

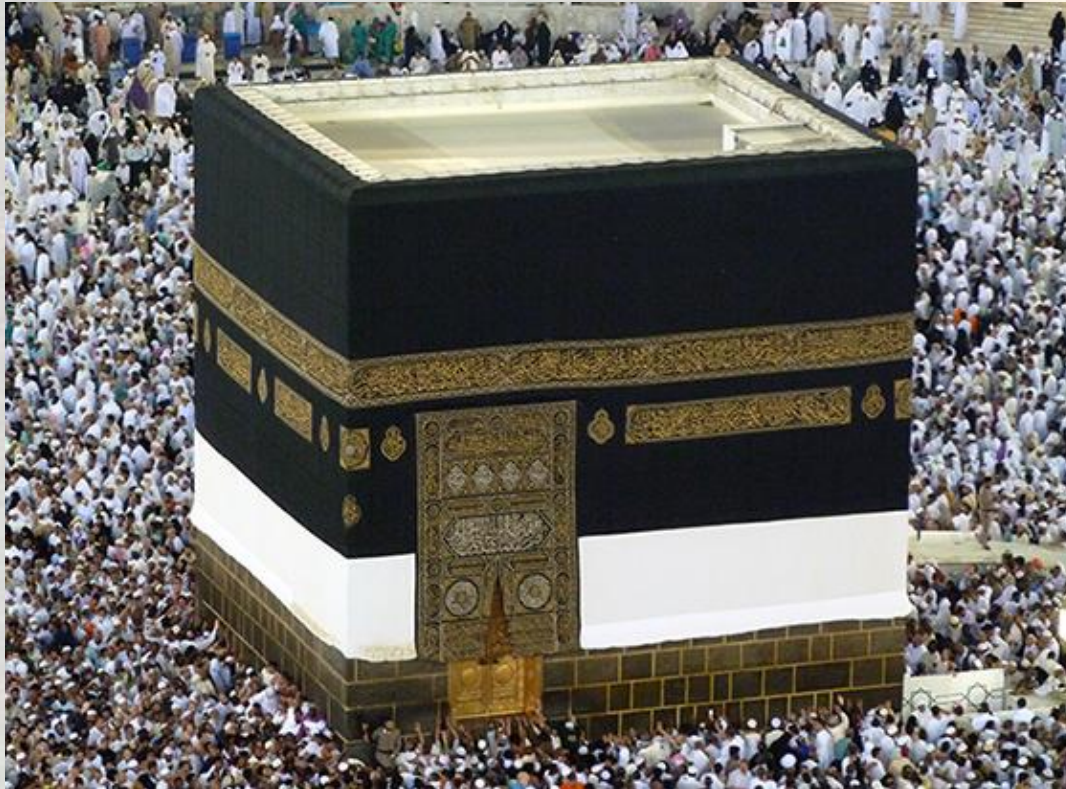
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Spread of Islamic Art to Africa
and Southwest Europe



A H Islamic Origins

- Islam begins in Mecca (modern day Saudi Arabia) at the year 632 C.E.
 - Connected to the teachings of the Prophet Mohammed



Dar al-Islam

- The collective name for the “Islamic world”
 - Lands where Islam is the primary religion

