continued to battle non-Muslims after the first Crusade in 1095, culminating in the battle at the gates of Vienna in 1683. This shows how far the Muslim armies had advanced; they did not conquer these lands in peace; there was no peaceful coexistence.

The Caliph Umar instructed 'Arfajah, a commander in his army, "Summon the people to God; those who respond to your call, accept it from them, (assume their conversion is genuine) but those who refuse must pay the Jizya (poll tax) out of humiliation and lowliness. If they refuse this, it is the sword without leniency. Fear God with regard to what you have been entrusted." (The History of al Tabari, The Battle of al-Qadisiyyah and the Conquest of Syria and Palestine (vol. 12). [2383] p.167).

Some peoples (such as the Christians in Egypt) did welcome the Muslim forces, for they saw them as a better alternative to their Byzantine (Eastern Roman) oppressors. They were soon proved wrong. In many places, the Jizya (protection money) payable by non-Muslims was up to 80% of their income (Muhammad imposed 50% on many conquered peoples) and the Pact of Umar was enforced with irregular brutality.

As previously mentioned, the first Crusaders were not bent on destroying Islam. They often passed through Muslim territory and even provided armed escorts to Muslim traders because their goal was to secure their Holy Sites in Jerusalem, not attack Islam. And although parts of the Crusades were brutal and even severely criticized by Christians themselves, they did not match the ferocity that Muslims had shown in the previous 500 years.

The Muslim armies were merely following Allah’s revelation that Islam will conquer all other religions (Sura 2:193; 9:33; 61:9 etc). Christians had followed the example of Jesus, turning the cheek, until it became too much to bear.

Muhammad is well known as the ‘Prophet of the Sword’ (he fought and planned 81 battles) and commanded the use of the sword, forcing people to become Muslims, even though Allah hates people who only pretend to be Muslim. Muslim armies killed and conquered in obedience to Allah and the Qur’an; Christians killed and attacked in disobedience to Jesus.

And Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you have come for." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and seized Him. And behold, one of those who were with Jesus reached and drew out his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place; for all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword. - Matthew 26:50-52.

The content here will probably have raised some questions in your mind. Muslims are commanded to read and believe the Scriptures that God gave Christians and Jews (Sura 10:94-95; 2:41). If you think they have been corrupted, doesn’t Allah say that His word cannot be changed? (Sura 6:115; 10:64-65; 18:27; 48:23). If you have any questions, please contact us.

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Warning—This pamphlet contains words of the Qur’an in Arabic and English. Please use appropriately.
In the year AD 632, it is worthwhile looking at the oppressed minorities. Given that Muhammad died had once been a majority now found themselves as Christians in the Holy Land. The Christians, who had perished as a result, the kings and counts were crushed to death under rocks rolled down on them by Saracens in the passes of the Alps.

### Peaceful co-existence with Muslims

As Muhammad lay on his death bed, he commanded his followers to expel non-Muslims from the Arabian Peninsular (Bukhari, Vol. 5, Hadith No. 716). No exception was made. The Caliph Umar is famous for his *Pact of Umar* which details, amongst other things, instructions for humiliating and degrading Christians and Jews if they refused to convert to Islam. The pact was based on Sura 9:29 and 9:5, commands from Allah and his prophet Muhammad. (See also Ibn Kathir *Tafsir*, Sura 9:29).

C Sura 9:29 ‘Fight those who believe not in Allah nor the Last Day, nor hold that forbidden which hath been forbidden by Allah and His Messenger, nor acknowledge the religion of Truth, (even if they are) of the People of the Book, until they pay the Jizya (protection money) with willing submission, and feel themselves subdued.’

C Sura 9:5 ‘Then, when the sacred months have passed, slay the idolaters wherever you find them, and take them (captive), and besiege them, and prepare for them each ambush. But if they repent and establish worship and pay the poor due, then leave their way free. Lo! Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.’

The states along the edge of the Mediterranean, from the death of Muhammad to the first Crusade, endured 463 years of bloody incursions by Muslim forces intent on booty (precious stones, metals and slaves), the spreading Islam and the destruction of churches and Christianity. They overran Syria, North Africa, Sicily, Sardinia and most of Spain. They had regular incursions into France and Italy and much of the Adriatic.

Historian Paul Stenhouse lists the following Muslim conquests prior the first Crusade in 1095. (‘Crusades in Context,’ *Annals Australia*, July 2007).

As you can see, the notion that Christians, Jews and Muslims lived in harmony under Islamic rule is a lie. This list is just a small sampling of events during the “Golden Age of Islam.” Muslims con-