

On Yarmouk Battle 636

(15-20 August 636)

Byzantine Greeks vs Arab Muslims

Battle's Setting

... before the Battle ...

Some major situational factors that contributed to the success of the Islamic Expansion are:

1) The devastating effects of the plague more than a half century now, which knelled both empires

- Many people died – fewer farmers – fewer soldiers – deserted land

2) The devastating war between the Persians and Greeks – the two superpowers that time

- Heraclius managed to stabilise the empire by 610
- He decided to face the aggressive Persians and attacked by leading his armies east towards the Persia heartland
- He managed to win at the Nineveh Battle (627) and the Battle at the river Zab (750) in Kurdistan

1) Devastating effects of the Plague



*In 2013 researchers confirmed earlier speculation that the cause of the pandemic was *Yersinia pestis*, the bacterium responsible for plague. Ancient and modern *Yersinia pestis* strains closely related to the ancestor of the Justinian plague strain have been found in Tian Shan, a system of mountain ranges on the borders of Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and China, suggesting that the Justinian plague may have originated in or near that region. (From Wikipedia)*

Plague of Justinian – Yersinia Pestis



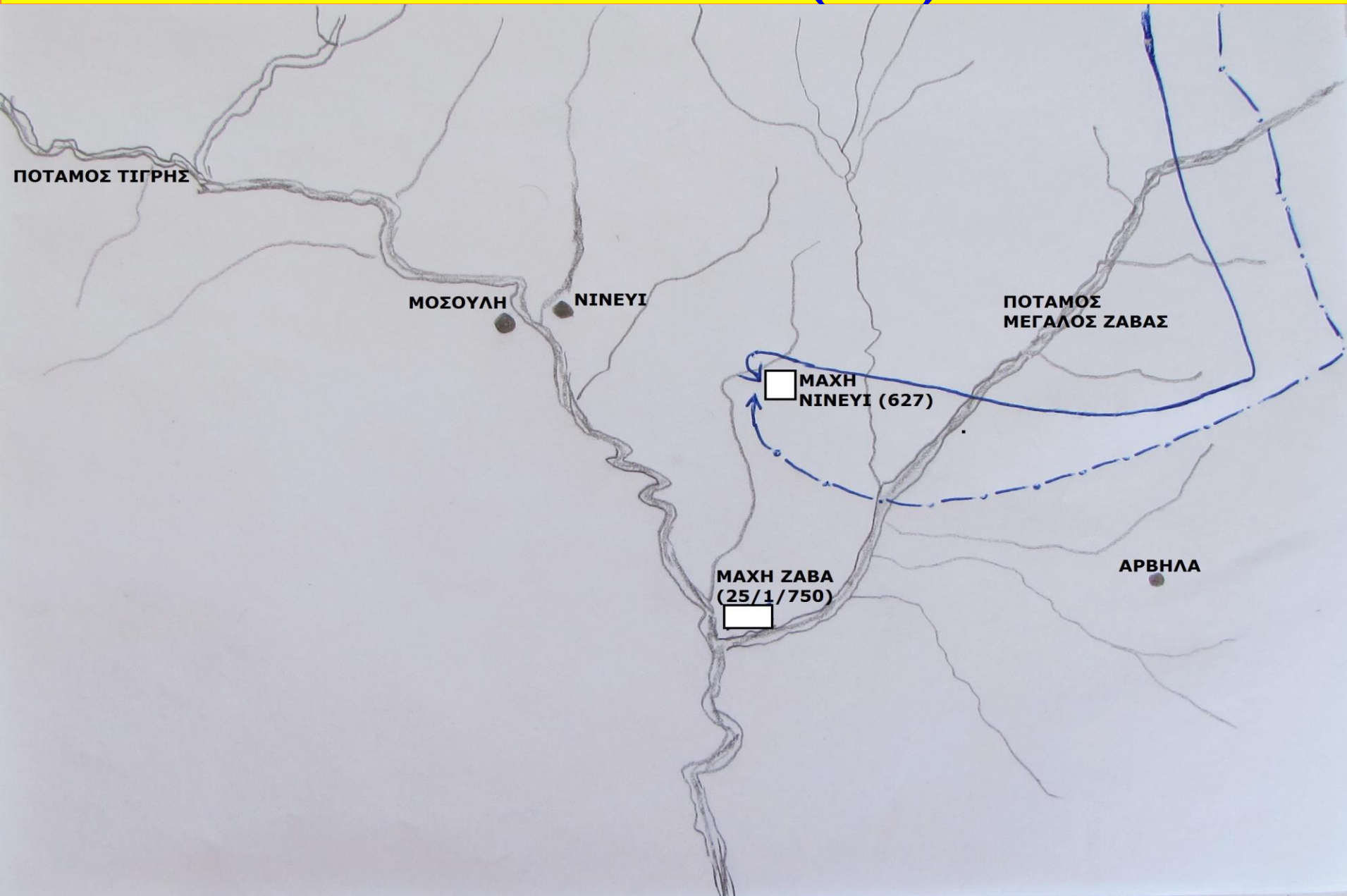
The **Plague of Justinian** (541–542 AD) was a pandemic that afflicted the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire, especially its capital Constantinople, the Sasanian Empire, and port cities around the entire Mediterranean Sea (from Wikipedia)

