



IDX G9 History H
Study Guide Issue S1 Finals
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Contents:

1. The Rise of Islam
2. Early Civilizations in Africa
3. Europe in the Early Middle Ages
4. Europe in the High Middle Ages
5. Medieval Europe and the World

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 (≈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.