



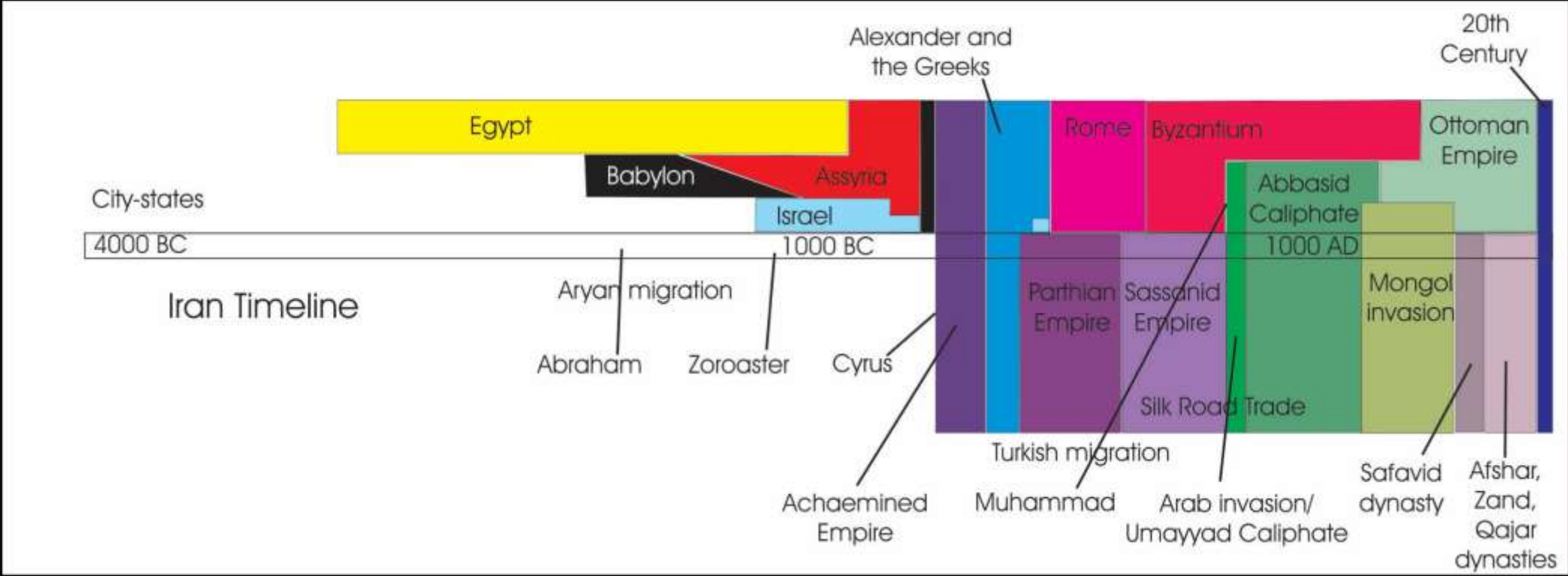
IRAN: People, Politics, Religion, and Conflicts

Chris Schaefer

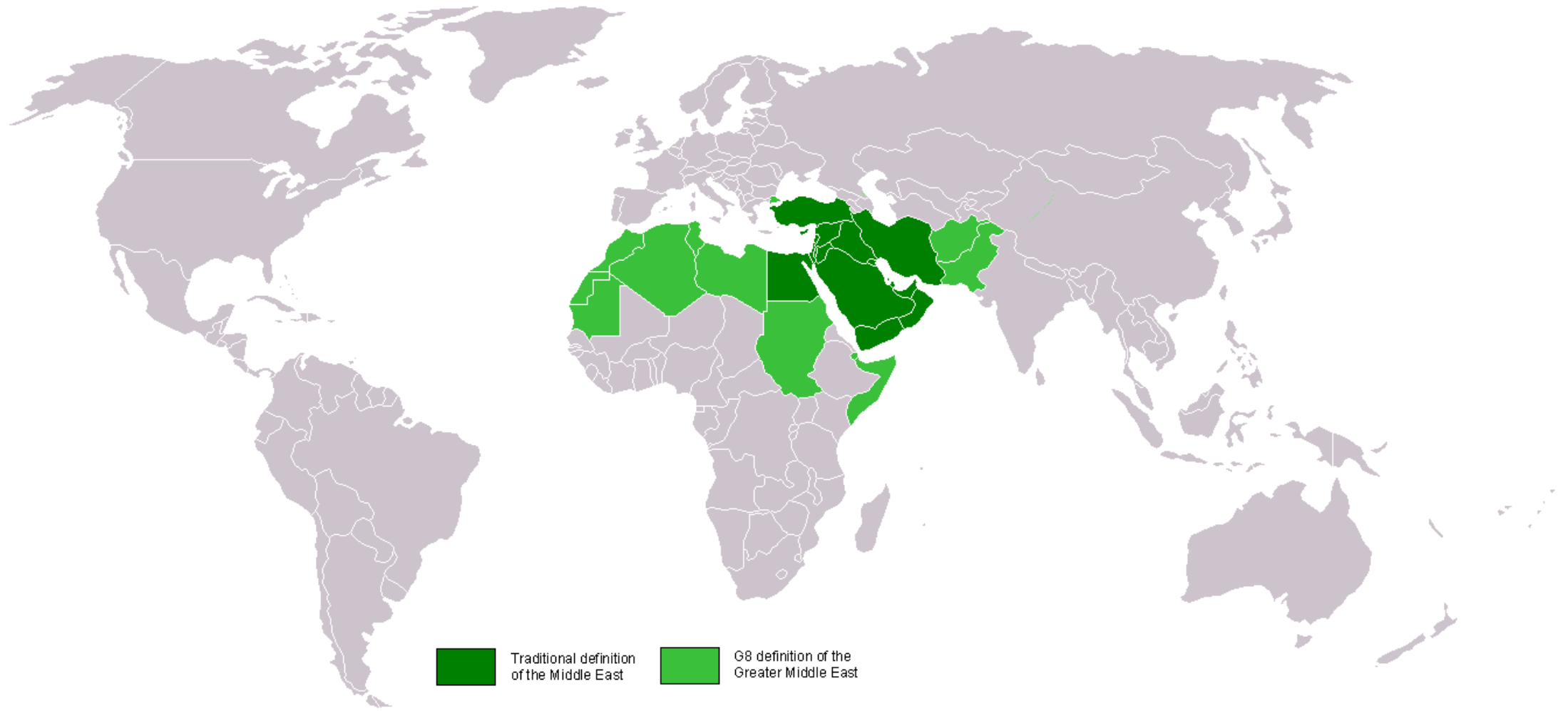
chris.schaefer@bataandiary.com

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www.bataandiary.com/Iran.html



Part 1--Geopolitics



Middle East and North Africa

Area:
Iran = 630,000 sq miles
US = 3,800,000 sq miles
US is 6 times larger



Population:
Iran = 84,000,000
US = 319,000,000
US is 4 times larger

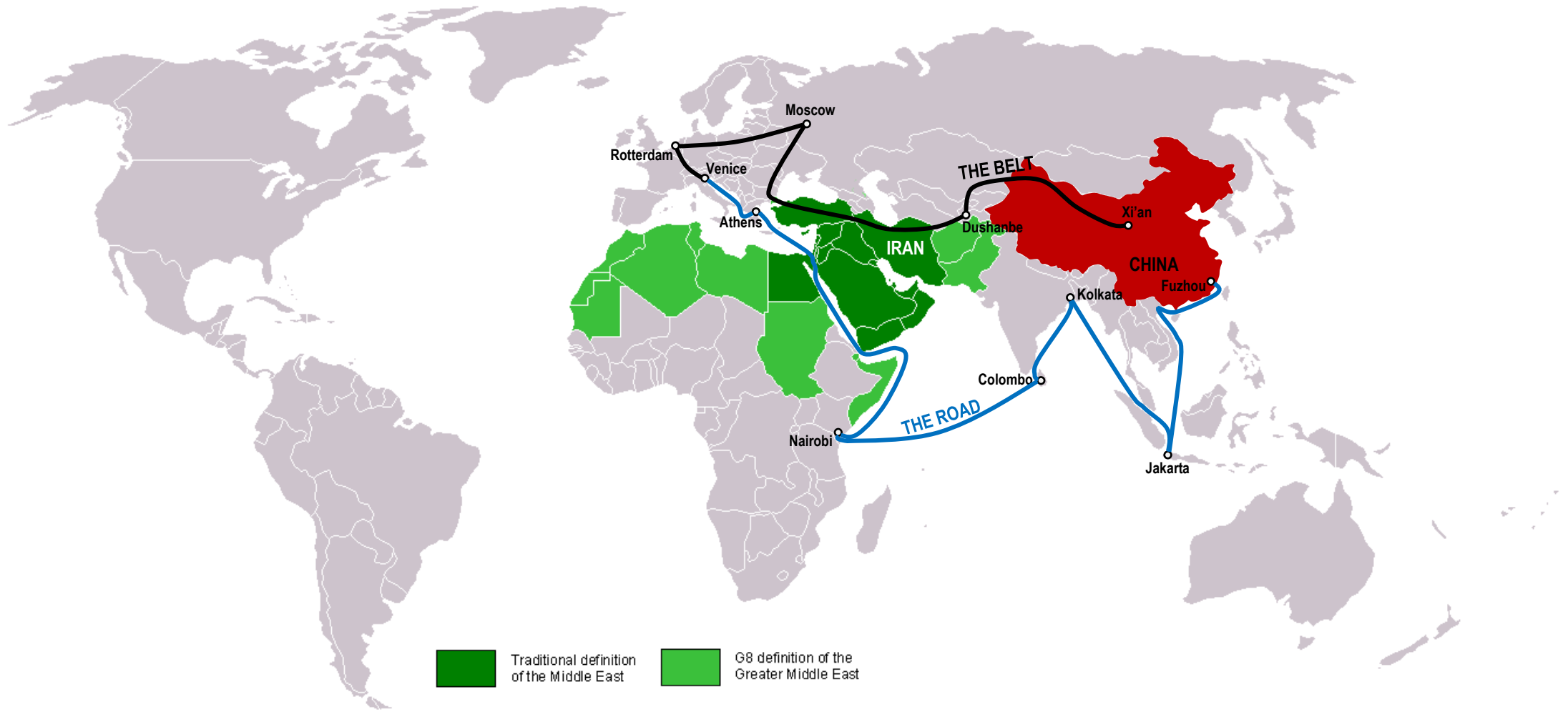
Exports to:

- China 36%
- Turkey 20%
- Kuwait 6%
- Pakistan 5%
- India 4%
- UAE 1%



Imports from:

