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DBQ 3: WORLD RELIGIONS: ORIGINS AND INFLUENCE ON THE WORLD

Historical Background

According to the ancient manuscripts of the Muslim people, Muhammad, a merchant, journeyed to a cave outside of the boundaries of his native Mecca to facilitate meditation. During his time of reflection, the archangel Gabriel arrived and bestowed upon Muhammad Allah’s holy word. These words became the foundation of Islam. Years later, the growth of the Islamic Empire following the death of the prophet, Muhammad, caused the establishment of caliphates. Caliphates were vast geographical regions that were ruled by caliphs. The caliphs served as successors of Muhammad, and with the help of Muslim missionaries, they engaged the local populations with Islamic teachings from the Quran. In addition, the establishment of Muslim economics and commerce, along with the expansion of the Ottoman Empire, caused Islam to flourish from the holy city of Mecca toward the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. Islamic development reached Southern and Eastern Asia, which nurtured the blend of international and Muslim cultures. This era is known as the Golden Age of Islam because of the number of various architects, scientists [...], and theorists active during the time, which created an atmosphere of cultural enrichment.

SECTION 1	QUESTION: Why did Islam expand rapidly throughout the world?
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The following documents will examine why Islam expanded so quickly throughout the world. Analyze each document carefully, and answer the question or questions that follow.

Document A

<p>Believe, or else pay tribute. And be obedient unto the Lord and his Prophet, and the messengers of his Prophet. Honor them and clothe them with excellent vestments, not with inferior raiment... If ye desire to have security by sea and by land, obey the Lord and his Apostle, and he will defend you from every claim, whether by Arab or foreigner, saving the claim of the Lord and his Apostle. But if ye oppose and displease them, I will not accept from you a single thing, until I have fought against you and taken captive your little ones and slain the elder.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Muhammad, 609–632 CE</p>

1. According to Muhammad, what does Allah provide for obedient followers?





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2. How are those who are disobedient punished?

3. How does Muhammad's proclamation increase the appeal of Islam?

Document B

Ye shall do battle with them, or they shall profess Islam. If ye obey, a goodly recompense will God give you; but if ye turn back, as ye turned back aforetime, He will chastise you with a sore chastisement.

It shall be no crime on the part of the blind, the lame, or the sick, if they go not to the fight. But whoso shall obey God and His Apostle, he shall bring him into the gardens 'neath which the rivers flow: but whoso shall turn back, He will punish him with a sore punishment.

Quran, 609-632 CE

1. When it comes to conquests in other countries, what choice does the Quran offer for non-Muslim people? Does this attitude persist today?

