The Shaping of Islamic Culture

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THE SHAPING OF ISLAMIC CULTURE

BY BRIELLA HARGROVE
INTRODUCTION

The biblical prophet Muhammed died on June 8, 632 AD. After Muhammed’s death a quest to maintain and further spread his Islamic practices was initiated. The Ridda Wars, also known as the wars of apostacy were multiple military campaigns initiated by Abu Bakr occurring in 632-633. Abu Bakr is known as the first Caliph of Islam. The wars were fought due to the Rebels unwillingness to submit to the Caliph Abu Bakr. The Rebels had no problem continuing the practice of Islam under which Muhammad had founded and embedded into their lifestyles. However, they felt they had no obligations to the Caliph or his attempts to make them pay taxes. Abu Bakr gained several enemies which lead to the series of wars that make the Ridda Wars.
ABSTRACT

The discussion of the Ridda Wars is one which needs more light shined upon it. These wars are not often mentioned, however they are a series of wars that most historians know occurred. Those who focus on Islamic studies often debate about whether these series of wars was a religious or political movement, I say they were both.

Abu Bakr gained several enemies which lead to the series of wars that make up the Ridda Wars or Wars of Apostacy. How did these wars shape Islamic culture? These wars lead to a dictatorship being the way to establish power in Islamic culture. The Wars of Apostacy began the line of the Caliphs and people being forced under the rule of the Caliph.

To conduct my research about the affects of these wars, I examined documents about the prophets and caliphates. Throughout research, the underlying effects were almost undeniable.
THE WARS

In 632, after being made Caliph, Bakr’s first line of business was to send an Army to Usama from Medina. This was to establish power and dominance as a ruler, and to put a stop to the group of rebels starting to grow in Arabia. Bakr won his first battle, causing those who followed Usama to retreat. This defeat kicked off the wars. People rebelled because of: power, taxes or Zakat, and denial. The fights mostly occurred in Northern Arabia, central Arabia, and Medina.
KHALID IBN AL-WALID

• The most popular and well known commander in the army is Khalid Walid. One cannot speak about the Ridda Wars without mentioning his name. Khalid served directly under Abu Bakr and was known as “The Sword of Allah.” He was fierce and undefeated in battle and was tasked the responsibility of ruling over the forces under Bakr. Khalid plays as much as a role as Abu Bakr in the shaping of Islam in the 630-40 AD. Khalid can be deemed as cruel, unremorseful, warhead, and power hungry. Most importantly, he is the contributing factor to the many battles won such as: Battle of Chains, Battle of Daumat, Battle of Zumali and many more.
CONCLUSION

When people are do not have a choice in something as sacred as religions, it causes a constant to strive for power and subgroups of the practices of the religion to form. One of the major causes of war was that of Zakat (Charity), which is why a tax was levied upon the people. These series of wars laid the foundation for inflicting dominance by force. The Ridda wars or The wars of Apostacy, being successful in all military campaigns concluded in the charity being mandatory. Therefore, it is embedded in the Five Pillars of Islam. As a result, found these wars and the leaders had a monumental impact on the Shaping of Islamic Culture as we know it today.
REFERENCES


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