UNDERSTANDING MUHAMMAD

Michael Cook, Cleveland Dodge Professor of Near Eastern Studies Princeton University

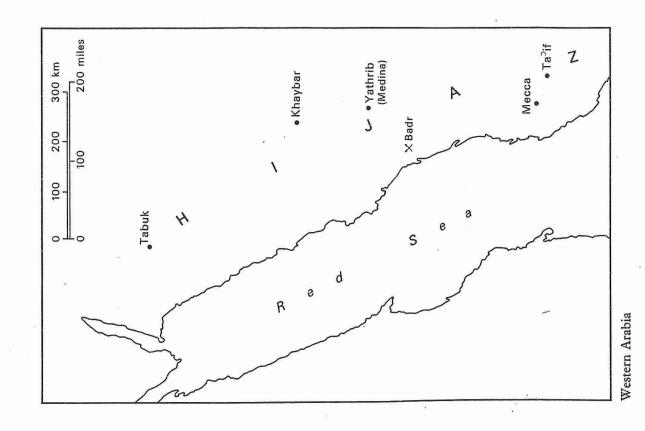
The Faith Angle Conference Series
Sponsored by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life
Key West, Florida
May 21-23, 2006

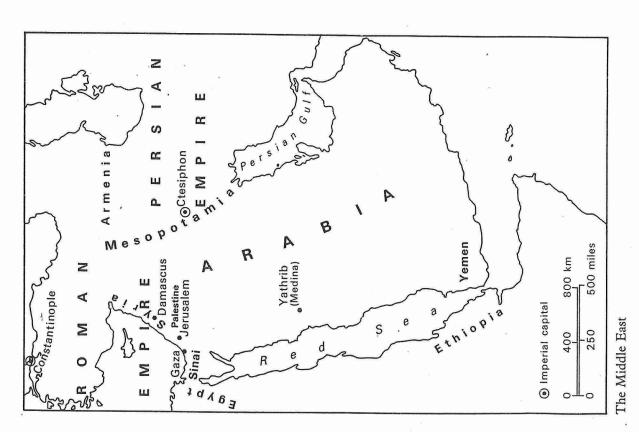
The life of Muhammad

c. 570 A.D.	birth in Mecca
c. 610	beginning of revelation
622	migration (hijra) from Mecca to Medina
627-8	raid on the Banū 'l-Muṣṭaliq
630	submission of Mecca
632	death in Medina

Other events

631	death of 'Abdallāh ibn Ubayy
632	death of Thābit ibn Qays
634	beginning of Muslim conquests outside Arabia
c. 650	collection of the Koran
676	death of Juwayriya
678	death of 'Ā'isha
697	minting of first reform coins
767-8	death of Ibn Isḥāq
823	death of Wāqidī





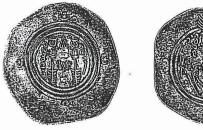
















A silver coin (dirham, ultimately from Greek drachma) minted in Balkh (near Mazār-i Sharīf in northern Afghanistan) in the year 115 of the Hijra (= 733-4 AD).



Note: Everything written on this coin is Koranic bar the passage underlined. Actual size: bottom right.

OBVERSE (on left):

In the center:
"There is no god but God alone, without companion."

Surrounding the above: "In the name of God! <u>This</u> <u>dirham</u> was minted in Balkh in the year fifteen and a hundred."

REVERSE (on right):

In the center:
"He is God, One, God, the
Everlasting Refuge, who has
not begotten, and has not
been begotten, and equal to
Him is not any one." (Sūra
112)

In the margin:
"Muhammad is the
Messenger of God, whom He
has sent with the guidance
and the religion of truth, that
He may uplift it above every
religion, though the
unbelievers be averse."