2. List two promises that the Quran provides for disciples willing to fight for Allah's honor.

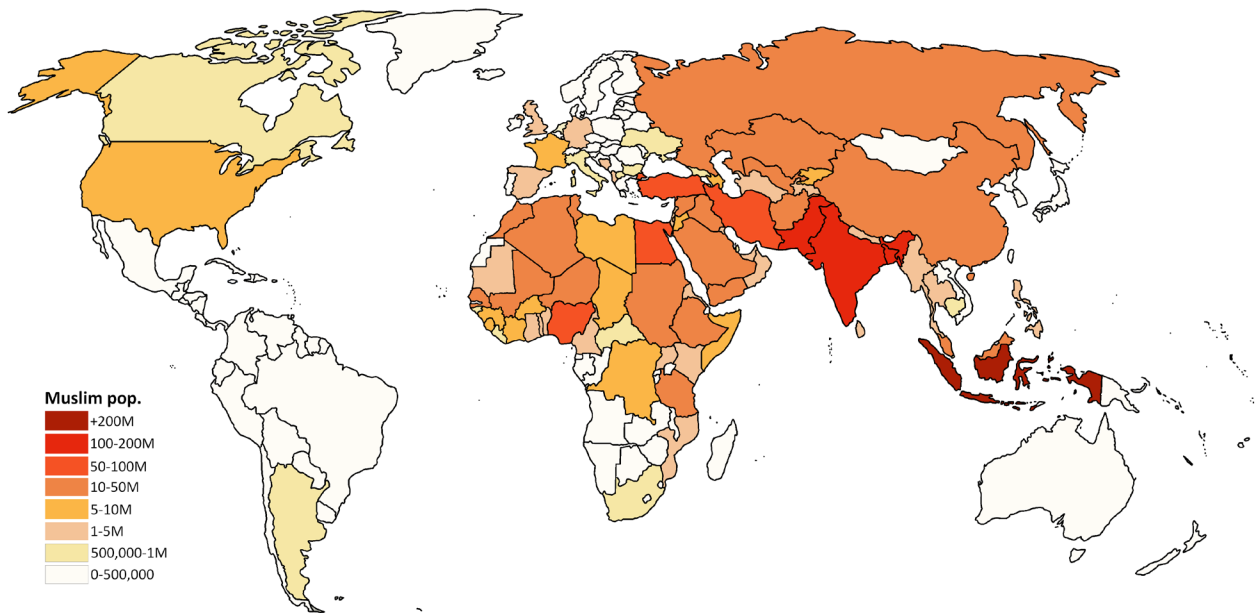




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3. Explain how this passage connects with the swift expansion of the Islamic faith.

Document C



Muslim Distribution Map of the World
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1. Where are the highest concentrations of Muslims found? Why might that be?

2. According to the map, which regions of the world has Islam reached?





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Document D



Islamic Library Manuscript, 13th Century CE

1. Describe the appearance of the men in this mural.

2. How does the mural convey the spread of Islam?





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Document E

...(W)hoever killed a human being, except as punishment for murder or other villainy... shall be deemed as having killed all mankind; and... whoever saved a human life shall be deemed as having saved all mankind... (5:32)

But the believers who do good works, both men and women, shall enter Paradise. They shall not suffer the least injustice. (4:124)

Do not devour one another's property by unjust means, nor bribe the judges with it in order that you may wrongfully and knowingly usurp [take] other people's possessions... (2:188)

Permission to take up arms is hereby given to those who are attacked, because they have been wronged. God has power to grant them victory. (22:39)

Quran, 609-632 CE

1. How do the passages provide a code of conduct for the followers of Islam? Use specific examples to support your answer.

2. Thinking about the appeal of the Quran in early history, how does this appeal sustain itself today?





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Document F

The Ordinances of Government

1. To maintain the religion according to established principles and the consensus of the first generation of Muslims. If... some dubious person deviates from it, the Imam must clarify the proofs of religion to him, expound that which is correct, and apply to him the proper rules and penalties so that religion may be protected from injury and the community safeguarded from error.
2. To execute judgments between litigants and to settle disputes between contestants so that justice may prevail and so that none commit or suffer injustice.
3. To defend the lands of Islam and to protect them from intrusion so that people may earn their livelihood and travel at will without danger to life or property.
4. To enforce the legal penalties for the protection of God's commandments from violation and for the preservation of the rights of his servants from injury or destruction...
5. To wage... jihad against those who, after having been invited to accept Islam, persist in rejecting it, until they either become Muslims or enter the Pact so that God's truth may prevail over every religion.

The Ordinances of Government, 975 CE
Abu al-Hasan al-Mawardi

1. According to *The Ordinances of Government*, what are some of the responsibilities to be carried out by the caliphs?

2. How are some of the ordinances currently carried out in the United States?





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Document G

Heraclius gathered large bodies of Greeks, Syrians, Mesopotamians and Armenians numbering about 200,000. This army he put under the command of one of his choice men... The Moslems gathered together and the [Byzantine] army marched against them. The battle they fought at al-Yarmuk was of the fiercest and bloodiest kind... In this battle 24,000 Moslems took part. The [Byzantines] and their followers in the battle tied themselves to each other by chains, so that no one might set his hope on flight. By Allah's help, some 70,000 of them were put to death...

When Heraclius massed his troops against the Moslems and the Moslems heard that they were coming to meet them at al-Yarmuk, the Moslems refunded to the inhabitants of Hims the [tribute] they had taken from them saying, "We are too busy to support and protect you. Take care of yourselves." But the people of Hims replied, "We like your rule and justice far better than the state of oppression and tyranny in which we were. The army of Heraclius we shall indeed... repulse from the city."...Saying this, they closed the gates of the city and guarded them... When by Allah's help the "unbelievers" were defeated and the Moslems won, they opened the gates of their cities, went out with the singers and music players who began to play, and paid the [land tax].

The Origins of the Islamic State, 850 CE
Ahmad ibn-Jabir al-Baladhuri

1. What opinion did the people of Hims hold about the Muslims, according to this passage?

2. How did the weakened Byzantine Empire facilitate the progression of the Islamic faith and culture?





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Document H



The Kaaba in Mecca
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1. Why is the holy city of Mecca popular?

SECTION 2

ESSAY TOPIC: Why did Islam expand rapidly throughout the world?

