

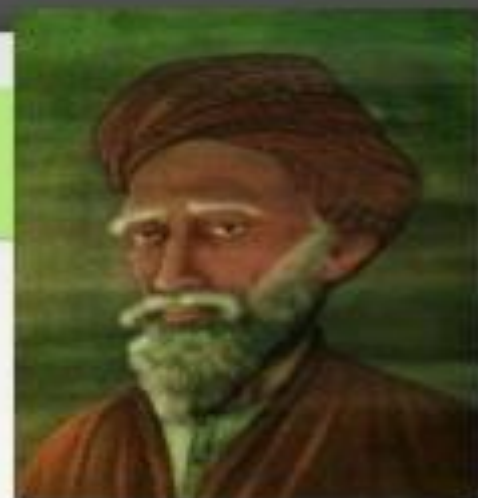
***CONTRIBUTION OF ARABS
IN TO
GEOGRAPHY***



INTRODUCTION

- The followers of Prophet Mohammad made significant contributions in the field of geography from 8th to 13th century.
- Their outlook was purely theological
- The Arabs were the great contributors in the field of mathematical, physical and regional geography.
- The open mind and inquisitive nature of Arabs, the journeys during the pilgrimage and for trade and commerce and their marine adventures added to their geographic knowledge

1) AL-MASUDI



- Al Masudi was born in late 9 th century and died in 956 in Egypt .
- He travelled to Persia, Syria, Armenia, Central Asia, Oman, India, Ceylon, Madagascar.
- He also contributed in to field of cosmology, astronomy, Islamic law, meteorology, history and Arabic folklore.
- He classified the inhabited world in to seven regions : Persians, Chaldians, Greeks, Egyptians and Libyans, Turkish, Hindus and chinese

→ **BOOKS**

- 1) **KITAB – AKHBAR – AL ZAMAN**
- 2) **KITAB – AL – AUSAT**
- 3) **KITAB – AL – TANBHWAL- ISHRAF**
- 4) **KITAB – MURAJ – AL – DHAHAB**



- He provided a good account of the Monsoon of the Bay of Bengal
- He pointed out that the Indian ocean was connected with Atlantic ocean
- He said that the Salt in the seas and oceans comes from land area
- He tried to describe the relation ship between man and environment.
- He sailed in several areas and observed weather conditions faced on a voyager while sailing.
- He described the role of physical environment on mode of life and attitude of peoples
- According to him the surface of the sea is curved

2) AL BIRUNI



- Full name : **Abu Ryhan Muhammed**
- Born in Khawarizm of Republic of Uzbekistan in 973
- BOOKS
 - 1) **KITAB-AL-HIND**
 - 2) **AL-QANUM-AL- MASUDI**
 - 3) **ATHAR-AL-BAGIYA**
 - 4) **TARIKHUL-HIND**
 - 5) **KITAB-AL-JAMAKIR**
 - 6) **KITAB-AL-SAYDNA**
- He wrote 27 books on various fields of geography

- His book **qanum al Masudi** deals about solar eclipse and lunar eclipse.
- He pointed out that the Indo-Gangetic plain was formed by the deposition of silt brought by rivers.
- He described the reasons of occurrence of flood and springs.
- He wrote in details about the geography of India.
- He also said that the Himalaya is the source of most of the perennial rivers of Asia.

3) AL-IDRISI



- Full name : **Abu-Abd-Allah-muhammed**
- Born in 1099
- Al idrisi wrote the book '*Amusement For Him Who Deserve To Travel Around The World*'
- This book was based on the information collected by Arab explorers.
- He corrected the courses of many rivers including those of Danube and Niger.
- He pointed out that due to intense heat, the torrid zone was not habitable
- His most important contribution was his world map. His map was based on rough , rectangular projection.





World map by Al idrisi

4) IBN BATUTTA



- Real Name : Abdullah Muhammed
- Born in 1304 in Tangier town of North Africa.
- Ibn Battuta wrote the book '*Rihlah*' which throws light on soil, agriculture, economy and political history of the Muslim world of his own time.
- He had great desire to visit new countries .
- Ibn Battuta travelled for about 28 years and covered more than 120 thousand kilometers .
- He reached in India after crossing the mountains through Afghanistan and travelled the country widely.
- His description of house types and building materials in deserts is very interesting and informative

The Travels of **IBN BATTUTA**

in the Near East,
Asia and Africa
1325-1354

Translated and
Edited by
Rev. Samuel Lee



5) IBN KHALDUN



- Born in 1342 at Tunisia
- His main work was *Muqaddimah* (the introduction of history) which also deals with human society and natural environment .
- He pointed out that the northern hemisphere is more densely populated than the southern hemisphere .
- According to him , the population along the equator was thin ,but away from the equator there was greater concentration of population up to the latitude of 64 degree.

- To him intense heat of equatorial belt and the excessive cold of polar areas both were strong deterrent to human growth and habitation.
- According to him the Nomads represented the earlier (primitive) stage of social organization .
- He was the first great scholar to direct attention specifically to the study of the man-environment relationship.
- Ibn Khaldun may be considered as the first environmental determinist of the world

The Muqaddimah

An Introduction to History



I B N K H A L D Ū N

Translated and introduced by **Franz Rosenthal**
With a new introduction by **Bruce B. Lawrence**

6) AL -BALAKHI



- Full name : Abu Zayd Ahmed ibn Sahl Balkhi
- Born in 850 CE in Shamistiyan (in modern-day Afghanistan)
- He founded the "*Balkhi school*" of terrestrial mapping in Baghdad
- Al-Balakhī gathered climatic data and information from Arab travellers
- on the basis of that information he prepared the first climatic atlas of the world entitled *Kitabul-Ashkal*.

Tommy Boy