

## **TIMELINE OF MALDIVES HISTORY**

(Compiled by the [Maldives Heritage Survey](#), under the direction of R. Michael Feener)

This **TIMELINE OF MALDIVES HISTORY TO C. 1900** has been prepared by the Maldives Heritage Survey (MHS) Team, led by R. Michael Feener. It is intended as a research tool for scholars and students, and particularly as a reference for working with the data made available on the MHS Project Database. The hyperlinked references are to works available on the MHS website's [virtual library](#).

- c. 150      Brief mention of the Maldives by Ptolemy<sup>1</sup>
- 249-393      Radiocarbon dates from Nilandhoo Foamathi, Faafu Atoll represent the earliest recorded occupation in the Maldives<sup>2</sup>
- 345-604      Probable initial construction of the Buddhist monastery at Kuruhinna Tharaagadu on Kaashidhoo Island, Kaafu Atoll<sup>3</sup>
- 833-1023      Second phase of building of Kuruhinna Tharaagadu Buddhist monastery<sup>4</sup>
- 851          Earliest Arab reference to trade with Dībājāt by Sulāyman al-Tājir, the term here is taken to refer collectively to the Maldivian and Laccadive islands<sup>5</sup>
- c. 950        Al Mas‘ūdī mentions merchants of Siraf and Oman trading with the islands<sup>6</sup>
- 1141-66      Reign of Srī Bawanāditta, last Buddhist King of the Maldives. He converts to Islam in 1153, taking the new name and title of Sulṭān Muḥammad al-‘Adil<sup>7</sup>
- 1153        The Maldivian king is converted to Islam by Shaykh Yūsuf Shams al Dīn al-Tabrīzi. The construction in Malé of the country’s first Friday Mosque is then commissioned by the sultan<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> H.C.P. Bell, *The Maldivian Islands: Monograph on the History, Archaeology and Epigraphy* (Novelty Printers Publishers Pvt. Ltd, 2002), 16.

<sup>2</sup> Egil Mikkelsen, “An Archaeological Pottery Sequence from Nilandu, The Maldivian Islands,” *Archaeological Test-Excavations on the Maldivian Islands*, ed. Skjølsvold Arne (The Kon-Tiki Museum Occasional Papers Vol. 2 (1991): 185-202.

<sup>3</sup> Litster, Mirani. “Cowry Shell Money and Monsoon Trade: The Maldives in Past Globalizations.” Thesis submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, The Australian National University, 2016, 104; Mikkelsen, Egil. “Archaeological Excavation of a Monastery at Kaashidhoo: Cowrie Shells and Their Buddhist Context in the Maldives.” *National Center for Linguistic and Historical Research Male’, Republic of Maldives*, 2000.

<sup>4</sup> Mikkelsen, Egil. “Archaeological Excavation of a Monastery at Kaashidhoo: Cowrie Shells and Their Buddhist Context in the Maldives.” *National Center for Linguistic and Historical Research Male’, Republic of Maldives*, 2000.

<sup>5</sup> Forbes, Andrew D.W. “Southern Arabia and the Islamicisation of the Central Indian Ocean Archipelagoes.” *Archipel* 21 (1981): 55–92, p.69.

<sup>6</sup> Forbes, *Southern Arabia and the Islamicisation of the Central Indian Ocean Archipelagoes*

<sup>7</sup> Bell, *The Maldivian Islands*, p. 18

<sup>8</sup> Yajima, Hikoichi. *The Islamic History of the Maldivian Islands* by Hasan Taj Al-Din - 2 vols. Arabic Text, Notes and Indices. Tokyo: Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa (Tokyo: University of Foreign Studies, 1982). Ibn Battūta provides a different reading of this

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- 1166-84 Reign of Sultān (Mute Kalaminja)<sup>9</sup>
- 1184-92 Reign of Sultān ‘Alī Kalaminja I<sup>10</sup>
- 1192-99 Reign of Sultān Dinei Kalaminja<sup>11</sup>
- 1195-96 *Isdhoo Loamaafaanu* (copperplates) detail official grants by Sultān Dinei Kalaminja Shri Gadanaadeetiya Mahaaradun for the upkeep of mosque he commissioned on Isdhoo. It also records the destruction of Buddhist monuments and monasteries and the confiscation of temple properties to be re-purposed to support the newly constructed mosque on the island<sup>12</sup>
- 1196-97 *Dhanibidhoo Loamaafaanu* (copperplates) detail official grants by the king for the upkeep of mosque he commissioned on Dhanibidhoo. It records the suppression of the Buddhism on this island in Hadhummathee Atoll and the establishment of new provisions for endowing Islamic religious institutions in their place<sup>13</sup>
- 1199-1213 Reign of Sultān Dihei Kalaminja<sup>14</sup>
- 1213-33 Reign of Sultān Waṭi Kalaminja<sup>15</sup>
- 1233-57 Reign of Sultān (unnamed) Kalaminja<sup>16</sup>
- 1257-64 Reign of Sultān Hudei Kalaminja<sup>17</sup>
- 1264-66 Reign of Sultān Ayma Kalaminja<sup>18</sup>
- 1266-68 Reign of Sultān Hali Kalaminja II<sup>19</sup>
- 1268-69 Reign of Sultān Kalaminja<sup>20</sup>

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shaykh’s *nisba* as ‘Abū’l-Barakāt al-Barbarī’. Gibb, H. A. R. & C. F. Beckingham, *The Travels of Ibn Baṭṭūṭa, AD 1325–1354*, vol. IV (London: Hakluyt Society, 1994), pp. 829.

