Rise and Fall of the Abbasid Dynasty: The End of Unity

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# The Rise and Fall of the Abbasid Dynasty

## Rise of the Abbasid Dynasty
- The Abbasid Rebellion
- Battle of the Zab
- The Move to Baghdad
- The Golden Age
- Medical Innovations

## Fall of the Abbasid Dynasty
- Weakening of the States
- Independent States
- Invasions
- Mongols
Rise and Fall of the Abbasid Dynasty: The End of Unity Map
The Abbasid Rebellion
The Abbasid Rebellion Gallery:
The Abbasid Rebellion

❖ In 747 the Abbasids raised their black flags of rebellion in the Province of Khorasan near Merv after they gained support across the eastern parts of the Muslim world.
❖ The Abbasid followers were given a promise for the return to the utopia of Muhammad’s ideals and the early caliphs. All of the other promises made by the Abbasid family were intentionally kept vague, but the most important aspect of the revolution was that the Umayyads were removed from power.
❖ The Abbasids armies were moved westward, towards the rest of Persia and Iraq after they seized power over Merv.
❖ The Abbasid family moved to Kula and started to organize the overthrow of the Umayyad government with the help of the local people. This established them as the rulers of the city.
❖ The first public demonstration to Abul-Abbas was made in Kufa when he was declared caliph in 749.
Causes + Effects

**Causes**
There was racial equality under the Umayyad dynasty due to a lack of funds. They would tax recently converted Muslim, but not those who were Arab. This caused a lot of discontent among the population leading to a rebellion led by the Abbasid family inspired by the Mawali revolt.

**Effects**
The Abbasid Rebellion led to the overthrow of the Umayyad dynasty, bringing the Abbasids to power. It brought a greater sense of equality and the reign of the Abbasids brought a golden age of learning to the Muslim world.
Battle of the Zab
Battle of Zab Gallery:
The Abbasids grew angry and under as-Saffah, marched west and ran into the Umayyad caliph, Marwan II who was defeated and killed in the Battle of the Zab.

As-Saffah successfully captured the Umayyad caliphate and was proclaimed the new caliph of the new dynasty.

As the new caliph, he invited the remaining members of the Umayyad royal family to a feast, where he proceeded to slaughter them.

The only family member that survived fled to Spain, where he carried on the Umayyad Dynasty in the Caliphate of Cordoba.

This Caliphate continued to rule in Spain until the 11th century, however the rest of the Islamic empire was consumed by the Abbasid Dynasty.
Causes + Effects

Causes
The battle of the Zab was the climax of the Abbasid rebellion. The Abbasids took a leap for power by capturing the Umayyads and slaughtering almost all of them so that they could start fresh and build their own empire.

Effects
The Battle of the Zab was what established the Abbasid power. The slaughter of the royal family gave the Abbasids the opportunity to make a grab for power. The only surviving member of the royal family fled to Spain and founded the Cordoba Dynasty.
The Move to Baghdad
The Move to Baghdad Gallery:
The Move to Baghdad

- After defeating the Umayyads, the Abbasids decided to relocate the capital of their Caliphate from Damascus to Baghdad in 762.
- They did this so that they could become closer to those who supported the Abbasids and provided them with great power.
- The move to Baghdad also marked the beginning of the end of the Arab domination of the Muslim world.
- Baghdad served as a center for learning, as well as a perfect place for trade.
- Within Baghdad, the paper-making process was also improved and paper was made more durable, which benefited the productions of religious scriptures.
Causes + Effects

Causes
The Abbasid Dynasty needed a new capital for their empire. They felt that a city placed on the Silk Road would prove to be beneficial for their economy. They chose to relocate to Baghdad, which is on the Tigris river, near what is now Iraq.

