

Chronology of major events and developments in the history of the Turko-Persian ecumene

Meso- potam- ia/ Ara- bia	Asia Minor/ Anato- lia	West Iran/ Cau- casus	Iran Plat- eau	Khurasan/ Sistan	Trans- oxiana/ North Steppes	Balkh- Afghan Turkistan	Afghan- istan/ Baluch- istan	Indus Valley	North India/ Gangetic Plain/ China
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c. 1500–1200 B.C.: Aryan invasions of Indian subcontinent; earliest hymns of *Rig Veda*.

1200–600 B.C.: Vedic Period.

c. 1000 B.C.: Iranians descend out of Central Asia into the Iranian plateau, calling themselves “Aryan” like those that moved into the subcontinent earlier.

800 B.C.: Rise of the Medes.

745–626 B.C.: Assyrians. Their empire at its height (c. 640 B.C.) stretched from the Persian Gulf to Egypt and Asia Minor.

626–539 B.C.: Neo-Babylonians (Chaldeans) dominated Palestine and Fertile Crescent.

500–330 B.C.: The Achaemenid Empire; at its height stretched from Asia Minor to the Indus.

356–323 B.C.: Alexander, conqueror of the territory from Macedonia to the Indus Valley.

c. 322–183 B.C.: Mauryas arise in upper Ganges, spread to dominate most of South Asia.

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c. 312–64 B.C.: Seleucids dominate the region from the Euphrates to the Indus during most of this period.

c. 150 B.C.: Seleucids collapsing, give way to Parthians coming out of Central Asia and Khurasan.

c. 78–250: Kushans rule north-west India from Peshawar.

A.D. 224–651: Sasanians arise, overthrow Parthians, dominate the region between the Euphrates and the Indus.

Late 400s: Mazdak institutes a movement against the Sasanids, accused of founding a “joyous pleasure religion” (Khurramiyya).

c. mid 400s: Chionites and Hephthalites invade out of Central Asia. Hephthalites form an empire (c. 450–565) that dominates the region between Sinkiang and Iran and between Sogdiana and the Punjab.

c. 500s: In the steppes of northern Central Asia Iranian populations are being replaced by Turkic populations.

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c. 565: Hephthalite empire gives way to the Turkic qaghanate to the north and Sasanids on the west and south. Turks by this time dominate the region as far south as the Oxus.

622: Muhammad's flight from Mecca to Medina, beginning of the Islamic calendar. Muhammad dies 10 years later.
 632–661: The "rightly guided" caliphs; expansion of Arabs and Islam to Syria and the Oxus, and in the west to the Atlantic Ocean and Sidra.

660–750: Umayyad caliphate dominates the region from the Atlantic to the Indus.

699: Language of bureaucracy in eastern Islamic lands is changed from Pahlavi to Arabic.

711–712: Conquest of Transoxiana by Muslims.

711–713: Conquest of Sind by Muslims.

736: Khidash, missionary of Abbasids who instituted a movement focused on social justice, dies.

748 or 749: Bihafarid dies after leading an uprising in Nishapur and Badghis.

744–749: 'Abd Allah b. Mu'awiya is focus of an uprising in Kufa, accused of supporting "pleasure religion".

750: Abbasid uprising begins in Khurasan.

750–1258: Abbasid caliphate, capital at Baghdad after 762; their political power begins to decline in ninth century and they are merely symbolic rulers.

755: Death of Abu Muslim, former missionary of Abbasids who became focus of a large popular movement.

758: Sunbadh leads a revolt in the name of Abu Muslim.

750s: Rizamiyyas arise, believe that spirit of God was in Abu Muslim and they pass to a series of legitimate successors.

750s: Abu Muslimiyya movement under the belief that Abu Muslim was still alive, accused of being a pleasure religion.

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757: Ishaq ("Turk") leads an uprising claiming Abu Muslim w dead.

757-8: Ustadhis leads an uprising of peasants in Badghis and Herat.

759: Al-Muqanna' leads uprising in Transoxiana, eventually c to be a god.

778-9: Muhammira arise claiming that Abu Muslim is alive.

816-837: Revolt of Babak against large landlords and Arabs, centered in Azerbaijan.

819-873: Tahirids, hereditary governors, become autonomous in Khurasan

: Revolt of Babak against large landlords and Arabs, centered in Azerbaijan.

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819-1004: Samanids arise, dominate Central Asia and Khurasan mainly between 875-998.

roduced into Abbasid court, become basis of caliphal power.

by his Turkish mercenaries, caliphate falls under the control of Turkish soldiery.

861-910: Saffarids rule independently in Khurasan and Sistan.

864-928: Zaydi Shi'ites rule independently in sub-Caspian area.

