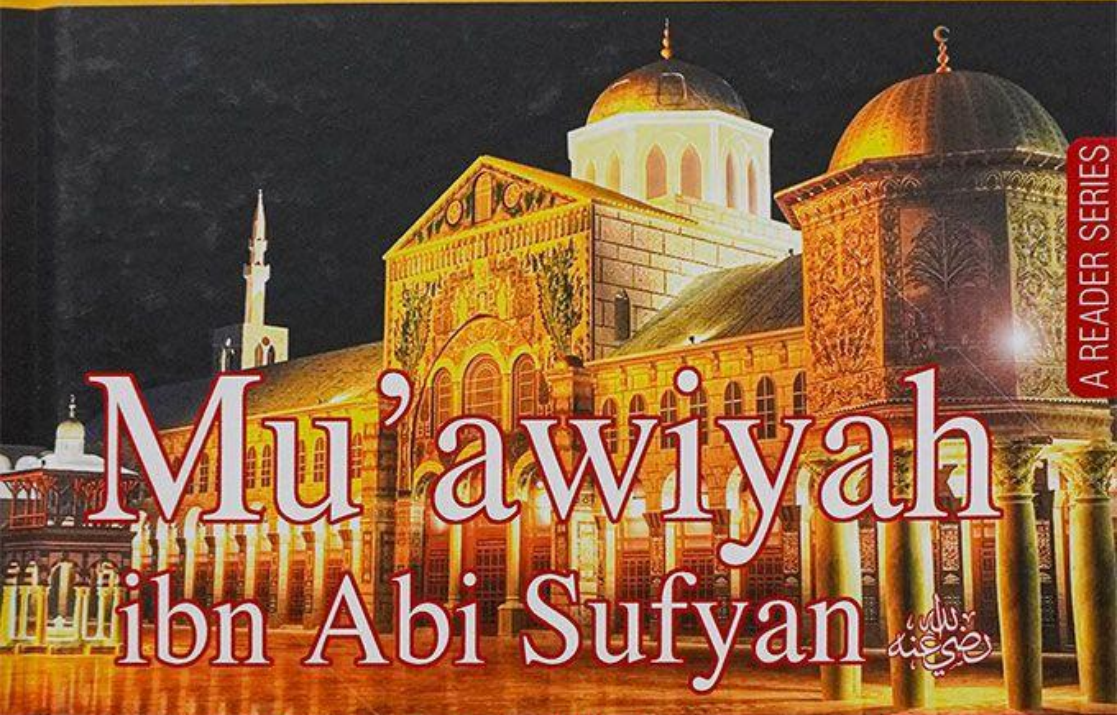


# HISTORY OF ISLAM

THE CALIPHATE OF BANU UMAYYAH



A READER SERIES

## Mu'awiyah ibn Abi Sufyan

The First Caliph of Banu Umayyah



Maulvi Abdul Aziz



## Publisher's Note

In the Name of Allah, the Lord of Grace, the Ever Merciful

For many years, I have been looking for textbooks on the History of Islam for English-speaking students, yet I have found very few. Most did not overcome a common problem: they did not go beyond the era of the Four Rightly-Guided Caliphs, may Allah be pleased with them all.

Bearing this in mind, we, at Darussalam, have resolved to present the entire History of Islam to our youth in language that appeals to them, in a simple yet lucid manner. The first four volumes in this series explore Islamic history during the period of the first Four Rightly-Guided Caliphs.

This is the fifth volume in this series, which deals with the life and rule of Amir Mu'awiyah ibn Abi Sufyan. He is a crucial figure in the history of Islam. When Mu'awiyah became the Caliph in 41 AH/ 661 CE, he put an end to a period of destructive civil war and established the Umayyad dynasty, which lasted for roughly ninety years until it was overthrown



by the Abbasids. Indeed, it is hard to imagine how the *crisis* would have been resolved without his success in bringing the Muslim Community together again.

The Caliphate of Mu'awiyah became validly established after the death of Ali ibn Abi Talib, from the death of Ali ibn Abi Talib, from the moment when Hasan ibn Ali gave up his own right to the Caliphate and transferred it to Mu'awiyah. In doing so, Hasan was motivated by his genuine concern for the welfare of the Muslim Community. Mu'awiyah then ruled for nearly twenty years. During this long reign there was peace and prosperity as a rule at home. Abroad, his rule was equally successful, and extended the boundaries of Islam in all directions. We would like to thank the author of this volume, Maulvi Abdul Aziz, and also the editor and the designer Mr. Shahzad Ahmed for the diligent efforts in preparing this volume. We hope that this work will inspire our youths to form a personal relationship with our pious predecessors and encourage them to commit their lives sincerely to their mission, that is: adherence to the Book of Allah and the Way shown by His Messenger, which they have left behind as our common heritage.

