

I) Comprehension**Read the text then do the following activities.**

The conquest of the Maghrib by the Arab armies over a period of some fifty years is known to us almost exclusively through Arab texts. These draw a distinction between reconnaissance raids and organized conquest.

In 640/18 'Amr conquered Egypt and pushed on to the west, Barqa was taken two years later and Tripoli fell. In 647/6, under the Caliph Othman an expedition was organized and Abd Allah b. al-Sarbi governor of Egypt, was put in command. Reinforced in Tripolitania the expedition entered Byzacenia. Byzantine Africa was under the authority of the patriarch Gregory, who had taken advantage of the religious dissensions between the church and the emperor to declare himself independent; giving battle at Sbeitla (Sufetula) to the Arab army, whose strength has been estimated at twenty thousand, he was defeated and killed. The Arabs then sent out raids in all directions, but seem to have had no intention of attacking the cities of the north. The Byzantines (meaning no doubt the big land-owners who had now been deprived of their leader) offered to pay tribute, and the Arabs eagerly accepted. Are we to conclude that at this stage they were interested solely in loot? It should be remembered that the countries they had thus far conquered had been familiar to them for three centuries, whereas the Maghrib was an unknown quantity. At the most they may have heard some vague mention of it in Syria, as of a rich Byzantine province. This ignorance accounts for the Caliph 'Umar's reluctance to embark on the adventure and suggests that 'Othman, his successor, had given exact orders concerning the tactics to be pursued.

A second reconnaissance raid was made in 665/45, at the end of the great crisis that had shaken the Moslem community after the assassination of 'Uthman. In the meantime the internal situation of Ifriqiya (Arabic transcription of the Latin Africa) had deteriorated steadily as a result of the religious struggles. This had not gone unnoticed by the Arabs established in Tripolitania, who sent an appeal to the new Caliph. This second raid, led by Mu'awiya b. Hudayj, was directed against the cities of the north. Sousse (Süsa) was besieged and taken, reportedly by 'Abd Allah b. Zubayr, and Jalula by 'Abd al-Malik b. Marwan. In this second raid the Arabs showed a better knowledge of the terrain and of the Byzantines' tactics. It had now become possible to organize a real campaign of conquest.

Source: Aballah Laroui, *The History of the maghrib*, Princeton University Press, New Jersey, 1977, p.79-80.

Text related questions

- 1) Give a suitable title for the text ? .
- 2) How long it took the Muslims to conquer the Maghrib ? .
- 3) When was Barqa conquered by 'Amr?.
- 4) Which power was control the north Africa before the Islamic conquest?.
- 5) who was put Reinforced in Tripolitania?.
- 6) how many Arab army was estimated in the battle of Sbeitla ?.
- 7) Why did Caliph Omar refrain from conquering the Mafgrib?.
- 8) What are the areas Targeted by the Mu'áwiya b. Hudayj Expedition?.

II) Write an paragraph (about 10 lines) about the Islamic conquests in the Maghreb

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II) Translate the Text into Arabic (beware of using the automatic translator)

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