

**IDX G9 HISTORY S+ STUDY GUIDE**

**ISSUE 3**

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10.1 The Rise of Islam

**The Arabian Peninsula Before Islam**

- Harsh desert environment with scattered Arab tribes.

- Bedouins: Nomadic lifestyle, herding animals, competing for resources.

- Mecca: A major trading and pilgrimage centre, with the Kaaba as a significant religious site.

**Muhammad's Life and the Birth of Islam**

- Early Years: Born around 570 AD in Mecca. Worked as a shepherd and merchant.

- Marriage to Khadija: A wealthy widow who supported Muhammad.

- The Revelations: Around 40 years old, they received revelations from the angel Gabriel in a cave on Mount Hira.

- Initial Opposition: His teachings faced resistance from Meccan merchants.

**Teachings of Islam**

- Monotheism: Belief in one God, Allah.

- The Quran: The holy book of Islam, believed to be the word of God as revealed to Muhammad.

- Five Pillars of Islam

- Shahada: Declaration of faith - "There is no god but God, and Muhammad is the Messenger of God."

- Salat: Daily prayers are performed five times a day facing Mecca.

- Zakat: Giving alms to the poor is an important act of charity.

- Sawm: Fasting during the month of Ramadan.

- Hajj: Pilgrimage to Mecca at least once a lifetime for those who are able.

**Islam in Daily Life**

- Sharia Law: Governs moral, social, and legal aspects of life.

- Role of Women: Granted certain rights, but with some differences compared to men. Veiling and seclusion practices varied.

10.2 Building a Muslim Empire

**After Muhammad's Death**

- Succession Issue: Disagreement over who should lead the Muslim community.

- Abu Bakr as Caliph: The first caliph reunited the Muslims.

**Expansion of the Muslim Empire**

- Early Victories: Conquered parts of the Byzantine and Persian empires.

- Umayyad Caliphate

- Conquests: Expanded from Spain to the Indus River Valley.

- Administration: Arabic became the official language and minted coins.

- Treatment of Non-Muslims: Imposed a tax but allowed them to practice their faiths.

**Divisions within Islam**

- Sunni and Shiite Split

- Sunnis: Believe the caliph should be a pious Muslim from Muhammad's tribe.

- Shiites: Follow the descendants of Ali and Fatima as the true leaders.

- Sufis: Mystics seeking a closer connection with God.

**The Abbasid Dynasty**

- Overthrow of the Umayyads: In 750 AD, the Abbasids came to power.

- Changes under the Abbasids

- Capital Move: From Damascus to Baghdad.

- Promotion of Learning: Encouraged education and the translation of texts.

- Increased Diversity: More inclusive of different cultures and ethnicities.

**Decline of the Muslim Empire**

- External Invasions: Seljuk Turks and Mongols invaded.

- Internal Problems: Political fragmentation, economic issues.

10.3 Muslim Civilization's Golden Age

**Social and Economic Achievements**

- Trade Networks

- Muslim merchants built extensive trade routes.

- Introduced new products and technologies.

- Economic Practices

- Pioneered business methods like partnerships and credit.

- Handicraft manufacturing thrived.

- Agriculture: Flourished with the development of irrigation.

**Art, Literature, and Architecture**

- Islamic Art

- Geometric and floral patterns, calligraphy.

- Prohibited the depiction of human and animal figures in religious art.

- Literature

- Arabic poetry, tales like "The Thousand and One Nights."

- Persian works such as the "Shah Namah."

- Architecture

- Grand mosques with domes and minarets.

**Intellectual Advancements**

- Centers of Learning

- Baghdad's House of Wisdom.

- Other centres in Cairo, Córdoba, and Timbuktu.

- Contributions to Knowledge

- In philosophy, mathematics (algebra), astronomy, and medicine.

- Translation of ancient texts into Arabic.

11.1 Early Civilizations of Africa

**Geography of Africa**

- Diverse Landscapes

- Sahara Desert, rainforests, savannas, and highlands.

