

Chapter 9—The Worlds of Islam: Afro-Eurasian Connections, 600–1500

Seeking the Main Point

In what ways did the civilization of Islam draw upon other civilizations in the Afro-Eurasian world? And in what respects did it shape or transform those civilizations?

Download and save this document so you can return to it as you take notes and for studying. As you read the chapter, fill in the chart below to remind you of the important ways that Islam influenced and was influenced by other Eurasian civilizations. While taking these notes look for categories (social, political, cultural, etc.) that might help you organize your notes into an essay. If you copy-and-paste from the text, make sure to put quotation marks around the copied material; however, if you can think of a way to put it into your own words, you should do so.

	Outside Influences on Islam	Islam’s Influence on Other Civilizations
The Birth of a New Religion	•	•
The Homeland of Islam	•	•
The Messenger and the Message	•	•
The Transformation of Arabia	•	•
The Making of an Arab Empire	•	•
War, Conquest, and Tolerance	•	•
Conversion	•	•
Divisions and Controversies	•	•
Women and Men in Early Islam	•	•
Islam and Cultural Encounter: A Four-Way Comparison	•	•
The Case of India	•	•
The Case of Anatolia	•	•
The Case of West Africa	•	•
The Case of Spain	•	•
The World of Islam as a New Civilization	•	•
Networks of Faith	•	•
Networks of Exchange	•	•
Reflections: Past and Present: Choosing Our History	•	•

After you have read the chapter, use your notes to compose an essay that answers this question:

How did the Islamic civilization that emerged after 600 draw on the religious, social, cultural, and political traditions of Afro-Eurasian civilizations beyond its Arabian homeland? In what ways did Islam transform the cultures with which it interacted?

Be sure to include an opening, introductory paragraph in which you state your thesis. Then use the body of your essay to provide evidence from the chapter to support that thesis. Remember that your answer must reflect the variety of experiences across the Islamic world. Use column two of your chart to help with this aspect of the essay. End by writing a clear conclusion to your essay.