<sup>9</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din, 10.\*](#)

<sup>10</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din, 11.\*](#)

<sup>11</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din, 11.\*](#)

<sup>12</sup> Hassan Ahmed Maniku & G.D. Wijayawardhana, *Isdhoo Loamaafaanu* (Colombo: Royal Asiatic Society of Sri Lanka, 1986).

<sup>13</sup> Hassan Ahmed Maniku, C.D. Wijeywardane & J.B. Dissanayake, *Loamaafaanu: Transliteration, Translation and notes on Palaeography* (Malé: National Center of Linguistic and Historical Research, 1982).

<sup>14</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din, 11.\*](#)

<sup>15</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din, 11.\*](#)

<sup>16</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din, 11.\*](#)

<sup>17</sup> Bell, *The Maldive Islands*, 20.

<sup>18</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din, 12.\*](#)

<sup>19</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din, 12.\*](#)

<sup>20</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din, 12.\*](#)

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- 1269-77 Reign of Sulṭān Udu Kalaminja<sup>21</sup>
- 1277-87 Reign of Sulṭān ‘Alī Kalaminja III<sup>22</sup>
- 1287-94 Reign of Sulṭān Yūsuf Kalaminja I<sup>23</sup>
- 1294-1302 Reign of Sulṭān (unnamed) Kalaminja<sup>24</sup>
- 1302-07 Reign of Sulṭān Dāwūd<sup>25</sup>
- 1307-40 Reign of Sulṭān ‘Umar Wira<sup>26</sup>
- 1340-47 Reign of Sulṭān (Aḥmad) Shihab al-Dīn<sup>27</sup>
- 1343-6 Two visits to the Maldives by the Moroccan Muḥammad ibn ‘Abdullah ibn Baṭṭūṭa who recounts the story of the conversion of the islanders to Islam, which he attributes to ‘Abū’l-Barakāt al-Barbarī. He also notes that the islands were exporting dried fish, coir and cowries to Arabia a century before<sup>28</sup>
- 1347-63 Reign of Sulṭāna Rehendi (Khadijah) Kabadi Kilege<sup>29</sup>
- 1356-7 *Malé Bodu-galu Loamaafaanu* inscription<sup>30</sup>
- 1363-64 Reign of Sulṭān Muḥammad al-Jamīl (Jamal al-Dīn), husband of Sulṭāna Khadijah. Assumes reign forcibly and reigned for one year before being murdered by the Sulṭāna<sup>31</sup>
- 1364-73 Second Reign of Sulṭāna Rehendi (Khadijah) Kabadi Kilege<sup>32</sup>
- 1373-76 Reign of Sulṭān ‘Abdullah I who takes the throne by force from his wife Sulṭāna Rehendi<sup>33</sup>
- 1376-79 Third Reign of Sulṭāna Rehendi (Khadijah) Kabadi Kilege who seized the throne by killing her husband Sulṭān ‘Abdullah I<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands\* by Hasan Taj Al-Din, 12.](#)

<sup>22</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands\* by Hasan Taj Al-Din, 12.](#)

<sup>23</sup> Bell, *The Maldive Islands*, 20.

<sup>24</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands\* by Hasan Taj Al-Din, 12.](#)

<sup>25</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands\* by Hasan Taj Al-Din, 12.](#)

<sup>26</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands\* by Hasan Taj Al-Din, 12.](#)

<sup>27</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands\* by Hasan Taj Al-Din, 12.](#)

<sup>28</sup> [Forbes, \*Southern Arabia and the Islamicisation of the Central Indian Ocean Archipelagoes\*](#)

<sup>29</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands\* by Hasan Taj Al-Din, 13.](#)

<sup>30</sup> Bell, *The Maldive Islands*, 179.

