**Chapter Summary.** By the mid-9th century, the Abbasids were losing control over their vast Muslim empire. Despite the political decline, Islamic civilization reached new cultural heights, and Islam expanded widely in the Afro-Asian world through conquest and peaceful conversion. The extensive Islamic world stimulated the exchange of ideas and commodities among its peoples and neighbors.

What were dhows and how did they contribute to the spread of Islamic civilization?

What contributed to the fall of the Abbasid empire?

**THE ISLAMIC HEARTLANDS IN THE MIDDLE AND LATE ABBASID ERA**

What symptoms of decline began under al-Mahdi?

What was the most important problem the Abbasids faced?

**IMPERIAL EXTRAVAGANCE AND SUCCESSION DISPUTES**

What piece of literature immortalized Harun al-Rashid’s court?

Who wielded power at the caliph’s expense?

What ended the real power of the caliphs?

**IMPERIAL BREAKDOWN AND AGRARIAN DISORDER**

On whom did the burden of luxury and unrest fall? How?

How is Abbasid decline similar to Roman decline?

**DECLINING POSITION OF WOMEN IN THE FAMILY AND SOCIETY**

What became symbols of women’s subjugation during the Abbasid Caliphate?

What jobs did slaves hold in the Abbasid Caliphate?

Where did they acquire their slaves?

What were some of the positive aspects of being a slave?

How did women try to gain power and control?

Was this treatment of women a change from the past or had it remained constant?

**NOMADIC INCURSIONS AND THE ECLIPSE OF CALIPHAL POWER**

What groups began to break away from the Abbasid Caliphate?

What group of leaders took the title of sultan? How long did that last?

Name and describe the group that took power in 1055.

**THE IMPACT OF THE CHRISTIAN CRUSADES**

What piece of real estate was desired by both Christians and Muslims?

To what extent was the Christian challenge successful?

Who united the Muslims to reconquer land lost to the Christians?

Who was impacted the most from the Crusades? How?

**AN AGE OF LEARNING AND ARTISTIC REFINEMENTS**

Describe some of the artistic advancements Islam is famous for.

**THE FULL FLOWERING OF PERSIAN LITERATURE**

How did Persian culture find its way into the Islamic Caliphate?

What are some of the topics of famous literature?

**ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE SCIENCES**

What did the Muslims preserve?

Identify areas the Muslims added to the sciences.

What innovations did Muslim traders introduce to Europe from China?

**RELIGIOUS TRENDS AND THE NEW PUSH OF EXPANSION**

Describe the contradictory trends in Islam.

What was the conflict that orthodox Muslims had with Greek teachings?

Who strove to blend Greek logic with the Quran?

What was the purpose and teachings of the Sufis?

**NEW WAVES OF NOMADIC INVASIONS AND THE END OF THE CALIPHATE**

What new nomadic band challenged the caliphate?

When did they conquer Baghdad?

Who stopped them and where?

**THE COMING OF ISLAM TO SOUTH ASIA**

What was a strength and flexibility of India?

How were the new Muslim invaders different from previous invaders?

How are Islam and Hinduism different (religiously and socially)?

**VISUALIZING THE PAST: THE PATTERNS OF ISLAM’S GLOBAL EXPANSIONS**

Which areas have the highest absolute numbers of Muslims in the present day? Is this distribution what you would have expected or is it surprising?

What were the main ways that Islam was transmitted to most areas? What does this say about the popular notion that Islam was historically a militant religion spread primarily by forcible conversion?

Does Islam appear to be able to coexist with other faiths? Explain.

**POLITICAL DIVISIONS AND THE FIRST MUSLIM INVASIONS**

What initially brought Muslims in contact with Indian?

What specifically motivated the Umayyad Empire to attack an Indian ruler?

Why did Muslim rule bring little change to India?

What caused parts of India to welcome Muslim conquerors?

**INDIAN INFLUENCES ON ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION**

What purpose did the Muslims serve in transmitting Indian sciences?

What were the staging areas for Islam to spread to SE Asia?

**FROM BOOTY TO EMPIRE: THE SECOND WAVE OF MUSLIM INVASIONS**

What were Mahmud’s motivations to conquer India from Afghanistan?

Where was the new capital?

**PATTERNS OF CONVERSION**

Where were the largest Muslim communities in India found?

How were most Indians converted to Islam?

How did the Sufis connect with the Indians?

From what class and religion did most converts come? Why?

**PATTERNS OF ACCOMODATION**

What did Indians assume about their Muslim invaders?

Who helped the Muslims run their empire in India?

What negative rituals regarding women did the Muslims adopt from the Hindus?

**ISLAMIC CHALLENGE AND HINDU REVIVAL**

Define acculturation.

What was the Hindu reaction to the challenge posed by Islam? How successful was it?

**STAND-OFF: THE MUSLIM PRESENCE IN INDIA AT THE END OF THE SULTANATE PERIOD**

Why could the Muslims not play down the differences between Islam and Hinduism?

What should you remember about India when examining the spread of Islamic civilization?

**THINKING HISTORICALLY—CONVERSION AND ACCOMODATION IN THE SPREAD OF WORLD RELIGIONS (178-9)**

What are common characteristics of world religions?

How was Islam both religiously and socially flexible?

How did Christianity, Hinduism, and Buddhism change to accommodate the cultures and societies to which they spread? Were they more or less flexible than Islam? Why?

**THE SPREAD OF ISLAM TO SOUTHEAST ASIA**

What two great trading complexes came together here?

The collapse of what trading empire opened the door for the spread of Islam? How?

**TRADING CONTACTS AND CONVERSION**

What paved the way for peaceful conversion?

What was Muslim law used for?

In what areas did Islam encounter resistance to conversion? Why?

**SUFI MYSTICS AND THE NATURE OF SOUTEAST ASIAN ISLAM**

Why were the Sufis more successful in gaining converts?

How were the importance and role of women different here?

**GLOBAL CONNECTIONS: ISLAM: A BRIDGE BETWEEN WORLDS**

Summarize the significance of Islamic civilization to global history?

What tendencies or problems would eventually put the Muslims at a disadvantage to their European counterparts?