Atomic Energy Central School No.3 Rawatbhata

Chapter: Four (The Central Islamic Lands)

Class-XI Sub- History

Hand out- Module 1/2 of Lesson 4

Topic- The Rise of Islam in Arabia

Introduction-of Lesson-

* Muslims people living in all parts of the world.
* They are citizen of different nation, speak different languages, and dress differently.
* The Islamic community has its roots in more unified past which roughly 1400 years ago in Arabian Peninsula.
* Our understanding of the history of the central Islamic lands between 600 and 1200 is based on the chronicles.
* The term Islamic is used here not only in its purely religious sense but also for the overall society and the culture historically associated with Islam.

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**Rise of Islam in Arabia-**

a) Faith:

Polytheistic Arabs:

* The Arabs divided into *Qabilas* each led by a chief who was chosen partly on the basis of his family connection.
* Tribes are societies organized on the basis of blood relation.
* Each tribe had its own god or goddess, who was worshipped as an idol (*sanam*) in a shrine (*masjid*).
* Many Arab tribes were Nomedic moving from one place to another place in search of food.
* The Arab tribes were made up of clans or combination of large families.

**Prophet Muhammad:**

* He was born in Mecca in 570.
* Muhammad was an Arab by language and culture and a merchant by profession.
* During 612-32, the Prophet Muhammad preached the worship of a single God, Allah.
* He also preached to take membership of a single community of believers i.e. Umma
* This was the origin of Islam.
* Around 612, Muhammad declared himself to be the messenger (rasul) of God who had been commanded to preach that Allah alone should be worshipped.
* The worship involved simple rituals such as daily prayers and moral principle.
* The Arabian culture of sixth century was mainly confined to the Arabian Peninsula, Southern Syria and areas of Mesopotamia.
* Muhammad‘s own tribe, Quraysh lived in Mecca and controlled the main shrine there, a cube like structure called kaba in which idols were placed.
* Those who accepted the doctrine of Muhammad came to known as Muslims.
* Due to opposition from the prosperous people of Mecca, Prophet Muhammad was forced to migrate with his followers to Medina in 622 CE is called Hijra.
* Muhammad’s journey from Mecca to Medina was a turning point in the history of Islam, with the year of his arrival in Medina marking the beginning of the Muslim calendar.

**(b) Community**

* Muhammad created a political order from all the three sources which give his followers the protection they needed as well as resolve the city war.
* Muhammad was to found a community of believers (umma) bound by a common set of religious beliefs.
* The community would bear witness (shahada) to the existence of the religion before God as well as before members of other religious communities
* They were promised salvation on the Day of Judgment (*qiyamat*) and a share of the resources of the community while on earth.
* The Muslims soon faced considerable opposition from affluent Meccans who took offence to the rejection of their deities and found the new religion a threat to the status and prosperity of Mecca.
* **The five pillars of Islam-**
* Declaration of faith- Muslim must state that there is one god –Allah and Muhammad is prophet
* Daily prayer- Muslims must pray five times a day facing the kaaba in Mecca.
* Charity- Muslims are supposed to help others and donate part of their income to charity(Zakat)
* Fasting-Ramadan

Muslims must fast from sunrise to sunset during the holy month of Ramadan.

* Pilgrimage to Mecca- the fifth pillar of Islam is Haji.

Once in lifetime if they are physically and financially able, Muslims are to journey to Mecca and performs the rituals of the Haji.

**(c) Polity**

* After Muhammad’s death in 632 AD, no one could legitimately claim to be the next prophet of Islam.
* As a result, political authority was transferred to the *Umma*with no established principle of succession.
* This created opportunities for innovations but also caused deep divisions among the Muslims.
* The biggest innovation was the creation of the institution of **caliphate**, in which the leader of the community became the deputy (*khalifa*) of the Prophet.

**The caliphate: Expansion, civil wars and Sect Formation**

* The twin objectives of the caliphate were to retain control over the tribes constituting the *umma*and to raise resources for the state.
* The main duties of the Khalifa were to safeguard and spread Islam.
* The first four caliphs justified their powers on the basis of the close relation with the prophet Muhammad and continued his work under the general guidelines he had provided.

**Four Caliphs-**

* Following Muhammad’s death many tribes broke away from the Islamic state.
* Some even raised their own prophets to establish communities modeled on Umma.
* The first Caliph Abu Bakr launched a number of campaigns to suppress the revolts.
* The second caliph Umar adopted the policy of expansion of the power of Umma.
* In all the conquered provinces, the caliphs imposed a new administrative structure headed by governors and tribal chieftains.
* The central treasury obtained its revenue from taxes paid by Muslim as well as its share of the booty from raids.
* The third Caliph, Uthman launched further campaigns to gain control over central Asia.
* The fourth caliph fought two wars against the people representing the aristocracy of Mecca.
* During the reign of Caliph Ali, Islam was divided into two sects namely *Shias and Sunnis.*

**The Umayyad and the centralization of polity:**

* The Umayyad dynasty was founded by Muawiya in 661 CE.
* The Umayyad implemented a series of political measures which consolidated their leadership within the Umma.
* The first Umayyad caliph, Muawiya moved his capital to Damascus.
* He also introduced hereditary succession and persuaded the leading Muslims to accept his son as his heir.
* The Umayyad state was now an imperial power, no longer based directly on Islam, but on statecraft and the loyalty of Syrian troops.
* There were Christian advisers in the administration as well as Zoroastrian scribes and bureaucrats.
* The Umayyad always appealed for unity and suppressed rebellions in the name of Islam.
* This dynasty lasted till 750 CE.

**The Abbasid revolution-**

* The Umayyad dynasty had to pay a heavy price for their success in centralizing the Muslim polity.
* The Abbasid revolution was a well organized movement called Dawa launched by the Abbasid to the end the rule of Umayyad dynasty.
* The Abbasids, descendants of Abbas, the prophet Muhammad uncle.
* In 750 CE the Umayyad dynasty was replaced by the Abbasid dynasty.
* The Abbasid’s called the Umayyad regime as evil and claimed that they will restore the original Islam of the prophet.

**Main features of Abbasid revolution:**

* Arab influence declined under the Abbasid rule.
* On the contrary to it, importance of Iranian culture increased.
* The Abbasid established their capital at Baghdad.
* The Abbasid reorganized their army and bureaucracy on non – tribal basis.
* It ensured the more participation of Iraq and Khurasan.
* The religious status and functions of the Caliphate were strengthened by the Abbasid rulers.

**Abbasid revolution and monarchy-**

* No, Abbasid rulers were not able to abolish monarchy.
* Needs of government and empire to force them to retain the centralized nature of state.
* They not only maintained the magnificent imperial architecture and elaborate court ceremonials of Umayyad.