<sup>31</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands\* by Hasan Taj Al-Din, 13.](#)

<sup>32</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands\* by Hasan Taj Al-Din, 13.](#)

<sup>33</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands\* by Hasan Taj Al-Din, 13.](#)

<sup>34</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands\* by Hasan Taj Al-Din, 13.](#)

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- 1379-81 Reign of Sulṭāna Radafati Kadabe Kilege, half-sister of Sulṭāna Khadījah, deposed by Muḥammad Rasge of Makuratu after four months<sup>35</sup>
- 1380-84 Reign of Sulṭān Muḥammad Rasge<sup>36</sup>
- 1384-88 Reign of Sulṭāna Rehendi Dainu Kambadi Kilege, deposed after 4 years by her husband ‘Abdullah<sup>37</sup>
- 1388 Reign of Sulṭān ‘Abdullah II, lasting only one month 15 days<sup>38</sup>
- 1388 Reign of Sulṭān ‘Uthman, known thereafter ‘Uthman of Fehendu, who also reigned little over a month before being deposed by Ḥasan I<sup>39</sup>
- 1388-98 Reign of Sulṭān Hilali Ḥasan I<sup>40</sup>
- 1398 Reign of Sulṭān Ibrahīm I, deposed by his uncle after four months<sup>41</sup>
- 1398-1408 Reign of Sulṭān Ḥusain I, brother of Hilali Ḥasan I<sup>42</sup>
- 1408-10 Reign of Sulṭān Naṣr al-Dīn, who is credited with commissioning the construction of the Alif and Ba mosques in Malé, as well as a mosque in Machchangoli Avaru<sup>43</sup>
- 1410-11 Reign of Sulṭān Ḥasan II who dies nine months into his reign from drowning in Dammāt Veyo within the Palace enclosure at Malé<sup>44</sup>
- 1411 The three-month reign of Sulṭān ‘Īsa, younger half-brother of Sulṭān Ḥasan II<sup>45</sup>
- 1411-19 Second Reign of Sulṭān Ibrahīm I<sup>46</sup>
- 1419-20 Reign of Sulṭān ‘Uthmān II. Reigned for three months<sup>47</sup>
- 1420 Reign of Sulṭān Danna Muḥammad, who commissioned the construction of the Henveru Bandara mosque<sup>48</sup>
- 1420-42 Reign of Sulṭān Yūsuf II<sup>49</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> Bell, *The Maldive Islands*, 22.

<sup>36</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din\*, 13.](#)

<sup>37</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din\*, 13.](#)

<sup>38</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din\*, 13.](#)

<sup>39</sup> Bell, *The Maldive Islands*, 22.

<sup>40</sup> Bell, *The Maldive Islands*, 22.

<sup>41</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din\*, 14.](#)

<sup>42</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din\*, 14.](#)

<sup>43</sup> Bell, *The Maldive Islands*, 22.

<sup>44</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din\*, 14.](#)

<sup>45</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din\*, 14.](#)

<sup>46</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din\*, 14.](#)

<sup>47</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din\*, 14.](#)

<sup>48</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din\*, 14.](#)

<sup>49</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din\*, 14.](#)

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- 1442 Reign of his brother Sulṭān Abū Bakr who ruled for 7 months before handing over to his son<sup>50</sup>
- 1442-66 Reign of Sulṭān Ḥajī Hasan III, who was earlier a *qāḍi* under Sulṭān Danna Muhammed. After a 25-year reign he departs for the Ḥajj<sup>51</sup>
- 1466-67 Reign of Sulṭān Sayyid Muḥammad, who had migrated to the Maldives from Arabia, and seized power in Ḥasan’s absence, reigning for one year<sup>52</sup>
- 1467-68 Second Reign of Sulṭān Ḥasan III on his return from the Ḥajj. He returns with over 70 slaves one of which kills a Maldivian. Ḥasan, on the pretext of a juridical and theological dispute orders the public burning at the stake of a Persian Qāḍi named Ḥasan Shirazī who he disagrees with over the punishment of the slave. Ḥasan III dies shortly afterwards<sup>53</sup>
- 1468-80 Reign of Sulṭān Muḥammad, son of Sulṭān Ḥajī Ḥasan III, who reigns for 13 years<sup>54</sup>
- 1480 Reign of Sulṭān Ḥasan IV. Deposed after one month by ‘Umar II<sup>55</sup>
- 1480-84 Reign of Sulṭān ‘Umar II of Goidhoo Atoll where the capital of the Sulṭānate was re-located for a period<sup>56</sup>
- 1484-86 Reign of Sulṭān Ḥasan V<sup>57</sup>
- 1486-90 Second Reign of Sulṭān Ḥasan IV<sup>58</sup>
- 1490-92 Reign of Shaikh Ḥasan VI<sup>59</sup>
- 1492 Reign of Sulṭān Ibrahīm II, lasting only 8 months<sup>60</sup>
- 1492-3 Reign of Sulṭān Kalu Muḥammad Hilali, son of Sulṭān ‘Umar, deposed by this brother Yūsuf III after nine months.<sup>61</sup>

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<sup>50</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din\*, 14.](#)

<sup>51</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din\*, 14-15.](#)

<sup>52</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din\*, 15.](#)

<sup>53</sup> [Alves, Jorge Dos Santos. “Kalu Muhammad Hilali, Sultan of the Maldives \(1491 -1528\).” \*Archipel\* 70 \(2005\): 59.](#)

<sup>54</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din\*, 15](#)

<sup>55</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din\*, 15](#)

<sup>56</sup> [Alves, “Kalu Muhammad Hilali, Sultan of the Maldives \(1491 -1528\).”;](#) Bell, *The Maldive Islands*, 24

<sup>57</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din\*, 15.](#)

