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Department Of Persian



:- ONLINE CLASS E-MATERIAL :-

Topic :- Uthman Ibn Affan, the 3rd or second last Caliph of Islam

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Uthman Ibn Affan

The 3rd or second last Caliph of Islam

Uthman ibn `Affan (c. 579 – 17 July 656) was one of the companions of Islamic prophet, Muhammad. He played a major role in early Islamic history as the third Caliph. In the history of Islam there were four caliphets and UTHMAN was one of them as well as third after ABU BAKAR and Umar.

Uthmān ibn `Affān, the third caliph to rule after the death of the Prophet Muhammad. He centralized the administration of the caliphate and established an official version of the Qur`ān. `Uthmān is critically important in Islamic history because his death marked the beginning of open religious and political conflicts within the Islamic community

Uthman was born into the Umayyad clan of Mecca, a powerful family of the Quraish tribe. He was a companion of Prophet Muhammad who assumed the role of leader (caliph) of the Muslim Empire at the age of 70 following Umar ibn al-Khattab.

Under his leadership, the empire expanded into Fars in 650 (present-day Iran), some areas of Khorasan (present-day Afghanistan) in 651 and the conquest of Armenia was begun in the 640's.

Uthman was an early who convert to Islam and is said to have spent a great amount of his wealth on charity. On returning from a business trip to Syria in 611, `Uthman found out that Muhammad had declared his mission.



After a discussion with his friend Abu Bakr `Uthman decided to convert to Islam, and Abu Bakr took him to Muhammad to whom he declared his faith. `Uthman thus became the fourth male to convert to Islam, after Ali, Zayd and Abu Bakr.

Utman conversion to Islam angered his clan, the Banu Ummayyah, who strongly opposed Muhammad's teachings. The only two people who supported `Uthman's decision were Saadi, one of his maternal aunts, and Umm Kulthum, who was his stepsister and who had also converted to Islam.

Because of his conversion to Islam, `Uthman's wives deserted him, and he subsequently divorced them. Muhammad then asked `Uthman to marry his daughter Ruqayyah bint Muhammad.

As caliph 'Uthmān promulgated an official recension of the Qur'ān, which had existed in various versions. 'Uthmān followed the same general policies as 'Umar but had a less forceful personality than his predecessor. He continued the conquests that had steadily increased the size of the Islamic empire, but the victories now came at a greater cost and brought less wealth in return.

Uthmān tried to create a cohesive central authority to replace the loose tribal alliance that had emerged under Pophet Muhammad. He established a system of landed fiefs and distributed many of the provincial governorships to members of his family.



Thus much of the treasure received by the central government went to 'Uthmān's family and to other provincial governors rather than to the army.

As a result of his policies, ‘Uthmān was opposed by the army, and he was often dominated by his relatives—unlike ‘Umar, who had been strong enough to impose his authority on the governors, whatever their clan or tribe.





By 650, rebellions had broken out in the provinces of Egypt and Iraq. In 655 a group of Egyptian malcontents marched upon Medina, the seat of caliphal authority.

‘Uthmān, however, was conciliatory, and the rebels headed back to Egypt. Shortly thereafter, however, another group of rebels besieged ‘Uthmān in his home, and, after several days of desultory fighting, he was killed.

