

LANGAT SINGH COLLEGE

NAAC Grade – 'A'

(A Constituent unit of B.R.A. Bihar University, Muzaffarpur)

Department Of Persian



:- ONLINE CLASS E-MATERIAL :-

Topic :- Socio Political & Religious Condition of Arabs before Islam

M. A 2th Semester (Persian)

Course No & title :- Per 104 Core – History of Islam

By

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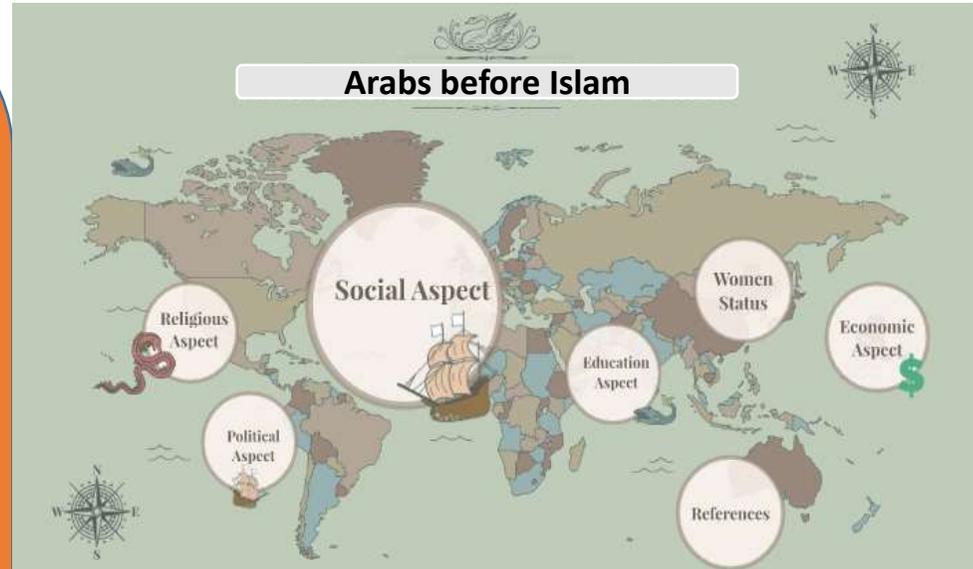
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Socio Political & Religious Condition of Arabs before Islam

The situation of the Arabs before Islam is called Jahiliyyah, Or in simple English, pre-Islamic 'ignorance'. No society has descended to the depths of ignorance as the Arabs had descended before Islam. Dividing it up to better understand. Social conditions in Arab society was very bad. Drinking and gambling were a heavy part of Arab society. They were heavily in debt because of this and usury was very common.



Social conditions:

Arabia was a male-dominated society. Women had no status of any kind other than as sex objects. The number of women, a man could marry was not fixed. When a man died, his son "inherited" all his wives except his own mother.

A savage custom of the Arabs was to bury their female infants alive. Even if an Arab did not wish to bury his daughter alive, he still had to uphold this “honorable” tradition, being unable to resist social pressures.

Drunkenness was a common vice of the Arabs. They were compulsive drinkers and compulsive gamblers. The relations of the sexes were extremely loose. Many women sold sex to make their living since there was little else they could do.

Women had no rights in this society. They were treated lower than animals. A female was buried alive when she was born because she amounted to no good.

Prostitution of the worse kind where many men would enter on a woman and have intercourse with her was prevalent. The child born was attributed to the one the woman would choose from the men that had intercourse with her. So lineages were lost.

The State of Religion in Pre-Islamic Arabia

They were fiercely polytheistic with 360 idols that they used to worship. The three major ones were Al-Lat, Al Uzza and Al-Manat.



Because of this, they had very superstitious beliefs and practices involving circumambulating the sacred house naked and in a drunken state. They would sacrifice animals to their Gods and they would eat dead carcasses.

The period in the Arabian history which preceded the birth of Islam is known as the Times of Ignorance. Judging by the beliefs and the practices of the pagan Arabs, it appears that it was a most appropriate name.

The Arabs were the devotees of a variety of “religions” which can be classified into the following categories.

1. Idol-worshippers or polytheists.
2. Atheists
3. Zindiqs
4. Sabines.
5. Jews
6. Christians.
7. Monotheists There was a small group of monotheists present in Arabia on the eve of the rise of Islam.

Political Conditions in Arabia

The most remarkable feature of the political life of Arabia before Islam was the total absence of political organization in any form. With the exception of Yemen in the south-west, no part of the Arabian peninsula had any government at any time, and the Arabs never acknowledged any authority other than the authority of the chiefs of their tribes.

The authority of the tribal chiefs, however, rested, in most cases, on their character and personality, and was moral rather than political.

The population of Arabia consisted of two main divisions, sedentary and nomadic. Hijaz and South Arabia were dotted with many small and a few large towns. The rest of the country had a floating population composed of Bedouins.

They were backward in the civil and political sense but they were also a source of anxiety and fear for the sedentary population. They lived as pirates of the desert, and they were notorious for their unrestrained individualism and anarchic tribal particularism.



The more important tribes exercised a certain amount of authority in their respective areas. In Makkah the dominant tribe was the Quraysh; in Yathrib, the dominant tribes were the Arab tribes of Aus and Khazraj, and the Jewish tribes of Nadheer, Qaynuqaa and Qurayza.

The Arabs were known for their hospitality and treating guests better than themselves. This is still prevalent in Arab culture to this day. Even if it's an enemy if it's a guest they will treat him better than themselves.

When it came to honor they would fight till death. When they were rebuilding the Kaaba they made sure all money that they spend is from pure sources.





They preferred a simple life.
They would send their children to the outskirts of the city so their children would live the good life and be pure.

Determination. They were very determined and because of this fought with extreme zeal and loyalty.

