



AP[®] World History 2003 Sample Student Responses

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As trade began to flourish, so did the spread of Islam. ~~From~~ From 1000 CE to 1750 CE Islam had an ~~scope~~ ^{impact} on Europe culturally, economically, and politically. In the 600's CE when Islam was founded it had a steady growing impact on the nations surrounding it. Slowly even spreading to Spain and Portugal in the early stages of this time period. ~~around~~ In the 11th century wars between the ~~Islamic~~ Muslim arabs and the European Christians would take place, and later on from the 1500's to the 1700's ~~years~~ ^{ties} would be broken between the two concerning trade.

As Islam spread to the European countries of Spain and Portugal many changes took place. Clashes of Religions resulted in clashes of culture. Before Islamic rule, Europeans were Catholics. Yet with Islamic rule, the countries would prosper with trade despite cultural and political differences.

The cultural differences in religions of ~~the~~ Islam and Christianity resulted in the Holy wars of the 11th century. Politically both wanted to acquire the holy land between them. Although the end result, was

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~~the~~ victory for Europeans, economically the war was very costly.

In the ~~16th~~ 15th century the Spanish inquisition ~~was~~ was a major factor in the ties being broken with the Mediterranean sea trade. The inquisition was to purify the countries of all non-Christians. Many of the wealthy traders in the area of Spain and Italy were Muslims. The Muslims were forced to convert ^{to Catholicism} or be excommunicated from the country. Because of Islam in Spain during this time, trade in Southern Europe around the Mediterranean decreased.

Islam and Christianity has ~~never~~ ^{always} been a factor in the conflict between Arabs and Europeans. Even today, both religions and peoples ~~are~~ war over political issues and ~~class~~ clashes of culture that result in economic deprivation.

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Islam was a major religion, but it was also a political and economic force to be reckoned with.

Spreading from the Arabian peninsula where it originated, Islam brought ~~many~~ ^{much} cultural, economic, and political impact to Europe.

Islam's cultural influence was also mixed with its religion. Because Islam forbade the use of human or animal depictions, the Muslims started mosaic and geometric art. This art used widely in mosques spread to Europe as something new and unique. Calligraphy was also an Arab-Islamic development and spaced many a letter heads at the time. Islamic culture was extremely well developed in the practice of science, chemistry, algebra, astronomy, and metallurgy. At this time Europe was culturally behind. Islam introduced the human anatomy, and algebra. ~~There were~~ ~~found~~ ~~at~~ ~~the~~ ~~time~~ ~~which~~ ~~contributed~~ ~~greatly~~ ~~to~~ ~~later~~ ~~the~~ ~~concept~~ ~~of~~ ~~education~~. Islam translated Greek texts and as the Ottoman Empire expanded, Europe took on the crusades. Though they lost, Europeans were able to get the ancient Greek texts and enrich their culture.

Economics was one of the bigger reasons for Islamic empires succeeding and therefore affected Europe. As the Ottoman Empire and Safavid Empire arose, so did the Silk Road and slave trade continue. Europeans had to trade with the Arabs because the Arabs got silk, spices, produced

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cottons, metals, and food from either their own vast empires or from their own trade networks. They then traded these goods with the Europeans. As a result, Constantinople became a huge metropolitan in the West, and Samarkand in the East. Arab-Islamic travelers such as Ibn Battuta helped this interaction. Another economic profit of the Muslims were slaves. The Arab slave trade was established long ago, almost before the time of Muhammad, but Europeans only came to know of this lucrative business when the Muslims expanded under the Abbasid, Umayyad, and Ottomans. Once the Europeans got into the slave trade, a turning point in history was achieved.