<sup>58</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din\*, 15.](#)

<sup>59</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din\*, 16.](#)

<sup>60</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din\*, 16.](#)

<sup>61</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din\*, 16.](#)

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- 1493 Reign of Sulṭān Yūsuf III under the new name of Sulṭān ‘Umar. He dies after ruling for two and a half months<sup>62</sup>
- 1493-5 Reign of Sulṭān ‘Alī IV who reigns for two years and four months before being deposed by Kalu Muḥammad Hilali<sup>63</sup>
- 1495-1508 Second Reign of Sulṭān Kalu Muḥammad Hilali. His capitulation before the ‘Alī Raja of Cannanore of the Mappilla Arakkal clan opened the way for Cannanore to take on a dominant role in Maldivian politics<sup>64</sup>
- 1508-10 Reign of Sulṭān Ḥasan VII, nephew of Sulṭān Kalu Muḥammad Hilali, who usurps the throne from Hilali<sup>65</sup>
- 1510-12 Reign of Sulṭān Sharīf Aḥmad from Makka<sup>66</sup>
- 1512-13 Reign of Sulṭān ‘Alī V, deposed after nine months by Kalu Muḥammad<sup>67</sup>
- 1513-29 Third Reign of Kalu Muḥammad<sup>68</sup>
- 1529-48 Reign of Sulṭān Ḥasan Shirazī VIII, son of Kalu Muḥammad by a Persian concubine<sup>69</sup>
- 1548-50 Reign of Sulṭān Muḥammad, killed two years into his reign by his brother who then seizes the throne<sup>70</sup>
- 1550-52 Reign of Sulṭān Ḥasan IX who renounced Islam two and a half years into his reign and left the Maldives for India, where he married a Christian woman in Goa. His apostasy and alliance with the Portuguese is used by the Portuguese to launch a series of expeditions to assert control over the Maldives<sup>71</sup>
- 1552 Ḥasan sends a Portuguese vessel to Malé with instruction that the Ministers and Chiefs be brought to Cochin. The ship is seized, and all aboard killed. A second armed exhibition from Cochin suffers the same fate<sup>72</sup>
- 1552-56 Reign of Sulṭān Abu Bakr II, murdered after four years<sup>73</sup>
- 1558 Reign of Sulṭān ‘Alī VI, killed two and a half years into his reign while defending Malé against the Portuguese<sup>74</sup>

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<sup>62</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands\* by Hasan Taj Al-Din, 16.](#)

<sup>63</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands\* by Hasan Taj Al-Din, 16.](#)

<sup>64</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands\* by Hasan Taj Al-Din, 16.](#)

<sup>65</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands\* by Hasan Taj Al-Din, 16.](#)

<sup>66</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands\* by Hasan Taj Al-Din, 16.](#)

<sup>67</sup> Bell, *The Maldive Islands*, 25.

<sup>68</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands\* by Hasan Taj Al-Din.](#)

<sup>69</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands\* by Hasan Taj Al-Din, 17.](#)

<sup>70</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands\* by Hasan Taj Al-Din, 17.](#)

<sup>71</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands\* by Hasan Taj Al-Din, 17-18.](#)

<sup>72</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands\* by Hasan Taj Al-Din, 18.](#)

<sup>73</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands\* by Hasan Taj Al-Din, 18.](#)

<sup>74</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands\* by Hasan Taj Al-Din, 18.](#)

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- 1558-73 Reign of self-declared ‘Sultān’ Captain Adiri Adiri, under whom Christians sent to each Atoll to act as headmen<sup>75</sup>
- 1573 Expulsion of the Portuguese. Ghazi Muḥammad Bodu Takurufānu, sheltering on Kolufuri, forms expeditionary force that rids the Islands of the Portuguese and kills Andiri Andiri.<sup>76</sup>
- 1573-85 Reign of Muḥammad Bodu Takurufānu as Sultān. Under his reign, the ‘*Askarun* were consolidated into one military body<sup>77</sup>
- 1585-1608 Reign of Sultān Ibrahīm III. Killed by Malabarīs during battle while attempting to escape by Royal Barque and buried on Hanna Midu (Himandhoo) Island, Ari Atoll<sup>78</sup>
- 1602-07 François Pyrard de Laval, a French navigator, is shipwrecked on South Maalhosmadulu Atoll for five years. An account of his time spent in the Maldives published was in 1611<sup>79</sup>
- 1602 Factors of a Dutch company at Middelburg spend five days in the Maldives to explore possibilities for trade there<sup>80</sup>
- 1609 Sacking of Malé by Malabarīs who returned to Cannanore with Muḥammad Kalu Tuddala (later Sultān Muhammed ‘Imad al-Dīn I) who remains a prisoner for several years<sup>81</sup>
- 1608-20 Reign of Sultān Husain II on Guraidú (Guraidhoo), South Malé Atoll.<sup>82</sup>
- 1620-48 Reign of Sultān Muḥammad ‘Imad al-Dīn<sup>83</sup>
- 1625 Locals successfully repulse an attack on Malé by a Portuguese armada of 15 ships under the command of Domingos Ferreyra Belliyagu. After which Muhammed ‘Imad al-Dīn I purchases 12 cannons and commissions the building of a fort and other defensive works including a breakwater to shelter Maldivian craft<sup>84</sup>
- 1640 The Dutch despatch a vessel to ascertain the nature and prospects of trade in the Maldives<sup>85</sup>