Effects
The move to Baghdad marked the beginning of the end of the Arab domination of the Muslim world. It also initiated the Golden Age which brought great prosperity to Baghdad economically. The Golden Age was also big in intellectual developments and served as the center for learning in the Middle East.
The Golden Age
The Golden Age Gallery:
The Golden Age

- The Golden Age of learning: the expansion of Baghdad’s intellectual world.
- In the 8 and 9th centuries, under the Abbasid caliphs, Muslim civilization entered its Gold Age.
- Islamic civilizations creatively integrated those of Arabic, Byzantine, Persian, and Indian cultural traditions.
- House of Wisdom was built by the Abbasids in the 800’s to meet the demand for knowledge.
- The Golden Age was mainly about education, more specifically the subjects of science, math, literature, and medicine.
Causes + Effects

Causes
Baghdad was strategically placed on the Silk Road to generate a society producing a golden age for the Abbasid Dynasty. Baghdad attracted scholars from all across the empire and came together in the House of Wisdom. Together they produced innovations across different fields of knowledge. From this, the Golden Age of the Abbasid dynasty arose in the 8th and 9th centuries.

Effects
The Abbasid Empire’s Golden Age brought great innovations across numerous fields not only to Islam, but also to the rest of the world. Great innovations within medicine were achieved within the House of Wisdom. Many other scholarly advancements were also made, furthering the quality of knowledge available for humanity.
Medical Innovations
Medical Innovations Gallery:
Muhammad Ibn Zakariya Al-Razi (854-925CE) was known as ‘The Father of Islamic Medicine’ for becoming the greatest medical scholar and practitioner of his day. Originally from Rey, Persia, Al-Razi moved to Baghdad to continue his studies in medicine. Throughout his life, he was the first to understand the differences between smallpox and measles, wrote about a mind-body connection to one’s health, and wrote a book, “The Diseases of Children,” which was the first book to deal with pediatrics as an independent field of medicine. Al-Razi’s discoveries and the growing population of Baghdad led to the creation of hospitals. Ibn Sina (980-1037 CE) was known as the ‘Father of Medicine’ in Medieval Europe and wrote over 450 titles, and 40, of those that still exist, are about medicine. Sina began studying medicine when he was only 13 and was practicing by age 16. Throughout his life, he wrote the ‘Canon of Medicine,’ which is a five volume document, and built upon the discoveries of Al-Razi about regular exercise and a good diet contributing to a healthy body.
“If a patient refuses to take responsibility for their lifestyle, including overeating and not exercising, then there is nothing a doctor can do to help them.”

-Muhammad Al-Razi
Causes + Effects

**Causes**
The move to Baghdad began the Islamic Golden Age which led to a huge growth in population. This growth meant more people being brought closer together in one area which made the spread of disease much easier and faster. When this escalation of illness hit Baghdad, it motivated the educated scholars to dig deeper into past texts and ancient history to develop new techniques and technologies to restore the health of the Islamic people and travelers.

**Effects**
The effects of these medical innovations and new ideas has led us to having an extensive understanding of the importance of a person’s responsibility for their own health, with regards to exercise and healthy dieting, study pediatrics as a different field of medicine, and provided us with the creation and evolution of a facility where the ill could go to be treated, hospitals.
Weakening of the States
Weakening of the States Gallery:
Weakening of the State

- The Abbasids began to have problems with tax collections since provincial governors would send them in the form of agricultural goods.
- They also had difficulty maintaining control over the more distant provinces as they became more and more hereditary and began to raise their own armies, resulting in the first markings of fragmentation within the empire.
- The Abbasid Empire suffered from attacks by outside groups in the 1100’s and 1200’s. 4 of these outside groups managed to succeed in assaulting the Abbasid Empire.
- It was hard for them to communicate throughout the expansive empire, creating barriers and eventually the separation of the states altogether.
- They began to fracture within the court due to turmoil between different political and religious factions.
Causes + Effects

Causes
The state began to fragment under the stress of a low economy and conflicting motives within the court. The failing economy was due to provinces sending their taxes in the form of grain and Baghdad losing its prime position in the Silk Road route. They also began to lose control over a lot of their outer territory once it became obvious that they were experiencing difficulties.