- China 28%
- UAE 19%
- Brazil 13%
- Turkey 9%
- India 6%



China's Belt and Road

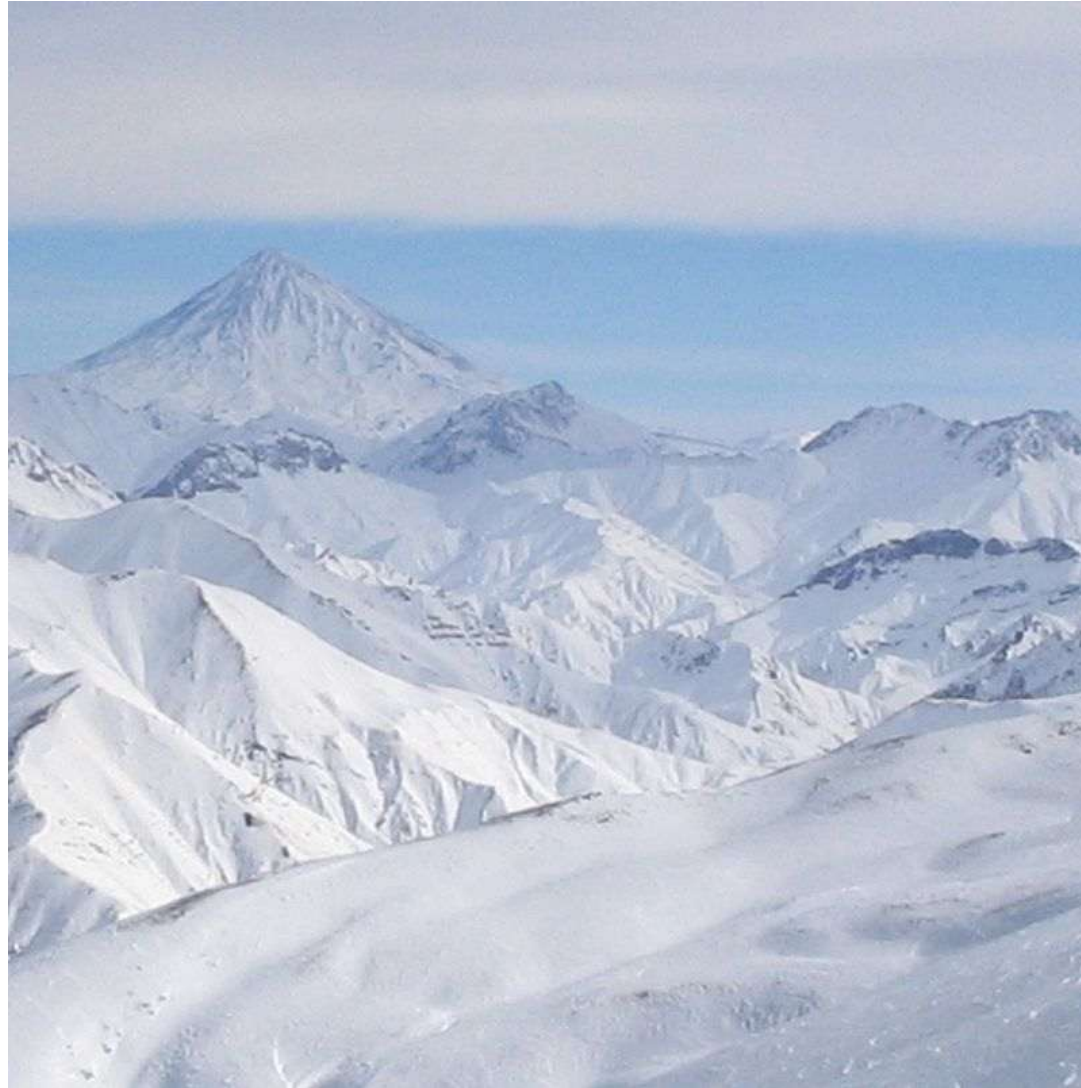


Topography: Mountains



Zagros Mountains

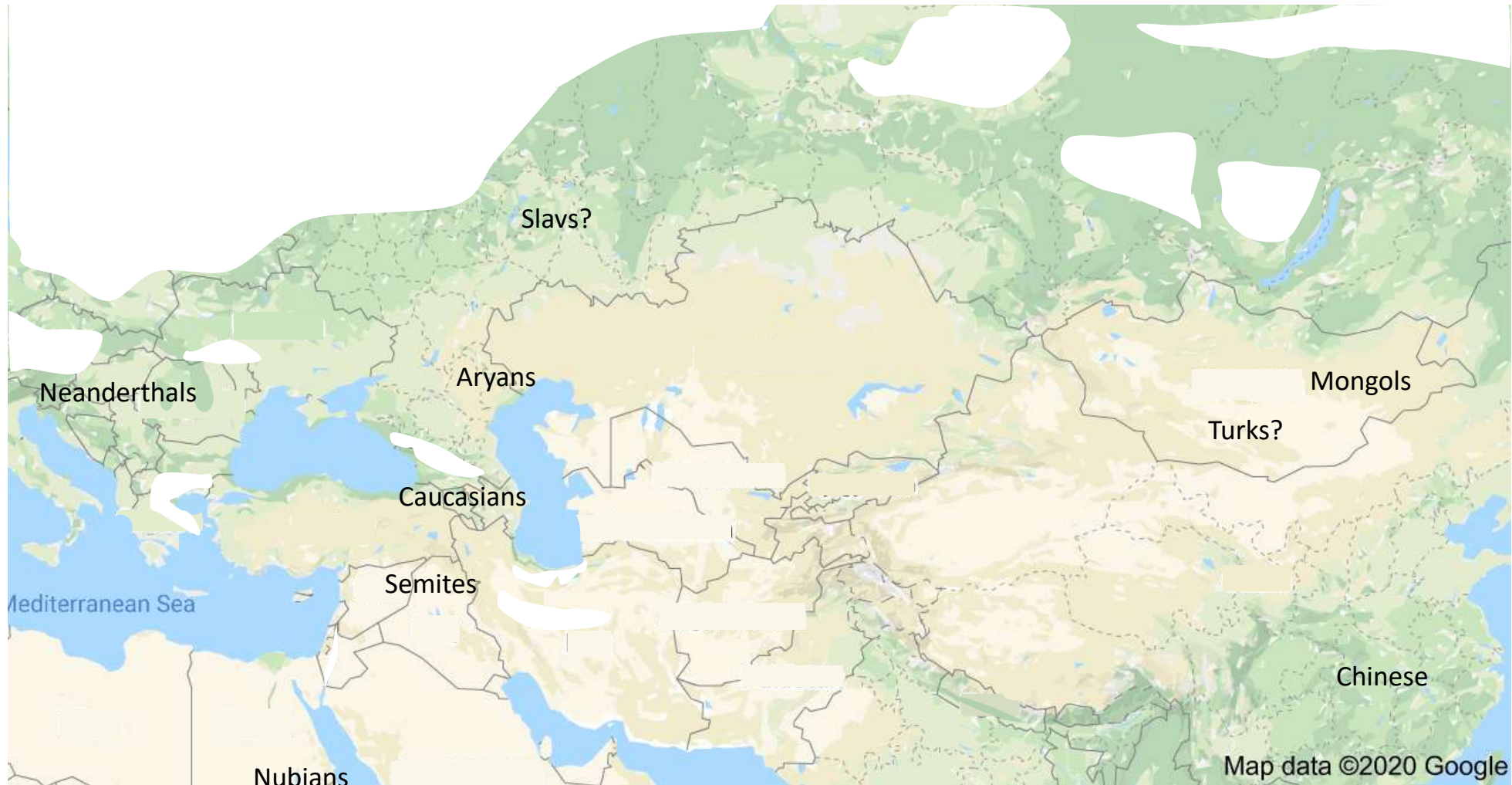




Alborz Mountains



Settlers



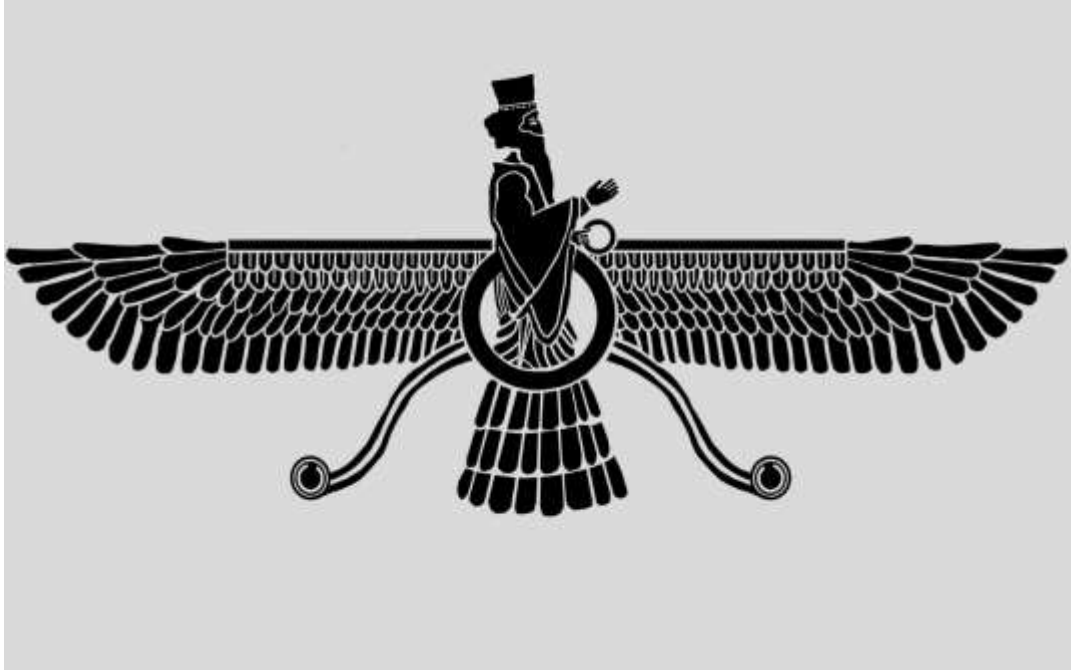
the Ice Epoch (30,000 BC - 13,000 BC)



Expansion after the Ice Epoch (13,000 BC)



Holocene pre-historic migration (12,000 – 1,000 BC)







Turkish migration (1000 BC – 1200 AD)

