

How ISLAM Created the DARK AGES and SHAPED Modern Europe | Raymond Ibrahim

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Raymond: So what's happening at the battle of Yarmuk then Ben then? The interest to me in the battle of Yarmuk is it's the genesis of the conflict between Christendom and Islam. That's really its significance. Um and so basically we got to go back to the beginning to Muhammad right Muhammad's dead 632 and now you have what's called the Ridda wars which is uh after he died a lot of Arabian tribes tried to break away from the fold of Islam and the first khalif Abu Bakr launched these apostasy wars which is very interesting because even till this day Muslim clerics will tell you without the law of apostasy which is you kill anyone who tries to leave Islam Islam would have died out. I mean that they actually say that they admit it. That's why we have to have the apostasy law because if people have freedom to leave it will go it will be gone.

Winston: So those the the the culture of apostasy punishing apostasy didn't exist before then under Muhammad?

Raymond: No it did. He's the one who did. Yeah. It goes to a hadith a statement attributed to him which is considered canonical in Sah Bkari where he says literally um whoever leaves his religion meaning Islam kill him. --- So that was always part of the religion according to that teaching that hadith and that's why it's still there.

Winston: Okay. So by the second generation of Muslim leaders, they're now codifying that and ...?

Raymond: yeah. Well, when and how Islamic law gets codified is kind of a controversial thing depending on which version you want to go to, but much most most most of it's happens much later after Muhammad. Uh maybe like he dies 632. Really the first writings and the hadith are maybe around 750.

And this is why there's a school of thought that says Muhammad never existed and it was all fabricated later to give a hographical foundational story to the Umad Empire. Um but at any rate so you have now the Muslim uh the Muslim power is consolidated on Darbakar and then later the other Khalif Omar um who are companions and friends of Muhammad and now the jihad is waged in earnest.

Now, here's the first interesting thing that a few people understand. In 632, you know, if I talk to someone, your average person, and I talk about the Middle East or North Africa, and they know it's Muslim, they don't know how it got Muslim. They think it's always been Muslim.

In in the dawn of Islam, during this time that I'm discussing 632 and so forth, the Eastern world, nor Egypt, greater Syria as it was called, which encompassed modern day Israel, Jordan,

Lebanon, it was a big chunk. um Anatolia or Turkey what we call Turkey and like I said Egypt all the way down to Morocco - Moritanium and you you know and Augustine's hippo was there in Tunisia all that was actually more Christian than Europe.

So if you talked about Christianity at the dawn of Islam you were talking about Egypt, you were talking about Syria, you're talking about Asia Minor, Greece of course and Europe, but Europe was actually less Christian and of course anything northwest of the Danub Rhine was still not. Even Germany you know the Scandinavian lands hadn't even reached Christianity at that point.

Um, and this is why the Roman Emperor Constantine moved the capital of Rome, New Rome, Constant - Constantinople, to the east because that's where everything was.



[Í Heimskringlu skráir Snorri að þeir frændur Haraldur harðráði og Halldór Snorrason voru væringjar keisarans í Miklagarði um AD 1040. Þeir tóku slagi gegn Serkjum (múhameðstrúarmönnum) og unnu borg á Sikiley. Orðið Serkir á uppruna sinn í heitið Sýrland, eða hvað? T.Í.]

That's where the learning was. That's where the sophisticated culture was, the wealth. All right? Uh and again when people we have records of people traveling through Egypt and they say all we heard from the top of the Nile to the bottom is just hymns and church bells etc.

This is before Islam. Same thing with Syria. Okay. So people miss this context. This is what the Middle East was. If you wanted to talk about Christianity there were five major centers. Okay. They call them seas. One was Rome and the other four were in the Middle East. Okay. One was Alexandria, one was Antioch, one was Jerusalem, and then later Constantinople. All east and all conquered by Islam. Okay, which we'll get into.

So anyway, we have the first major attack um and we have the battle of Yarmuk in 636 and the Muslims prevail.

Winston: Where is Yarmuk?