The number of deaths is uncertain. Modern scholars believe that the plague killed up to 5,000 people per day in Constantinople at the peak of the pandemic. The initial plague ultimately killed perhaps 40% of the city's inhabitants and caused the deaths of up to a quarter of the human population of the Eastern Mediterranean. Frequent subsequent waves of the plague continued to strike throughout the 6th, 7th and 8th centuries, with the disease becoming more localized and less virulent. After the last recurrence in 750, pandemics on the scale of the Plague of Justinian did not appear again in Europe until the Black Death of the 14th century. (Wikipedia)

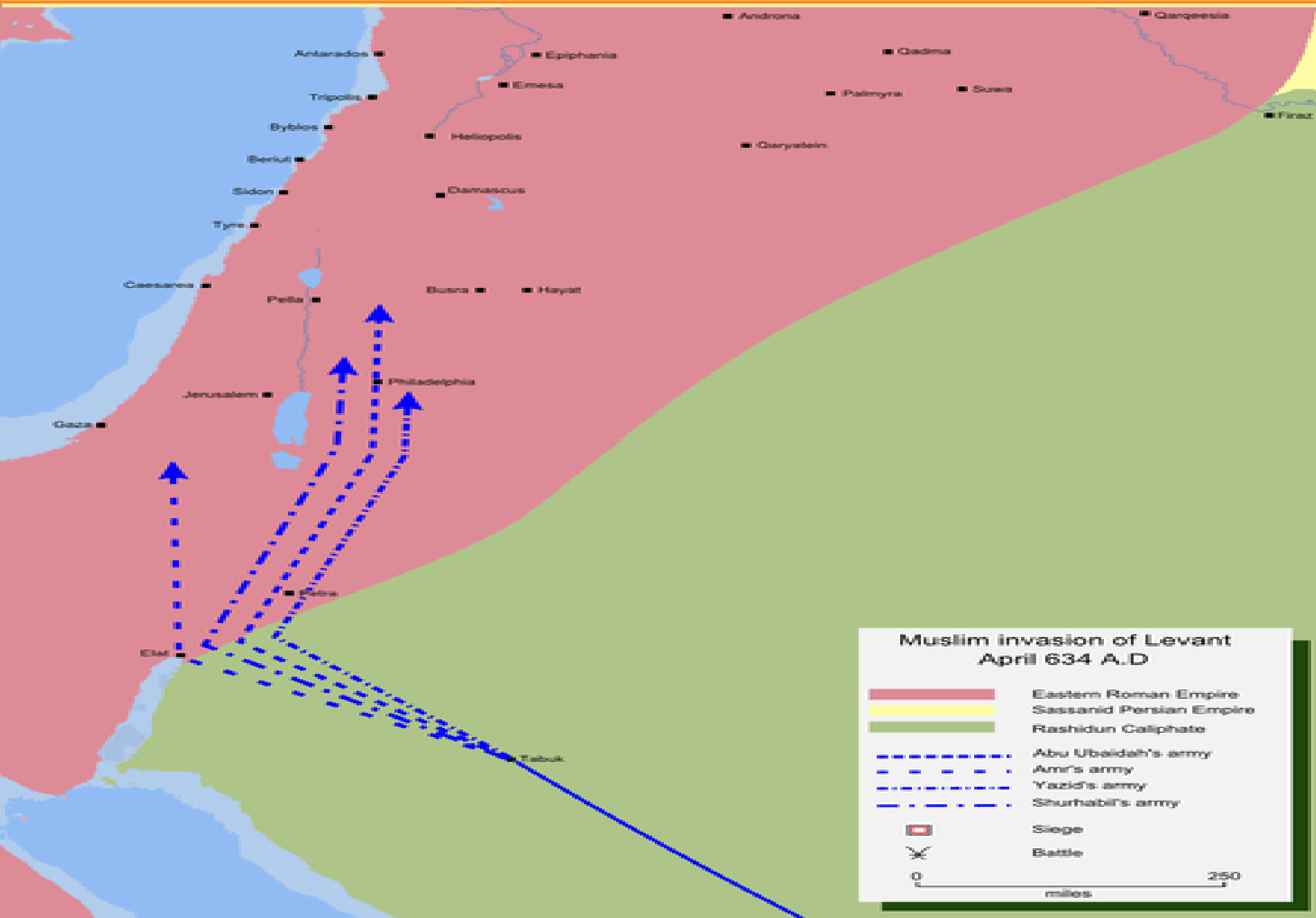
2) Devasting War between the Two Superpowers – Persia & Byzantium