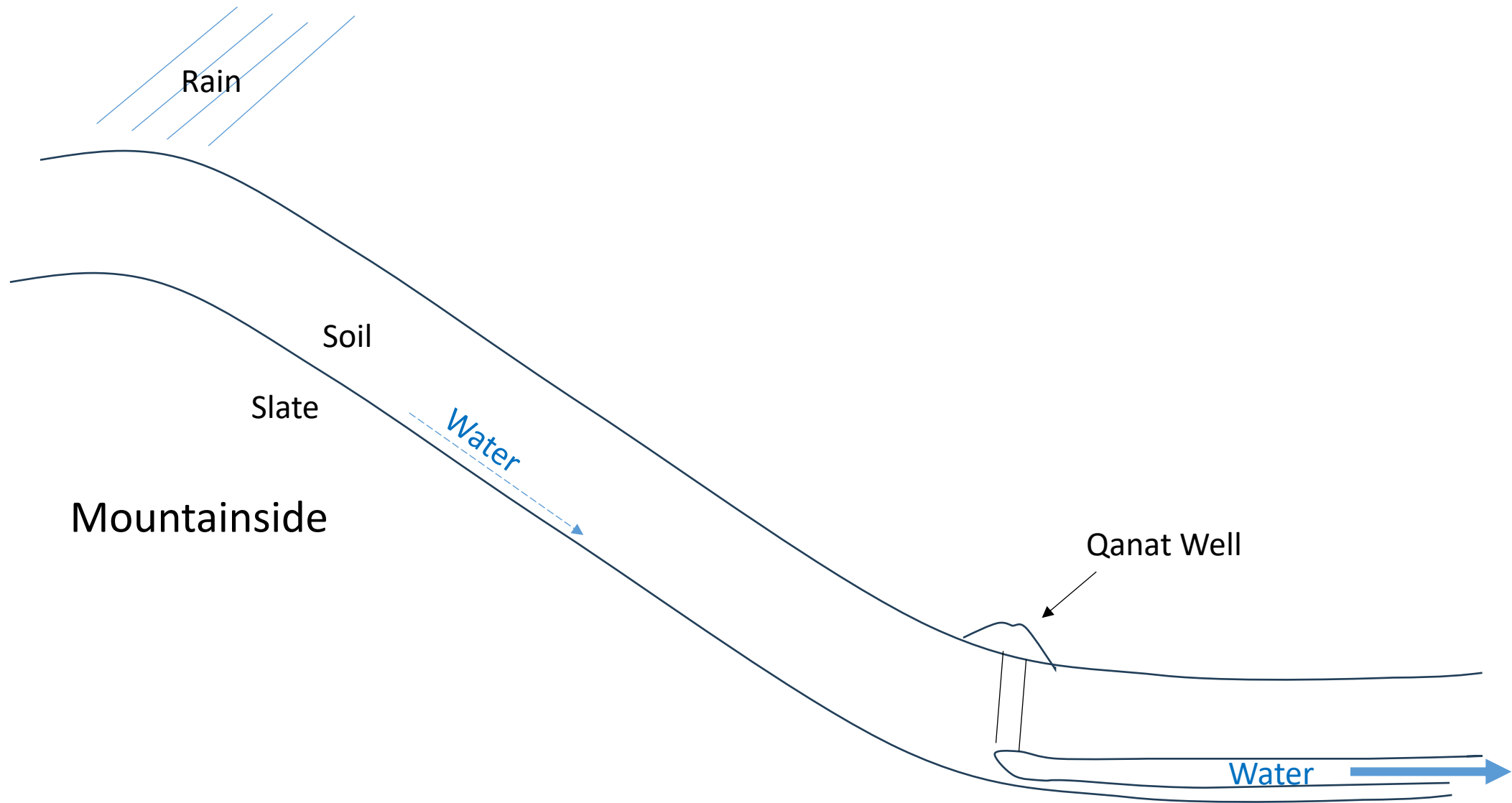
Water



Topography: Basins







Mountainside

Rain

Soil

Slate

Water

Qanat Well

Water







Traditional Qanat water distribution system

The first water clock
این اولین ساعت تقویم است

Handwritten text on a scroll, likely a historical record or manual related to the water clock.





Lake Urmia, Sept 2020



Lake Urmia, Sept 2023



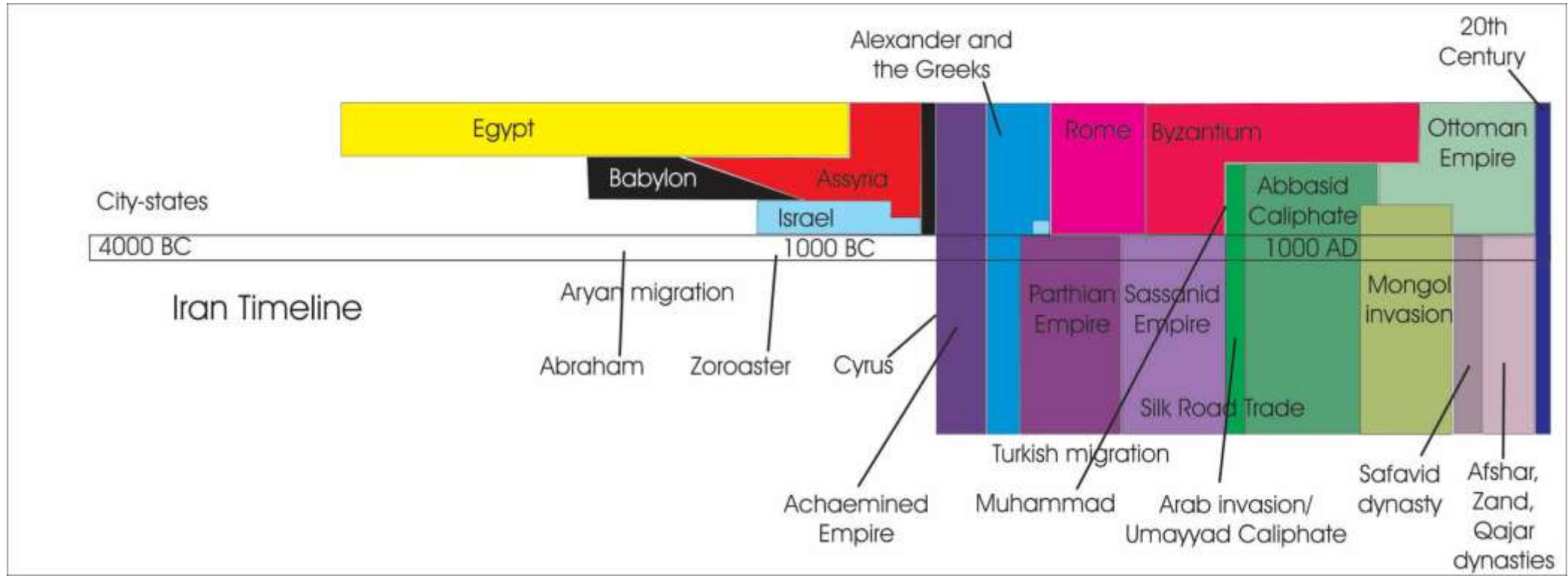




Demonstrators in Tabriz demand government action to restore Lake Urmia.



Part 2--Cyrus the Great and the history of Iran



Germans





Achaemenid Empire of Cyrus the Great













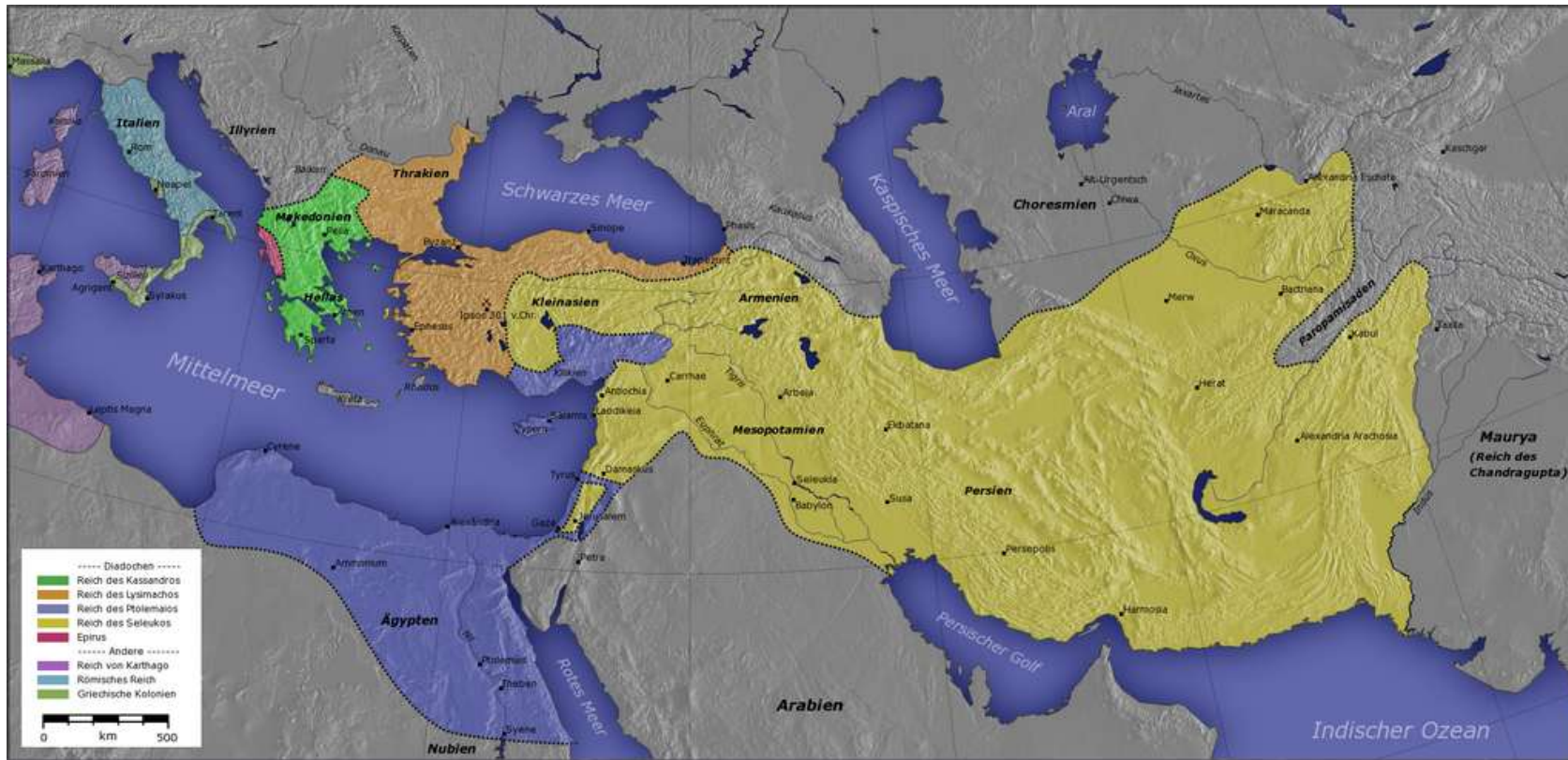
Alexander the Great



The Empire of Alexander the Great



With an effort he turned at last on his side.