Raymond: Yeah, Yarmuk is a river in Syria. Um or it was in greater Syria at the time, so I don't know if it's in part of Jordan now, but I'm pretty sure it's in Syria still. Um, and that's where the two major armies, the Eastern Roman Empire, which they call Byzantium. I sort of don't like that word because it sort of creates a discontinuity between the Roman Empire, that's they saw themselves as Romans.

Even the Arab accounts call them Romans, you know. So, this word Byzantine, I just anyway, but it's short, it's easy, it's succinct. So, I'll use I do I interchange them, but the Eastern Roman Empire basically and the Arabs, the Muslims fought there and it was a major epic confrontations and the Christians lost.

And for various reasons among it, you know, there was a death - desert storm which they weren't used to fighting in whereas the Arabs were. And it takes on a great you know it's very hographical tradition amongst Arabs. It's this is you know where it all begins and this is where Allah proved he was for us because we beat the infidels etc etc.

And you know, I - I won't get into it, but anyone who's interested really should read about the battle because a lot of what you know, ISIS, the Islamic State, the stuff they would say, which sort of sounds cryptic and people didn't understand it, they would say things like, um,

"We've tasted American blood and none is sweeter"

and people just thought they were being gross. Actually, they were quoting characters from the Battle of Yarmuk, Muslim heroes, specifically bin Alid, known as the Sword of Allah, who said to the Romans,

"We've tasted Roman blood and none is sweeter."

All right. So when a lot of the things they would say is actually from that battle and other battles as well but that's how you know these these battles and major confrontations with the Christian world where they prevailed still figure very prominently in their historical consciousness whereas to **most westerners they have no clue** right.

Yeah, so at any rate the battle happens the the west uh the Christians lose and now begins the great takeover of the of the Middle East. All right Egypt which was a major center for the Roman Empire gets conquered occurred four years later uh right or 5 years around 640 - 641 and you

know they continue marching all the way west until they get to Morocco around 690.



They take over Carthage you know where um and Augustine and Hippo so all these major centers and in Syria as well completely conquered Jerusalem is conquered one year after Yarmuk right it's like a complete domino effect and there's theories of why this is one of them is the is that the Byzantine Empire was very weakened at the time



But also So the Muslims enter and conquer Persia, the Cesian Empire at the time. Okay? And now it's in now Iran's been conquered and they continue eastward.

But just to you know just to for brevity sake I'll continue focusing on the Western Christian world. Um and so now so from 632 the year Muhammad died one century later 732 Muslims are now in the middle of Europe fighting and abducting people and destroying churches.

Winston: Not just the middle of Europe. I mean it's far north in France.



Raymond: That's why I'm Yeah, that's the date. 732 is the battle of Tours which is right in the heart of France. Spain has been conquered since 7-Eleven. Okay. Now they, you know, after they they took over Morocco, now they sailed into Spain and that was completely conquered and devastated and now they're in the middle of France.

Okay. Attacking and and this is the battle of Tor. So in one century from Mama's death and historians have actually quantified it but it's basically they conquered 3/4ers of the original Christian world permanently. Wow.

In Spain not permanently but for like 8 centuries they were there. And of course in France they still continued depraations and the Mediterranean islands were all conquered around the 8th century. You know Sicily and uh Malta and and all of them Cyprus and and um roads for centuries.

Um, and again, it's to me I'm just baffled at how people don't understand these were not just Christian countries. **These were the main Christian countries** and they just got conquered and Islamized and nobody knows this. If you talk about those countries now like Egypt or Syria.

Most people just have this vague notion they were always Muslim and you know Muslim just spread Islam spread there. No. And again, if you look at the sources, both the Arabic and Islamic and the European Chronicles, they make it unequivocally clear **this was violent bloodshed, conquest,** and it's even worse in **the Arabic recordings because they boast about it.**

The more violent it is and the more, you know, the atrocities committed against the Christian infidels and the more churches destroyed, this is more a reflection of how pious the Muslim conquerors were. So, it's actually worse in the Arab. I always find this amazing that it's more graphic sometimes than the European ones which are a little more objective.