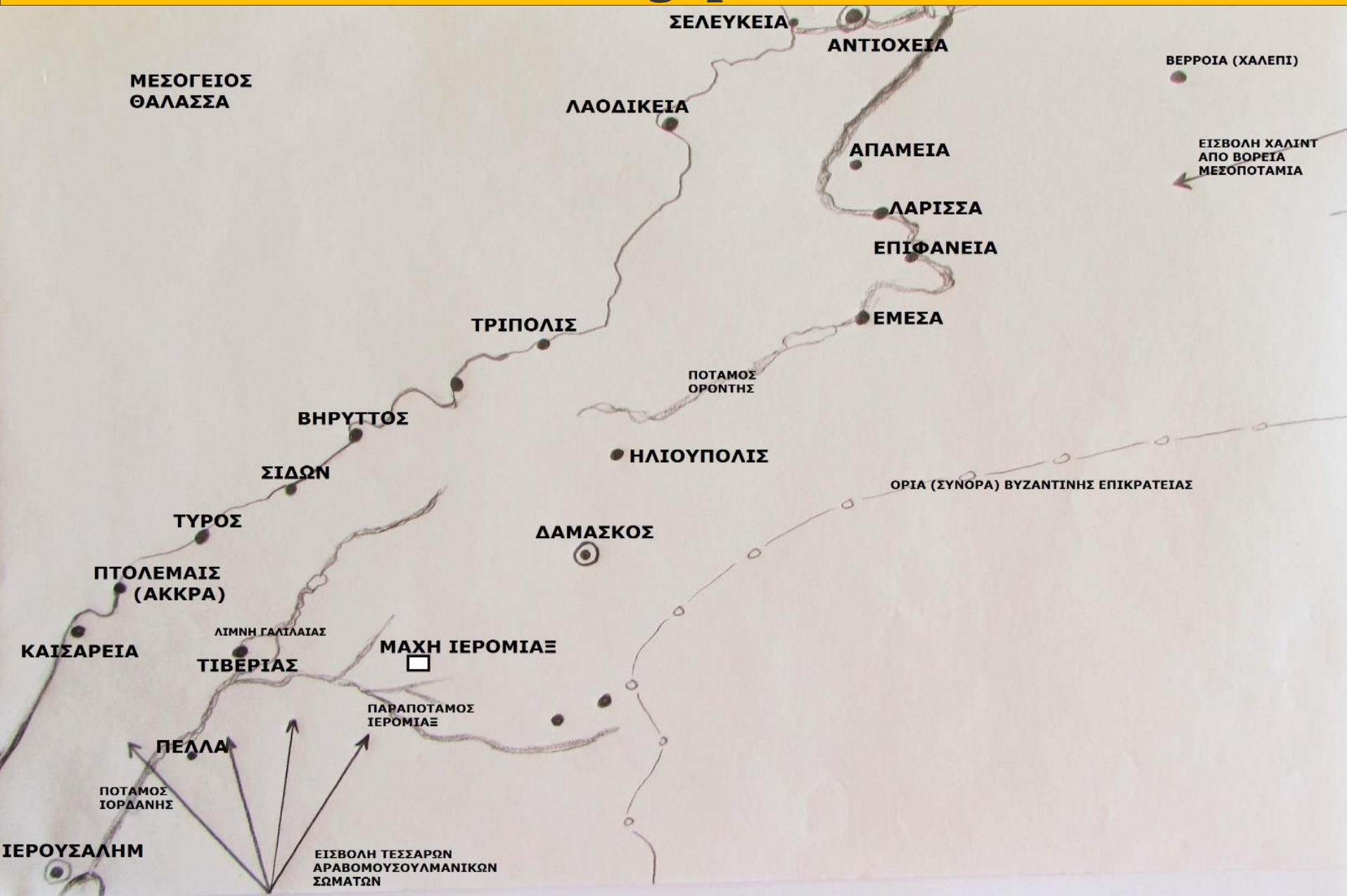
Nineveh Battle (627)



