



IDX G9 History H
Study Guide Issue S1 Finals
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The Rise of Islam

- Islam emerged in 7th-century Arabia amid social and political fragmentation following the decline of the Roman and Sassanian Empires.

Pre-Islamic Arabia

- Dominated by Bedouin tribes organized around kinship;
 - Leaders (sheikhs) chosen by councils (majlis).
- Polytheistic religion centered on spirits and sacred stones
 - The Ka'aba in Mecca housed a revered black meteorite.

Muhammad's Life and Mission

- Born in Mecca (570 CE) to a merchant family;
 - Troubled by moral decay in urban society.
- Received revelations from the angel Gabriel, later compiled into the Qur'an.
- Faced initial resistance; migrated to Medina in 622 CE (Hegira), marking Year 1 of the Islamic calendar.

- Founded the umma (Muslim community) and later conquered Mecca (630 CE), purifying the Ka'aba for monotheistic worship.

Core Teachings of Islam

- Strict monotheism: Allah is the sole, all-powerful deity.
- Muhammad is the final prophet (not divine).
- Five Pillars of Islam
 - Shahada (faith in Allah and Muhammad)
 - Salat (prayer five times daily + Friday congregational prayer)
 - Sawm (fasting during Ramadan)
 - Zakat (almsgiving)
 - Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca)
- Shari'a (Islamic law), derived from Qur'an and Hadith, regulated all aspects of life.
- Behavioral restrictions:
 - No alcohol, pork, gambling;
 - Modesty in dress and conduct;
 - Limited polygyny (max 4 wives).

The Arab Empire and Its Successors

- Rapid Arab-Muslim expansion followed Muhammad's death (632 CE), fueled by religious zeal, weakened Byzantine/Sassanian rivals, and Bedouin military mobility.

Early Caliphate

- Abu Bakr became first caliph;
 - Unified tribes and launched jihad (interpreted as both spiritual struggle and "holy war").
- Conquests: Syria (640), Egypt (640), Sassanian Persia (by 650).
- Policy:
 - Non-Muslims paid jizya (head tax) for protection;
 - Conversion was voluntary ("no compulsion in religion").

Umayyad Dynasty (661–750)

- Capital at Damascus; expansion reached Spain (710) and France (stopped at Battle of Tours, 732).
- Internal strife:

- Shi'ite-Sunni split emerged after Ali's (Muhammad's cousin/son-in-law) assassination;
- Shi'ites rejected Umayyad legitimacy.

Abbasid Dynasty (750–1258):

- Capital moved to Baghdad (762);
 - Promoted inclusivity (non-Arabs in government), cultural flourishing, and trade.
- Golden Age under Harun al-Rashid (786–809) and al-Ma'mun (813–833)
 - House of Wisdom translations and scientific advances.
- Decline:
 - Bureaucratic corruption;
 - Regional fragmentation (e.g., Fatimid Shi'ite dynasty in Egypt, 973);
 - Loss of central control.

Later Powers:

- **Seljuk Turks** (from 1055):
 - Ruled militarily as sultans;
 - Caliph retained religious authority.
 - Defeated Byzantines at Manzikert (1071), triggering the Crusades.
- **Crusades** (1096–1291):
 - European Christian invasions;
 - Briefly occupied Jerusalem.
 - Saladin (Sunni leader) recaptured Jerusalem (1187) with notable restraint.
- **Mongols** (1258):
 - Sacked Baghdad, ending Abbasid Caliphate;
 - Later converted to Islam, aiding cultural revival in Cairo under Mamluks.
- **Al-Andalus (Muslim Spain)**:
 - Umayyad survivor founded emirate (756) in Córdoba; declared caliphate (929).
 - Cultural/religious tolerance (*convivencia*) under early rulers; declined under puritanical Berber Almoravids/Almohads.
 - Intellectual center: Córdoba's libraries, paper production; figures like Averroës.
 - Last stronghold: Granada (Alhambra palace); fell in 1492.

Islamic Civilization

- Islam as a holistic system: religion, law, politics, and daily life were integrated.

Society and Economy

- Egalitarian ideals (all equal before Allah);
 - Slavery still persisted (non-Muslims only) in army/households.
- Women:
 - Respected but subordinate;
 - Veiling/seclusion common in cities (more cultural than Qur'anic).
- Thriving trade:
 - Dhows dominated Indian Ocean;
 - Baghdad/Cairo as commercial hubs;
 - Trans-Eurasian exchange (e.g., paper, crops).