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<sup>75</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din\*, 18.](#)

<sup>76</sup> Bell, *The Maldive Islands*, 4; [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din\*, 22.](#)

<sup>77</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din\*, 22.](#)

<sup>78</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din\*.](#)

<sup>79</sup> *The Voyage of François Pyrard of Laval to the East Indies, the Maldives, the Moluccas and Brazil* (Cambridge University Press, 2010).

<sup>80</sup> Bell, *The Maldive Islands*, 29.

<sup>81</sup> Bell, *The Maldive Islands*, 28.

<sup>82</sup> Bell, *The Maldive Islands*, 28.

<sup>83</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din\*, 27.](#)

<sup>84</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din\*, 28](#)

<sup>85</sup> Bell, *The Maldive Islands*, 29.

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- 1645 First annual embassy from the Sultān of the Maldives to the Governor of Ceylon which continued into the first half of the twentieth century<sup>86</sup>
- 1648-87 Reign of Sultān Iskandar Ibrahīm I, under whose rule customs duties and royal monopolies were revoked and overseas trade flourished. This economic prosperity supported the building of mosques and new *waqf* endowments<sup>87</sup>
- Work on compiling the Arabic-language Maldives court chronicle *Tārīkh* commenced by Ḥasan Taj al-Dīn at the request of the Sultān. On the death of Ḥasan Taj al-Dīn in 1727 the work is continued by his nephew Muḥammad Muhibb al-Dīn and grandson Ibrahīm Siraj al-Dīn<sup>88</sup>
- 1649 Attacks by Portuguese and the Ali Raja of Cannanore on the Maldives are repulsed, bringing to an end the annual payments to Ali Raja and the Portuguese<sup>89</sup>
- 1652 Wooden *waqf* inscription (*filā fatkoḷu*) recording the endowment of a mosque on Gan island<sup>90</sup>
- 1657 Sultān Iskandar Ibrahīm lays the foundation stone of the Hukuru Miskiiy (Friday Mosque) in Malé. Work completed by 1657<sup>91</sup>
- 1666 Sultān Iskandar Ibrahīm undertakes the Ḥajj<sup>92</sup>
- 1683 Sultān Iskandar Ibrahīm returns to Makkah for a second time<sup>93</sup>
- 1686 The Islamic scholar Sayyid Muḥammad Shams al-Dīn arrives in Malé and receives the patronage of Sultān Iskandar Ibrahīm. Several religiously-inspired reforms are introduced: men are ordered to grow beards and forbidden to wear the customary silver belt. Women are required to wear veils in public or remain at home<sup>94</sup>
- 1686 or 87 Sayyid Muḥammad Shams-al-Dīn leaves for India after failing in his attempt to challenge Sultān Iskandar Ibrahīm<sup>95</sup>

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<sup>86</sup> Bell, *The Maldive Islands*, 29.

<sup>87</sup> Bell, *The Maldive Islands*, 30.

<sup>88</sup> Bell, *The Maldive Islands*, 30.

<sup>89</sup> Bell, *The Maldive Islands*, 30; [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din\*](#).

<sup>90</sup> [Jost Gippert, "Early New Persian as a medium of spreading Islam," \*Persian Origins: Early Judaeo-Persian and the Emergence of New Persian\*, ed. Ludwig Paul, 2003, 31-47 \(Wiesbaden: Harrossowitz, 2000\).](#)

<sup>91</sup> Bell, *The Maldive Islands*, 30; [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din\*](#).

<sup>92</sup> Bell, *The Maldive Islands*, 30.

<sup>93</sup> Bell, *The Maldive Islands*, 30; [Andrew Peacock, "Sufi Cosmopolitanism in the Seventeenth-Century Indian Ocean: Shari'a, Lineage, and the Royal Power in Southeast Asia and the Maldives," in \*Challenging Cosmopolitanism: Coercion, Mobility and Displacement in Islamic Asia\*, ed. Joshua Gedacht & R. Michael Feener \(Edinburgh University Press, 2018\), 66.](#)

<sup>94</sup> Bell, *The Maldive Islands*, 31.

<sup>95</sup> Bell, *The Maldive Islands*, 31.