Worn by war the two superpowers gave space to Islam...

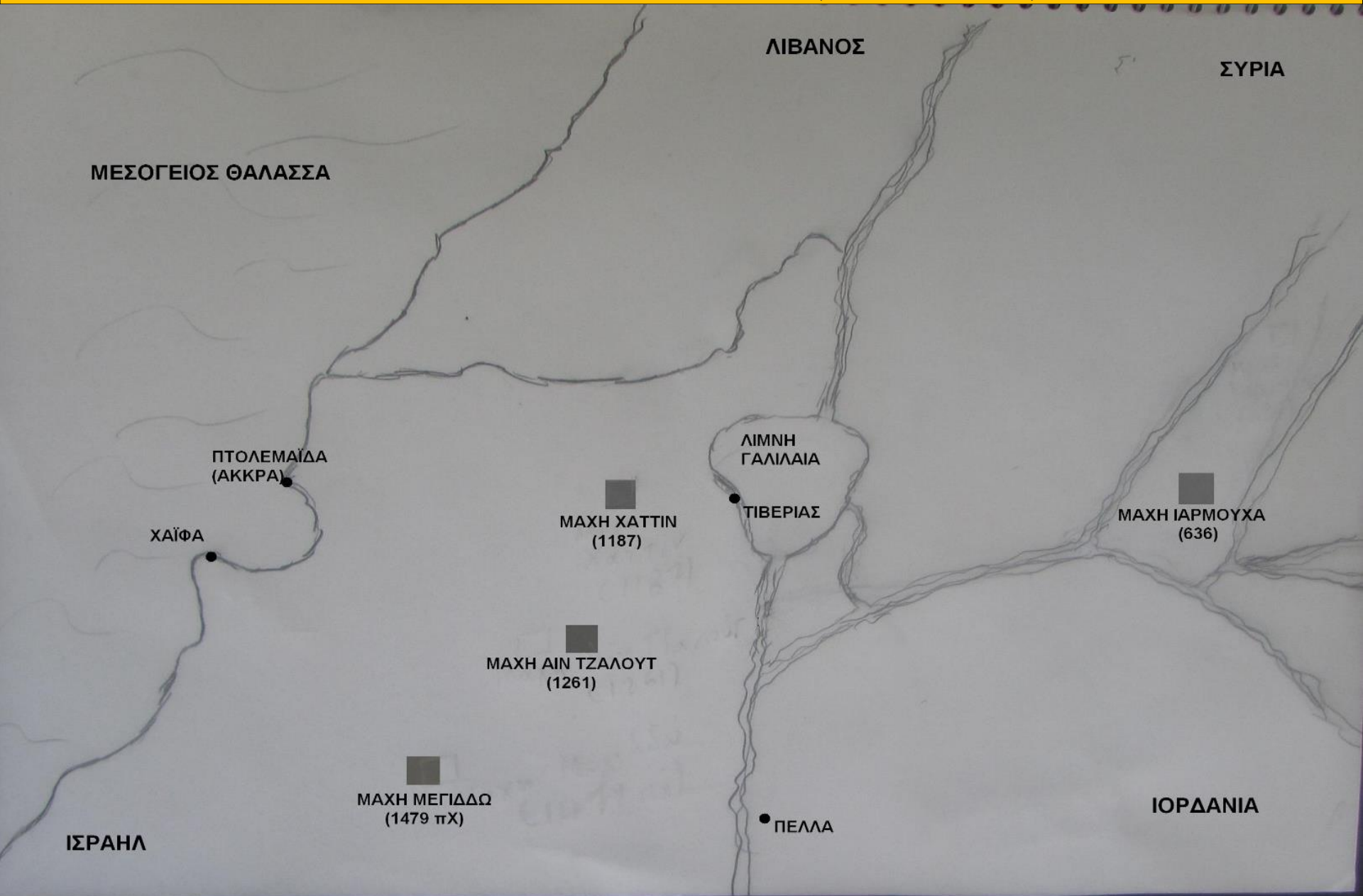


Muslims saw the gap and attacked...



Συντονισμένη Αραβομουσουλμανική νότια και βόρεια εισβολή στη βυζαντινή επικράτεια

Battle of Yarmouk (location)



Θέση του ποταμού Ιαρμουχά, νοτιοανατολικά της Γαλιλαίας και άλλες στρατηγικές μάχες

Yarmouk Battle (August 636)

... to the battleground ...



Yarmouk Battle (15-20 August 636)



