- basis of the Umma is family

- position of women improved (stopped female infanticide, women contract their own marriage, she receives the dowry from the husband, has the right to inherit, own and manage property)

- its still patriarchal society (man's eye witness in court is more valuable, has less restrictions to initiate divorce, polygamy)

- another practice commonly associated with women is veiling (hijab, chador, burqa)

**Early Islamic Conquests**

- Muhammad dies, Umma faces first major crisis
- Abu Bakr rules as Muhammad's successor or caliph.

**COURSE OF CONQUEST**

- under the next two caliphs Umar and Uthman, by 643. Arabs conquer the Byzantine and Sasanid territories of the Fertile Crescent, Egypt, and most of Iran

- Arab armies swept west over the Byzantine Libyan coast and in the east, pushed to the Oxus, defeating the last Sasanid ruler by 651.

- civil war followed during the caliphate of Ali

- then the fifth caliph Mu'awiya consolidated the new empire; conquered Cyprus, crippled Byzantine sea power, sieged Constantinople, solidified rule in Iran

- easter Berbers of Libyan North Africa defeated and converted to Islam. With their help the 711. raids into Spain began led by Tariq; by 716. the Spanish Visigoth kingdoms had fallen, and much of Iberia was under Arab control.

- the Arabs were defeated at the hands of Charles Martel south of Tours 732. while pushing towards France.

**FACTORS OF SUCCESS**

- weakened military and economic condition of the Byzantines and Sasanids (the result of chronic warfare with one another)