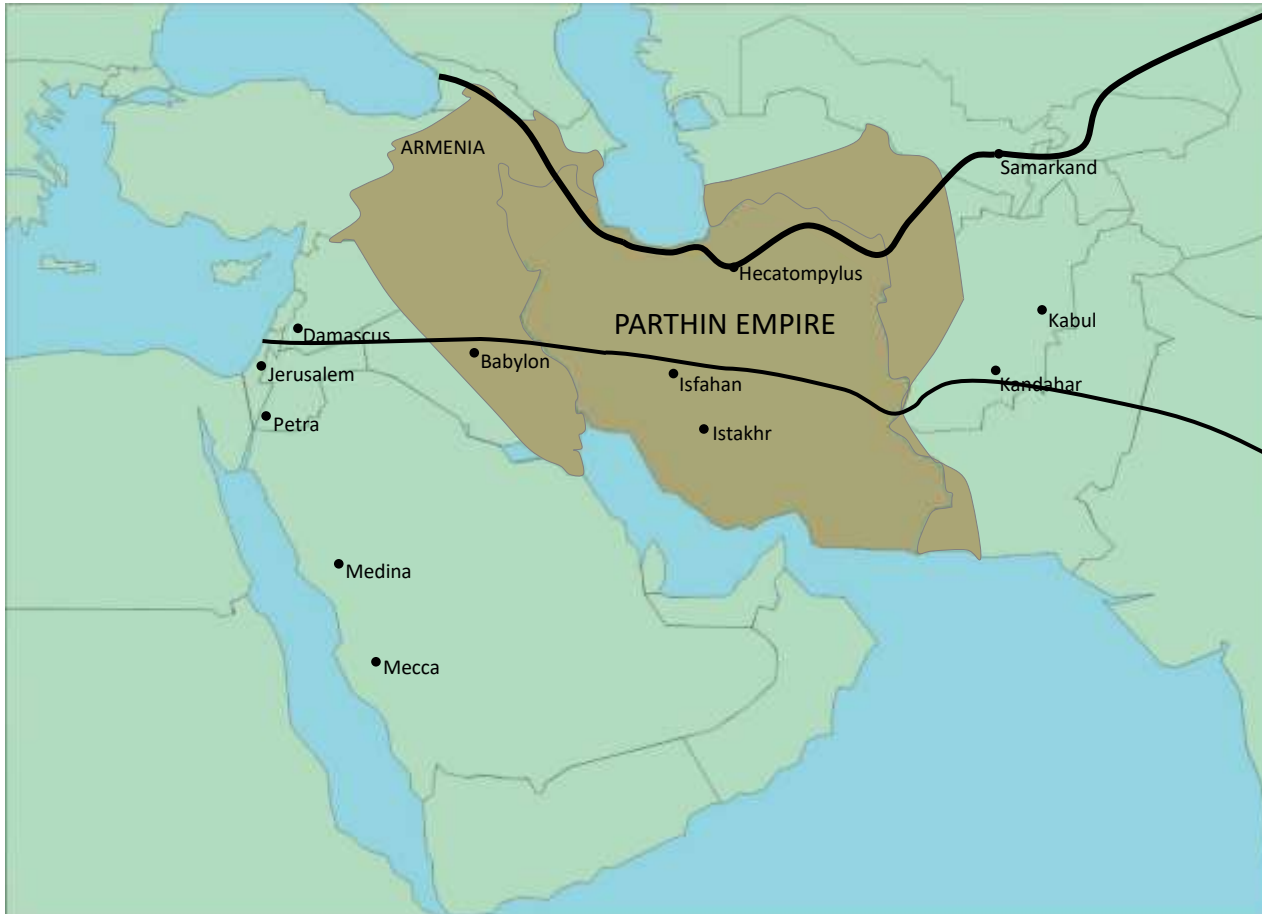


The Four Greek Empires

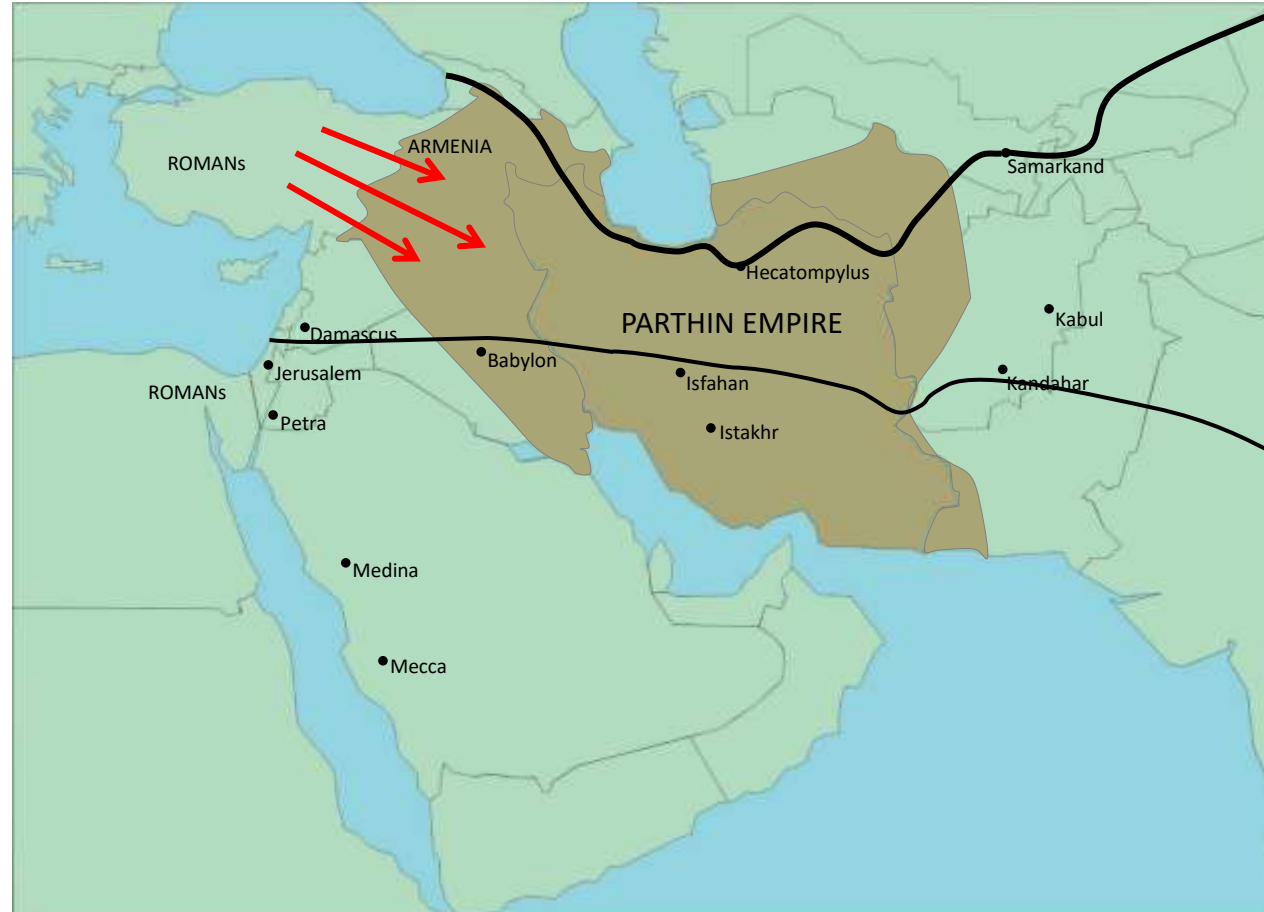
Parthian and Sassanid Empires



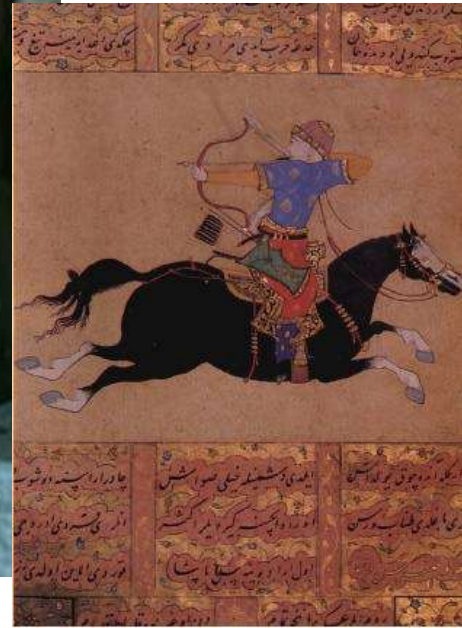
Parthian Empire (247 BC – 224 AD)



The Silk Road through Parthia



Romans fail to defeat Parthian Iran:
53BC, 59AD, 86AD, 164AD, 196AD.





Sassanid Empire (224 AD – 650 AD)



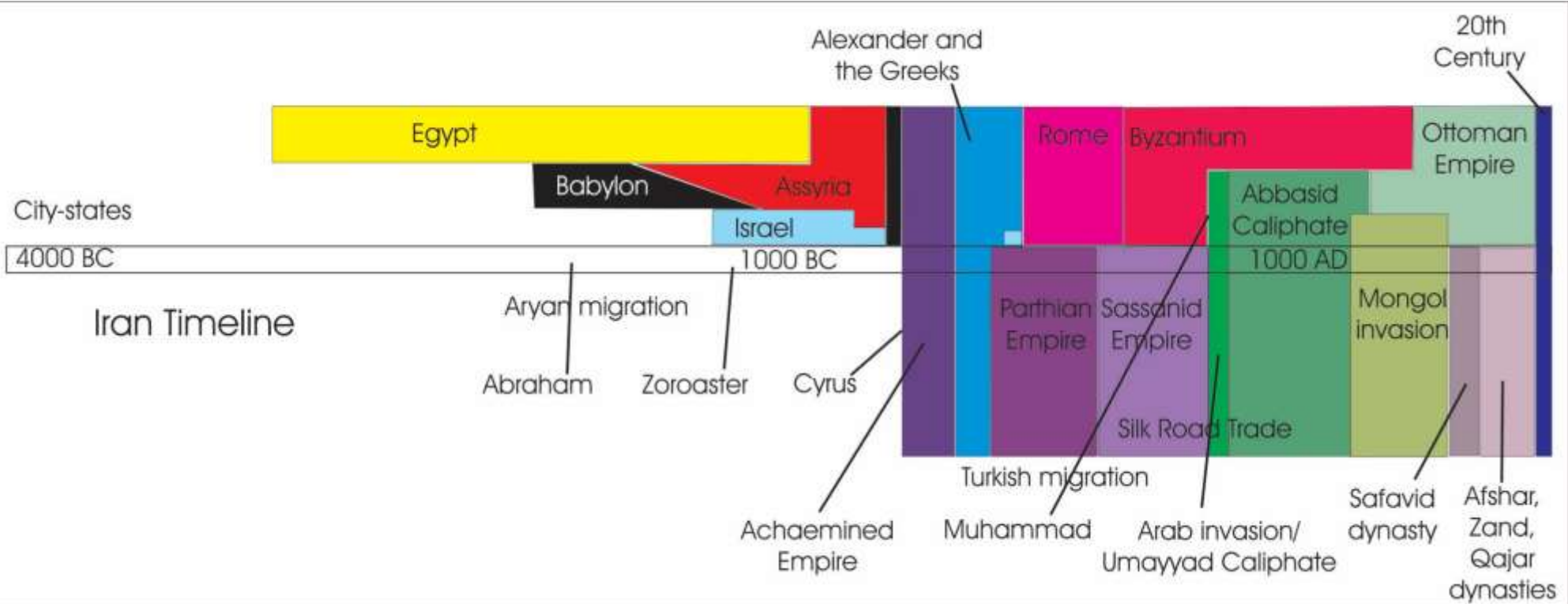


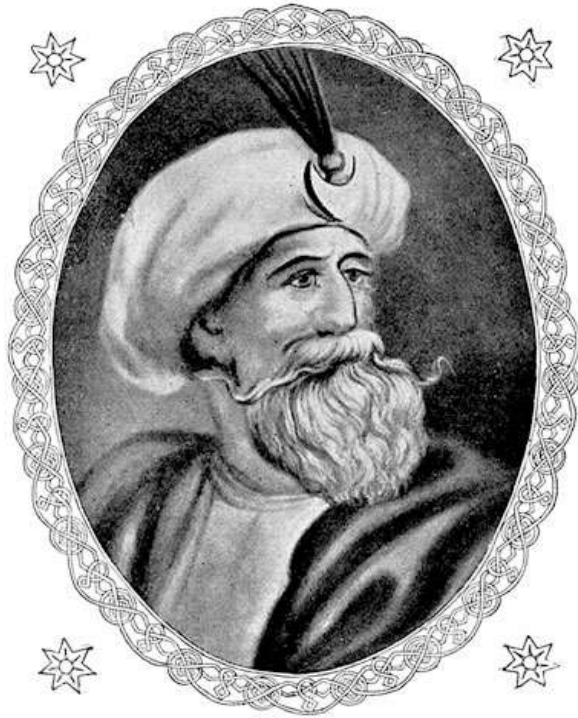
Naqsh-e Rostam



Part 3--Islam

Iran Timeline





570 – Muhammad born in Mecca



The Ka'bah



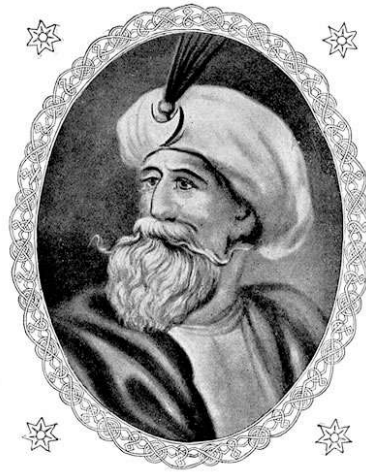
Abu Bakr,
his friend

Umar,
his friend

Uthman,
his friend

Other
friends

Muhammad in Mecca



Muhammad



Khadija,
his wife

Ruqayyah,
their daughter

Fatima,
their daughter

Abu Talib,
his uncle

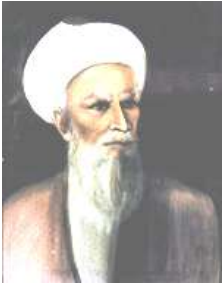


Ali,
his cousin



622 Muhammad moves from Mecca to Medina (the Hijra).

Muhammad in Medina



Abu Bakr,
Muhammad's friend

Umar,
Muhammad's
friend

Uthman,
Muhammad's
friend
and son-in-
law

Other
companions

Aisha,
Abu Bakr's
daughter,
Muhammad's
wife

Ruqayyah,
Muhammad's
daughter



Muhammad

Fatima,
Muhammad's
daughter

Hasan,
Muhammad's
grandson



Ali,
Muhammad's cousin
and son-in-law

Husayn,
Muhammad's
grandson



Rashidun Caliphate under abu Bakr
(with Christian Byzantine Empire and Zoroastrian Sassanid Empire)



