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**IDX G9 HISTORY S STUDY GUIDE**

**ISSUE 3**

**By Gavin and Lizz**

**9.1 The Byzantine Empire**

Constantinople was strategically located at the intersection of land and sea routes, which contributed to its immense wealth from trade. The city's leaders constructed strong defenses, allowing it to thrive while other cities in the western Roman Empire fell into decline.

* High walls and golden domes symbolized its status as the capital of the Byzantine Empire.
* Constantine rebuilt Byzantium and renamed it Constantinople in 330 AD, establishing it as the new capital.
* Roads radiated from Constantinople to the Balkans, Middle East, and North Africa.

**The Byzantine Empire's Growth**

Constantinople became the vital center of the Byzantine Empire, located on the Bosporus strait, linking the Mediterranean and Black seas. The city was well-defended by water on three sides and had a bustling marketplace.

* Merchants traded goods such as silks, wheat, gems, spices, and furs.
* Byzantine emperors lived in luxury, attending chariot races at the Hippodrome, reflecting the city's Roman heritage.

**Decline and Cultural Blending**

Despite its eventual decline, the Byzantine Empire lasted nearly 1,000 years after the fall of the western Roman Empire, blending Greek, Roman, and Christian influences with Mediterranean traditions.

**Justinian's Reign**

The Byzantine Empire reached its peak under Emperor Justinian (527-565 AD), who aimed to revive ancient Rome by reclaiming lost territories.

* General Belisarius led successful campaigns to reconquer North Africa, Italy, and parts of the Iberian Peninsula.
* Justinian's military successes strained the treasury and weakened eastern defenses.

**Rebuilding Constantinople**

After riots and a fire in 532 AD, Justinian initiated a grand rebuilding program, including the construction of the Hagia Sophia, a monumental church symbolizing Roman glory.

* The Hagia Sophia featured an immense dome and luxurious interior, drawing comparisons to Solomon's temple.
* Justinian's Code, a comprehensive legal reform, organized Roman laws and influenced future legal systems.

**Justinian's Absolute Rule**

Justinian ruled as an autocrat, combining political and spiritual authority, with his wife Theodora as a key advisor.

* The Byzantine economy thrived under strict government control, with peasants forming the backbone of society.
* The bezant, a gold coin, facilitated trade across Europe and Asia.
* The Byzantine military was formidable, utilizing Greek fire as a secret weapon.

**Challenges and Decline**

After Justinian, the empire faced numerous attacks but managed to hold its ground until the rise of the Seljuk Turks and the Crusades.

* The First Crusade was initiated in response to the Byzantine emperor's call for help against the Seljuks.
* The Fourth Crusade led to the sacking of Constantinople in 1204, weakening the empire significantly.
* Byzantine trade was further compromised by Venetian control.

**Fall of Constantinople**

In 1453, the Ottoman Turks besieged Constantinople, leading to its fall and the transformation of the city into Istanbul.

* The last Byzantine emperor chose to die fighting rather than live without an empire.
* Hagia Sophia was converted into a mosque, marking a significant cultural shift.

**Byzantine Heritage**

The fall of Constantinople symbolized the end of an era, but Byzantine influence persisted in various forms.

* Byzantine civilization blended Christian beliefs with Greek and Roman culture.
* Contributions to art included religious icons and mosaics, influencing Western styles.
* Byzantine scholars preserved ancient Greek works and contributed to the Renaissance by bringing knowledge to Western Europe.

**Byzantine Contributions to Art and Learning**

Byzantine artists and scholars made significant contributions that shaped future generations.

* Religious icons provided a personal connection to the sacred.
* Mosaics depicted biblical scenes, enhancing religious experience.
* Historians like Procopius and Anna Comnena documented their times, influencing historical writing.

**Key Vocabulary:**

**Constantinople-** The vital center and capital of the Byzantine Empire

**Justinian / Theodora-** Emperor who ruled Byzantine Empire from 527-565

**Justinian’s Code**- A collection of laws passed by Roman assemblies or emperors

**Autocrat**- Sole ruler with absolute authority (Justinian)

**Patriarch**- Highest church official

**Icon**- Holy images of God

**Great Schism-** The split between Eastern and Western Christianity

**Q1. Who was Constantine? What did he accomplish?**

The Roman emperor Constantine and his successors shifted their base to the eastern mediterranean.

