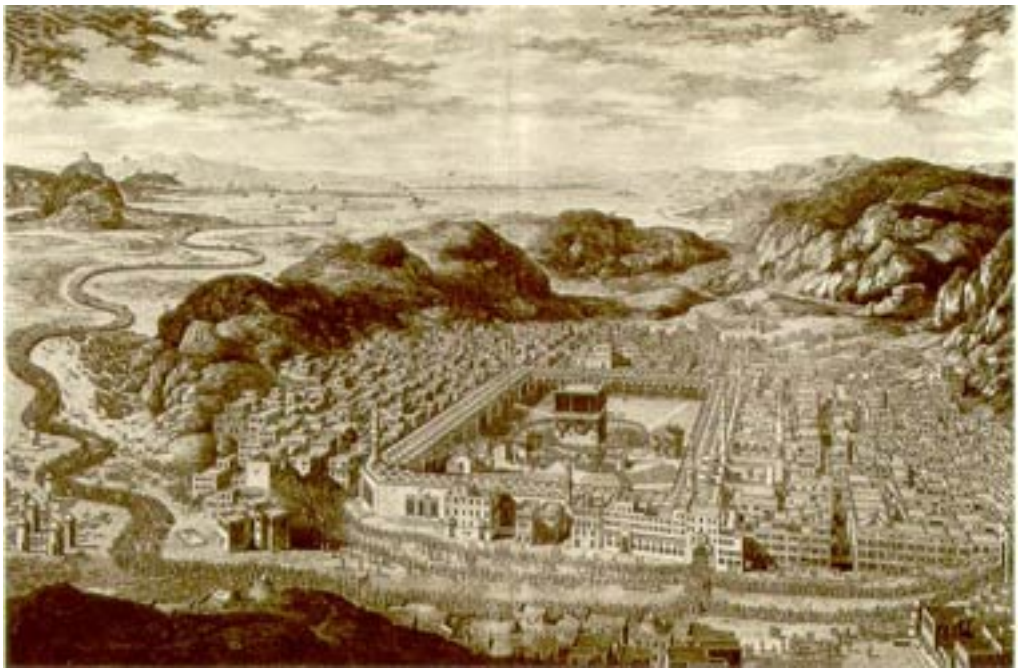
A great tragedy of the Islamic control of our universities and political correctness plus the fear of extreme violence if anyone dares question the roots and claims of Islam is ...that nobody dares question the roots and claims of Islam!!! I want to stimulate interest and offer this summary of information on Mecca from ( LINK ) which discusses some problems with Muslim claims in a comparison of evidence supporting Islam/Christianity.

Also try Ibn Warraq's 'The Quest for the Historical Mohammad' or a light review in 'Why I am not a Muslim.' Remember Islam's sira (biographies of Mohammad) and sunnah/hadith were all written 150-200+ years AFTER Mohammad died, and the Koran????

Summary:

**1)** For Muslims "Mecca is the centre of Islam, and the centre of history." "The first sanctuary appointed for mankind was that at Bakkah (or Mecca), a blessed place, a guidance for the peoples." (Koran Sura 3:96).

Muslim tradition claims Adam placed the black stone in the original ka'ba and Abraham and Ishmael rebuilt the Meccan ka'ba later (Koran sura 2:125-127). Mecca is central to Islam and Mohammad's life.



**Mecca circa 1850 as seen by an European traveller**

**2)** There is no documentary or archaeological evidence that Abraham ever went to or lived in Mecca.

**3)** What Mecca- there is no sure evidence of Mecca pre-Islam. The Greco-Egyptian geographer Ptolemy in the mid-2nd century A.D. made a brief inference to a city called "Makoraba" 500 years pre-Islam(is this Mecca?). There is no other report of Mecca or its ka'ba in any authenticated ancient document until the early eighth century (Mohammad died in 632) where the earliest substantiated reference to Mecca occurs in the Continuatio Byzantia Arabica, which is a source dating from early in the reign of the caliph Hisham, who ruled between 724-743 A.D. ie 100 years AFTER Mohammad died!!

**4)** There is no evidence to support Muslim claims that Mecca was an ancient and great city, the centre of the trading routes for Arabia in the seventh century and before.

**Mecca - early 20th Century photograph In 1877 an Englishman John Keane reported from Mecca:**

**All, he said, were beggars: "Bakshish" roars the camel; "bakshish" brays the ass; "bakshish" yells the cur, till, after passing through a stage where you fancy you hear nothing else, you get so accustomed to it, that it costs you an effort of will to hear it.**

**5)** There is ample documentation from that part of the world which FAILS to support Muslim claims-

**a)** Mecca NOT on major trade routes: Extensive research on the history of trade in the ancient Middle-East, shows Mecca was not on any major trading routes. "Mecca is tucked away at the edge of the peninsula. Only by the most tortured map reading can it be described as a natural crossroads between a north-south route and an east-west one." (Bulliet 1975:105)
**b)** Mecca could not have been on the trading route, as it would have entailed a detour from the natural route along the western ridge. The trade route must have bypassed Mecca by some one-hundred miles (Groom 1981:193;).
**c)** Why go to the barren valley of Mecca down a steep descent when you could go to Ta'if which had a well, sanctuary and food supplies?
**d)** "what commodity was available in Arabia that could be transported such a distance, through such an inhospitable environment, and still be sold at a profit large enough to support the growth of a city in a peripheral site bereft of natural resources?" (Crone 1987:7) It wasn't incense, spices, and other exotic goods, as many notoriously unreliable earlier writers have suggested but more recent, reliable research finds the Arabs engaged in a trade of leather and clothing; hardly items which could have founded a commercial empire of international dimensions.
**e)** Sloppy research is blamed for the wrong view re trade made by many orientalists eg Lammens, copied by others.
**f)** Maritime trade: Later Greek historians who were closer to the events (such as Cosmas, Procopius and Theodoretus) indicate that the Greek trade between India and the Mediterranean was entirely maritime after the first century A.D. (Crone 1987:29) (remember Islam didn't start till the 7th century). One need only look at a map to understand why. It was cheaper, faster, and probably safer to ship goods than trek over land. Why would the traders ship their goods from India by sea, unload it at Aden onto much slower and more expensive camels to trudge 1,250 miles across the inhospitable Arabian desert to Gaza, when they could leave it on ships following the Red Sea route up the west coast of Arabia?
**g)** The Greco-Roman trade with India collapsed by the third century A.D. By Muhammad's time there was no overland route, and no Roman market to which the trade was destined. Remaining trade was controlled by the Ethiopians, not the Arabs, and that Adulis, the port city on the Ethiopian coast of the Red Sea, and not Mecca was the trading centre of that

Mecca hasn't changed much
since 1877.
A Muslim pilgrim reports:
Many buildings in mecca do not have their own water supply and the water is delivered through trucks coming from Jeddah every day. This, combined with all the buses arriving with pilgrims makes the walking streets black by diesel and oil. When the hotels get their water it often involves spillage of some water onto the streets.
This water is often seen during Fajr time get this water on yourclothes (very easy with flip flops) you'll have a hard time getting the stains off.

[redacted]

## Essential Readings:

Bulliet, R.W., The Camel and the Wheel, Cambridge, Mass., 1975
Groom, N., Frankincense and Myrrh, a Study of the Arabian Incense Trade, London, 1981
Humphreys, R.S., Islamic History, a framework for Enquiry, Princeton, 1991
Crone, P. Meccan Trade and the Rise of Islam, Princeton University Press, 1987

Van Ess, J., Fruhe Mu'tazilitische Haresiographie, Beirut, 1971