633 Caliph abu Bakr attacks the
Sassanid Empire (Iran)



Abu Bakr,
Muhammad's friend



Aisha,
Abu Bakr's
daughter,
Muhammad's
wife



Muhammad

Umar,
Muhammad's
friend

Uthman,
Muhammad's
friend
and son-in-
law

Other
companions

Ruqayyah,
Muhammad's
daughter

Fatima,
Muhammad's
daughter



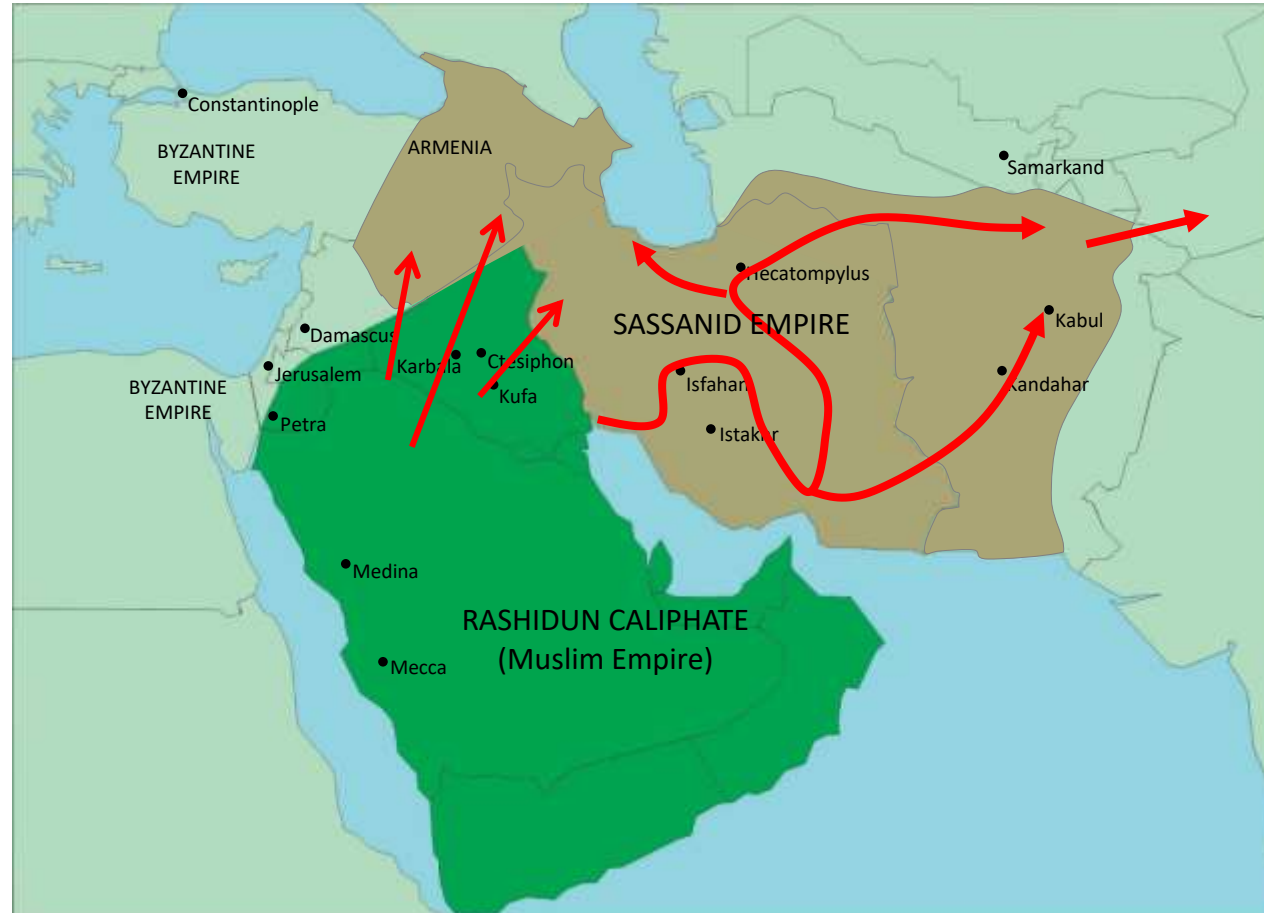
Ali,
Muhammad's cousin
and son-in-law

Hasan,
Muhammad's
grandson

Husayn,
Muhammad's
grandson



Caliph
Umar



635 - 642 Caliph Umar defeats Iranian cities and forts



Abu Bakr,
Muhammad's friend

Umar,
Muhammad's
friend

Uthman,
Muhammad's
friend
and son-in-
law

Other
companions

Aisha,
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Muhammad

Fatima,
Muhammad's
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Hasan,
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grandson



Ali,
Muhammad's cousin
and son-in-law

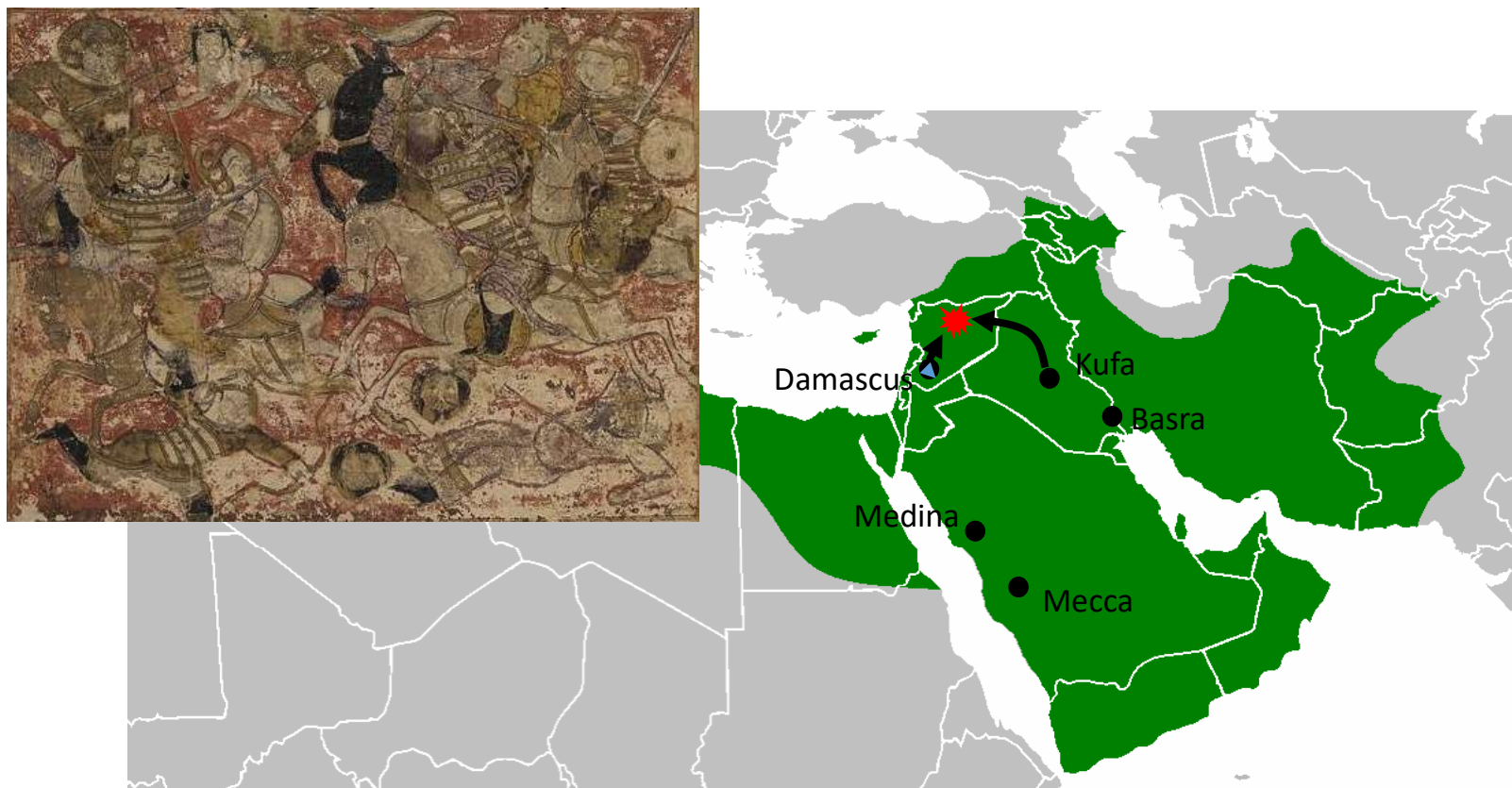
Husayn,
Muhammad's
grandson



Ali, Muhammad's son-in-law.
The 4th Caliph.