Intellectual/Cultural Achievements

- Preserved/advanced Greek knowledge (Aristotle, Ptolemy);
 - Developed algebra, astronomy, medicine (Avicenna's Canon).
- Literature:
 - Persian epics (Ferdowsi's Book of Kings);
 - Sufi poetry (Rumi);
 - Folktales (1001 Nights).
- Art/Architecture:
 - Aniconic (no human figures);
 - Geometric/vegetal arabesques;
 - Calligraphy;
 - Iconic structures (Dome of the Rock, Great Mosque of Córdoba, Alhambra).

Early Civilizations in Africa

The Emergence of Civilization

- Africa's diverse geography shaped varied societal developments.

Early Agriculture

- Independent origins:
 - Nubia (sorghum, millet by 5000 BCE);
 - Spread south/west as Sahara dried (after 3000 BCE).
- Bantu migrations (from Nigeria, starting c. 1000 BCE):

- Disseminated ironworking, farming (yams, bananas) across sub-Saharan Africa.

Key Kingdoms:

- **Kush/Meroë** (Nubia):
 - Iron production hub;
 - Pyramids for royal tombs;
 - Conquered by Axum (4th century CE).
- **Axum** (Ethiopia): Christian kingdom (from 4th century CE)
 - Traded ivory/slaves via Red Sea port Adulis;
 - Rock-hewn churches.

Trans-Saharan Trade:

- Camel (introduced c. 1st century CE) enabled caravans (“fleets of the desert”)
- Connected Mediterranean (salt, textiles) with West Africa (gold, ivory).

The Coming of Islam

- Islam spread via trade/conquest, blending with local traditions.
- **North Africa:**
 - Arab conquest (641 CE);
 - Berbers gradually converted;
 - Founded Muslim states in Maghreb.
- **West Africa:**
 - Rulers adopted Islam for trade/administrative ties (e.g., Ghana, Mali).
- **Mali Empire:**
 - Mansa Musa’s hajj (1324) showcased wealth;
 - Timbuktu became center of Islamic scholarship.
- **East Africa:**
 - Swahili coast city-states (Kilwa, Mombasa):
 - Cosmopolitan trade hubs (gold, ivory for Chinese porcelain, Indian cloth).
 - Swahili language/culture: Bantu base + Arabic/Persian influences; elites converted to Islam.
- **Ethiopia:**
 - Isolated Christian stronghold;
 - Resisted Muslim expansion;

- Zagwe/Solomonic dynasties.

States and Noncentralized Societies

- **Central/Southern Africa:**

- **Congo Basin:**

- Kingdoms of Luba/Kongo (14th century);
- Decentralized, clan-based.

- **Zimbabwe:**

- Stone-walled capital (Great Zimbabwe, c. 1100–1450);
- Controlled gold trade to Swahili coast.

- **Southern Africa:**

- Bantu farmers coexisted/absorbed Khoisan hunter-gatherers (San rock art).

African Society

- **Social Organization:**

- Lineage groups/clans:

- Core of identity;
- Matrilineal descent common (e.g., property to sister's son).

- **Women:**

- Vital in agriculture/commerce;
- Less secluded than in Muslim Asia;
- Polygyny widespread.

- **Slavery:**

- Existed pre-Europeans (POWs, domestic labor);
- Expanded via trans-Saharan/Indian Ocean trade.

- **Urban vs. Rural:**

- Cities (Timbuktu, Kilwa): trade centers with stone architecture

- Rulers closely tied to merchant class.

- Villages: Mud-thatch huts; “big man” leadership; self-sufficient.

African Culture

- **Art:**

- Rock paintings (Tassili, San);

- Nok terra-cottas (500 BCE);

- Benin/Ifé bronze sculpture (lost-wax casting).
 - Masks/sculpture: ritual/spiritual functions (ancestor veneration, initiation).
- **Music/Dance:**
 - Rhythmic, communal, “call-and-response”;
 - Instruments (drums, xylophones);
 - Preserved oral history.
- **Literature:**
 - Oral epics (e.g., Son-Jara of Mali);
 - Proverbs, bards as historians/mediators.
- **Architecture:**
 - Regional diversity:
 - Egyptian/Axumite stelae;
 - Great Zimbabwe’s dry-stone walls;
 - West African mud mosques.