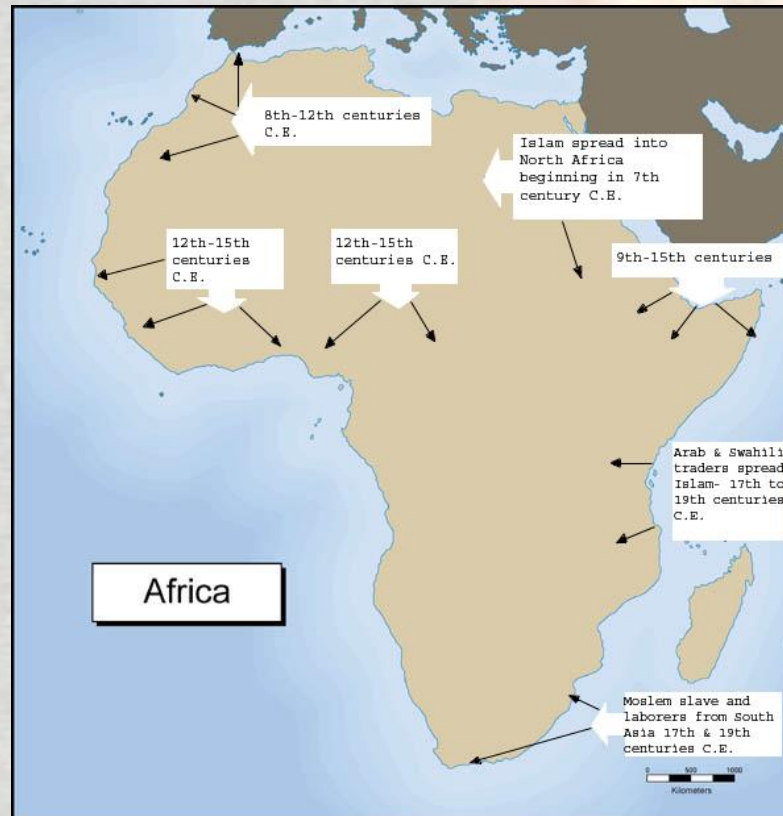


Islamic North African Art

- Differences in geography, language, religion, politics
 - Divisions between Judaism, Christianity & Islam
- Mixture of Native African artistic traditions, prior religious heritage, and Islamic inspired art

Islam's Spread into Africa

- Combination of military conquest, cultural diffusion, and trade relationships



Western African Empires

- Ghana
- Mali
- Songhai
- Trading empires
 - Salt and Gold peaked Muslim interest in West Africa



Case Study: Ghana

- Access to personal wealth of kings allowed for development of art
 - Adornment with jewelry
 - Ceremonial purposes

"The King adorns himself like a woman wearing gold necklaces round his neck and bracelets on his forearms and he puts on a high cap decorated with gold and wrapped in a turban of fine cotton."

*- 10th century geographer Al-Bakri, quoted in
Corpus of Early Arabic Sources for West African
History*



Ghana Architecture

- “He holds an audience in a domed pavilion around which stand ten horses covered with gold-embroidered materials ...and on his right, are the sons of the vassal kings of his country, wearing splendid garments and their hair plaited with gold.”

– *10th century geographer Al-Bakri, quoted in Corpus of Early Arabic Sources for West African History*



Case Study: Mali

- Empire of Great Kings
 - Sundiata
 - Begins empire in 13th Century
 - Mansa Musa
 - Introduced Islam to empire after Hajj to Mecca
 - Introduced Arabians directly to wealth of West Africa





A map drawn in 1375 A.D. shows a trader on camelback coming to the great leader of the Mali empire, Mansa Musa. He is holding a huge gold nugget.

Impact of Mansa Musa's Hajj

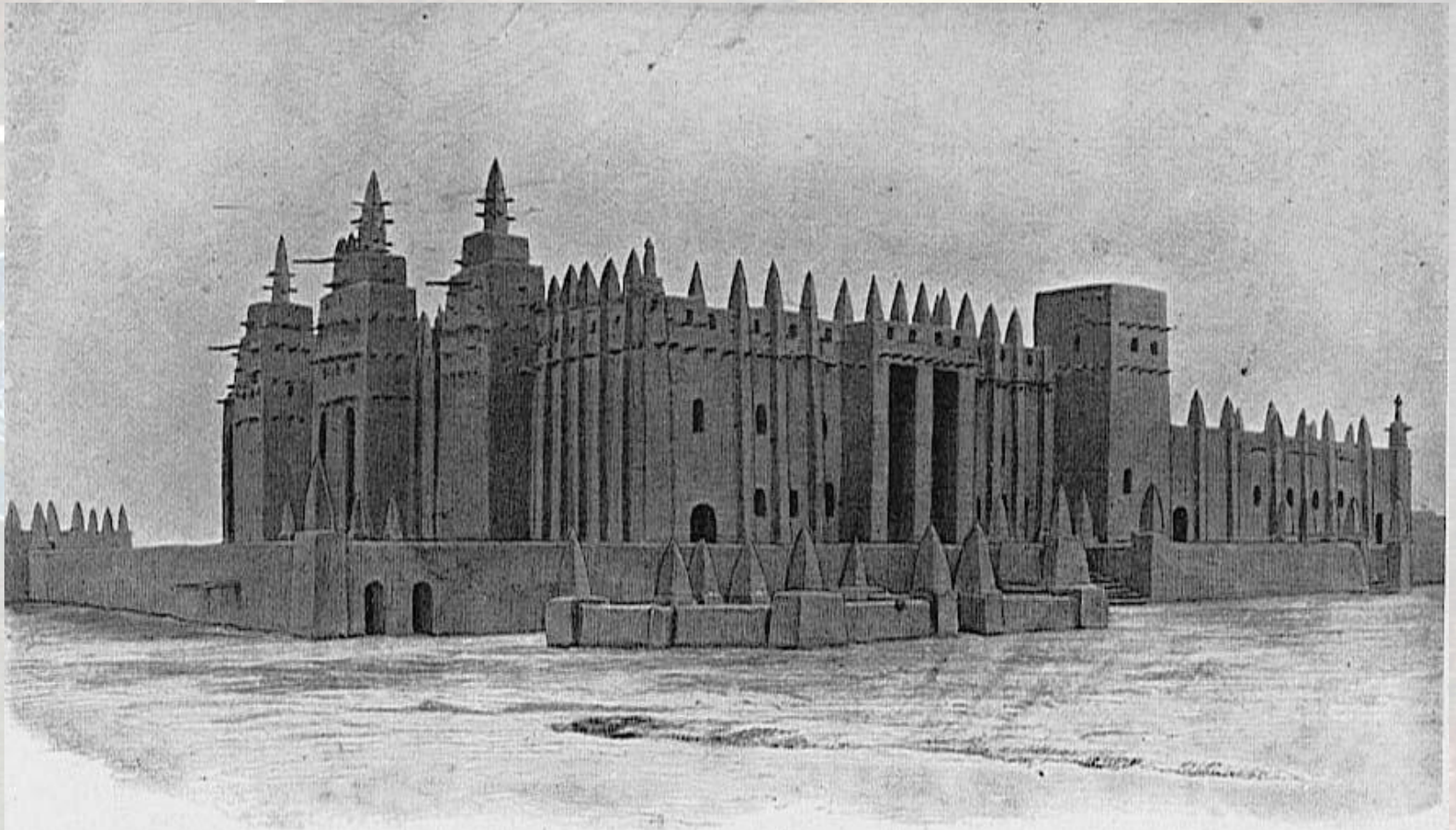
- Timbuktu became center of learning and Islamic cultural
 - Universities
 - Mosques
 - Art