Constantine rebuilt the Greek city of Byzantium then renamed it after himself—Constantinople. Through this time, roads fanned out and the Eastern Roman Empire became known as the Byzantine Empire.

**Q2. How did Constantinople become a rich and powerful city?**

The vital center and capital of the empire was Constantinople, located on the shore of the Bosporus, a strait that links the Mediterranean and Black seas. Constantinople had an excellent harbor and was guarded on three sides by water as well as sea walls on a high land to bolster its defenses.

Constantinople gained its wealth through commanding key trade routes linking Europe and Asia, making it a busy marketplace and a center of cultural distributions, as it blends ancient Greek, Roman, and Christian influences with other traditions of the Mediterranean world.

**Q3. What are Justinian’s accomplishments?**

The Byzantine Empire reached to its peak under the rule of the emperor Justinian, who ruled from 527 to 565. Justinian launched a construction project to restore the Byzantine empire back to its past glories. He created countless cities, buildings, and churches including the Hagia Sophia (Meaning “Holy Wisdom”, topped with a spherical-shaped dome and serves as a cathedral of Eastern Orthodox Christianity, Roman Christian cathedral, and Islamic Mosque). He established the firm foundations of a single faith and preserved laws in the Code of Justinian that unified the empire.

**Q4. How did Eastern and Western churches differ?**

In Western churches, Rome was the main city. The pope claimed reign after all Christians and spoke Latin as their main language. Christmas was a major holiday.

In Eastern Churches, Constantinople was the main city. The Byzantine Emperor controlled church affairs and appointed the patriarch. Byzantine Christians rejected the pope’s authority and clergies were allowed to marry. They spoke Greek and viewed Easter as a more important holiday.

**Q5. What Was the Great Schism?**

The differences between religious beliefs, practices, and use of icons provoked a schism, or split, between the Eastern and Western Christianity, known as the Great Schism. The Eastern Byzantine church became known as the Greek Orthodox Church, while the Western church became known as the Roman Catholic Church. They treated each other as rivals.

**Q6. What Factors Led to the Fall of the Byzantine Empire?**

Struggles over succession, court intrigues, and constant wars undermined the empire’s strength. THE Byzantine’s emperor called the Western help to fight the Seljuks, whose attacks blacked the pilgrimage routes to Jerusalem, resulting in the first crusade. During the next crusades, trade sparked violence between the Byzantine Empire and Venice, a city-state in northern Italy. Venetian merchants persuaded soldiers to attack Constantinople in the fourth crusade. The crusaders burned and plunged the city, controlling the Byzantine trade, draining the empire’s wealth.

**10.1 The Rise of Islam**

**Introduction to Islam**

Islam emerged in the Arabian Peninsula, primarily in the A.D. 500s, amidst a desert environment inhabited by various Arab tribes. The region was characterized by:

* Nomadic herders known as Bedouins who sought seasonal pastures for their livestock.
* Competition for water and grazing land, often leading to conflicts.
* Trade with settled Arab tribes in oasis towns, which were crucial for commerce.

**Muhammad's Early Life**

Muhammad was born in Mecca around A.D. 570, a significant market town and pilgrimage center. Key points about his early life include:

* Mecca was a hub for caravan routes and housed the Kaaba, an ancient temple for pagan worship.
* As a youth, Muhammad worked as a shepherd and later became a successful merchant.
* At 25, he married Khadija, a wealthy widow, and gained a reputation for honesty.

**Muhammad Becomes God's Messenger**

At around 40, Muhammad experienced a spiritual awakening while meditating in a cave. Significant aspects include:

* He heard the angel Gabriel calling him to be God's messenger, which initially terrified him.
* Khadija encouraged him to accept this role, becoming the first convert to Islam.
* Islam means "to submit to God," and Allah is the Arabic word for God.