- Great Rift Valley as an important passageway.

- Resources and Trade

- Minerals like gold and salt were valuable for trade.

- Camels revolutionised trade across the Sahara.

**The Bantu Migrations**

- Migration Routes and Impact

- Spanned from West to South Africa.

- Spread farming, ironworking, and language.

**Nubia: A Flourishing Civilization**

- Location and Early Development

- Along the Nile, south of Egypt.

- Had a prosperous civilisation with trade and agriculture.

- Interaction with Egypt

- Rivalry and periods of control.

- Adopted some Egyptian traditions.

- Meroë's Significance

- Capital with rich iron ore deposits.

- A major centre of trade and industry.

**North Africa and External Influences**

- Phoenicians and Carthage

- Founded Carthage, a powerful trading city.

- Roman Rule in North Africa

- Built infrastructure and spread Christianity.

- Arabic and Islamic Influence

- Islam spread, leading to cultural and linguistic changes.

11.2 Kingdoms of West Africa

**Trade in the Sahara**

- Development of Trade Routes

- Linked West Africa with North Africa and the Mediterranean.

- Gold and salt were the main commodities.

- Cities and Kingdoms

- Growth of trading cities like Gao.

**The Kingdom of Ghana**

- Rise and Prosperity

- Controlled gold-salt trade routes.

- Capital Kumbi Saleh was a centre of wealth.

- Influence of Islam

- Muslim merchants brought new ideas and technologies.

**The Kingdom of Mali**

- Founding by Sundiata

- Expanded the empire and established a strong government.

- Mansa Musa's Reign

- Made a famous pilgrimage to Mecca.

- Promoted learning and culture in Timbuktu.

**The Kingdom of Songhai**

- Growth and Expansion

- Under Sonni Ali and Askia Muhammad.

- Controlled trade and territory.

- Administration and Learning

- Set up a bureaucracy and built mosques and schools.

**Smaller Societies in West Africa**

- The Kingdom of Benin

- In the rainforest, known for its bronze art.

- Had a complex political structure.

- The Hausa City-States

- Built walled cities for protection.

- Had a prosperous economy and female rulers.

11.3 Kingdoms and Trading States of East Africa

**Axum: A Center of Trade and Religion**

- Location and Trade

- Southeast of Nubia, on the Red Sea.

- Controlled a triangular trade network.

- Conversion to Christianity

- King Ezana made it the official religion.

Ethiopia: A Christian Outpost

- Isolation and Independence

- Protected by mountains, maintained its own culture.

- Unique Churches and Traditions

- Lalibela's rock-hewn churches.

- Observed Jewish holidays and dietary laws.

**East African City-States**

- Coastal Trade and Growth

- Flourished with trade from Asia and the Middle East.

- Swahili language and culture emerged.

**The Stone Houses of Great Zimbabwe**

- Inland Capital and Trade

- Built by Bantu-speaking people.

- Tapped gold resources and had links with coastal cities.

- Architecture and Significance

- Impressive stone enclosures and palaces.

- Evidence of a prosperous empire.

11.4 Societies in Medieval Africa

**Family Structures**

- Nuclear and Extended Families

- Varied patterns of family life.

- Importance of kinship ties.

- Lineages and Clans

- Provided a sense of community and identity.

**Political Systems**

- Power Sharing in Small Societies

- Decisions made by consensus.

- Role of elders and chiefs.

- Kingdoms and Their Governments

- Larger kingdoms with centralised power.

- Taxation and administration.

**Religious Beliefs**

- Traditional African Religions

- Worshiped multiple gods and spirits.

- Importance of ancestor worship.

- Spread of Christianity and Islam

- Adoption and adaptation of new religions.

**Art and Literature in African Societies**

- African Artistic Traditions

- Variety of materials and styles.

- Connection with religion and social life.

- Oral and Written Literature

- Griots and the preservation of history.

- Use of drums for communication.