## TIMELINE OF MALDIVES HISTORY

(Compiled by the [Maldives Heritage Survey](#), under the direction of R. Michael Feener)

- 1687 Sultān Iskandar Ibrahīm killed by poison administered by his senior concubine and mother of his son, Mariyam<sup>96</sup>
- 1687-91 Reign of Sultān Kuda Muḥammad, the six-year old son of Sultān Iskandar Ibrahīm and his concubine Mariyam Kabafanu. His mother seizes rule on behalf of her son and appoints her brothers to the role of wazīrs<sup>97</sup>
- 1691 Tiladummati Atoll attacked by Indian ‘pirate’ vessels. These were successfully repulsed by the Maldivian fleet but during celebrations sparks falling into a powder magazine of the boat carrying the Sultān and his mother causing an explosion in which both were killed<sup>98</sup>
- 1691-2 Reign of Sultān Muḥammad Muḥyi al-Dīn al-Adil, half-brother of Sultān Iskandar Ibrahīm. Known as the ‘the Beloved Sultān’, he granted the right to all Maldivians to go on the Ḥajj directly from Malé. Until that time travel was in Malabar vessels from India. This has been characterized this as a period in which Maldivian society became more egalitarian and foreigners were also treated on terms of equality. Shortly before his death the sultan invited the Arab scholar Muḥammad Shams al-Dīn to return to the Maldives<sup>99</sup>
- 1692 Sultān Muḥammad Muḥyi al-Dīn al-Adil reigns for almost two years until his death and is buried in the cemetery at Huskuru Miskiiy<sup>100</sup>
- 1692 Reign of Sayyid Muḥammad Shams al-Dīn I, who reigns for less than 5 months before dying of a fever. His is buried within the Medu *Ziyarat* alongside Shaykh Yūsuf Shams al Dīn al-Tabrīzi<sup>101</sup>
- 1692-1701 Reign of Sultān Muḥammad, who married Mariyam, the widow of Sultān Muḥyi al-Dīn<sup>102</sup>
- 1701 Reign of Sultān ‘Alī VII who dies after an unpopular reign of nine months<sup>103</sup>
- 1701 Reign of Sultān Ḥasan X, son of ‘Alī VII aged 13 or 14. Ibrahīm Shah Bandar a cousin of the Sultān is appointed to administer the Government as his guardian. Conspiring with others, he ousts Sultān Ḥasan from the throne<sup>104</sup>
- 1701-04 Reign of Sultān Ibrahīm Muḥzir al-Dīn who commissioned the construction of two bathing tanks: the Ma Veyo at Doru Miskiiy, Machchangoli Avaru and another within the Hukuru Miskiiy precincts at Malé. It was erroneously reported that he died during

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<sup>96</sup> Bell, *The Maldivian Islands*, 31.

<sup>97</sup> Bell, *The Maldivian Islands*, 31.

<sup>98</sup> Bell, *The Maldivian Islands*, 32.

<sup>99</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldivian Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din\*, 44.](#)

<sup>100</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldivian Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din\*.](#)

<sup>101</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldivian Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din\*, 45.](#)

<sup>102</sup> Bell, *The Maldivian Islands*, 33.

<sup>103</sup> Bell, *The Maldivian Islands*, 33.

<sup>104</sup> Bell, *The Maldivian Islands*, 34.

## TIMELINE OF MALDIVES HISTORY

(Compiled by the [Maldives Heritage Survey](#), under the direction of R. Michael Feener)

a shipwreck off the coast of India in 1705 while returning from the Ḥajj, alongside the nephew he dethroned<sup>105</sup>

- 1704-21 Reign of Sulṭān Muẓaffar Muḥammad ‘Imad al- Dīn II who ascends the throne after false reports of the death of Sulṭān Ibrahīm Muẓhir al-Dīn at sea<sup>106</sup>
- During his eighteen-year reign, the former Sulṭān Ibrahīm returned to Malé but was banished to Fuvamulah, whence he escaped to Ceylon and later to Senna-Paddanam (Madras) where the Commandant of an English fort showed him ‘much consideration’. Three attempts to regain the throne were unsuccessful, and the date and place of his death are unknown<sup>107</sup>
- 1721-50 Reign of Sulṭān Iskandar II. First circular coins issued in the Maldives<sup>108</sup>
- 1730 Fire destroys much of Henveru Ward in Malé. The islands also reportedly experienced an earthquake<sup>109</sup>
- 1733 A cyclone reaches the islands, devastating and submerging a number of islands in the northern Atolls with loss of life and property<sup>110</sup>
- 1737 Famine occurs in Malé<sup>111</sup>
- 1742 A tornado strikes Malé. Two weeks later, a fire in Henvera Avaru destroys many buildings including the Attarafanin Miskiiy<sup>112</sup>
- 1750-57 Reign of Sulṭān Mukarram Muḥammad ‘Imad al- Dīn III<sup>113</sup>
- 1753 An expedition from Malabar under the behest of ‘Alī Raja of Cannanore captures Malé and destroys the palace. Four months later, Malé was retaken by Maldivians led by Ḥasan Manikufanu. A further contingent sent by ‘Alī Raja, plunders Tiladummati and Fadifulu Atolls. A French fleet under the command of Le Termellier, arrives to support the Maldivian forces<sup>114</sup>
- 1754 The French contingent who were quartered in Malé depart after an altercation with the local authorities<sup>115</sup>

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<sup>105</sup> Bell, *The Maldive Islands*, 35.

