

## Islam Versus Arab Culture: A historical perspective

Arabic and Arab culture spread worldwide through Islam but Arab and Muslim are two distinct identities.

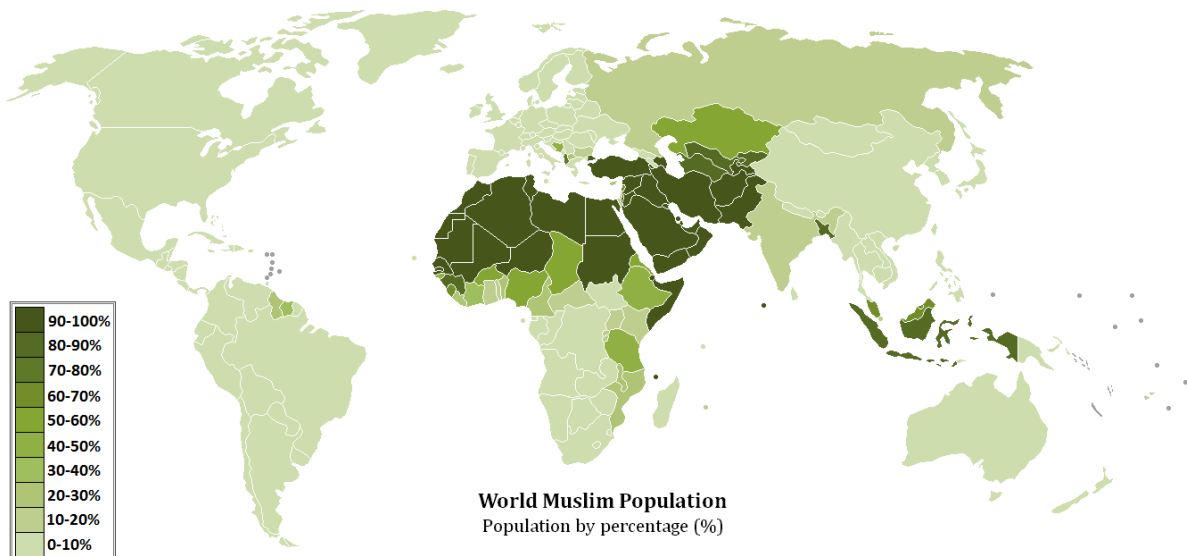
Arabic language became a prestige languages in non-Arab countries and often evolved over a few generations to become the mother tongue of the people. Yet in other countries this linguistic influence didn't penetrate as deeply. For example, Iran which is a predominantly Persian-speaking country to this day. These cultural dynamics are reflected by the cultural and linguistic diversity of the Middle East and the worldwide Muslim populations. See further information on the role of Arabic and other major languages of the Middle East: <https://ohiostate.pressbooks.pub/key2mideast/>

