

Discuss Political, Social, Cultural and Economic Condition of ARABIA Before The Dawn of Islam.

Arabian Peninsula

Peninsula is a land surrounded by three side of water, The region is called the Levant region. It's South is surrounded by Indian Ocean, East the Persian Gulf and its West has Red Sea. The traders always used this route for shipping and trading. This region was under control of Persian empire and also Roman empire. The Arab political condition is described as under.

Political Condition.

The political condition of Arabia before Islam was completely based on absence of political organizations.

People were controlled by their clan's chief. No time for established govt in any part of Arabia before Islam. The authority of tribal chiefs, however, rested, in most cases, on their character and personality, and was moral rather than political. Most part of Arabs lived generation after generation and century after century without a controlled govt.

System of Arabia!

In an Arab ever exercised any modicum of restraint, it was not because of susceptibility he had to question of his right or wrong but because of fear of provoking reprisals and Vendetta. Vendetta consumed whole generation of Arabs. Since there was not any system of courts, police and law and order. The situation was very pathetic every

tribe used its own dignity
to hold the situation. A tribe
failed to protect its members
from enemies, exposed itself to
didicule
Wars:-

Arabia did not have a
government and was anarchy
by distinct. War was the
permanent institution of the
Arabian society. The desert
could support a limited number
of people, and the state of
intertribal war maintained a
rigid growth control over
the growth of population. War
used to give them an
opportunity to show their skills
like, horsemanship, fencing and
at the same time they can win
glory and honour for their
tribes. BY **G.E remarks**

"The tribes dissipated all
their energies in tribal guerrilla fighting,
all against all"

Social conditions

Arabia was male dominated society. Women had no status of any kind other as sex object. The no of marriages for a man was not fix. When a man died his son inherited all his wives except his own mother. As a whole it was a totally lawless around this peninsula. A custom to bury their daughters alive to save defilement in a society.

Vices

Drunkenness was common in Arab culture, Gambling. The relations of the sexes were very loose. Many women sold sex for their living.

Social position of women

Amongst the Arabs, women were merchandise which could be bought, sold and could have social or individual rights. They used to count the

women the category of some animals. On giving the birth of a baby girl a woman mother was beaten and infant drowning and throwing from a mountain into a deep valley was a common practice. As the same expressions of the persons are explained in Quran says when they hear the news of a baby girl their faces become dark due to grief (Nahl).

Cultural conditions:

Poetry: Arabic poetry was rich in eloquence and imagery but it was limited in range, and it was lacking profundity. The greatest composition of the Pagan Arabs were the so-called "Golden odes" a collection of seven poems.

From the day after day when Islam came, the emphasis shifted temporarily, from poetry to prose.

Horse racing, practicing of war with swords were the common sport exercised which were being done by the Arabs. There was a mixed culture it contained many religions like

- 1 Idol worshippers
- 2 Atheists
- 3 Zindis
- 4 Sabines
- 5 Jews and Christians.

There was a multi-religious culture. Their norms, customs, creed and codes were different. They were separated in different ethnic/tribe sects. On the arrival of Islam their views, thoughts, religion etc were transformed 180° and it was a paradigm shift.

Economic Conditions:-

Economically the Jews were the leaders of Arabia. They were the owners of the best arable land of Arabia.

They were also the owners of the industry that was exist at that time.

Slavery:-

Slavery was the best economic tool for the Arabs. Men and women were bought and sold like animals and they were considered the most depressed class of Arabia.

Loans:-

Most of the landlords specially land owner Jews and others given loans to people. The structure was arranged in such a way that they became more and more richer.

Trade:-

The most important urban centers of Arabia were mekkah and medine, both in Hijaz. The citizens of mekkah were mostly traders, money lenders and

merchants. Their Caravans mostly travelled in summer to Syria and in winter to Yemna, Oman etc. They also travelled in the east towards Iraq and Yemen or in Persian Gulf.

According to R.V.C Bodley

The arrival and departures of Caravans was the important event of the Meccans. Almost everyone in Makkah has some investment. They carry their camels, horses, donkeys etc and loaded perfumes, raw materials, oil and gold from the South.

On a nutshell most of the traders move all around the Arab and non Arab states to earn their livelihood. The system was not governed by any single authority, might be at the right at that time.