Europe in the Early Middle Ages

Geography and Legacy of Rome

- Unlike Han China, Europe after 476 CE experienced fragmentation: no centralized successor to the Western Roman Empire.
- Three pillars of new European civilization:
 - **Roman legacy:** Latin language, law (e.g., *Twelve Tables*), infrastructure (roads, aqueducts), Christian institutions.
 - **Germanic peoples:** Migrated into Roman lands; brought customs like the *wergeld* (man-price for crimes) and the *ordeal* (trial by fire/water to prove innocence).
- **Christian Church:** Became the unifying spiritual and cultural force amid political chaos.

Germanic Kingdoms

- **Ostrogoths (Italy):** Theodoric preserved Roman administration but kept Goths and Romans separate.
- **Visigoths (Spain):** Continued Roman legal traditions.
- **Vandals (North Africa):** Briefly sacked Rome (455 CE); defeated by Byzantines.
- **Franks (Gaul/Germany):** Most successful Germanic kingdom.

- **Clovis (r. c. 482–511)**: Converted to **Catholic Christianity** (not Arianism), gaining papal support and uniting Gaul.

Monasticism and the Church

- **Monks** (male), **nuns** (female): withdrew from world to follow God; lived communally under rules.
- **St. Benedict (c. 480–543)**: Created the *Rule of St. Benedict*:
- **Ora et labora** (“Pray and work”): 7 daily prayers + manual labor.
- **Abbot** led monastery; vows: obedience, stability, *conversatio morum* (conversion of life).
- **Missionaries**:
 - **St. Patrick (c. 390–461)**: Converted Ireland.
 - **St. Hilda (d. 680)**: Founded Whitby Abbey; promoted learning for women.
- Irish & Anglo-Saxon monks evangelized Germania.

Charlemagne and the Carolingian Empire (768–814)

- **Pepin the Short (751)**: First Carolingian king (overthrew Merovingians with papal blessing).
- **Charlemagne**: expanded empire; conquered Lombards (Italy), Saxons (Germany), Bavaria.
- **Administration**: Local rule by **counts**.
- **Missi dominici** (“envoys of the lord king”) inspected counts; reported directly to Charlemagne.
- **Carolingian Renaissance**: Revived learning: copied manuscripts, promoted schools (Alcuin of York at Aachen).
- **Coronation (800 CE)**: Pope Leo III crowned Charlemagne *Imperator Romanorum* (“Emperor of the Romans”).
- **Significance**: Symbolized fusion of Roman, Christian, and Germanic traditions → birth of “Christendom.”

Collapse of the Carolingian Empire & Feudalization

- **Treaty of Verdun (843)**: Empire divided among Charlemagne’s grandsons:
 - **West Francia** → France
 - **East Francia** → Germany
 - **Middle Kingdom** → contested (Lotharingia, Italy)

- **Invasions (9th–10th c.):**
 - **Vikings (Norsemen):** Raided coasts/river towns (e.g., Paris 845, England 865+); settled Normandy (911), Ireland, Iceland, even Newfoundland.
 - **Magyars:** Raided Central Europe until defeated at **Lechfeld (955)** → converted to Christianity, founded Hungary.
 - **Muslims:** Attacked Mediterranean coasts (e.g., Rome 846).
- **Feudalism (lord–vassal system):**
 - **Fief:** Land granted by lord to vassal in exchange for **military service** (≈ 40 days/year).
 - **Subinfeudation:** Vassals granted parts of fiefs to *their* vassals → complex loyalty chains.
 - **Knight:** Armored cavalry (stirrup + heavy lance); social elite; later adopted **chivalry** (code of honor, loyalty, protection of weak).
- **Manorial System:**
 - **Manor:** Self-sufficient estate; economic unit of feudalism.
 - **Lord's demesne:** Land worked *for* the lord ($\approx 1/3$ – $1/2$ of arable land).
 - **Serfs:** Peasants bound to land; owed labor, rent (in kind), and fees (marriage, inheritance); not slaves (could not be sold apart from land).
 - **Life:** Simple cottages (wattle-and-daub), 3-field crop rotation, communal ovens/mills.

Europe in the High Middle Ages

Agricultural & Demographic Revolution

- **Population:** ~38 million (1000) → ~74 million (1300).
- **New farming tech:**
 - **Carruca:** Heavy wheeled plow (iron plowshare); enabled cultivation of northern clay soils.
 - **Horse collar & horseshoes:** Replaced oxen → faster plowing.
 - **Three-field system:** Only 1/3 fallow (vs. 1/2 in two-field) → 50% more land cultivated.
 - **Watermills & windmills:** Harnessed non-human power for grinding, fulling cloth, sawing wood.

