

POINTS TO-GO – LESSON 2

Muhammad's death in 632:

A traumatic event for the Muslim community that sparked a crisis in Muslim leadership that has not been fully resolved yet. The caliphate, as a ruling institution that substitutes Muhammad, was inaugurated.

The first Muslim states:

The first four caliphs are presented in Muslim tradition as the Rashidun Caliphs, or: the Rightly-guided caliphs (ruled 632-661). Then came the first Muslim dynasty, the Umayyads (ruled 661-750).

State formation and civil wars:

Under the Rashidun and the Umayyads Muslim territories expanded and the Islamic bureaucratic machinery was established, but also social and political tensions deteriorated to violent within the Muslim community.