**The Hijra: A Turning Point**

In 622, Muhammad and his followers fled Mecca for Yathrib (later Medina) due to threats against their lives. Important details include:

* The hijra marked the beginning of the Muslim calendar.
* In Medina, Muhammad established a community (umma) based on loyalty to Islam rather than tribal affiliations.
* He created rules to govern the community and fostered peace among clans.
* After conflicts with Meccan leaders, Muhammad returned to Mecca in 630, rededicating the Kaaba to Allah.

**Teachings of Islam**

Islam is a monotheistic faith, sharing similarities with Judaism and Christianity. Key teachings include:

* The Quran is the sacred text, emphasizing God's power and compassion.
* Muslims are responsible for their actions and do not require priests for mediation.
* Other prophets include Abraham, Moses, and Jesus, but Muhammad is considered the last prophet.

**Muslims Study the Quran**

The Quran is viewed as the direct word of God, providing guidance on ethical standards and life. Key points include:

* It emphasizes honesty, generosity, and social justice.
* It outlines severe penalties for crimes and the concept of final judgment.
* Arabic is the language of the Quran, fostering unity among Muslims globally.

**Five Pillars of Islam**

Observant Muslims adhere to the Five Pillars of Islam, which are essential duties:

1. **Declaration of Faith:** The shahada states, "There is no god but God, Muhammad is the messenger of God."
2. **Daily Prayer:** Muslims pray five times a day facing Mecca, often gathering in mosques.
3. **Alms for the Poor:** Charity is given to the needy, often through a tax called zakat.
4. **Fast During Ramadan:** Fasting from sunrise to sunset during Ramadan is obligatory, with exceptions for the sick and young.
5. **Hajj:** A pilgrimage to Mecca is required at least once for those who are able.

**Jihad and the People of the Book**

Jihad represents the struggle in God's service, which can be personal or communal. Key points include:

* Muslims, Jews, and Christians are considered "People of the Book," sharing a belief in one God.
* Islam is viewed as the final revelation, while earlier scriptures are seen as partial revelations.
* Historically, People of the Book have enjoyed religious freedom in many Muslim societies.

**Islamic Law and Women's Rights**

Islamic law, or Sharia, governs various aspects of life, integrating religious principles into legal frameworks. Important aspects include:

* Sharia regulates moral conduct, family life, and business practices.
* Islam granted women rights such as inheritance and the ability to reject marriage offers.
* Despite spiritual equality, men and women have different roles and rights within the community.

**Impact of Islam on Women**

Islam improved the status of women compared to pre-Islamic society, but challenges remained.

* The Quran prohibits the killing of daughters and encourages education for all.
* Women's rights varied by region and class, with some adopting customs from conquered peoples.
* Modesty in dress is emphasized, but interpretations vary widely.

**The Quran's Structure and Teachings**

The Quran consists of 114 suras (chapters) and is considered the word of God. Key teachings include:

* Righteousness is defined by belief in God and good deeds, including charity and prayer.
* Fasting during Ramadan is a means to attain self-discipline and gratitude.
* The Quran serves as a guide for ethical behavior and spiritual growth.

**Key Vocabulary:**

**Bedouins-** Nomadic herders who moved through the dessert to reach seasonal pasture lands for their herds.

**Muhammad-** Born in the oasis town of Mecca around A.D.570, eventually became Messenger of God to spread Islam faith.

**Mecca**- Market town at the crossroad of several caravan routes in Saudi Arabia and a pilgrimage center. Holy city of Islam

**Yathrib**- A significant city in the history of Islam that served as a refuge for Muhammad and his followers

**Hijra**- Muhammad’s sacred journey to Yathrib

**Medina**- The new name for Yathrib or “City of Prophet”

**Kaaba**- Temple built by Abraham to worship one true God, later used to worship Allah as the holy temple

**Quran**- Sacred text of Islam, teaches that God is all powerful and compassionate

**Mosque**- House of worship where Muslims gather and pray

**Hajj**- Pilgrimage to Mecca

**Jihad-** Struggle in God’s service

**Sharia-** Body of law that includes interpretations of the Quran

**Q1. What messages, or teachings, did Muhammad spread though Islam?**

Muhammad rejected traditional gods and left Mecca with his followers to Yathrib on a sacred journey called hijra. He dedicated the temple of Kaaba to Allah and practiced monotheistic. Muslims were required to study the Quan, which contains the sacred word of God, as revealed to Muhammad. It teaches about God’s will and provides a guide to life. Its standards emphasize honesty, generosity, and social justice, such as setting harsh punishments to those who commit crime.