Social Classes

- **Peasants** (majority) dieted on dark bread (wheat/rye/barley), vegetables, cheese, ale; meat rare.
- **Women** managed household, brewed ale, spun/weaved, assisted in fields; marriage = economic partnership.
 - They also managed estates when husbands at war; inherited/controlled property (e.g., **Eleanor of Aquitaine**).
- **Nobility**: warrior class (knights); trained from age 7 (page → squire → knight).
 - **Chivalry** idealized (e.g., protecting Church, honor in combat), but often ignored in practice.
- **Burghers/Townspeople**:
 - Artisans & merchants in growing cities.
 - Founded **guilds** (craft or trade associations); regulated quality, prices, training (apprentice → journeyman → master).

Urban Revival & Trade

- **Trade hubs**:
 - **Italy**: Venice, Genoa, Florence (connected Mediterranean to Byzantium & Islam).
 - **Flanders**: Bruges, Ghent (wool cloth trade).
 - **Champagne Fairs**: Annual trade fairs linking N. & S. Europe.
- **Commercial Revolution**:
 - **Money economy** replaced barter.
 - **Banking**: Letters of credit, partnerships.
 - **Capitalism**: Investment for profit (e.g., Italian merchant banks).
- **Cities**:
 - Grew near castles/monasteries (e.g., *-burgh*, *-bourg* in names).
 - **Communes**: Self-governing towns (esp. in Italy); bought charters granting freedoms (e.g., trial by peers, inheritance rights).
- **Gov't**: Male citizens elected councils/mayors.
- **Conditions**: Crowded, wooden buildings, fire risk, polluted rivers (tanners/butchers), public baths (mixed-gender, permissive).

Rise of Monarchies

- **England:**
 - **Norman Conquest (1066):** William the Conqueror → strong centralized rule (Domesday Book, 1086).
 - **Henry II (1154–1189):** Created **common law** (royal courts); clashed with **Thomas à Becket** (Archbishop of Canterbury, murdered 1170).
 - **Magna Carta (1215):** Limited royal power; established rule of law (e.g., no taxation without baronial consent).
 - **Parliament (1295):** Edward I summoned Commons (knights/burgesses) + Lords — foundation of representative gov't.
- **France:**
 - **Capetian Dynasty (987–1328):** Started weak (Île-de-France only); expanded under:
 - **Philip II Augustus (1180–1223):** Defeated English Plantagenets; seized Normandy.
 - **Philip IV the Fair (1285–1314):** Created **Estates-General** (1302); clashed with Pope Boniface VIII → **Avignon Papacy (1309–1377)**.
- **Holy Roman Empire:**
 - **Otto I (936–973):** Crowned emperor (962); intervened in Italy.
 - **Frederick I Barbarossa (1152–1190) & Frederick II (1212–1250):** Tried to control Italy → failed against Papacy + Lombard League (e.g., Battle of Legnano, 1176).
 - Result: Germany remained fragmented; no strong central monarchy.
- **Iberia:**
 - **Reconquista:** Christian kingdoms (Castile, Aragon, Portugal) reconquered from Muslims (completed 1492).
 - **Convivencia:** Period of Christian/Jewish/Muslim coexistence (e.g., under Alfonso X, “King of Three Religions”).
- **Eastern Europe:**
 - **Slavs:** Divided into W., S., E. groups.
 - **W. Slavs (Poles, Czechs):** Converted to Catholicism (by German missionaries).

- **S. Slavs (Serbs, Bulgarians):** Converted to Orthodoxy (by **Cyril & Methodius**, 863).
- **Kievan Rus':** Founded by Vikings (Rus'); adopted Byzantine Christianity (988, **Vladimir**); sacked (1169) → Mongol rule (1230s–1480; **Alexander Nevsky** collaborated).

