

Islam in Europe –history. Present time.



The early history

- ▶ the state of Andalusia (756-1492) on the Iberian Peninsula
- ▶ the Crusades (1095-1291) – Richard the Lion-Hearted
- ▶ the Ottoman Empire

- ▶ Many historians and sociologists - Islam was the leading cause of Europe's movement from the darkness of its Middle Ages -to the brilliance of its Renaissance
- ▶ Europe- backward in medicine, astronomy, mathematics, and many other fields, Muslims possessed a lot of knowledge

Richard the Lion-Hearted



Suleyman the Magnificent



Granada – Al-Hambra - Spain



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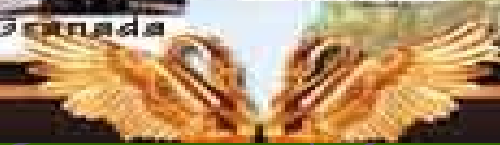
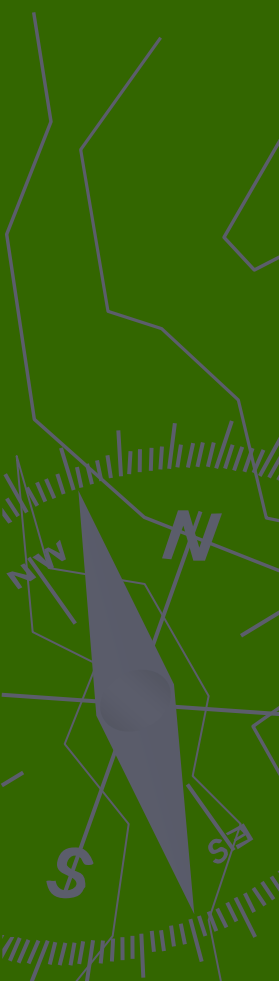
Crusades

- ▶ Islam began to spread – the main reason for the Crusades
- ▶ The goal - to take Jerusalem back from the Muslims
- ▶ the Crusaders gained something else – encounter with the Islamic world's advanced civilization
- ▶ Inhabitants of Islamic world - quite advanced in the fields of medicine, astronomy, and mathematics
- ▶ new values rarely found in Europe at that time - pluralism, tolerance, understanding, compassion, and self-sacrifice

Spain-Andalusia and Turkey

- ▶ Andalusia had a great cultural influence upon Europe until the late fifteenth century
- ▶ high level of civilization - more advanced than the rest of Europe, and that it was one of the principle factors in the development of European civilization
- ▶ Andalusia finally finished to exist in 1492 with the fall of Granada, the last Muslim kingdom on the Iberian Peninsula
- ▶ the Ottoman Empire - the Balkans -during the fifteenth century as a result of several victories
- ▶ Ottoman civilization remained in the Balkans for 400 years

WORLDWIDE MONUMENTS OF ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION



18th-20th centuries

- ▶ **European colonial empires with a Muslim majority (in North Africa, India, and Malaysia)**
- ▶ **Contact with Muslim populations, both as the army and civil administration in these new colonies**
- ▶ **Muslim immigrants who came to the colonizing country – reasons – as seamen, soldiers, students**
- ▶ **After the colonies achieved independence, the European countries enabled mass immigration from their former colonies- workers - France, the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and Scandinavia**

Islam in Turkey

- ▶ establishment of the republic in 1923 - a strong tradition of secularism – Ataturk's reforms
- ▶ Islam was gradually omitted from the public sphere and the principle of secularism was inserted in the Turkish Constitution in 1937
- ▶ Today- majority of the population confess Islam – 99%
- ▶ Further development???

Islam in Poland

- ▶ *There are about 35-40,000 Muslims in Poland - Poles, Tatars, Arabs, Turks, Palestinians and others*
- ▶ *Most of them, around 11-13,000 people, live in Warsaw*
- ▶ *four mosques in Poland, one of them in Warsaw, built in 1993 – belongs to the Muslim Religion Association*
- ▶ *a library with a multimedia room, art gallery, restaurant, café and shop*

Islam in the CR

- ▶ In 1991 *Center of Muslim communities (Ústředí muslimských náboženských obcí)* was established
- ▶ In 1998 a mosque was opened in Brno and a year later in Prague
- ▶ Most of the Muslims are from Bosnia-Herzegovina (early 1990s) and former countries of the Soviet Union (mostly from Causasus region, from the late 1990s until the present)
- ▶ Middle class people of Egyptian, Syrian and other Middle Eastern origin (typically those who studied in Czechoslovakia and decided to stay)

Discussion questions

- ▶ In which European countries can you find big Muslim communities?
- ▶ What are the perspectives of integration of Muslims in the EU countries?
- ▶ Will Turkey enter the EU?

Muslim-Christian relations

- ▶ 1683 ??? Vienna battle,
- ▶ Jan Sobieski