Ali moves his capitol from Medina to
Kufa, Mesopotamia



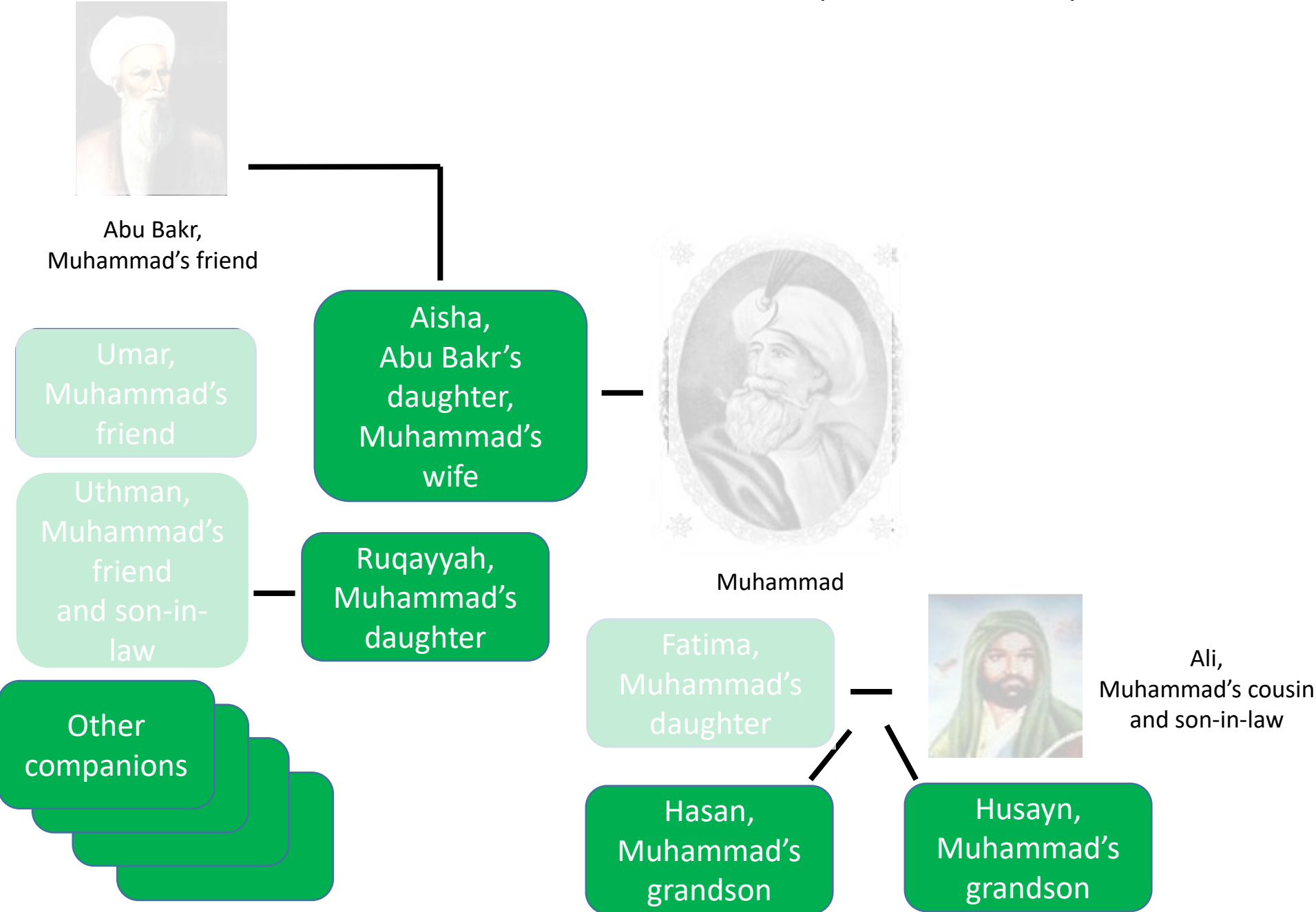
657 Battle of Siffin, 70,000 dead.

Shi'atu Ali = Shi'a
(Partisans of Ali)



Tomb and Shrine of Imam Ali, Najaf, Iraq

661 Ali's son Hasan makes peace with Muawiyah.



670 Hasan dies, possibly poisoned by his wife at the direction of Muawiyah.



Abu Bakr,
Muhammad's friend

Umar,
Muhammad's
friend

Uthman,
Muhammad's
friend
and son-in-
law

Other
companions

Aisha,
Abu Bakr's
daughter,
Muhammad's
wife

Ruqayyah,
Muhammad's
daughter



Muhammad

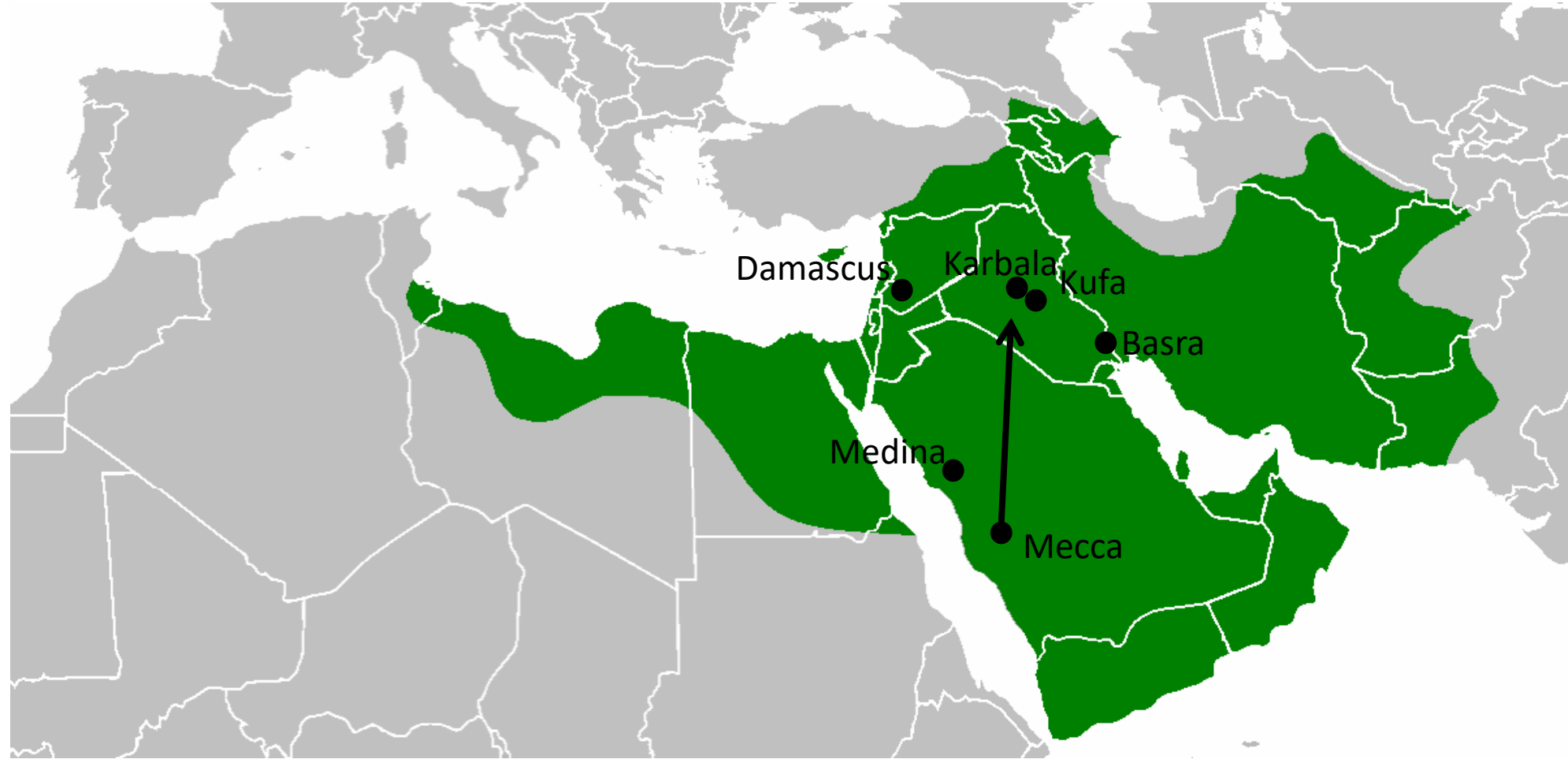
Fatima,
Muhammad's
daughter

Hasan,
Muhammad's
grandson



Ali,
Muhammad's cousin
and son-in-law

Husayn,
Muhammad's
grandson



September, 680 Husayn goes to Kufa.



Shmir ibn Thil-Jawshan decapitates Husayn
at the Battle of Karbala, 680 AD



Imam Husayn Tomb and Mosque, Karbala, Iraq

Muhammad

Sunni Caliphs:

1. Abu Bakr
2. Umar
3. Uthman
4. Ali
5. Muawiyah
6. Yazid
7. Muawiyah II
8. .
9. .

Shi'a Imams:

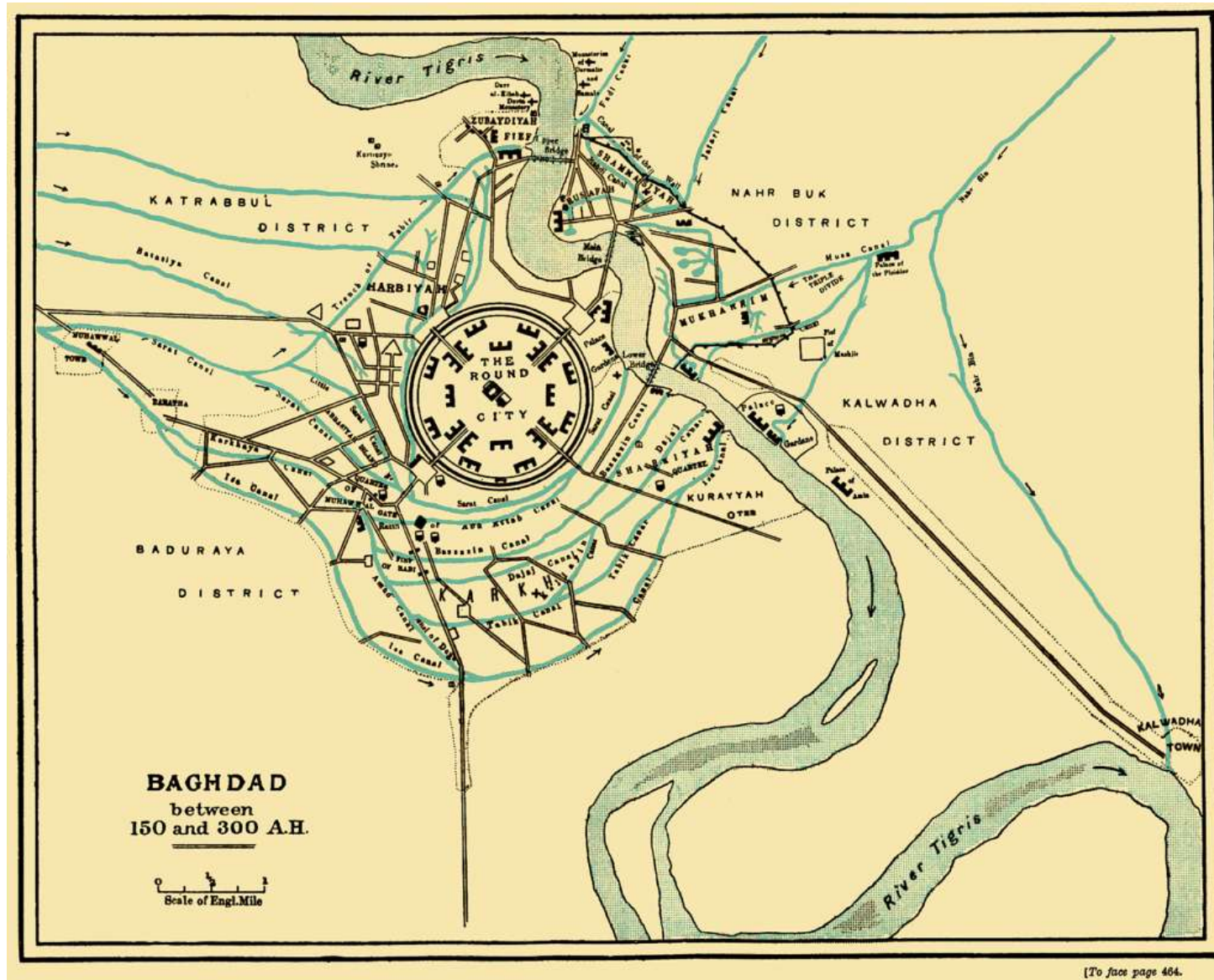
1. Ali
2. Hasan
3. Husayn
4. Ali ibn Husayn
5. .
6. .