**Q2. How did Muhammad become the prophet of Islam?**

Muhammad was known for his honesty in business and was a devoted husband father. He was troubled by the moral ills of society, especially greed. He was about 40 when he heard the voice of voice of the angel Gabriel calling him to become the messenger of God. Muhammad was confused and terrified, but his wife encouraged him to accept the call. Muhammad devoted his life to spreading Islam.

**Q3. What are the duties required of Muslims?**

All Muslims preform the 5 pillars of Islam. The first is to make a declaration of faith, the second is to pray 5 times daily in a house of worship called mosque. The third is to give charity to the poor, or Almsgiving, and the third is Fasting between dawn and sunset in the month of Ramadan. Lastly, the fifth is to make the hajji, or pilgrimage to Mecca. Additionally, Jihad is a personal duty for Islam, or struggle in God’s service.

**Q4.** **How did Islam Affect Women?**

Arab women had limited rights. However, Islam extended rights and protection to women by affirming the spiritual equality of all Muslims. The Quan prohibited the killing of daughters, granted women an inheritance, allowed women to reject a marriage offer as well as equal education to study the Quran. Sill, women’s life and dressing varied to region and class, while still having less statis than men.

**10.2 Building a Muslim Empire**

**The Death of Muhammad**

The death of Muhammad caused significant grief among his followers, raising concerns about the future of the Muslim community without his leadership.

**Early Challenges to Islam**

* After Muhammad's death, there was no designated successor, leading to uncertainty.
* Abu Bakr, Muhammad's father-in-law, was chosen as the first caliph.
* Abu Bakr emphasized the importance of worshiping God over Muhammad.
* Some Arab tribal leaders withdrew their loyalty, leading to battles to reunite the Muslims.
* Once united, Muslims launched military campaigns to convert remaining Arab tribes, ending inter-tribal warfare.

**Early Victories**

* Under the first four caliphs, Muslims achieved significant victories against the Byzantine and Persian empires.
* Key conquests included Syria, Palestine, and parts of the Persian Empire.
* Muslims captured major cities like Damascus and Jerusalem, expanding their influence.

**Divisions Emerge Within Islam**

Disagreements over leadership after Muhammad's death led to the emergence of Sunni and Shiite branches of Islam.

* Sunnis believed any good Muslim could lead, while Shiites believed only descendants of Ali and Fatima could be leaders.
* The majority of Muslims became Sunnis, following the sunna (custom) of the community.

**The Dome of the Rock**

The Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem is significant as it marks the site where Muslims believe Muhammad ascended to heaven.

**Sufism**

Sufis emerged as a mystical tradition within Islam, focusing on personal communion with God through various practices.

* Sufis were known for their piety and sometimes miraculous abilities.
* They played a role in spreading Islam by blending local traditions with Islamic teachings.

**Umayyad Caliphs Build an Empire**

After Ali's death, the Umayyad dynasty established a caliphate that expanded the Muslim empire significantly.

* Conquests extended from Spain to the Indus River Valley.
* Muslim armies defeated Byzantine forces and advanced into North Africa and Spain.
* Despite initial successes, the Umayyads faced challenges in governing a vast empire.

**Reasons for Muslim Success**

* Weakness of the Byzantine and Persian empires due to prolonged conflicts.
* Arabs were often welcomed as liberators from oppressive rule.
* Effective military strategies, including the use of cavalry.
* Unified belief in Islam motivated the Muslim armies.

**Conquered People Are Treated Fairly**

Muslim leaders imposed a tax on non-Muslims but allowed them to practice their religions, fostering a diverse society.

* Many non-Muslims converted to Islam for various reasons, including social and economic advantages.
* Islam's emphasis on equality attracted many converts.

**Decline of the Umayyad Caliphate**

As the Umayyad dynasty expanded, it faced internal and external challenges that led to its decline.