Islamic politics not only introduced to the Europeans, government, treatment of peoples, but also how the armies prevailed, weaponry. The Muslims almost always had a monarchy, however in their case they had what were caliphs, religious and political leaders. By having two in one instead of a separate church and pope like the Europeans, decisions were swiftly ~~and~~ made and carried out. Europeans could see how well this worked specially under Abu Bakr, the first caliph and the Abbasid & Ottoman empires that later prevailed. Islamic rule practiced religious tolerance mostly another point that the Europeans ^{were} having difficulty with specially after the Great Schism. The Ottomans created

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'millets' or localized neighborhoods for each religion, and this practice was later adopted & adapted by Germany to keep the Jews separate. While the Ottomans used it to keep the peace, the Nazis created racial problems. Through warfare the Muslims introduced gunpowder a major reason for their victories and helped Europe expand its technology and political goals. Later they used their knowledge of gunpowder to make cannons. The Islamic empires large political goals helped influence Europe's politics, economics, and culture.

During 1000 CE to 1750 C.E Islam was a huge power that affected relatively backward Europe politically, economically, and culturally. It introduced science, medicine, Islamic art & texts, a new religion, form of governing, gunpowder, and trade to the Europeans. Perhaps it provided the boost that allowed Europe to prevail over it in later centuries to come.

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Islam, as a religious and political force, has played a major role in the development of history. Its influence can be felt throughout the world, from Indonesia to New York City. One of the most volatile historical forces, Islam had a deep impact on West Africa in particular, in terms of culture, economics, and politics from 1000 C.E. to 1750 C.E., an impact swelling with numerous changes and continuities.

In terms of culture, Islam played a major role in West Africa. There was already a burgeoning Islamic force in North Africa, and the nations in West Africa that followed suit ~~were, namely, Ghana and Songhai~~ ^{the} ~~empires~~ found a cultural fusion occur similar to that of the Oceanic nations influenced by Buddhism and Islam. Many Africans were attracted to the Muslim faith, and great concentrations of Islamic Africans could be found in Ghana and what is today Nigeria. Introduced by Islamic merchants, the faith came to be blended with local and provincial beliefs, rituals, and superstitions, a development that mortified such Islamic scholars as Ibn Battuta. These Islamic Arab-Islamic luminaries were shocked by the casual nature of "Muslim" African women, who often went out in public, and without a breast-covering no less. However, Islam remained present in West Africa, as seen in its economy.

Islamic merchants began the influence Islam had in

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terms of economics in West Africa. Islam had always had ties to mercantilism - Mohammed's family was comprised of merchants as well as many other central Islamic figures, owing to, among other things, the Arab world's location near the Indian Ocean and its relationship with the Silk Road. In West Africa, many trading hubs were established by Islamic merchants, and the profits found in this situation brought most of the economic ~~system~~ support ~~into~~ ⁱⁿ West Africa until the European powers began delving into the continent. One of the largest such centers was that of Timbuktu, whose metropolitan climate was a haze of Muslim and African traditions and trade.

Most notable of the results of Islam in West Africa ~~to~~ was the development of Islam-centric states. The Songhai empire was rooted in Islamic politics ~~as was~~. (Ghana, and Nigeria) The Muslims retained strong presences in these areas as well as in lands such as Zimbabwe. (Indeed, these Muslim-influenced countries preceded the European Christian domination that was to come, as outlined in Achebe's classic Things Fall Apart. However, this is not to say the Muslim politics of these nations, in contrast to that of the aforementioned European colonialization were always a favorable force. As with subsequent colonialization in Africa, disorder and great conflicts

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were precipitated by the ethnic makeup of the region. Numerous Tribes and dialects prevented effective and cohesive domination of African lands, ~~as evidenced by the recent clashes between~~ The introduction of Islam into these lands only created more conflict, and the imposition of borders now holds together the violent conflict between the opposing ~~populations~~ Christian and Muslim populations in Modern day Nigeria, a situation similar to that in pre-Pakistan India between Hindus and Muslims.

In all, one can see that Muslim impact began slowly in West Africa, reaching a head in the development of Islamic Nations, and subsiding with the European incursions of the 1800's and 1900's. Numerous African^{West} ~~are~~ affected by the muslim presence in West Africa, and the relationship forged between the two identities can easily be seen in such figures as the civil-rights pioneer Malcolm X and the legendary Hip-Hop artist Q-tip. The role of Islam in West Africa helped to shape the identities of ~~the African~~ West Africa and continues as a cultural, economic, and political force to this day.