Mud Mosques of Mali



Great Mosque of Djenne



La nouvelle mosquée de Dienné.

Swahili Culture

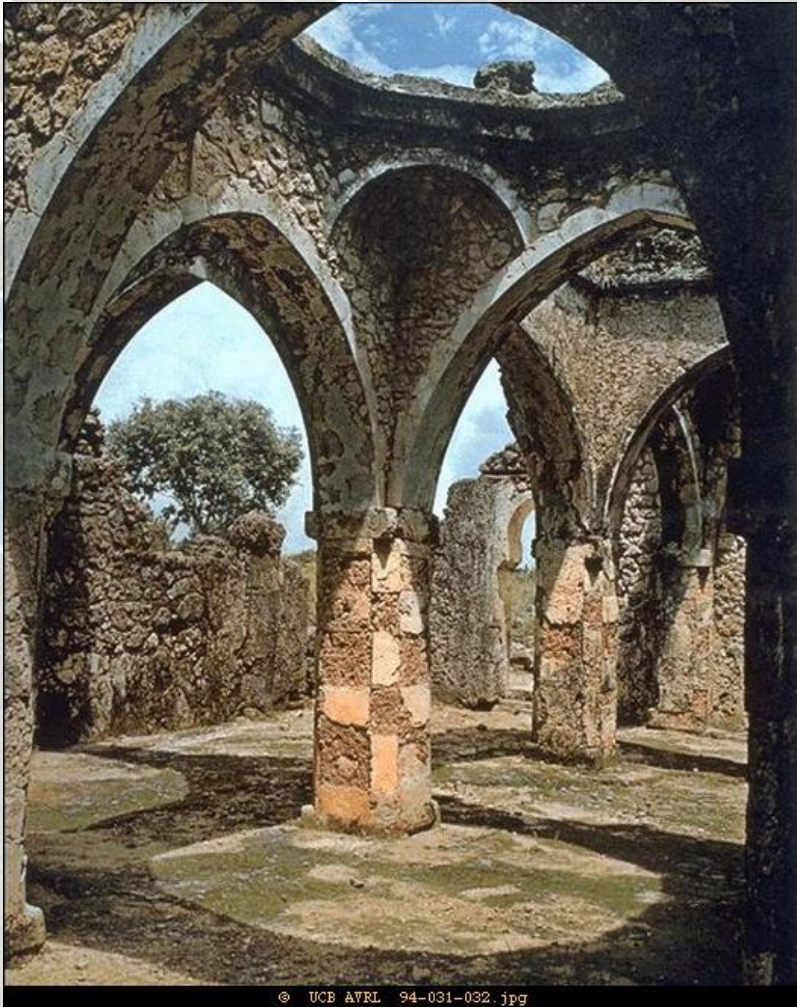
- Connected through Muslims through Indian Ocean Trade
 - Led to combination of traditional Swahili culture and Islamic culture