* Economic tensions arose between wealthy Arabs and poorer Muslims.
* Criticism grew regarding the Umayyads' luxurious lifestyle.
* Non-Arab Muslims felt marginalized, leading to unrest.

**Harun al-Rashid**

Caliph Harun al-Rashid's reign marked a peak in Baghdad's cultural and economic prosperity.

* He was known for his generosity and support of the arts and learning.
* Harun established diplomatic ties with European rulers, including Charlemagne.

**Rise of the Abbasids**

Abu al-Abbas led a revolt against the Umayyads, establishing the Abbasid dynasty.

* The Abbasids aimed for equality among Muslims and ended the dominance of the Arab military class.
* They moved the capital to Baghdad, fostering a diverse and prosperous culture.

**Splendors of Baghdad**

Baghdad became a cultural hub under the Abbasids, attracting scholars and artists.

* The city was known for its beauty, markets, and vibrant life.
* It surpassed Constantinople in size and wealth.

**Muslim Culture in Spain**

The Umayyad survivor established a Muslim state in Spain, promoting arts and learning.

* Muslim rulers were generally more tolerant of other religions compared to their Christian counterparts.
* Centers of learning flourished, with significant contributions from Jewish and Christian scholars.

**The Muslim Empire Declines**

By the 850s, the Abbasid control weakened, leading to fragmentation of the empire.

* Independent dynasties emerged in various regions, including Egypt.
* Invasions by the Seljuk Turks and Mongols further destabilized the empire.

**Seljuk Turks and Mongol Invasions**

The Seljuk Turks adopted Islam and built a large empire, threatening the Byzantine Empire.

* The Mongols, led by Genghis Khan, invaded and devastated Baghdad in 1258.
* Despite their conquests, the Mongols later adopted Islam and integrated with local cultures.

**Key Vocabulary:**

**Abu Bakr-** Muhammad’s father-in-law, 1st caliph

**Caliph-** Successor of Muhammad, religious leader

**Sunni-** Any religious Muslim from Muhammad’s tribe can lead the community

**Shiite-**Believe that only Muhammad’s son-in-law Ali or his descendants can rule.

**Sufis-** Muslim mystics who sought communication with God through meditation, fasting, and other rituals.

**Umayyads-** A dynasty of Sunni caliphs that ruled the Muslim empire till 750 after Ali’s death

**Q1. How did Muslims overcome early challenges to Islam?**

Abu Bakr was selected to become the first ruler and successor to Muhammad. After battles with wavering tribes, he reunited the Muslims based on their allegiance to Islam. Once united, the Muslims set on a remarkable series of military campaigns. They began by converting the remaining Arab tribes to Islam, which ended the warfare between Arabs and united them under one leader. Under the first four caliphs. The Arabs surprised their neighbors and conquered great portions of the Byzantine empire and defeated the Persians entirely.

**Q2. Describe differences between Sunni and Shiite Muslims.**

The Shiites felt that Muhammad had designated his son-in-law, Ali to become his successor, and that the true successors are only descendants of Ali or Muhammad’s daughter, Fatisma. These descendants, called Imams, are divinely inspired religious leaders, who are empowered to interpret the Quran and actions of Muhammad.

The Sunnis felt that any good Muslim could lead the community, since there are no prophets after Muhammad. The majority of Muslims eventually became Sunnis and the successor was decided to be a pious male Muslim from Muhammad’s tribe, called a caliph, a political leader of the religious community.

**Q3. What are three reasons for the success of Muslim conquests?**

The weakness of the Byzantine & Persian empires provided it easy for Muslim to conquer. People welcomed the Arabs as liberators from their harsh rule. The Arab’s bold efficient fighting methods also lead its way to success. (ex. War of Yarmuk). The Muslim also formed treaties and alliances with Spain to maintain powers. Share cultures and traditions as well as standing in the same side against enemies.