Effects
The weakening of the state gave way for other powers to have advantage over them. Independent states became more and more common throughout the empire. Some were even to sever all ties with the Caliphate completely. It also became easier for foreign powers to invade the Empire. The Abbasids rapidly lost their holding over the power of the Empire.
Independent States
Independent States Gallery:
When the Abbasid dynasty first came into play, The Caliphate began to fragment. When the states began to separate, the other governors drifted out of control of Baghdad’s court, making it more difficult for those in Baghdad to communicate with them or have useful interactions. Provinces became increasingly governed by independent rulers and the caliph in Baghdad soon became irrelevant to the outside states. Each of the independent states that stemmed from Baghdad had to raise their own armies so that they could ensure protection in the case that they were attacked or invaded, which they eventually were. They eventually became so separate that they stopped sending taxes to the capitol and acted as if they weren’t actually a part of the governing body in Baghdad and regional Dynasties started to develop in later 8th century.
Causes + Effects

Causes
The Empire’s lack of easy communication throughout their territory made it easy for the outer provinces to separate from the power of the Caliphate. Governors started to pay taxes in the form of agriculture. The provinces were able to sever a majority of their ties with the empire once the state began to fragment under turmoil within the court.

Effects
Between the fragmentation within the court and also within the empire, the Islamic world became very susceptible to invasions. It was a significant marker for the downfall of the Abbasid Dynasty and gave way for a new era for the Islamic world. Invaders quickly came forth and gained an upper hand over the fractured state.
The Invasions
Invasions Gallery:
Invasions

❖ The Abbasid Empire suffered from attacks by outside groups in the 1100’s and 1200’s.
❖ Four of the groups were able to successfully assault the Abbasid empire from both the north and the west.
❖ These groups included the Mamluks who originated in Egypt and eventually established a large empire across northern Africa.
❖ Another group was the Seljuk Turks who were a Muslim group from central Asia.
❖ The Seljuk Turks seized parts of the Middle East, like Baghdad and were eventually thrown out of Baghdad when it was conquered by the Mongols.
❖ Their leader took the title of Sultan, reducing the Abbasid caliph to chief Sunni religious authority.
❖ Lastly, the Mongols abruptly invaded Baghdad while it was still occupied by the Seljuk Turks and conquered it, destroying the entirety of the Abbasid dynasty.
Causes + Effects

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Causes</th>
<th>Effects</th>
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<td>The Abbasid Empire began to fragment both internally and externally. They began to lose hold of their control over the outer provinces making them vulnerable to the conquests of foreign powers. Some were unhappy with the Abbasids such as the Shi‘ites and would support the invaders and independent states.</td>
<td>The invaders brought a new era to the Islamic Empire and transferred the power to the non-Arabs. Many of the invaders would allow the Caliph ceremonial power, but their leaders held all of the effective power. Some of the invaders would bring religious change that would result in the conquest of other foreign powers such as the Crusaders since they were discontent with the changes enacted by the new power.</td>
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The Mongols
The Mongols Gallery:
The Mongols were among, if not the most famous conquerors in history. They were the cause of a large amount of destruction during their time and conquered many empires under their leader, Genghis Khan.

The Mongols were an obscure group of nomadic tribes, originating from central Asia.

They successfully conquered and demolished what was remaining of the Islamic Empire under the Abbasids in 1258, the end of unity.

The Turks had occupied Baghdad previous to their arrival, leading to the Mongols forcefully kicking them out.

Shortly after conquering Baghdad, they continued to push on to the west, conquering cities along the way.

Eventually, the Mongols made it to Egypt, where they were finally defeated by the Mamluks, the very first people to successfully fight back against them.
Causes + Effects

Causes
The Mongols are known as the most ruthless force within the history of humanity and their conquests were hardly ever thwarted. With the Abbasid Caliphate greatly weakened by the previous invasions committed by the Crusades, Seljuk Turks, and others, the Mongols were given with a golden opportunity to invade the Islamic Empire and make it their own.

Effects
Once the Mongols decimated the power of the Caliphate, they were able to make the empire their own. They created a new era and established the idea that the power no longer belonged to the descendants of the original Muslims. It also gave way to the Ottoman empire and to a greater expansion of the Islamic religion.


Thank You!