Illuminated Swahili Qur'an, Kenya, Early 19th century



Great Mosque at Kilwa



The Alhambra in Granada, Andalucia, Spain



Background

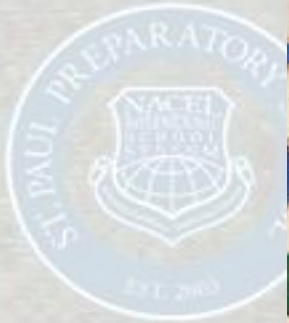
- 9th Century Fortress Built in Spain by Islamic soldiers and added onto in 1100s and 1300s



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Tile work Tessellations



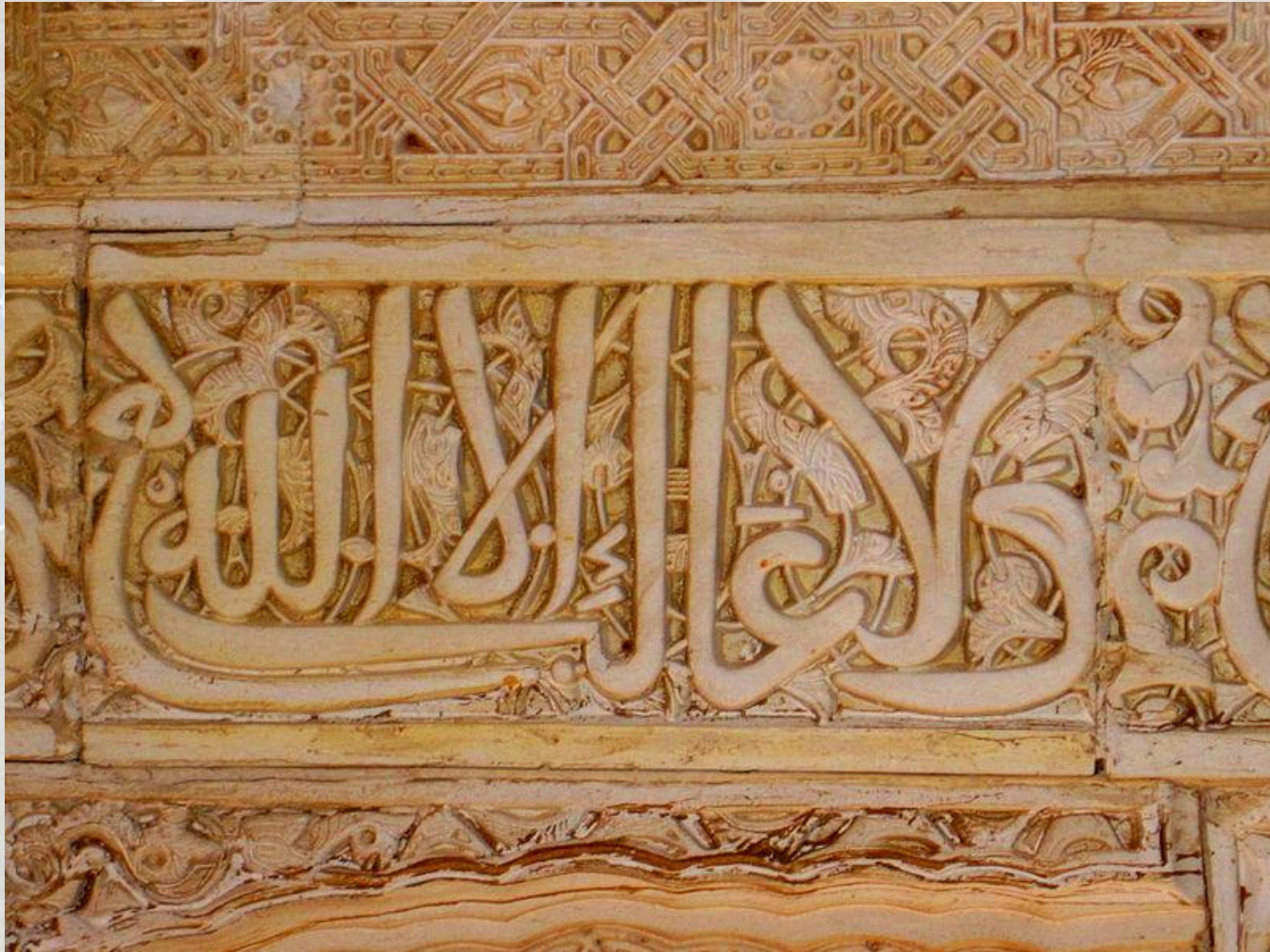
A H Geometric Design



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“God is the only victor”



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The Court of Lions



Detail of the Court of Lions



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Gazelles Painting

