

Analysis of Primary Source 3 (Medieval Byzantium/Islam)

1. The primary source that I used for the analysis is from the one that is mentioned in the course books i.e. *'The making of the West: Peoples and cultures'* and that book is a masterpiece I would say. The book is composed of the professionals and experts of their domains as it covers many several topics of different cultures, eras, and deals with several religious matters. This book is composed by *Lynn Hunt, Thomas R. Martin, Barbara H. Rosenwein and Bonnie G. Smith*. All authors are specializing in their domains. Lynn Hunt was a professor of European History at the University of California and was a Stanford graduate. Thomas R. Martin was an American historian who was a professional in the history of the Greco-Roman world. Barbara H. Rosenwein is a Professor in the Department of History at the Loyola University of Chicago. She has written several books, including *Emotional Communities in the Early Middle Ages* in 2005-6. Bonnie G. Smith is the current Board of Governors Notable History Professor at Rutgers University. She attended Smith College, earning a bachelor's degree from the same institute in 1962 and later earned a Ph.D. degree from the University of Rochester in 1976. All the authors have given their full in composing the book and are distinguished for their work in different fields. The primary source that I took from this book deals with 'Islam' that is included in Chapter 8 and the topic's name is *'The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and the Faith in Islam'*.
2. The source was produced by quality authors and was originally published on **October 2002** and that was a perfect time as the world was revolutionizing and people were getting to know about the cultures, ancient people of West and their lifestyles.
3. The authors created and composed this source as it was becoming mandatory for the people to know about the West and the ancient history of different cultures and beliefs as the people were getting more aware of their cultures and traditions.

4. Several interesting and surprising facts are mentioned in the source. Muhammad (PBUH) was such a pious and humble person and at the same time strong too. His parents died when he was young and was brought up by his uncle but the way he managed to cope up with all the calamities is exceptional. He led people to worship one God and advised, that one God is the Almighty Allah and He is the only one. Then, Qur'an; the Holy book of the Muslims was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and he conveyed the message of Qur'an to the Muslims. It is the sacred book of Muslims and they recite this book to the current dates and will be recited till the Day of Judgment. It is quite interesting that Islam is such a religion and had such an ancient history.
5. As we discuss history it becomes necessary to learn the history of different religions and cultures because one gets a better image when he studies different histories as it widens the power of analyzing and broadens the thought process. Islam is an ancient religion and the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is the biggest preacher of Islam as he spread Islam all over and advised people on almost every field of life. Hence, this topic fits in the historical context.

Source: Hunt, L., Martin, T. R., Rosenwein, B. H., & Smith, B. G. (2002). *The making of the West: Peoples and cultures*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martins.