## North Africa, the West Asia, and Central Asia, AKA the “Middle East”



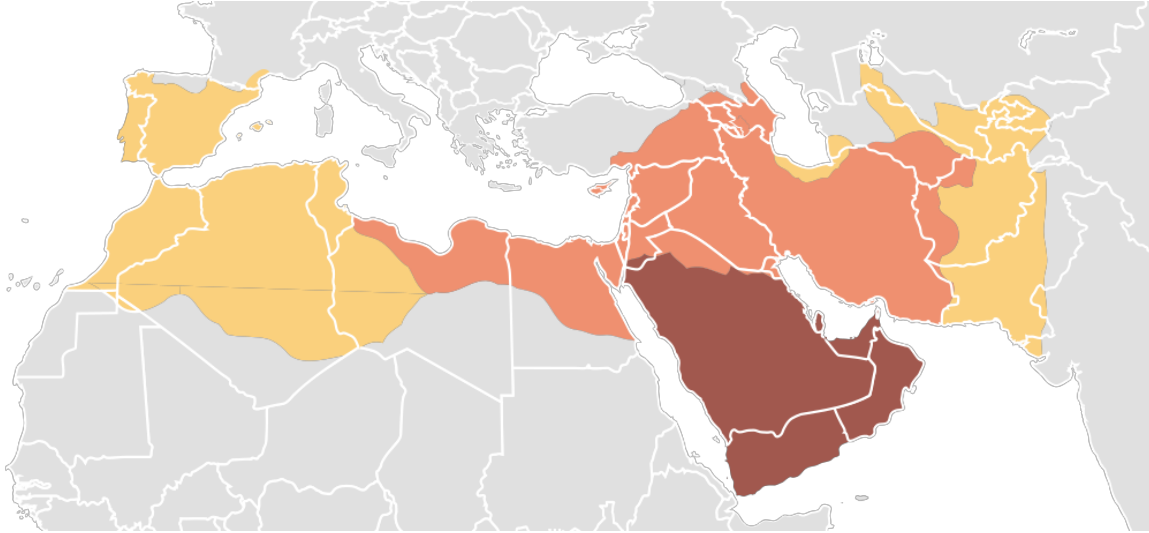
Map of the culturally diverse Middle East, including North Africa, and Central Asia. Image credit: “Location map for Middle East (Greater Middle East)” by 배우는사람 (talk), Wikimedia Commons, CC.0, revised by Mike Shiflet, Ohio State University.

## Worldwide Muslim Population



World Muslim Population, by TheGreenEditor, CC BY 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons

## Early Islamic Expansion



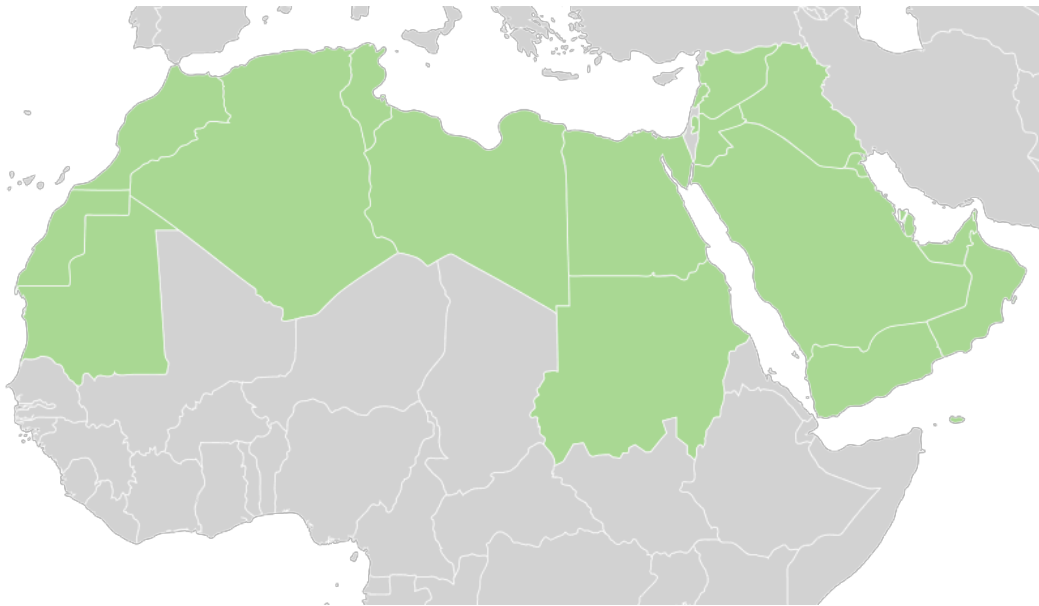
"Expansion of Rashidun Caliphate" by DieBuche, C.C.0

Dark/Brown area: Expansion under the Prophet Muhammad, 622-632

Medium/Orange area: Expansion during the Rashidun, or "Rightly Guided" Caliphate (First Four Caliphs), 632-661

Light/Yellow area: Expansion during the Umayyad Caliphate, 661-750

## Arabic-Speaking Countries Today



WAGGS-Arab Region, WOSM-Arab Region, now the same land area, by Sagredo 00:47, 3 January 2008 (UTC), Source: Wikimedia Commons, CC0