Chapter 9, *The Worlds of Islam: Afro-Eurasian Connections, 600-1500*, pgs. 411-442

**The Birth of a New Religion**

1. Why was the location of Arabia important?

2. Why was Mecca an important city? Why was Mecca’s dominant tribe important?

3. How does the core message of Islam compare with that of Judaism and Christianity?

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4. Why did the message of the Quran challenge the tribal and clan structure of Arab society?

5. Explain the concept of the *umma*.

6. Explain the five Pillars of Islam.

   A.
   B.
   C.
   D.
   E.

7. How was the umma different from the traditional tribes of Arab society?

8. In what ways was the young Islamic community seen as revolutionary and distinct from Christianity?
The Making of an Arab Empire

9. What civilizations became part of the new Arab state?

10. Why were Arabs able to construct such a huge empire so quickly?

11. Why did the Battle of Talas River in 751 leave lasting consequences for Asia?


13. What were the incentives for the conquered people to claim a Muslim identity?

14. What’s the difference between Shia and Sunni Islam?

Shia—

Sunni--

15. Describe the first dynasty after the era of the Rightly Guided Caliphs.

16. Why did Umayyad rule provoke growing criticism and unrest?

17. What was the impact of the Abbasid rule after the overthrow of the Umayyad Dynasty?
18. Who were the Sufis?

19. In what ways were Sufi Muslims critical of mainstream Islam?
   
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20. How did the rise of Islam change the lives of women?
   
   • Socially
   
   • Spiritually:

21. As Islamic empires spread through traditional Middle Eastern cultures, what were some signs of the separation of the sexes and a tightening patriarchy?

*Islam and Cultural Encounter: A Four-Way Comparison*

22. Identify some similarities and differences in the spread of Islam to India, Anatolia, West Africa, and Spain. *(Hint: How did Islam spread and was it the dominant faith?)*

23. In what ways was Anatolia so much more thoroughly Islamized than India?
   
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*The World of Islam as a New Civilization*
24. Why was commerce in the Islamic world valued as a positive thing?

25. What ideas and technologies were diffused and exchanged as trade and commerce developed a “capitalist” economy that spanned the Old World?

**Reflections: Learning from Outsiders: A Tale of Two Travelers**

26. What did the journeys, of the travelers Ibn Battuta and Marco Polo, reveal about the world of the 13\textsuperscript{th} and 14\textsuperscript{th} centuries? What happened after 1700?