

Islam often failed to win allegiance where it won subjection.

The spread of Islam in Africa began in 638 A. D. and still continues. There were three periods in the conflict for Africa. In the first, 638-1050 A. D., the Arabs, by rapid military conquest, overran the Mediterranean coast from Egypt to Morocco. During the second period, from 1050-1750, Morocco, the Sahara region, and the western Sudan became Moslem, and the desire for conquest was, no doubt, provoked, in part, as a reaction against the Christian crusades. The third period, 1750-1900, was that of the revival of Islam and its spread through the Mahdi movement and the Dervish orders.

Conquests in Africa

In their later efforts to spread Islam the Arabs entered Africa from three different sides. These three streams of Moslem immigration and conquest were as follows: From Egypt they went westward as far as Lake Chad; from the northwest of Africa they came down to Lake Chad and the Niger region; and from Zanzibar the slave-dealers opened the way for Islam as far as the Great Lakes.

Three Lines of Modern African Invasion

The latest and strongest Moslem missionary force in Africa is that of the Senusi brotherhood, the Jesuits of Islam. Of their rise, power, and progress Noble gives the following summary:

The Senusi Movement