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## Video: Museum explores 'hidden history' of Muslim science

BBC (Posted by: Free Iran)

Tags: [Science](#)



**An exhibition that has just opened at the Science Museum is celebrating 1,000 years of science from the Muslim world.**

**From about 700 to 1700, many of history's finest scientists and technologists were to be found in the Muslim world.** *IND: I am certainly not for the Islamic republic and wish to see a national, secular Iranian republic but I hope those in the Iranian diaspora that believe all of Iran's problems started with the Arab invasion and the conversion of Iranians to Islam read this article.*

In Christian Europe the light of scientific inquiry had largely been extinguished with the collapse of the Roman empire. But it survived, and indeed blazed brightly, elsewhere.

From Moorish Spain across North Africa to Damascus, Baghdad, Persia and all the way to India, scientists in the Muslim world were at the forefront of developments in medicine, astronomy, engineering, hydraulics, mathematics, chemistry, map-making and exploration.

A new touring exhibition, hosted by the Science Museum in London, celebrates their achievements.

**There is one big question the exhibition does not address: why, after so many centuries, did the Muslim world's scientific leadership falter? From the 16th Century onwards it was in Europe that modern science developed, and where scientific breakthroughs increasingly occurred.**