

# HISTORY OF ALEPPO

Aleppo represents a venerable tradition that it was founded by Abraham. Its name, Halab (he has milked), was the shout raised by the people, when the holy patriarch, having finished the milking of his cow, began to receive the people.

At the XXth century, Aleppo, already an old city, a prosperous capital of the kingdom of the city of Halpas, had to pay a tribute to its northern neighbour, the Hittite kingdom. A fact which did not prevent the Hittites from plundering Aleppo on their great raid over to Babylon, in 1926 B. C.

A second destruction in the XIVth century put Aleppo to a severe test. — In 1336 B. C., Rimisharma, king of Aleppo thought it wise to enter into friendly relations with Mushileh, king of the Hittites.

Conquered by the Egyptians, then by the Assyrians in 849 B. C., Aleppo received within its walls, king Salamanzar II of Assyria, who inaugurated his domination by offering a sacrifice to Haddad, God of the city.

Surrendered to the Persians during the VIth century B. C. Aleppo was reconquered by Alexander the Great in 332 B. C. Pompe's conquest in 65 B. C. made of Syria a Roman province.

In 362 of the new era, emperor Julian passing from Aleppo was displeased to find a senate composed almost entirely of Christians, who answered with a cool respect to the eloquent speech of the apostle of paganism.

In 633, Aleppo was taken by the Islamic troops of Abou Obeida and Khaled. Its citadel fell into the hands of the Arabs through a clever stratagem.

During the Ommeyade and the Abbasside deprasties, Aleppo regained its former prosperity. Saif el Daula the Hamdanite became Emir of Aleppo in the Xth century and dismissed the Ikchidite governors. He led the kingdom of Aleppo to its apogee, but finally was beaten by the great Byzantine strategist, Nicephore Phocas.

The Crusaders, it is known, were unable to take Aleppo, in spite of all their efforts. The Frank principality of Antioch could hardly impose a vague vassalage.

Gengis Khan and Timur Lang plundered Aleppo in 1243 and 1400.

In 1418 the Circassian Mameluks occupied Aleppo and were driven away only in 1516 by the Turks.

In 1822 a violent earthquake damaged the citadel and many other monuments of the city. In 1830 the Egyptian troops of Ibrahim Pasha occupied Aleppo and retained possession of it till 1840.

In 1918 the Turkish Army left the city to the British troops and in 1920 the French Army entered Aleppo which became the seat of a villayet and an integral part of the state of Syria.