1 The Byzantine armies had secured a crossing over the Yarmouk which gave them the benefit of retreat over to the *Golan Heights* where they could secure resources and recruit more soldiers.

2 The Rashidun army however secured a ford-crossing over a tributary of Yarmouk known as the *Nahr al-Allan*. They set up a camp nearby for fallback and easy retreat to the nearby Arabian territory.

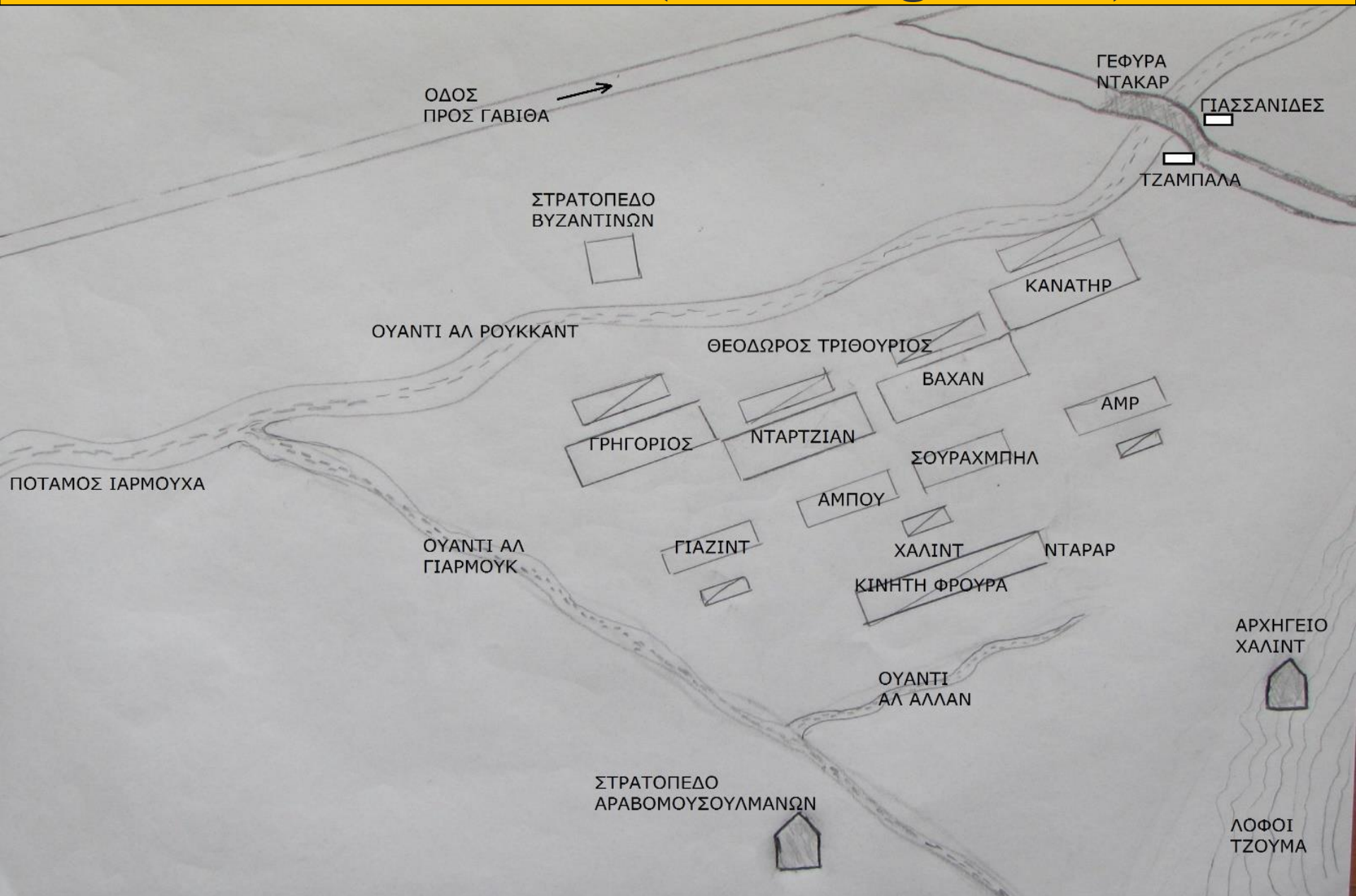
3 Muslim camp across the Nahr al-Allan where Hind and Khawla sung and bashed their husbands with tent poles.

