
History of the Arab conquests and empire

The historical narratives of the conquests, as written by both Romans and later Muslims, are insightfully analyzed in Thomas Sizgorich, “‘Do Prophets Come with a Sword?’ Conquest, Empire, and Historical Narrative in the Early Islamic World,” *American Historical Review*, 112 (2007), 992–1015.


**The notion of *jihād***


A brief overview of the development of the idea of *jihād* may be found in Asma Afsaruddin, “Views of *Jihad* Throughout History,” *Religion Compass*, 1, 2007, 165-69; originally published online 2006.

**The Dome of the Rock and its significance**


**Why was the Dome of the Rock built?**

The interpretation of the Dome of the Rock


The caliph and his authority


The "inquisition" and the emergence of the scholarly elite.

