

**7.7 Analyze the origins and
impact of different sects within
Islam, Sunnis and Shi'ites**

Muhammad's Death

- Muhammad died in 632 CE
- In his farewell speech, he warned the Muslim community against returning to pre-Islamic practices
- However, he did not give instructions for who should succeed him as leader

Caliphs

- Muhammad's successors, called caliphs, were elected
- They worked to expand Islam through conquering new territories
- The first 4 caliphs were elected and were followed like Muhammad

Ali

- Ali was Muhammad's cousin and son-in-law
- He became the 4th caliph, but was assassinated



Umayyad Caliphate

- After the first 4 caliphs, the Umayyad Caliphate became the dominant force in Islam
- The Umayyads moved the capital to Damascus (modern Syria) and began to act more like European (Byzantine) rulers

Hussein

- There were some Muslims who believed the Umayyads were corrupting Islam
- One of those was Ali's son (Muhammad's grandson), Hussein
- He refused to pay allegiance to the Umayyad.
- At the Battle of Karbala, Hussein was beheaded
- He is a martyr to Shi'a Muslims

Shi'a

- The people who were loyal to Hussein believed that the caliph should be a descendent of Muhammad
- They are called Shi'a (Shiite): “Party of Ali”
- Almost all of them live in Southeast Iraq and Iran
- Karbala is a holy site to which they pilgrimage today

Sunni

- Those who remained loyal to the Umayyad are called Sunni (means majority)
- Sunni makeup over 85% of Muslims today