<sup>106</sup> Bell, *The Maldive Islands*, 35.

<sup>107</sup> Bell, *The Maldive Islands*, 35.

<sup>108</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din\*, 77.](#)

<sup>109</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din\*, 79.](#)

<sup>110</sup> Bell, *The Maldive Islands*, 37; [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din\*, 78.](#)

<sup>111</sup> Bell, *The Maldive Islands*, 37; [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din\*, 78.](#)

<sup>112</sup> Bell, *The Maldive Islands*, 37; [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din\*, 79.](#)

<sup>113</sup> Bell, *The Maldive Islands*, 38; Yajima, *The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din*, 83.

<sup>114</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldive Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din\*, 83-84.](#)

<sup>115</sup> Bell, *The Maldive Islands*, 38.

## **TIMELINE OF MALDIVES HISTORY**

(Compiled by the [Maldives Heritage Survey](#), under the direction of R. Michael Feener)

- 1757 Sultān Mukarram Muḥammad ‘Imad al-Dīn III and his nephew sent to a fort in Cannanore where they are guarded by Turkish and Malabari soldiers. The Sultān was later transferred to Minicoy where he died in 1757<sup>116</sup>
- 1759-67 Reign of Sultān Ghazi Ḥasan ‘Izz al-Dīn<sup>117</sup>
- 1759 Earthquake followed by a fire destroys Danna Muḥammad Miskiiy<sup>118</sup>
- 760-1821 Work on the *Tārīkh* completed by Ibrahīm Siraj al-Dīn<sup>119</sup>
- 1761 Malabar Expedition briefly occupies Funadhoo and Hulhule islands<sup>120</sup>
- 1767 Sultān Ghazi Ḥasan ‘Izz al-Dīn dies, nominating as his successor Muḥammad, son of Iskandar II,<sup>121</sup>
- 1766-74 Reign of Muḥammad Giyath al-Dīn who was unanimously elected by the people<sup>122</sup>
- 1771 Expedition of nine ships sent by ‘Alī Raja of Cannanore bombards Malé but is repulsed.<sup>123</sup>
- 1773 Muḥammad Giyath al-Dīn al-Dīn departs on the Ḥajj pilgrimage and appoints his brother-in-law, ‘Alī Shah Bandar as Regent. Rumours that Shah Bandar is about to seize the throne fuels a revolution. The rebellion is quashed and the Regent and his wife banished to Huliyandu, Haddummati Atoll<sup>124</sup>
- 1773-4 Reign of Sultān Muḥammad Shams al-Dīn II. Kaluvakara Miskiiy commissioned by him and completed during the reign of Sultān Ḥasan Nur al-Dīn. He later transfers the throne to Muḥammad, eldest son of Sultān Ḥasan ‘Izz al-Dīn (Muḥammad Farina Kilegafanu)<sup>125</sup>
- 1774-79 Reign of Sultān Muḥammad Mu’izzal-Dīn<sup>126</sup>
- 1774 Return of Sultān Giyath al-Dīn from Makkah. Although resigned to the loss of his throne, he was seized and secretly drowned<sup>127</sup>

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<sup>116</sup> Bell, *The Maldive Islands*, 38.

<sup>117</sup> Bell, *The Maldive Islands*, 39.

<sup>118</sup> Bell, *The Maldive Islands*, 37.

<sup>119</sup> Bell, *The Maldive Islands*, 39.

<sup>120</sup> Bell, *The Maldive Islands*, 39.

<sup>121</sup> Bell, *The Maldive Islands*, 39.

<sup>122</sup> Bell, *The Maldive Islands*, 39-40.

<sup>123</sup> Bell, *The Maldive Islands*, 40.

<sup>124</sup> Bell, *The Maldive Islands*, 40.

<sup>125</sup> Bell, *The Maldive Islands*, 40.

<sup>126</sup> Bell, *The Maldive Islands*, 41.

<sup>127</sup> Bell, *The Maldive Islands*, 41.

## TIMELINE OF MALDIVES HISTORY

(Compiled by the [Maldives Heritage Survey](#), under the direction of R. Michael Feener)

