1- مآثر الدولة الأموية:

Umayyad Empire: Achievements:

The Umayyad Empire was a towering monument of the early medieval world, and its achievements are being reevaluated and expanded. Some achievements of the Umayyads include:

Expansion:

The Umayyad Empire vastly increased the size of the Islamic world. Its armies captured territory from Spain to India, taking control of many important cities including Bukhara, Samarkand, Khwarezm, and Tashkent.

Islamisation of Central Asia:

The conquests of the Umayyads had profound, long-term effects on the religious and cultural life of the regions they conquered. In particular, the southern Mediterranean, the Middle East, and West Asia adopted Islam.

Development of Islam:

Many of the elements that we now think of as fundamental to Islam developed during the Umayyad period. For example, the Qur'an was compiled during this period. Furthermore, the Haj annual pilgrimage to Mecca began during the rule of the Umayyads. The late period of the Umayyads also saw the beginning of the formal transmission of the Hadith - the reports about the life and times of the Prophet Mohammad and his companions.

Infrastructure:

Despite expanding rapidly, the Umayyad Empire managed to control its territory effectively by developing quality infrastructure. One of the central achievements of the Umayyads was the creation of a postal system, allowing communication to flow easily throughout their empire. Another important system was their financial infrastructure - a banking system that was based on credit.

Cultural achievements:

The Umayyads built some of the most stunning architecture the world has known. They blended previous architectural styles with inspiration from Byzantine and Mesopotamian decorations, to create a fusion of east and west-inspired design.

The Umayyads also pioneered new types of Islamic worship buildings. Before this point, Islamic mosques had been make-shift and simple. However, the Umayyads introduced distinctive new features, including more aisles, decorative panelling, mihrabs, and minarets. Two of the crowning architectural achievements of this era were the creation of the Great Mosque of Damascus and the Dome of the Rock at Jerusalem.

Arabization:

It is known that the Caliph Omar Ibn Al-Khattab left the administration of the conquered foreign countries in the sense that he kept editing the bureaus in the language of its people: the Diwan of Al-Sham wrote in Roman, the Diwan of Iraq and Persia in Persian, and the Diwan of Egypt in Coptic. But Abd al-Malik bin Marwan, after the matter was settled for him, that the Arabic language alone be the language of all the bureaucracies, while the transfer of the Diwan of Egypt was delayed at the beginning of the reign of al-Walid ibn Abd al-Malik.

This step was followed by another step aimed at strengthening the Arab rule by controlling its economy. So Abd al-Malik bin Marwan ordered the coin to be struck and engraved, and he forbade others to strike it. This coin was known as the “Islamic Sekkat” and the currency unit did not change with its Arabization, so the golden dinar, the silver dirham and the pieces of the dirham remained, such as the daniq, the Mithqal and the volos.

**2 - أسباب وعوامل سقوط الدولة الأموية:**

**Factors of the fall of the Umayyads:**

Many factors lead to the downfall of the Umayyads:

**1. Incapable rulers**

The stability of a monarchial government depends on the main political system. Caliphs like Amir Muawiya, Abdul Malik ibn Marwan, Waleed ibn Abdul Malik, Umar ibn Abdul Aziz and Hisham ibn Abdul Malik was very wise, thoughtful and brave leaders and due to their political vision their government was strong and stable. Their successors Waleed ibn Yazid, Yazid ibn Abdul Malik, and Yazid ibn Waleed.., were ineligible and not having any political vision. Their focus was on living luxurious life, enjoying woman, music and dance. Their governors and generals also followed the trend. These incapable rulers destroyed the political system leading to disorder and anarchy in the state which accelerated the end of the Umayyads.

**2. Indulgence in luxuries**

The first four caliphs lived very simple and preserved the simple habits prescribed by Quran and Sunnah despite being the ruler of massive territories. But Umayyads in general was driven by the possessions of the world while neglecting all the moral values. Beside few wise pious caliph, others were fond of music, drinking, and boastful life. So this moral devaluation became the reason of the downfall of them.

**3. Maladministration**

When the Islamic state became so much wider and vast that there were no effective routes of communication between the Edges of the Caliphate and Damascus. This made local governors more powerful and took their own decisions. Wrong decisions without consulting to the capital strengthen the oppositions and lead to rise of powerful persons.

**4. Discrimination against non-Arabs**

In the reign of the Umayyad, the mawalis were excluded from political and social affairs and they were treated as if they were second-class Muslims. They were excluded from several government positions. Umayyad also imposed taxes where no Arab Muslims were taxed at all. Even some ruler took JIZYA from new converts, as their numbers became very high.

**5. Capture of public treasury**

Bait al maal was established as a financial center in the Islamic states, it was used to collect the taxes and store them. The taxes collected included zakat and they were given to all the needy people and spent on the development and protection of the state. But Umayyads made Bait al Maal as their private property and its generated income was expended for the luxury of some caliphs, instead of the welfare of the ummah.

**6. Rebellion of Khawarij**

Continue revolts from Khawarij was one of the reasons of downfall of Umayyads. They were against Umayyads from the time of Ali. They consider Umayyads as disbelievers. They revolted against them rule time to time. Strong caliphs killed thousands of Khawarij but they never accepted Umayyad’s obedience.

**7. Activities of Abbasid, Fatimid and Alawi**

After the old rivalry between Umayyad and Hashemite began, Hashemite worked in three groups, Abbasid, Fatimid and Alawi. First they worked in separate way. Abbasid however took the policy developed by Umayyad against them to overthrow them and worked in dark. They achieved sympathy from masses. They made a formidable coalition under the leadership of Muhammad ibn Ali. By skillful preparation, this coalition combined many mutually hostile groups under one banner against Umayyad and finally overthrew them in 132AH.

In spite of having difficulties to find a capable caliph, Umayyads eventually founded a formidable empire by their political and religious leaders. When they had strong government and wise leaders, they conquered territories after territories to establish the religion nominated by the creator. But they also had their faults. They act as the cause of the split between the Sunni and Shia sect. But they united the Bedouin tribes in the same time. Later, the lack of concern of the political activity and shifting further away from the prescribed path of Islam, steered them to their downfall. But they maintained their Muslim faith and established sharia law and protected the core creed of Islam. In the end, the Umayyads led a long legacy for future Muslim empires and countries.