

Dams

During the Golden Age, Muslims excelled in civil and mechanical engineering activities including dam building and irrigation. The Aghlabids of Tunisia made some of the most impressive variety of dam structures as early as the 9th century. The oldest known arch dam in the world is the Kebar dam in Iran, which is about 700 years old.

Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni completed three dams in today's Afghanistan in the 11th century. In Muslim Spain, the masonry used for dam construction included a type of cement that was harder than stone itself. In Iraq in the vicinity of Baghdad, most of the dams were on the River Tigris, but a few were on water diversions, which illustrates a high level of engineering skills. The level of craftsmanship and superiority of design attained by Muslim engineers is evident from the fact that a third of all 7th and 8th century dams are still intact today.

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