

Factors of the fall of the Umayyads:

Many factors lead to the downfall of the Umayyads:

1. Incapable rulers

The stability of a monarchical 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.