4 Another Muslim camp at the other end of the field. Yazid would regularly go over to the camp retreating from the Byzantine forces charging over his force. Muslims used this camp as a resort from which they could easily see the entire battlefield at an elevated level.

Byzantine
Cavalry
Infantry

Rashidun
Cavalry
Infantry

Yarmouk Battle (15-20 August 636)



Χαρτογράφηση του πεδίου της μάχης στον Ιαρμουχά

Directions Today ...



... Wadi ur-Ruqqad (today)...



... as the location seen today ...



... panoramic view of the location seen today ...

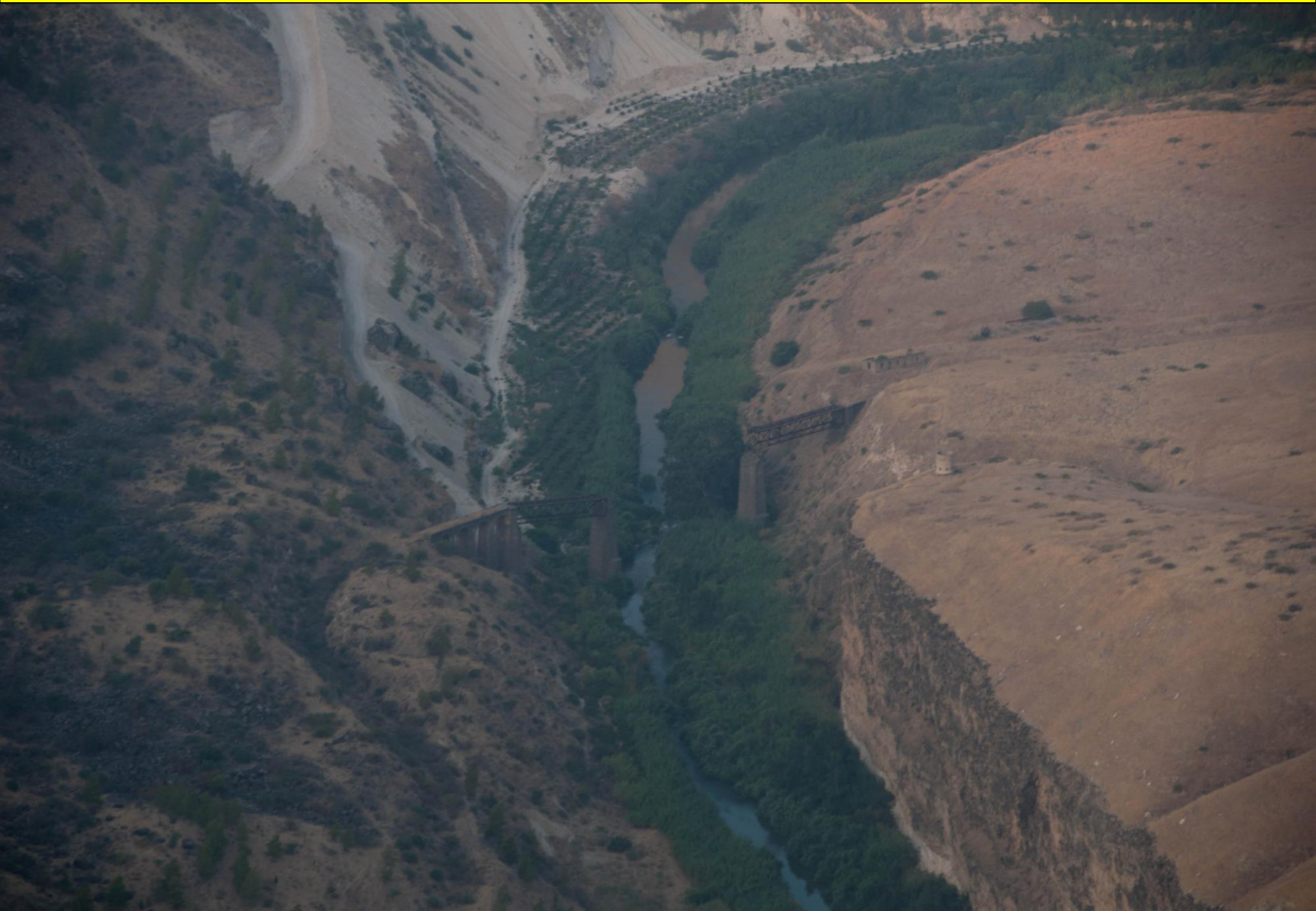


... Dakar Bridge ... today ...



Ahmad Thyabat
Photography

... panoramic view of the bridge ... today ...