Umayyad Caliphate (Muslim Empire) 750 AD



Abbasid Caliphate, 750 - 1258



City of Baghdad, 767 – 912 AD



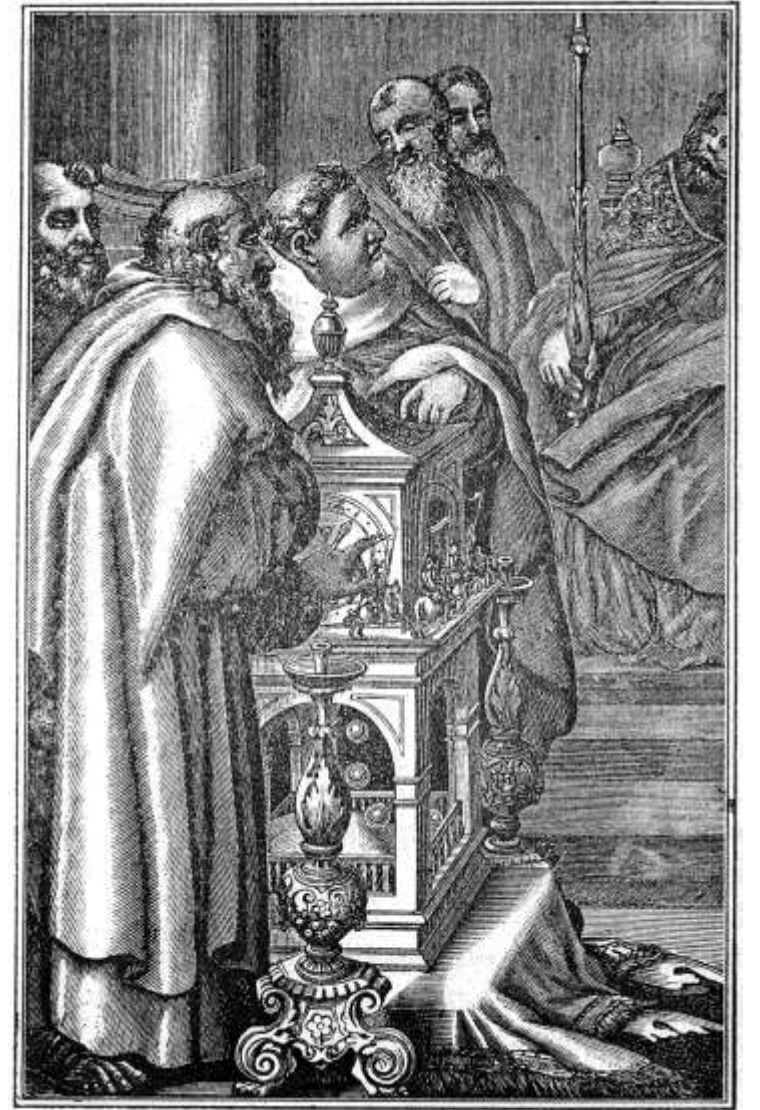
Abbasid style windmill, in Syria



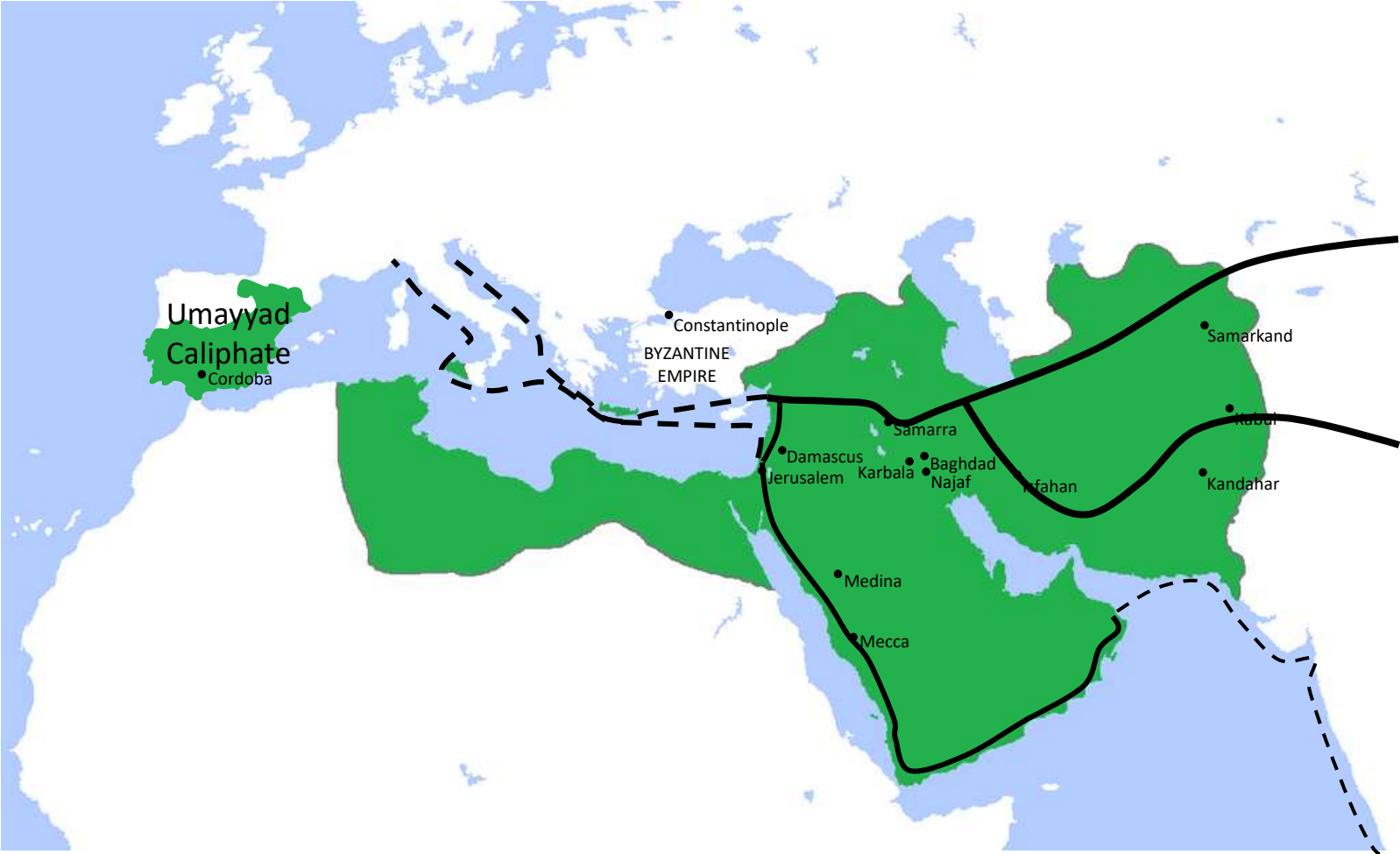
Astrolabe



Illustration from *Arabian Nights*



Water clock given to Charlemagne
by Harun al-Rashid



Abbasid Caliphate, 750 - 1258

The Mongol invasion



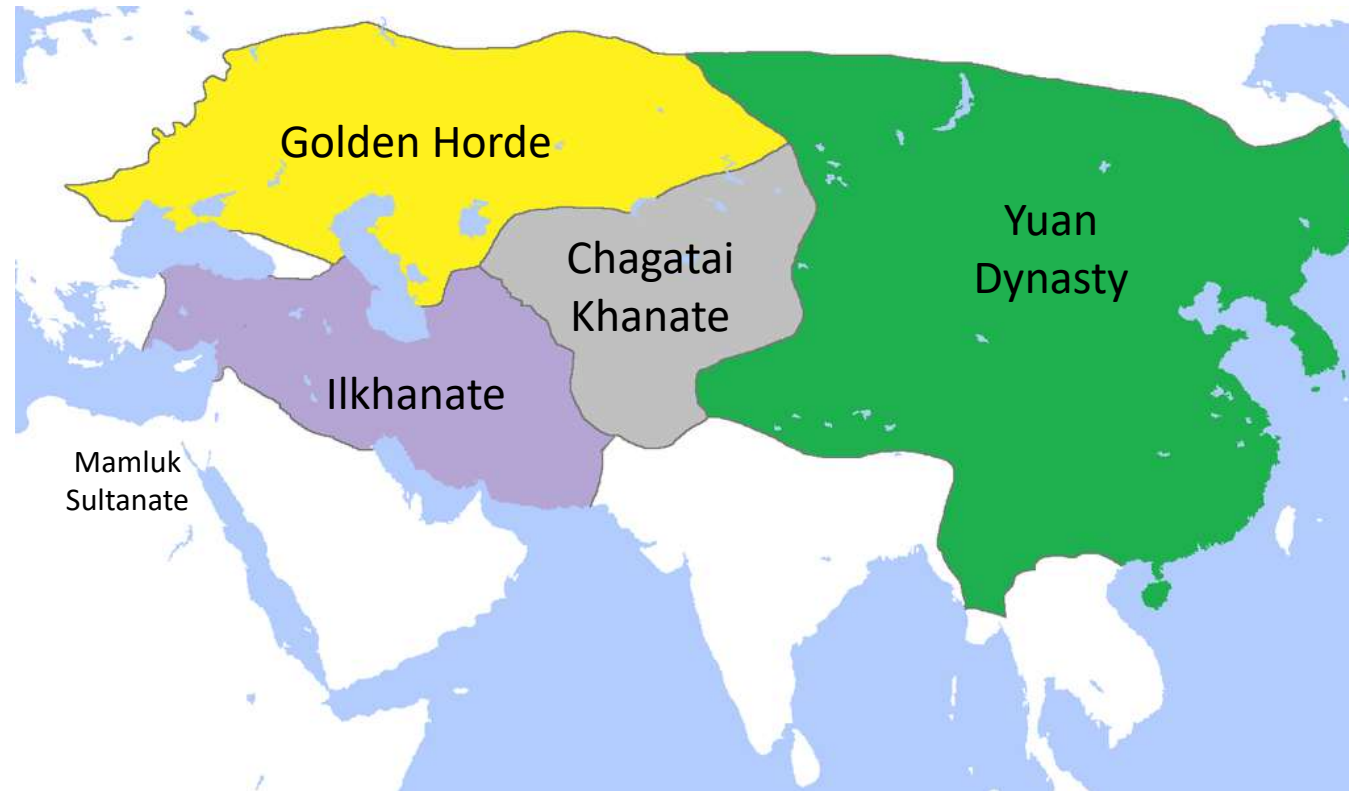
Hulagu Khan



Mongol invasion, 1221 – 1258 AD
destroyed the Abbasid Caliphate



Ghazan Khan



1300—the Mongol Empire divides into four parts.