They say, "...yes, we were attacked and thousands were butchered and enslaved and churches...", but the the Muslim ones revel in it. Okay. And so now let's just stop for a moment. None of this is being taught in any school.

Winston: Can I just ask, do you have a sense of the death toll in that first century?

Raymond: Uh, no. I mean, these unfortunately seventh century is what we're talking about. We're lucky to have just the records that we have. But and I know I put it in *Sword and Scimitar* where I talk about various regions that get conquered and then some chronicle mentions a number. Okay. But it's it's very hard. It's very sketchy that time.



I mean this is this is we're now nearing to what traditionally was called the dark ages because we have which by the way and we can get into is a product of Islam. Okay. And many people don't know this. Um and since I'm at it, okay, we're almost there. So basically after what happened and the discont. So the Mediterranean used to be known as kind of the Roman lake

And everyone Egypt and Syria and all of North Africa and Europe were all connected. It was part of one empire. After Islam took everything basically south of that North Africa and the Middle East it and I already told you that was the richer more profound the more sophisticated region. Little Europe the the rest of the Christian was cut off completely. Papyrus ended. It used to come from Egypt that was that supply was eliminated.

All of that is historically this is was the beginning of what historians would call the dark ages. Okay. And you don't know I mean and one historian uh Henry Perin he was I think a Belgian historian in the 19th century an orientalist as they called them. He actually had an entire thesis about this. Uh it was and basically his line is without Muhammad there'd be no Charlemagne. uh the rise of Charlemagne and the Frankish state was basically a response to the non-stop Islamic aggression and the separ and and the discontinuity of uh the Mediterranean.

This is why now Europe had to develop on its own and start a new and it was you know it was the young kid on the block the the barbarians who had you know conquered and assimilated into Christendom in the fifth century and what not um they didn't they no longer had the assistance of the east as they did before. Okay. And so now they became the small final bastion of Christendom and they continued being attacked by Muslims.

Uh so you know to finish this idea of the dark ages. So that's yeah so people will tell you the dark ages historic and they don't even want to use that term anymore for various reasons but they would say it was the 8th century and the 9th century and it was they would tell you because of Viking attacks and you know attacks from nomadic tribes in the east but the real attack was Islam.

Okay, that was the main one from the south. And uh the Vikings. People don't even understand that a lot of the Viking raids especially for slaves, okay, white slaves, was to feed the Arab uh slave emporium because there was such a demand for white slaves. So they were selling. Vikings were [in trade of] slaves. Yeah. They would go to Ireland and England and France and wherever and conquered.

And all those slaves, most of them would be sold uh uh down through the rivers of Russia to, you know, uh to the caliphates, the Abbassids, for example. Um the Abbassad caliphate that used to be a well-known thing.

And we know this as well because a lot of the treasure troves of Viking coins that are found in Scandinavia are Arab coins, you know. So what commodity do Vikings have to give? Slaves. And

we also have records for it. So, you know, the whole point is uh Islam has had a profound impact on the shaping of Europe. And there's historians,

I quote one in one of my books, um uh something Cardini where he basically says **Islam was a midwife to Europe. It created Europe** and the reason Europe became Marshall and you had the night culture and everything and a very staunch Christian kind of defensive posture was because of Islam. It was surrounding it and it was and they knew what happened. **They understood that threearters of Christendom was destroyed and conquered and Islamized.**



Um, you know, so it's this is we haven't even reached the Crusades, okay? And look what had look what Islam had done. And I'm here to tell you and I've because I've looked at this and **parents write to me about school books, textbooks, and social science books.** What I just described you **doesn't even get any mention.**

You just get get **one sentence about how "...Islam spread through trade in the Middle East..."**. And **they won't tell you the Middle East was so Christian before that.** They always like to act like Europe was Christian Christian and everything else wasn't. No, Europe was the - the leftover portion of Christendom that never got conquered.