The Islamic Middle East



Chapter 7

1. Why is this region called the “Middle East”?
2. Why is this location significant?
3. In what ways was the Islamic world “cosmopolitan”?
4. Describe the regional economy of Damascus.
5. Why is it remarkable that a new religion formed in Arabia?
6. Who was Muhammad?
7. What religious influences were found in Arabia?
8. How did Muhammad become a prophet and what were the beliefs of Islam?
9. What theological debate arose between Christianity and Islam?
10. What is the Qur’an?
11. How was Muhammad treated at home, in Mecca? What did he and his followers do?
12. What are the *5 Demands of Islam*?
13. What is “jihad”?



1. How is Islam a “social” religion?
2. How did Islam change after the death of Muhammad?
3. What was the division between Sunni and Shi’i?
4. Who were the Sufi’s?
5. What was the challenge for Muslim philosophers?

# The Growth of Empire

1. How long did it take, following Muhammad’s death, for the Muslim Arabs to control the entire Fertile Crescent?
2. In what other regions did Islam gain a foothold?
3. Who were the “caliphs”?
4. What was life like under the Umayyad Caliphate?
5. The Abbaid Caliphate dominated for 500 years. What was it like?
6. Describe the decline in the Caliphs authority.
7. Explain the Fatimid dynasty of Egypt (969-1171).

**The Crusades**

1. What was the purpose of the crusades?
2. What situation allowed the crusades to have any success?
3. Who was Saladin?
4. According to the text, what was the net result of the crusades? Was this their intention? Why did this conversion happen?
5. Explain the significance of Spain and its religious upheavals?

# The Mongols



1. Who were the Mongols and what was their impact on the Islamic world?
2. How did the last Abbasid caliph die?
3. How was Cairo spared a Mongol invasion?
4. Who were the Il-Khans and what was their impact on Islamic culture?

# Bureaucratic-Patrimonial States

1. What is the theory of the bureaucratic patrimonial state?
2. Where were these two powerful states located?
3. Who were the Ottomans?
4. Describe Ottoman society.