- 1779 Deaths of Sulṭān Muḥammad Shams al-Dīn II and Sulṭān Mu'izz al-Dīn<sup>128</sup>
- 1779-99 Reign of Sulṭān Ḥasan Nur al-Dīn, younger brother of Sulṭān Muḥammad Mu'izz-al-Dīn<sup>129</sup>
- 1785 Qāḍi Muḥammad Muḥibb al-Dīn, contributor to the *Tarikh* dies<sup>130</sup>
- 1789 First Ḥajj pilgrimage of Ḥasan Nur al-Dīn, returning in the same year. Aḥmad Dorimena Takurufanu, Chief Wazīr nominated regent<sup>131</sup>
- 1796 British expel the Dutch from Ceylon (Sri Lanka) and incorporate the Maldives as a protectorate<sup>132</sup>
- 1797 An Indian vessel, captured by the French, wrecked on an island in Huvadhu Atoll. Gold, coin and jewellery appropriated by the Maldivians and some of this shipped in the Sulṭān's vessel bound for Makkah<sup>133</sup>
- 1798 Second Ḥajj pilgrimage of Sulṭān Nur al-Dīn. His son, Muḥammad Mu'in al-Dīn made Prince Regent. Warnings by Sherif Galib of Makka not to risk the seizure of so much treasure, goes unheeded and the Sulṭān is prevented from leaving for Jeddah. The Sulṭān's vessels are plundered of treasure and guns. On finally reaching Jeddah he dies of smallpox. A further 230 of the pilgrims die while making a slow return to the Maldives. Several islands abandoned during this reign: Jum'a Miskiyy built on Giravaru Island, North Malé Atoll<sup>134</sup>
- 1799-1835 Reign of Sulṭān Muḥammad Mu'in al-Dīn I. 'Idu Miskiyy (Khutba Mosque), Malé rebuilt. Mosque at Edafuri Island, Malosmadulu Atoll built<sup>135</sup>
- 1815 Earthquake felt from Tiladummati Atoll as far as Fivakuin Miladummadulu Atoll, with several aftershocks<sup>136</sup>
- 1819-1826 A great famine occurs on the islands<sup>137</sup>
- 1822 A tornado strikes the Maldives, resulting in the drowning of a number of people and the devastation of several islands. Yajima gives the date of a storm as 1237 AH or 1822 CE, the year when recording of the *Tārīkh* chronicle ends<sup>138</sup>
- 1835 Death of Sulṭān Muḥammad Mu'in al-Dīn I<sup>139</sup>

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<sup>128</sup> Bell, *The Maldivian Islands*, 41.

<sup>129</sup> Bell, *The Maldivian Islands*, 41.

<sup>130</sup> Bell, *The Maldivian Islands*, 41.

<sup>131</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldivian Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din\*.](#)

<sup>132</sup> Bell, *The Maldivian Islands*.

<sup>133</sup> Bell, *The Maldivian Islands*, 42.

<sup>134</sup> Bell, *The Maldivian Islands*, 42.

<sup>135</sup> Bell, *The Maldivian Islands*, 42.

<sup>136</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldivian Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din\*](#), 117.

<sup>137</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldivian Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din\*](#), 118.

<sup>138</sup> [Yajima, \*The Islamic History of the Maldivian Islands by Hasan Taj Al-Din\*](#), 118.

<sup>139</sup> Bell, *The Maldivian Islands*, 9.

## **TIMELINE OF MALDIVES HISTORY**

(Compiled by the [Maldives Heritage Survey](#), under the direction of R. Michael Feener)

- 1835-82 Reign of Sulṭān Muḥammad ‘Imad al-Dīn IV, son of Sulṭān Muḥammad Mu’ in-al-Dīn I<sup>140</sup>
- 1879 First visit to the Maldives of Henry Charles Purvis (H.C.P.) Bell, former Archaeological Commissioner and Head of the Archaeological Survey of Ceylon. On retirement Bell investigates the history, archaeology and epigraphy of the Maldives and studies the linguistics of the Maldivian language<sup>141</sup>
- 1882 Reign of Sulṭān Ibrahīm Nur al-Dīn<sup>142</sup>
- 1886 Sulṭān Ibrahīm Nur al-Dīn abdicates<sup>143</sup>
- 1886 Reign of Sulṭān Muḥammad Mu’ in al-Dīn II<sup>144</sup>
- 1887 State agreement with the British Crown signed by Sulṭān Muḥammad Mu’ in al-Dīn II recognizing the suzerainty of the British Sovereign over the Maldivian Islands and disclaiming all rights to enter into negotiations or treaties with other countries except through the ruler of Ceylon. In return, Britain agrees to protect the Maldives against foreign enemies and establishes it as a self-governing British protectorate<sup>145</sup>
- 1883-92 Second Reign of Sulṭān Ibrahīm Nur al-Dīn<sup>146</sup>
- 1892 Reign of Sulṭān ‘Imad al-Dīn V. Displaced after five months by his elder half-brother<sup>147</sup>
- 1893 First Reign of Sulṭān Muḥammad Shams-al-Dīn II aged 12, who held the position for three months<sup>148</sup>
- 1893-1903 Reign of Sulṭān Muḥammad Imad-al-Dīn VI<sup>149</sup>

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<sup>140</sup> Bell, *The Maldivian Islands*, 43.

<sup>141</sup> Bell, *The Maldivian Islands*, vii.

<sup>142</sup> Bell, *The Maldivian Islands*, 46.

<sup>143</sup> Bell, *The Maldivian Islands*, 46.

<sup>144</sup> Bell, *The Maldivian Islands*, 47.

<sup>145</sup> Bell, *The Maldivian Islands*, 48.

<sup>146</sup> Bell, *The Maldivian Islands*, 49.

<sup>147</sup> Bell, *The Maldivian Islands*, 49.

<sup>148</sup> Bell, *The Maldivian Islands*, 49.

<sup>149</sup> Bell, *The Maldivian Islands*, 49.