THE ARAB EMPIRE AND THE CALIPHATES

CHAPTER 9.2
DISCUSSION

– With your table groups, discuss:

- Why is it important for governments today to have clear lines of succession?

Succession: the act of inheriting a position
CREATION OF AN ARAB EMPIRE

- Muhammad died 2 years after return to Mecca
  - Muhammad never named a successor
- Abu Bakr chosen as caliph
  - Caliph: successor of Muhammad as leader of Muslims
- Abu Bakr united Muslim world
  - Began expanded Muslim territory under idea of jihad
  - Jihad: defensive warfare; “struggle for God”
CREATION OF AN ARAB EMPIRE

• Muslims tolerant of peoples in conquered territories
  – Locals still allowed to govern
  – Jews, Christians allowed to practice their own religions
• Abu Bakr died, leaving no successors
  – Next three caliphs assassinated
UMAYYAD DYNASTY

• General Muawiyah becomes caliph; changes caliphate to be hereditary
  – Caliph is to caliphate as president is to presidency
• Muawiyah and descendants known as Umayyad dynasty
  “I never use my sword when my whip will do, nor my whip when my tongue will do.”
• Umayyads expand Arab Empire further
  – Muslim conquest of Europe halted by defeat at Tours
DISCUSSION

- With your table groups, discuss:

  Why do you think the Battle of Tours is considered a turning point in European history?
DECLINE OF UMAYYADS

• Internal struggles threaten stability of Umayyad dynasty
• Hussein revolts against dynasty; defeated and beheaded
  – 72 vs 10,000
• Hussein’s Revolt leads to a split in Islam: Sunni and Shia
• Sunni: Muslims that accept descendants of Umayyads as true rulers of Islam
  – Majority of Muslims
• Shia: Muslims that accept descendants of Ali (Muhammad’s son-in-law) as true rulers of Islam
ABBASID DYNASTY

• Abu al-Abbas overthrows Umayyad dynasty, establishes Abbasid dynasty
• Abbasids more tolerant, less militaristic
  – All Muslims could hold political office
• Caliphate grew more complex
  – Council and council leader (vizier) advised caliph
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GaYhcgwsfgg&list=PLJ8cMiYb3G5dlu76T0o8smkqjHOz1-kUo&index=2