

## **Byzantine and Muslim Malta (5th century – 1090)**

- 454 Islands occupied by the Vandals.
- 464 Islands occupied by the Goths.
- 6th century Byzantine empire gains control.
- 533 Islands restored to Byzantine rule.
- 870 – 1090 Arab rule.
- 870 Aglabiti (Tunisian) Arabs invade Malta and expel the Byzantine.  
Malta falls to the Aghlabid Arabs invading from Sicily led by Admiral Ahmad bin-Umar also known as Habasi.  
Recent documents have advanced the theory that Malta was almost depopulated by this hostile invasion force and, for a while, left it in a semi-deserted state. The legacy they left was the Semitic based language.
- 1048 First Byzantine attempts to regain islands.
- 1090 The Normans under Count Roger, ruler of Sicily and parts of southern Italy, invading from Sicily conquer the Maltese islands and introduce the feudal system.  
Legend says that Count Roger tore off part of his flag and gave it to Malta, hence the origin of the White and Red Malta Flag.