Abdul Malik Mujahid  
Darussalam, Riyadh  
February, 2013

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# The Umayyads

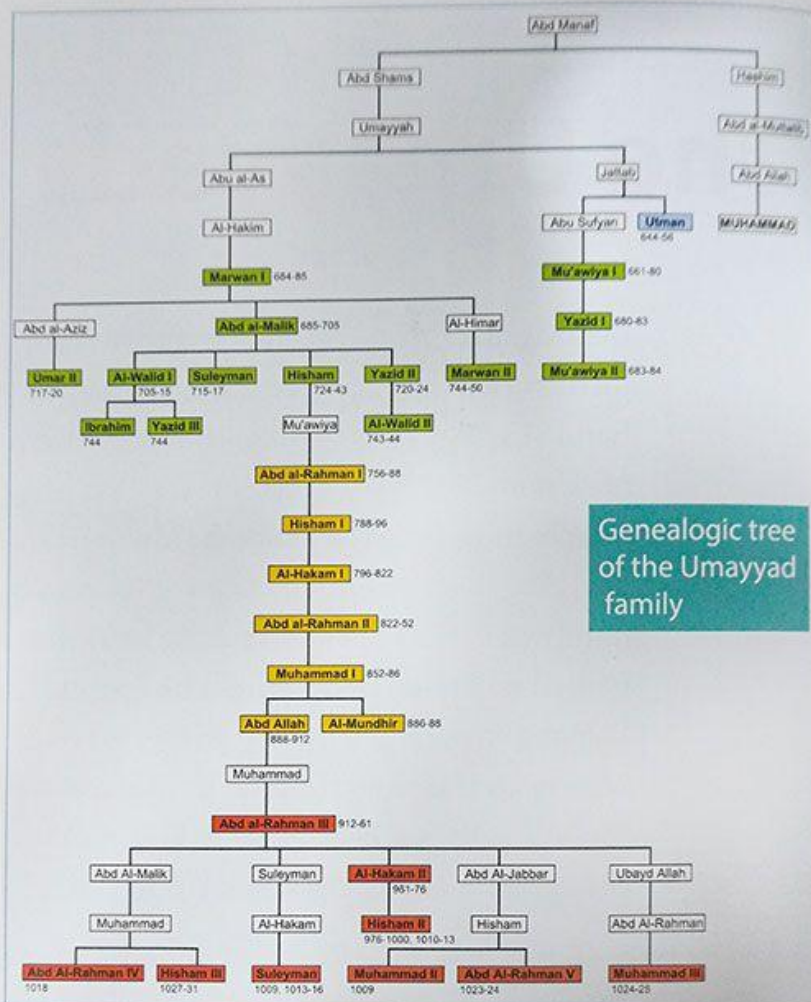
*After*

the Rightly-Guided Caliphate, we now turn to the Caliphate of Banu Umayyah. Banu Umayyah [literally, the Children of Umayyah] were one of the leading merchant families of Makkah. Mu'awiyah ibn Abi Sufyan came from the noble family of the Umayyads, and the name has passed to the dynasty which he founded. Dynasty means a series of rulers who all belong to the same family. In the case of Mu'awiyah, he became the first Caliph from the household of Banu Umayyah.

The period of the first two Rightly-Guided Caliphs was the best. The second half [the Period of Uthmân and Ali] compared to the first half may be called a period of turmoil. Though it was certainly better than the Caliphates that followed because the Prophet's Companions were the rulers and many of his Companions were still alive.

As for the Caliphate of Mu'awiyah ibn Abi Sufyan, it





became validly established after the death of Ali, from the moment when Hasan ibn Ali gave up his own right to the Caliphate and transferred it to Mu'awiyah.

Hasan was moved by his genuine concern for the common welfare, which he hoped to secure by sparring the Muslims

any further bloodshed. This also represented the fulfilment of something that the Prophet ﷺ had foretold. He had once said about Hasan, 'This [grand] son of mine is a chieftain [Sayyid] who will bring about reconciliation between two hugely powerful factions.' Mu'awiyah's leadership [Imamah] was thus made completely rightful by Hasan's commitment to him. The year in which he succeeded to the Caliphate was called the Year of the Reunion [*Aam al-Jama'ah*] or the Year of the Gathering; the Year of the Restoration of Muslim Unity. This was because it marked the ending of discord among all members of the Islamic Community, and their general agreement to follow the rule of Mu'awiyah. There was no third rival for the Caliphate.

After the murder of Uthmān, the situation within the Muslim Community fell apart into disorder and civil war. Outward expansion almost stopped. People formed factions. The situation was terrible. Into this disorder stepped the governor of Syria, the Companion and Scribe of the Messenger of Allah and his brother-in-law, Mu'awiyah ibn Abi Sufyan. In Mu'awiyah we have a master statesman and diplomat who set about developing a form that would work. It was in fact a miracle and a proof of the Prophet ﷺ, because it was the fulfilment of the supplication which the Prophet ﷺ had made for Mu'awiyah, 'O Allah! Make him a guide who is rightly guided and guide others by him! Guide him!'



## The Early Life of **Mu'awiyah**

*M*u'awiyah was the son of Abu Sufyan ibn Harb. His mother was Hind bint Utbah. Mu'awiyah was born in Makkah about five years before the Prophet ﷺ first received Revelation. His sister Umm Habibah accepted Islam early. Her full name was Ramlah bint Abi Sufyan. She was first married to Ubaydullah ibn Jahsh and migrated with him to Ethiopia. There Ubaydullah embraced Christianity, but Umm Habibah refused to follow him and remained faithful to Islam. Shortly after Ubaydullah's death, the Prophet ﷺ demanded her in marriage by letter. The ceremony was performed by the Negus himself. 'Negus' was the title of the Kings of Ethiopia. Later Umm Habibah came to Madinah together with the other Companions who had migrated to Ethiopia. Thus, Mu'awiyah was the brother-in-law of the Prophet ﷺ.



## Mu'awiyah ibn Abi Sufyan

(باللغة الإنجليزية)

Mu'awiyah ruled for nearly twenty years. During this long reign there was peace and prosperity as a rule at home. Abroad, his rule was equally successful, and extended the boundaries of Islam in all directions.

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