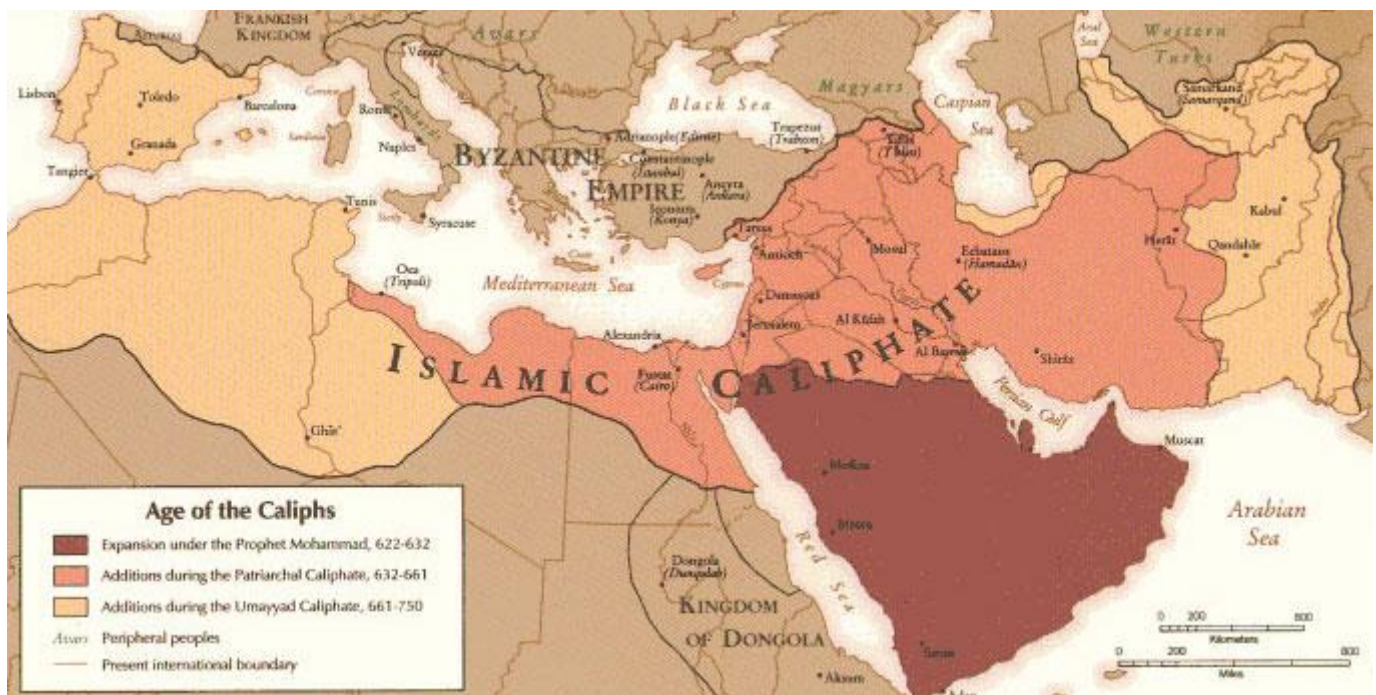


Islamic Arts - Notes

The Islamic period starts in 622 AD - This is the Hijra (the exodus) when Mohamed and his followers fled Mecca (their home) to Medina to the North. The Islamic calendar starts at this date and you will notice the objects marked with the Hijra or HA date alongside the AD date we are used to. The Islamic calendar is based on the lunar cycle so slowly goes out of synchronisation with the Gregorian calendar we use in the West. Best stick to the AD dates!

"Islamic Arts" can mean different things to different people. The Burrell definition includes work that is not exclusively religious in content or use - much is secular in nature: Islamic Art includes any object made by a Muslim for a Muslim, by a Muslim for a non-Muslim or by a non-Muslim for a Muslim. In other words, it is art that has been influenced by the ideas, philosophies and doctrines of the Islamic faith. It covers a multitude of art forms from architecture to book production (especially the Qur'an) and the decorative arts – glass, metalwork, pottery, jewellery and textiles.

The expansion of the Islamic world, also referred to as the Arabic Empire, was incredibly rapid as can be seen from the map below and included peoples from many countries, languages, cultures and, before Islam, religions.



(from Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia)