

establish the new religion. Every Bokharist, Vambery tells us, had to share his dwelling with a Moslem Arab, and those who prayed and fasted, like good Moslems, were rewarded with money. Finally the city was wholly given over to the Arabs, and a little later, Samarcand experienced the same fate. From Bokhara as a center, Islam spread gradually by coercion or persuasion, by preaching or by the sword, in all directions throughout Afghanistan, Turkestan, and Chinese Tartary for a period of two hundred years. When Marco Polo, the great traveler, crossed these countries (1271-1294) he found Islam nearly everywhere dominant.

At present all of Persia and Central Asia, as well as a large part of Asiatic Russia, is Mohammedan. In the Trans-Caucasus between the Black and Caspian seas are three million Tartars. In Turkestan, Bokhara, Khiva, and Russian Turkestan together are about six millions. The capital city of Bokhara, which is a state vassal to Russia, is a stronghold at present for the spiritual power of Islam in Central Asia.

China affords a striking example of a peaceful propaganda by Moslem preachers and merchants in distinction from the usual method of the military crusade. For centuries preceding Islam, there had been commercial intercourse by sea between Arabia and China, and

Present
Extent in
These Fields

China