Church Reform & Spiritual Life

- **Investiture Controversy (1075–1122):**
 - **Pope Gregory VII** banned lay investiture (kings appointing bishops).
 - **Henry IV:** Defied pope → excommunicated; **Walk to Canossa (1077)** (penitent in snow).
 - **Concordat of Worms (1122):** Compromise: Church invested spiritual authority; emperor granted temporal lands.
- **Papal Monarchy:**
 - **Innocent III (1198–1216):** Height of papal power; used **interdict** (suspension of sacraments) to pressure rulers.
 - **Papal Inquisition (1230s):** **Dominicans** investigated heresy (e.g., Cathars); punishment: penance, imprisonment, or (if unrepentant) execution by state.
- **Religious Orders:**
 - **Cistercians (1098):** Strict reform (e.g., **St. Bernard of Clairvaux**); emphasized manual labor + prayer.
 - **Franciscans (1209):** **St. Francis of Assisi** — poverty, preaching, care for poor.
 - **Dominicans (1216):** **St. Dominic** — preaching, education, anti-heresy.
- **Popular Piety:**
 - **Sacraments** (e.g., Eucharist, baptism): Essential for salvation.
 - **Saints & relics:** Intercessors with God; relics (bones, objects) housed in churches (e.g., St. Oswald's arm).
- **Virgin Mary:** “Mediator” between sinners and Christ; cathedrals dedicated to *Notre-Dame* (“Our Lady”).

Intellectual & Cultural Revival

- **Universities:**

- Began as guilds (*universitas*): **Bologna** (law, 1088), **Paris** (theology, c. 1150), **Oxford** (c. 1167).
- **Curriculum:**
 - *Trivium*: Grammar, rhetoric, logic
 - *Quadrivium*: Arithmetic, geometry, music, astronomy
 - Advanced: Law, medicine, theology
- **Scholasticism**: Synthesized faith & reason (e.g., Aristotle + Christianity).
- **Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274)**: *Summa Theologica*; used logic to prove God's existence; "Five Ways."
- **Architecture**:
 - **Romanesque (1000–1150)**: Thick walls, barrel vaults, small windows (e.g., Abbey Church of Saint-Sernin, Toulouse).
 - **Gothic (1150–1300)**:
 - Innovations: Ribbed vaults, pointed arches, **flying buttresses**
 - Effects: Height, light, stained-glass windows (divine light)
 - Examples: Notre-Dame (Paris), Chartres, Reims
- **Literature**:
 - **Chanson de geste** (e.g., *Song of Roland*): Celebrated Charlemagne's knights.
 - **Troubadours**: Courtly love poetry (southern France).

Medieval Europe and the World

The Crusades (1095–1291)

- **Causes**:
 - **Byzantine request** for help vs. Seljuk Turks (Pope Urban II, Council of Clermont, 1095).
 - Spiritual: "Armed pilgrimage" → remission of sins.
 - Social: Landless knights, adventure, trade opportunities.
- **Major Crusades**:
 - **First (1096–1099)**: Captured Jerusalem (1099); established crusader states (e.g., Kingdom of Jerusalem).
 - **Second (1147–1149)**: Failed (led by St. Bernard; Conrad III & Louis VII).

- **Third (1189–1192):** Saladin recaptured Jerusalem (1187); Richard I negotiated Christian access.
- **Fourth (1202–1204):** Sacked Constantinople (1204) → Latin Empire (1204–1261); deepened East-West schism.
- **Effects:**
 - **Economic:** Boosted Italian trade (Venice); introduced Eastern goods (sugar, spices).
 - **Cultural:** Limited intellectual exchange (more in Sicily/Spain); increased anti-Semitism (massacres began in 1096).
 - **Long-term:** Muslim world viewed Crusades as Western imperialism → legacy of distrust.

Global Contacts

- **Silk Road:** Linked Europe to China (e.g., Marco Polo, 1271–1295).
- **Mongol Empire (13th c.):** Facilitated travel/trade across Eurasia (*Pax Mongolica*).
- **Viking Exploration:** Reached North America (L'Anse aux Meadows, Newfoundland, c. 1000).

Key Comparisons & Themes

Theme	Early Middle Ages (500–1000)	High Middle Ages (1000–1300)
Political	Fragmented Germanic kingdoms → feudalism	Stronger monarchies (England, France)
Economic	Manorial self-sufficiency	Commercial revolution; urban growth
Cultural	Preservation (monasteries)	Innovation (universities, Gothic)
Religious	Conversion of Europe	Papal power peak; reform & heresy

Contrast with Byzantium/Islam:

- Europe: Decentralized, Latin West, Catholic.
- Byzantium: Centralized, Greek East, Orthodox.
- Islam: Unified *ummah*, Arabic, dynamic science/trade.