Paradigm Shifts in Islam

622: Hijrah (=1)

First wave of conquests:
635: Damascus
638: Jerusalem
639–42: Egypt/Persia/Cyrenaica
661–750: Umayyad caliphate: Damascus
Second wave of conquests:
711: Spain, Indus valley
712: Southern Russia
732 Battle of Poitiers

750–1258: Abbasid caliphate: Baghdad
8th–11th centuries: Umayyads in Spain
C. 850: evidence of Islam in Indonesia and China
678: Disappearance of the twelfth Shiite imam
From 10th century: Islamization of Turkic peoples in Central Asia
10th–12th centuries: Fatimids in Egypt (al-Azhar mosque)
12th century: beginning of Islamic rule in India
11th–13th centuries: Seljuk empire
From 1258: Mongol and Timurid invasions (until 15th century)
13th century: Expansion of mystical orders and law schools
13th–15th centuries: Mamluk empire

16th–19th centuries: three new great empires
1452: End of Byzantium
1492: Fall of Granada
Turkic Ottoman empire: Istanbul
Persian Safavid empire: Isfahan
Indian Mughal empire: Agra-Delhi

17th–20th centuries: European counter-offensives
1683: Second failed siege of Vienna
1798: Napoleon in Egypt – European science
19th century: Foundation of European colonies: India, Egypt, North Africa
1917: Balfour Declaration for Israel

After the First World War: Turkish republic, new kingdoms
After the Second World War: State of Israel;
Islamic Republic of Pakistan
Independence of Islamic states;
Advance of Islam in Africa

The abiding substance of Islamic faith:
The message: There is no God but God, and Muhammad is his Prophet.
The decisive event of revelation: the sealing of the previous revelation event (Christian and Jewish)
by the revelation given to the Prophet.
The distinguishing feature of Islam: the Qur’an as God’s word and book.

The shifting paradigm (=P: macromodel of society, religion, theology):
‘An entire constellation of beliefs, values, techniques, and so on shared by the members
of a given community’ (Thomas S. Kuhn).