

"Conquest of Sindh produced everlasting results not only in Sindh but all over South Asia".  
Discuss

### Introduction

The conquest of Sindh in 712 A.D. by the Umayyad Caliphate, led by Muhammad bin Qasim is one of the most important and epoch-making event not only in the history of India but also in the history of the World. This invasion paved a way for other muslim rulers to come to india as victorious. Beside this, this invasion had far-reaching effects and consequences for not only in Sindh but all over the South Asia. In different aspects of life: According to M. Kabir, Undoubtedly establishment of Islamic government in Sindh is the greater event in the history of Islam and sub-continent.

## Situation at that time

Before the emergence of Islam, Indian and Arabs had established ties and trade relationship. As for the Arab Indian trade route concerned, the Arab traders and merchants used to go to Yemen from the Indian ports, from Yemen to Syria through land, from Syrian port to Egypt and then from Egypt to Southern Europe through shipping.



### Political Conditions

Political conditions at that time was very poor. After the death of Harshavardhana, an Indian ruler who ruled North-India from 606 to 647 CE, the whole India divided into small kingdom and those all states were sovereign. There were no central power in India.

And due to the absence of any central power the kind of kingdoms lack unity in them, no administrative structure was followed by any state. One of these states was run by Raja Dahir, a Brahman ruler.

### Religious Condition:

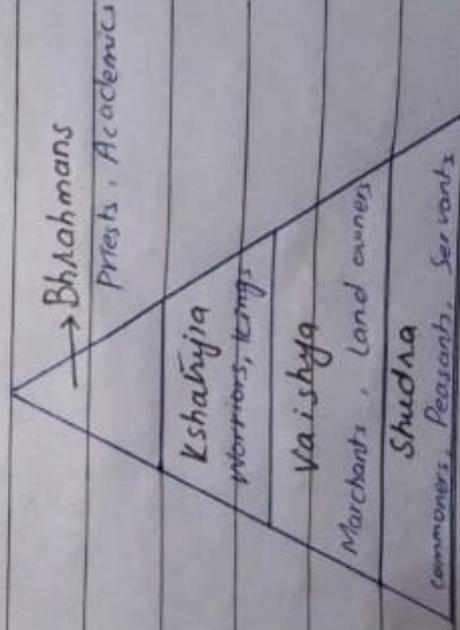
There were different followers of different religions like Buddhist, Jainism and Hinduism, which were not allowed to practice their religious activities. Raja Dahir, a Hindu ruler of Sindh, showed tyranny towards the followers of other religions.

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and also use force against them to left their own religion and to accept the hinduism religion. The buddhist who were almost the 90% of the population and other followers of different religion were eager to seek emancipation from Brahmanic tyranny.

### Social Conditions

Along with the political and religious conditions, the social condition of india was divided into rich and poor. The local people believed on caste system. They had divided themselves into Brahmins, Kshatriya, Vaishya and Shudra.



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Out of which shudras were considered as a low caste and behaved like animals and were not given to their rights.

### Economic Conditions

land of India was a <sup>blessed with</sup> progressive economy. They were rich in spices, gold and crops. Sindh was a rich state due to its agricultural land and extensive water resources.

A large amount of Revenue was collected by the kings of state from here. Arab used to trade with indians, they carried spices, gold and crops with them and then export them to the different parts of Europe. They are the cause of trade between Europe and Indians.

## Impacts of Conquest of Sindh

The Arab conquest of Sindh lasted for about two centuries and it was not an isolated incident in the history of India as is commonly supposed. According to Stanley Lane Poole, "The Arab conquest of Sindh is an episode in the history of India and of Islam". But the Arabs left a deep imprint on the life and culture of Sindh and established Islam as a popular religion. According to Professor Syed Abdul Qadir Shujao-d-Din,

"After the conquest of Sindh, a large number of scholars, traders, inhabitants in Sindh. Local people embraced Islam. Today Sindh is the same Islamic region like the Iraq and Egypt". In these circumstances we cannot deny the greatness of the Arab conquest of Sindh, its historical importance, its consequences and far-reaching

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Impacts not only for Sindh but for the south as well.

### Religious Impacts

Sindh's local populace, who were at the losing end with Dahir in their command, breathed a sigh of relief after the conquest of Sindh. It was the Muhammad bin

Qasim who officially brought Islam into India. Sindh became the center of Islam. Further, people enjoyed religious freedom and even local clergy received stipends from the state. He did not force any one to embrace Islam. The relation between the Arabs and non-Muslim population were very good. The Arab travelers refer to non-Muslims as Dhimmis and not as Kafirs. Cow-slaughter was banned in Sindh and Multan. This might have been due to desire to preserve the cattle wealth, but regard for Hindu sentiments may also have been

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partly responsible for this step.

Many of locals by impressing from the behaviors of Arabs and from the teachings of Islam, embraced Islam. All taxes were abolished, on the other hand Jizya was imposed. In short, the land, for which Islam was a foreign religion, became the Bab-ul-Islam in the history and still this religion alive in this region. Many historians also called the province of Sindh as The Hijaz of Indo-Pakistan subcontinent.

### Intellectual Impacts

During the Umayyad and Abbassid period, the Arabs were not only at the height of their political and religious power, but also were very active in the intellectual field and made every effort to acquire knowledge from all sources.

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The Indo-Arab intellectual collaboration was at its height during two distinct periods. It began during the reign of Mansur. As the Sindh was under the actual rule of Khalifa Mansoor, where many ambassadors came from India and also many scholars among them who brought back with them. The second fruitful period was the reign of Khalifa Harun Rashid when the famous Barmakid family was at the height of their power. They sent scholars to the Indopak to study medicine and pharmacology.

Arabs were the masters of science and arts, they learnt a lot of knowledge from the Hindus like astrology and astronomy. Many of the Sanskrit works on astronomy and mathematics were translated into Arabic under the patronage of Abbasid Khalifas. Many of the Sanskrit work was translated into Arabic by Hindus at Dar-ul-Tarjuma, so that Arabs can get knowledge.

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Similarly many Arabs studied Sanskrit to satisfy their thirst for knowledge of Indian culture. An Arab historian wrote a book known as "Chach Name". This book describes the history of Sindh, which sheds light on the socio-economic, political, religious and cultural aspects of Sindh at the arrival of Arabs in Sindh. In this aspect, one can feel the far reaching impact of conquest of Sindh on the intellectual knowledge through which the world has been changed in present condition.

### Social Impacts

As far as the social impacts of occupation of Sindh is concerned, so it has changed the social life of the locals. The caste system in India was broken by Islam. Arabs married with Sindh women and as a result a new class arose which

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was less arab in blood but Arab in culture and Islam in religion.

Arab planted some new kind of plants in sikh. They brought horses and camels in sikh and still today the inhabitants use the camels in sikh.

### Administrative impacts

The Arabs were not only great warriors and conquerors but also good administrators. The administration introduced by M.B Qasim in Sindh leads to believe that the Arabs possessed experience in the art of administration and were not cruel and fanatic as it is general supposed by people. The Arab Governors were far-sighted statesmen and great politicians. They did not disturb the existing system of administration. When Muhammad bin Qasim was dismissed and arrested by the order

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of Khalifa the people started worship of his statue due to his good administration and justice. It was a role model for the later sultans.

Economic Impacts

Military Interactions

Judicial Impacts.

### Conclusion

To cut the story short, Arabs who were the conqueror of Sindh in Indo-Pak region effected this piece of land. They have changed the whole structure of land from political to administrative, from religious to social, from judicial to military, in fact it has far-reaching and everlasting impacts on this whole region. This region has become stable politically, economically, socially in every aspect of life.