUBLE DILEMMA:

1. Protestant Reformation
2. Muslim Invasion





Eric W. Gritsch wrote in *Martin-God's Court Jester: Luther in Retrospect* (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1983, p. 69-70):

"Afraid of losing the much-needed support of the German princes for the struggle against the Turkish threat from the south, Emperor Charles V agreed to a truce between Protestant and Catholic territories ...

Thus the Lutheran movement was, for the first time, officially tolerated and could enjoy a place in the political sun of the Holy Roman Empire."

**The Peace of Augsburg** in 1555, which was the first treaty to recognize Protestants, contained a little Latin phrase that had enormous repercussions across Europe:



1555 Peace of Augsburg

cuius regio—eius religio  
*whose reign—his religion*

**"curios regio eius religio,"** which meant "whose is the reign his is the religion."

In other words, the **Peace of Augsburg** allowed each king to decide what would be believed in his kingdom, as long as they worked together with Catholic Spain to stop the Islamic invasion of Europe.

If someone did not believe the way their king did, they fled.

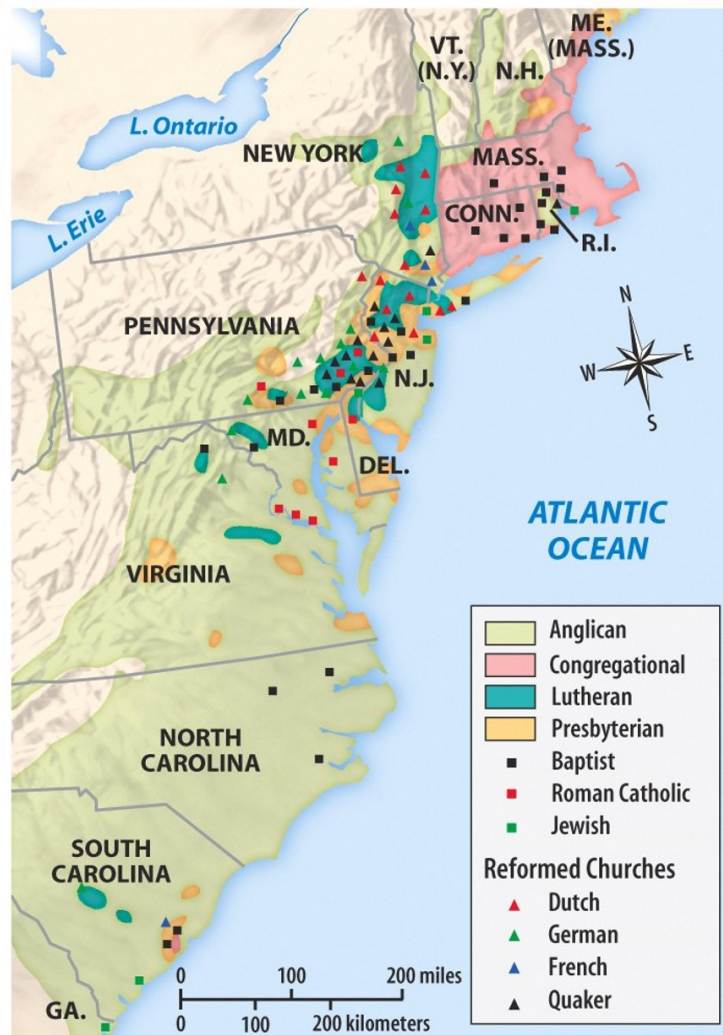
Some of those fleeing eventually sought freedom

by sailing to the shores of America.

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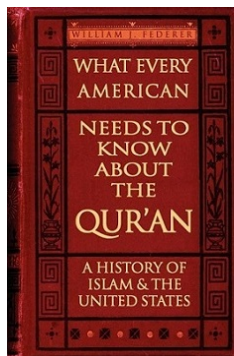
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