



Lost Civilizations: Irak : The Abbassids dynasty

HD



Directed by Jacques VICHET

French Version
English Version

A documentary of 52'

High Definition
Digital Betacam 16/9

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The Abbassids; a grand dynasty, which ruled over the Muslim world for about 5 centuries.

« One thousand and one Nights », Scheherazade, Ali Baba's Cave, Aladdin and the Genie of the Lamp....all come from this, a dynasty full of dreams and marvels.

From 750 to 1258 the Abbassids fought for power mounting a bloody revolution against the first Muslim dynasty, the Umayyads.

During the course of the revolution against the Umayyads, their leader Abû Muslim attracted the support not only of Arabs hostile to the current regime, but also that of the indigenous Iranians, and the escaped slaves.

It was also Abû Muslim who moved the capital from Damas to Baghdad in Iraq.

However, it is Al Mansûr, the second Abbasid Caliph, who is considered to be the true founder of the Abbasid Caliphate.

It is to him that the Abbasid Empire owes the institutional, judicial and administrative organization which enabled it to develop to a new level of civilization.

Under the Abbasid dynasty, the towns expanded, industry, arts and literature reached their apogee.

Various social revolutions broke out within the empire, which gradually started to break up.

By the second half of the 9th century, the Abbasid Caliphs had lost all authority, and were subject to their Grand Viziers, who had been appointed as a result of the wars between different constituents of the Empire.

The legacy of this civilization was great.

Besides their religious and judicial texts, the Abbassids, together with the Caliphate of Cordoba, created Muslim culture, and promoted its growth.

There are few archaeological traces. Despite the scale of the construction they carried out at the time, the monuments which remain are scarce: the al-Mutawakkil mosque, two palaces and a mausoleum.