**Chapter Summary.** In the 7th century c.e., the Arab followers of Muhammad surged from the Arabian peninsula to create the first global civilization. They quickly conquered an empire, incorporating elements of the classical civilizations of Greece, Egypt, and Persia. Islamic merchants, mystics, and warriors continued its expansion in Europe, Asia, and Africa. The process provided links for exchange among civilized centers and forged a truly global civilization. Muslim scientific and philosophical works written in Arabic made it an international language.

Your text claims, “Muslim Iberia was a microcosm of the Islamic world in its early centuries.” Describe 3 characteristics of this society.

What bound together this first global civilization?

Who aided its spread?

What else did these people help spread?

**DESERT AND TOWN: THE PRE-ISLAMIC ARABIAN WORLD**

Describe the geography of the Arabian Peninsula.

What people made this place their home?

What type of animals did they domesticate?

What was the importance of towns located near the water or ocean?

What two towns owed their existence to the bedouins?

What was the basis of social organization and beliefs?

**CLAN IDENTITY, CLAN RIVALRIES, AND THE CYCLE OF VENGENCE**

Describe the basics of a Bedouin life.

--importance of clans & tribes

--social structure (who is the highest & lowest)

What caused clans to fight? What could they lead to?

**TOWNS AND LONG-DISTANCE TRADE**

Who founded and dominated Mecca?

What religious significance was located there?

What was the importance of pilgrimages to Mecca?

What was Yathrib? What was its economic basis?

**MARRIAGE AND FAMILY IN PRE-ISLAMIC ARABIA**

What was the role and importance of women in Bedouin culture?

Who did they have it better than? Why?

Who paid the bride-price?

How did town life compare to Bedouin live in regards to women?

**POETS AND NEGLECTED GODS**

What were the cultural influences of early Arabia?

Describe their religious practices?

**THE LIFE OF MUHAMMAD AND THE GENSIS OF ISLAM**

Describe some influential things in Muhammad’s early years.

When did he receive his revelations?

**PERSECUTION, FLIGHT, AND VICTORY**

Who saw Muhammad as a threat?

Where did Muhammad flee to and gain support?

Why were Mecca and Medina at odds with each other?

What act of syncretism did Muhammad make in regards to Islam?

**ARABS AND ISLAM**

How was Islam a unifying force?

How did it compare to Christianity?

What else did it provide that their previous polytheistic beliefs didn’t (most religions do)?

What was his view on money and slaves?

**UNIVERSAL ELEMENTS IN ISLAM**

Who originally embraced Islam?

What helped it win support?

How were all 3 major monotheistic religions related to each other?

List the 5 Pillars.

**THE ARAB EMPIRE OF THE UMAYYADS**

What led to the spread of Islam?

Who ruled the empire?

Why did they have little incentive to convert the people they conquered?

**CONSOLIDATION AND DIVISION IN THE ISLAMIC COMMUNITY**

What was the first major crisis of the religion?

Who was Abu Bakr?

Against whom did the military commanders fight at this time? What encouraged them to expand their conquests beyond Arabia?

**MOTIVES FOR ARAB CONQUESTS**

What united the warriors?

How was conquest good for the Arabs?

What did they want to attain?

Who had to pay taxes?

Did the Arabs want to spread their religion? Why not?

**WEAKNESSES OF THE ADVERSARY EMPIRES**

What were some of the problems with the Sasanian Empire that allowed it to fall?

Why did the Copt and Nestorian Christians want the Muslims to conquer where they were?

**THE PROBLEM OF SUCCESSION AND THE SUNNI-SHI’I SPLIT**

What were the other things that divided them besides the successor problem?

What reignited the succession problem?

Which grouped backed which side?

What separates the Sunnis from the Shi’a?

**THE UMAYYAD IMPERIUM**

What had to happen internally before the Arabs could continue expanding??

What stopped the Muslims from taking over all of Europe? How far did they get?

How do you compare their empire to the Romans?

How did they seek to rule their empire? What city was the center of their empire?

Who were first-class citizens and what jobs did they hold?

How did they live and why?

**CONVERTS AND “PEOPLE OF THE BOOK”**

Why would or wouldn’t you want to convert?

Who are “people of the book” and how were they treated?

**FAMILY AND GENDER ROLES IN THE UMAYYAD AGE**

How did Islam improve marriage and women’s lives in the Middle East?

What roles were women allowed?

**UMAYYAD DECLINE AND FALL**

What were some of the internal symptoms of decline?

What was the external pressure that lead to their fall?

Who (what group) led the opposition?

Which sect and other group backed them?

How did they take care of any possible future opposition?

**THINKING HISTORICALLY—CIVILIZATION AND GENDER RELATIONSHIPS (152-3)**

Who influenced and changed the traditional role of women in Islam?

Which class of women felt the restrictions more?

In which society—Indian, Greek, Chinese, and Roman—were women better off? Why?

**FROM ARAB TO ISLAMIC EMPIRE: THE EARLY ABBASID ERA**

Which sect was supported by the Abbasids and which was persecuted?

Where would their capital be?

What steps did they take to consolidate their rule?

What role did the wazir play?

How effective was their rule?

**ISLAMIC CONVERSION AND MAWALI ACCEPTANCE**

How did the Arabs’ view of conversion change?

Why the change?

What group took the most advantage of the change?

**COMMERCIAL BOOM AND AGRARIAN EXPANSION**

What 2 factors contributed to the trade and urban expansion that occurred under the Abbasids?

What was life like for an artisan?

What was the role of slaves? Which ones had it worse off?

**VISUALIZING THE PAST: THE MOSQUE AS A SYMBOL OF ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION**

What were mosques like when Islam was first established? How did they change over the subsequent centuries?

When were minarets first added to mosques?

What images are not allowed to decorate a mosque? Do you know why?

Can you identify any Christian and Jewish influences in mosque design?

**THE FIRST FLOWERING OF ISLAMIC LEARNING**

On what did Muslim scholars focus?

What did they preserve?

**GLOBAL CONNECTIONS: EARLY ISLAM AND THE WORLD**

Why is Islamic civilization considered the first truly global civilization?

What activities were encouraged and expanded upon under the Arabs and Muslims?