Tamurlane



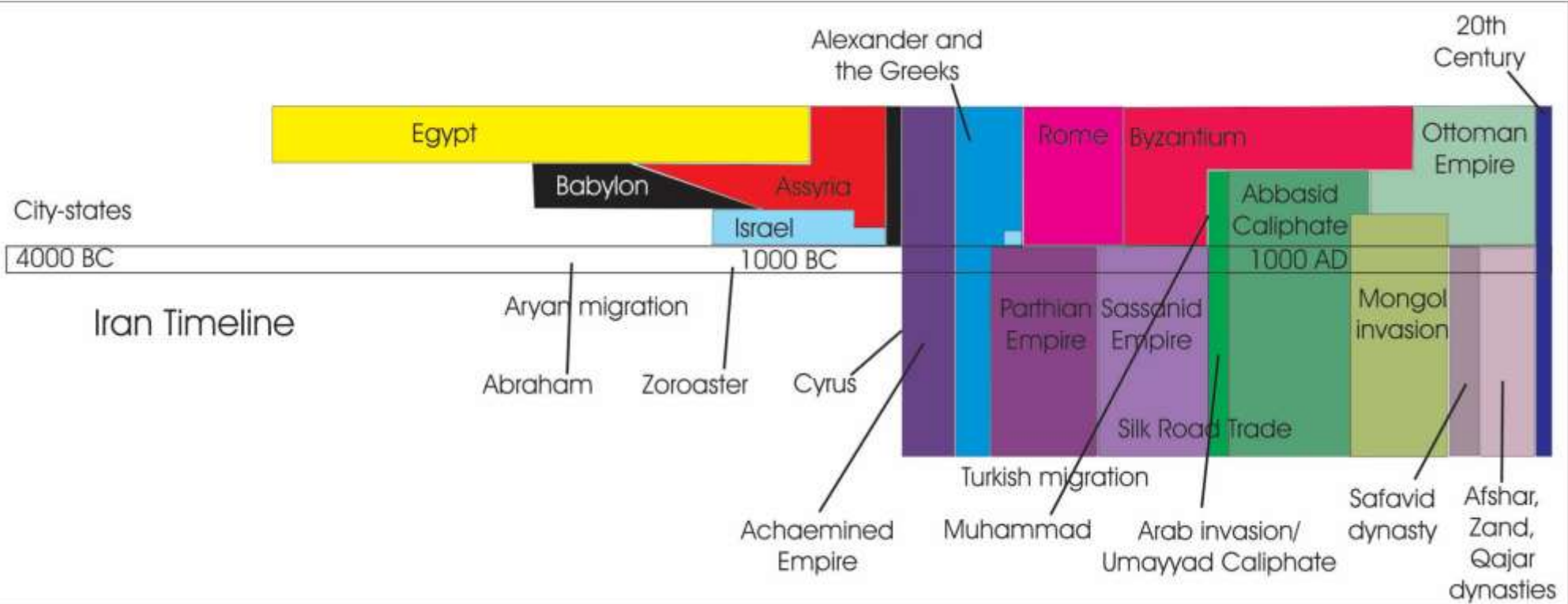
Empire of Timur (Tamerlane), 1370 – 1405 AD





1500—Europeans begin colonizing the rest of the world.

Iran Timeline



The Safavid Dynasty



Sheikh Safi ad-Din

Armenia



Abbas I

1598--Shah Abbas I imports Armenian craftsmen to rebuild Isfahan



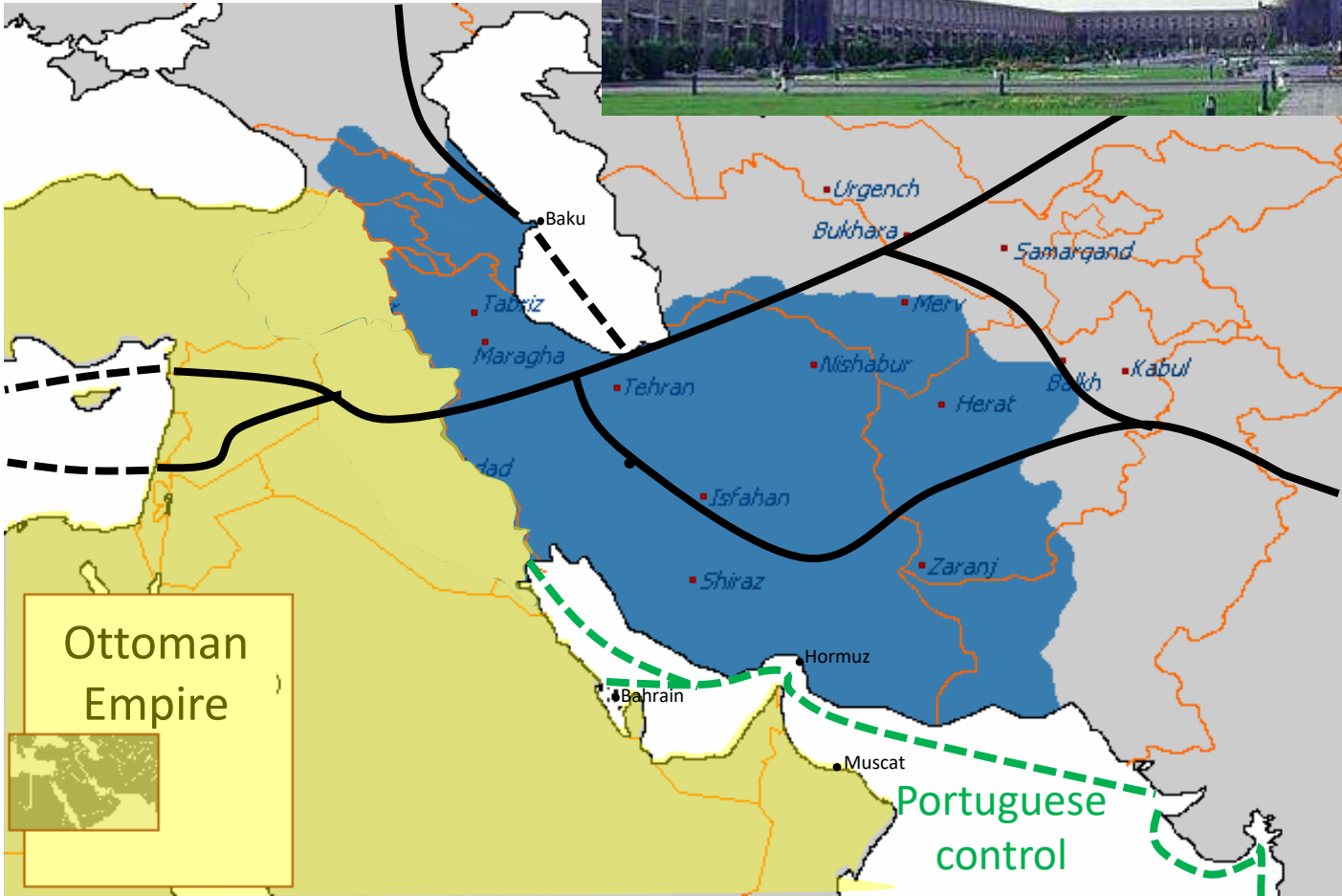
Shah Abbas builds the Maidan



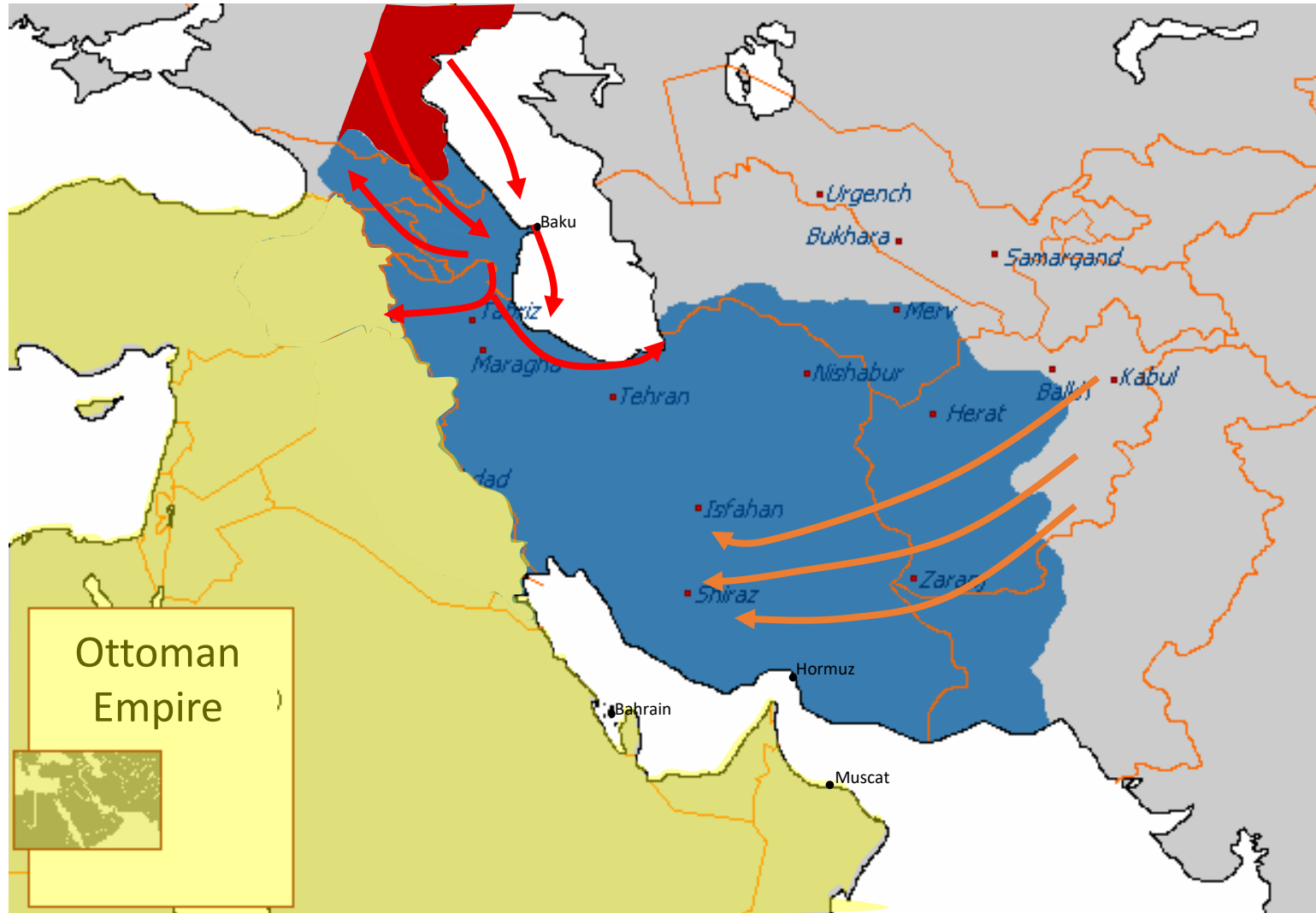








1600—Isfahan becomes capital of Iran, and the center of world trade.



1719--Afghans overrun southern Iran, sack Isfahan, massacre the residents.

1722-1723—100,000 Russians under Peter the Great take Dagestan, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and the Caspian coast of Iran.



1736—Afshar leader Nadar Shah overthrows the Safavids and drives the Afghans and Russians out. He signs treaties with Russia to cooperate in defense against the Ottoman Empire.

Iran

Not so good

Alexander and the Greeks
330 BC – 63 BC

Arabs, Mongols and Tamerlane
651 AD – 1405 AD

The good times

Cyrus the Great
550 BC – 330 BC

The Parthians and Sassanids
63 BC – 651 AD

The Safavids and Ashfars
1501 - 1796



IRAN



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