869: Death of Ibn-Karram, Muslim preacher in Khurasan.

established in the region between Syria and Khurasan.

935: Kodak-i Dana leads a movement, is considered omniscient, heir to spirit of Abu Muslim.

5: Buyids arise in Shiraz, govern Kirman and Iraq.

c. 956: Seljuq Turks move into Bukhara, adopt Islam.

Major events and developments

833+: Turkish

861: Abbasid c

869-892: Cali

998-1186: Ghaznavids, at their height dominate the region from western Iran to Delhi.

999-1140: Qarakhanids replace Samanids and dominate Central Asia.

c. 1000-1218: Seljuqs invade Transoxiana from east, push south and west.

qs dominate the region from Oxus to Arabia.

1040s: Turkmen push westward into Azerbaijan and Jazirah; their successes attract more

Turkmen from the east; Seljuq rulers try to divert them further north and west.

ains break up into independent principalities. Seljuq dynasties preside in Rum (i.e., Anatolia, l Khurasan (1097-1157); Iraq and Syria are under local rulers, some of them Seljuqs.

1141-c. 1200: Qara-Khitays defeat Seljuqs, dominate Transoxiana.

1140-1231: Khorezmshahs prominent, rise to greatest influence in 1199-1220 to dominate most of Iran as well as Transoxiana.

1148: Ghorids arise to control Sistan, Khurasan, push eastward against Ghaznavids.

1153: Oghuz defeat Seljuqs in Khurasan, Turkic pastoralists become important influence in Iran.

1161-1186: Ghaznavids are centered in the Punjab.

1186-1206: Ghorids defeat Ghaznavids, take Delhi in 1193; last Chorid assassinated in 1206.

1206-1526: Former Turkish

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- 1218–1334: Mongols invade, eventually rule the region from the Levant to China; empire soon collapses into local dynasties.
- 1240: Bektashiyya revolt under leadership of Baba Ishaq, believe ‘Ali is incarnation of God. Is poetry, in Turkish, influenced succeeding Turkish generations.
- 1258: Fall of Baghdad to the Mongols. The end of the Abbasid caliphate.
- 1256–1335: Il-Khanid Mongols rule Iran and Iraq, become Muslim. Chag: Mongols rule Transoxiana until 1336.
- 1288–1326: ‘Uthman founds the Ottoman dynasty.
- 1337–1381: Sarbadars at Sabzawar (Western Khurasan), Shi‘ite dynasty; 12 successive chiefs, 9 of whom die violently.
- 1370–1502: Timur (Tamerlane) invades from Transoxiana, don the region from the Euphrates to the Indus.
- 1394: Fadl Allah, leader of Huruffiyya movement, dies.
- 1398: Sack of Delhi by Timur (Tamerlane).
- 1453: Ottomans seize Constantinople, end the Byzantium empire.
- 15th century: Al-Musha‘sha declares himself the Mahdi, uses magic to attract Arab tribal followers in southern Iraq.
- 1400s: Ahl-i Haqq movement begins, popular among the Turkic tribes; persisted for centuries, appeared in organized form in eighteenth century.
- 1491–1722: Safavids arise, invade Iran from Anatolia in 1501, dominate Iran, establi Shi‘ism as state religion and separate Central Asian Sunnis from Arab world.

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- 1496: First Muslim su in the East Indies (n Indonesia), soon to l followed by many of
- 1500–1599: Shaybani Uzbek Turks dominate Transoxiana.
- Early 1500s: Zikris arise in Baluchistan following Jaunpur who claimed to be th “pure light,” to be the Mahdi.
- 1500–1922: Ottoman empire, which at its peak (in 1600s) stretches from Europe to North Africa and Mesopotamia.
- 1517: Ottomans take Syria from the Mamluks.
- 1520–1566: Sulaiman the Magnificent advances Ottoman influence into Europe.
- 1525–1585: Bayazid leader of the Rowsha movement, claimed to be incarnation o
- 1526–1757: Babur, clc descent from both G and Timur, invades from Afghanistan, fc Mughal empire; Mu dominate north Indi their height (c. 1686) control mo South Asia.
- 1588–1629: Safavids defeat Ottomans and Uzbeks, threatening on their borders, establish strong central government

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1590–91: Nuqtavis, led by blind poet who claimed to have reached union with God, rise, are crushed by Safavids.

1658–1707: Under Awrangzeb Mughal reaches its greatest e

1722: Afghans from Qandahar attack Isfahan and destroy Safavid empire.

1700s: Ottoman empire weakening.

1736–1748: Nadir Shah conquers Khurasan, Afghanistan, India; tribal rule after his death.

1747: Abdali (later called Durrani) Afgha ascend to prominence under Ahmad S

1761: Delhi sacked by Ahmad Shah Abdal Afghanistan.