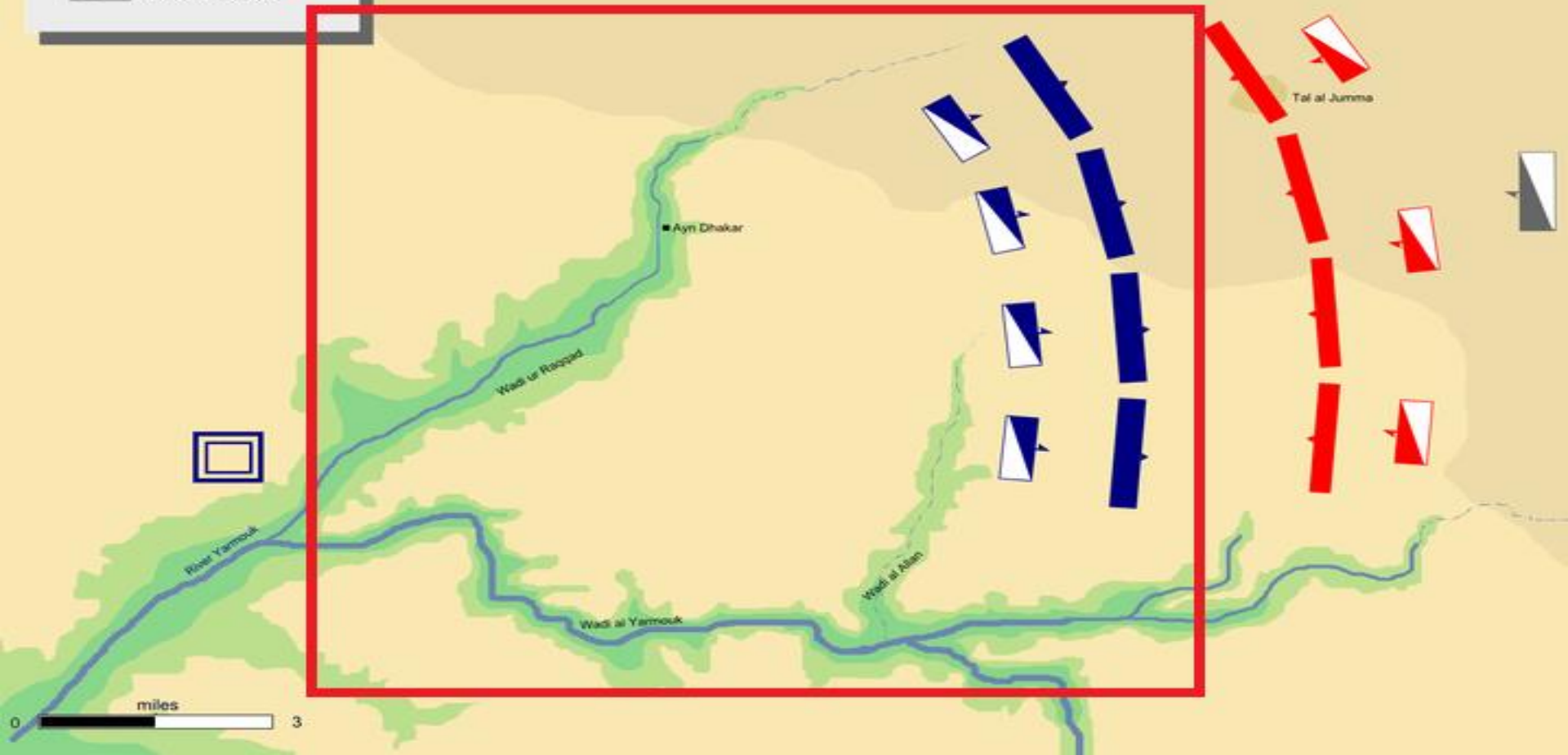


Battle's Details

The Battlefield

Battle of Yarmouk

-  Rashidun Caliphate
-  Byzantine Empire
-  Camp
-  Infantry
-  Cavalry
-  Cavalry reserve



The Generals



HERACLIUS



IBN AL-WALID

636 BYZANTINE-MUSLIM
BATTLE OF YARMOUK

The Armies



Muslim armies were highly motivated ...



STRATEGIES USED IN BATTLE OF YARMOUK



Roman-Byzantine Empire

**“Phalanx Strategy”
(by digging trenches while
organizing the troops in a line
facing Muslim armies)**

**Simultaneously attacked from
left to right with the aim of
undermining the defense and
strength of the enemies**

Rashidun Caliphate

**Divided the armies into several wings
(Master, right, left, support,
monitoring, and women)**

**Attack began from the middle, followed by
shock attacks from left wing and right wing**

**Placed monitoring team at a high place
(monitor the battle and provide
information. With that information, the
strategies may be modified when necessary.**

**Women’s wing was placed behind all wings
(uproar enemies in panic and disarray
during the climax)**

Καὶ οὕτως ἔσονται καὶ οἱ ἄγγελοι τοῦ κυρίου ἐκείνη τὴν ἡμέραν

ἄγγελοι

π' ἂν
πρῶται



Επειτα αὐτοὶ οὐκ ἐπαύσαντο· καὶ τὸ χροῖον ἔργον ἐποίησαν· καὶ τὸν λαόν·
λαομένην· τρέπεται τοῦτο κατὰ κράτος· καὶ ἀφανισμὸν παραδίδωσι.
λέων ὁ φῶς καὶ ἀφανισμὸν παραδόντι τῆς φωνῆς.
ὁ χαλδῆς τοῦ λαοῦ



Battle's Results ...

Taurus defence line



Battle's results ...

- 1) Islam started as global religion**
- 2) It moved eastwards as well as westwards**
- 3) The consequences of the Yarmouk Battle are unraveling even today in Syria, along the Fertile Crescent and across the Middle East....**