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| **Islam** |

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| **Background****Islam**began in the **Arabian** **Peninsula**in the early 7th century CE. It quickly spread throughout the Middle East before moving across **North** **Africa**, and into **Spain** and **Sicily**. By the 13th century, Islam had spread across **India** and **Southeast** **Asia**. The reasons for the success of Islam, and the expansion of its **empire**, can be attributed to the strength of the **Arab** **armies**, the use of a **common** **language**, and fair treatment of conquered peoples. **Golden Age**Islamic civilization experienced a golden age under the **Abbassid Dynasty**, which ruled from the mid 8th century until the mid 13th century. Under the Abbassids, Islamic culture became a blending of **Arab**, **Persian**, **Egyptian**, and **European** traditions. The result was an era of stunning intellectual and cultural achievements.**Interdependence and Trade**Under the Abbassids, a vast **trading** **network** was created which helped to spread **religion**, **culture**, and **technology** among the different peoples of the empire. New business practices such as, **partnerships**, the **use of credit**, and **banks to exchange currency**, were developed to handle the increase in trade. The establishment of such vast trading networks made the many nations within the Islamic Empire very wealthy, and helped to stimulate many of their cultural and intellectual achievements. These ideas were later spread through parts of **Africa** and to **Europe**, which experienced a rebirth in culture and trade as a result of this contact, and the **Crusades**. |

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| **Byzantine** |

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| **Interdependence and Trade**The **Roman Empire** divided under the **Emperor Diocletian** in the late **200s** **CE**. The Eastern half of the empire became known as the **Byzantine Empire**, as its new capital was built on the site of the old Greek city Byzantium. The Byzantine Empire preserved much of the **Greco-Roman** **culture**, and helped spread it across a vast region. The capital city of Constantinople became a crossroads of trade between Europe and Asia. The interdependent nature of the contact between cultures encouraged **cultural diffusion**. The empire's biggest influence was on **Russia**. Byzantine missionaries spread the **Orthodox Christian** religion to Russia, and also adapted the **Greek** **alphabet** to provided the **Slavic** speaking peoples a written language called **Cyrillic**, after the monk Cyril who helped create it. Russia and Eastern Europe also adapted art and literature from the Byzantines, as well as architecture. In return, these areas became important trading partners for the Byzantines.  |

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