1700s: Mughal succe: states emerge: Hyde Arcot, Mysore, Mushidabad (Shi'a) Awadh (Shi'a), Mar (Hindu), Punjab (Si Bengal (East India Company).

1750–1795: Zand dynasty rules from Shiraz.

1785–1791: Naqshbandi revolt in the Caucasus against the Russians.

1796–1925: Qajar dynasty rules Iran from Tehran.

1798: Napoleon invades Egypt.

1800s: Central Asia gradually falls under Roman control despi Naqshbandi Sufi holy war of resistance; is mostly under Rus control by 1876.

1802–1805: Wahhabi revolt in Iraq, Syria and Arabia.

1813: Treaty of Golestan, end of Russo-Persian War; Iran renounces claims to Cau territories.

1820–63: Khoja Naq rise up against Mar rule in Kashgar.

1826: Sayyid Ahmad leads a movement t establish an Islamic Northwest Frontier India.

1828: Treaty of Turkmanchai, end of Second Russo-Persian War; Iran pays war inc edes territory and grants Russia commercial rights.

1834–59: Second Naqshbandi revolt against the Russians in the Caucasus.

1838–1842: First Anglo-Afghan War.

1845–1849: Anglo-Sikh Wars; occupy Lahore.

1852: Group of Babis attempts to assassinate the Shah; wave of anti-Babi persecutio

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- 1857: India Mutiny Up rebels rally round the Mughal emperor; rebe is crushed.
- 1867: Deobandi reformi Islamic theological scl founded.
- 1867–1877: Yaqub Beg establishes strict Islam state in Kashgar.
- 1872: Russia assures Britain that Afghanista outside Russia’s sphere of influence.
- 1877: Aligarh College founded offering Musl Western education.
- 1878–1879: Second Anglo-Afghan War.
- 1880–1901: ‘Abdul Rahman subjects most population of Afghanistan to Kabul rule, establishes army and bureaucracy.
- 1885: Russians seize Panjdeh.

- 1891–1892: Iranian popular revolt against Tobacco Concessions.
- 1893: Durand line between British India an Afghanistan is fixed.
- 1901: Habibullah ascends to the throne afte father’s death.
- 1905: First National Assembly convenes in Tehran.
- 1906–1911: Constitutional movement.
- 1906: All-India Muslim League founded.
- 1907: Russian and British agreement, divides Iran into spheres of influence, leaves Afghanistan and Tibet outside their spheres of influence.
- 1909: Anglo-Persian Oil Co. founded; Britain secures majority share by 1914.
- 1915–1916: Military expedition of Central Powers (Germany, Austria, Turkey) to rea Kabul across Persia.
- 1917: Russian Revolution, Bolsheviks are resisted by Central Asiar Muslims into the 1930s.
- 1919: Habibullah assassinated, replaced by l third son, Amanullah.
- 1919: Peak of political upheavals in Central Asia; Bolshevik troops secure connection between Russia and Turkestan and begin to overpower their opponents in the region.
- 1919: As British troops withdraw from Trans caspia, Amir Amanullah attacks British In (Third Anglo-Afghan War).

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- 1921: Reza Khan takes power in bloodless coup, takes throne (1925–1941).
- 1929: Amanullah overthrown, replaced by Habibullah (“Bache-Saqaw”); overthrown by General Nadir Khan, who made himself ruler.
- 1933: Nadir Shah assassinated, succeeded by his son, Zahir.
- 1937: Saadabad Pact: Iran, Iraq, Turkey and Afghanistan agree to respect common borders and refrain from interfering in each other’s affairs.
- 1938: Trans-Iranian Railway between the Gulf and Caspian Sea completed.
- 1941: Anglo-Soviet occupation of Iran.
- 1941: German and Italian nationals expelled from Afghanistan.
- 1947: Pakistan formed; becomes independent.
- 1950–1953: Iranian Oil crisis with Britain.
- 1951: Musadeq becomes prime minister.
- 1953: Musadeq overthrown by royalist coup with aid of CIA, who establish Muhammad Reza Pahlavi as Shah.
- 1963: Khomeini attacks Shah and his program; rioting in Tehran bazaar. Khomeini exiled in 1964.

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- 1973: Muhammad Daood overthrows his cousin, Zahir Shah, establishes Afghan Republic.
- 1978: Riots and demonstrations in Qum, Tabriz, Tehran.
- 1978: “Saur Revolution,” Afghan Marxists overthrow Muhammad Daood, establish government.
- 1979: Muhammad Reza Shah leaves Iran; Khomeini returns from exile; monarchy overthrown.
- 1979: Soviets invade Afghanistan.