**Q4. How did Islam become a more universal faith?**

As Muslim civilization developed, many Jews & Christians played key roles as officials, doctors and translators. Muslim leaders wisely prohibited looting and destruction of conquered lands, ensuring continued wealth and prosperity for the empire in form of thrive and advantages. However, many were drawn to Islam’s simple and direct messages for them to see its triumph as a sign of God’s favor. Most nomadic in North Africa and Central Asia chose Islam immediately. Islam have no religious hierarchy (class of priests). It emphasizes the equality of all believers, regardless of race, gender, or wealth.

**Q5. What caused the Abbasid dynasty to decline?**

The Abbasids never ruled Spain and Starting about 850, their control over the rest of Muslim empire fragmented. As Caliph’s powers faded in some regions, Shiite rulers came to power with a series of invasion.

In 1216, Genghis Kran led the Mongols out of the Central Asia across southwest Asia, returning again and again. In 1258, Hulagu, the great grandson of Genghis, burned and looted Baghdad, killing the last Abbasid Caliph. In the late 1300s, another Mongol leader, Timur the lame, or Tamerlane, led his armies to the Middle East. His ambitions led him to conquered Muslim and non-Muslim lands, ending the Abbasid dynasty.

In Egypt, independent dynasties ruled states that were part of an unified empire.

**10.3 Muslim Civilization’s Golden Age**

**Key Vocabulary:**

**Social mobility-** The ability to move up in social class

**Firdawsi-** Poet who wrote in Persian using Arabic script

**Omar Khayyam-** Famous scholar and astronomer, best known for the “The Rubaiyat”

**Calligraphy-** The art of beautiful handwriting

**Ibn Rushd-** The philosopher known in Europe as Averroes – put all knowledge except Quran in the text of reason

**Ibn Khaldum-** An Arab thinker who set standards for scientific study of history

**Al-Khwarizmi-** Muslim mathematician who pioneered the study of algebra

**Muhammad al-Razi-** Medical thinker, head physician at Baghdad’s (books on medicine) chief hospital

**Ibn Sina-** Famous Persian physician, canon on medicine (Encyclopedia for disease treatment)

**Q1. What achievements did Muslims make in economics, art, literature, and science?**

Between 750 and 1350, merchants built a vast trading network across Muslim lands and beyond. Camel Caravans (ride on horseback) were called the “ships of the desert”. They crossed the Sahara Desert in Africa, East Asia, and Europe on the Silk Road spreading products, technologies, knowledge and culture. Manufactured goods were highly valued. Muslim artisans produced a wealth of fine goods.

Religion and belief shaped the arts and literature of Muslim. Muslim art and literature reflected the diverse traditions of the various people living under Muslim’s rule, such as Greeks, Indians, Romans, and Persians. Poets tell story such as “Ten Thousand and One Nights”. Domes, Mosques, and High Minarets dominated the city, decorated with geometric patterns and calligraphy within.

Al-Khwarizmi is the Muslim mathematician who pioneered the study of algebra. Muslim made remarkable advances in medicine and public health. Muhammad al-Razi was a medical thinker and head physician at Baghdad’s chief hospital and wrote books on medicine. Ibn Sina was a famous Persian physician, canon on medicine, and wrote an encyclopedia for disease treatment.

**Q2. What business practices were pioneered by merchants in Muslim lands?**

Extensive trade and a money economy led Muslims to pioneer new business practices. They created partnerships, bought and sold on credit, formed banks in all major cities, so a check written in Baghdad might be cashed in Cairo.

**Q3. What elements characterized Muslim art?**

Muslim art reflected diverse traditions of the various people and distinctive style. Artists were forbidden to use human or animal figures in religious art. Quran is a very important source for Muslim literature such as poetry. Most of the religious buildings were decorated with arabesque of abstract geometric patterns and calligraphy mosques had a dome and arches – Byzantine style.

**Q4. Why did Islam prohibit the depiction of people or animals in religious art?**

The Quran strictly banned the worship of idols and Muslim religious leaders forbade artists to portray God or human figures in religious art, giving Islamic art a distinctive style.

**Q5. How did Muslim scholars preserve and build on the learning of earlier civilizations?**

They achieved it by collecting classical works of ancient Greeks, Romans, Persians, and other early civilizations into libraries, translating them into Arabic and expanding the ideas within. They also helped spread Arabic numerals which was invented by ancient Indians.