

### GLOBAL STORYLINES

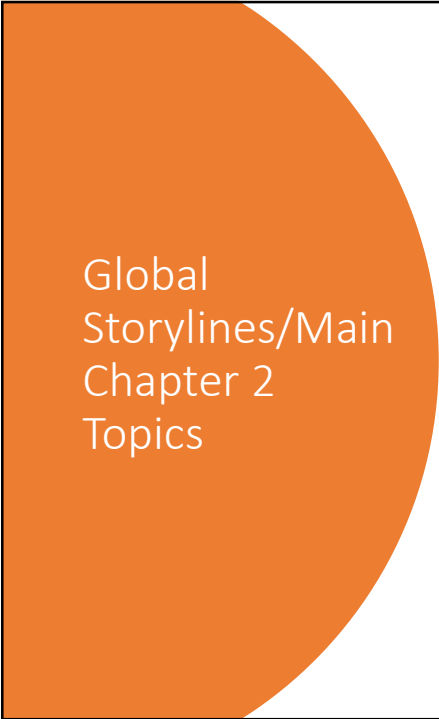
- ▶ The spread of the Black Death and the collapse of the Mongol empire sets off crises across Afro-Eurasia, with major demographic, political, economic, and cultural consequences.
- ▶ Across Afro-Eurasia, continuity in religious beliefs and cultural institutions accompanies changes in political structures in Europe, the Muslim world, and China.
- ▶ In central Eurasia, new rulers—most notably the Ottomans—rebuild dynasties in place of the Mongols, using a blend of religion, military expansion, administrative control, and cultural tolerance.
- ▶ In western Christendom, new monarchies establish political order, and the Renaissance brings a cultural rebirth to societies devastated by plague.
- ▶ In East Asia, the Ming dynasty replaces the Mongol Yuan dynasty, using an elaborate Confucian bureaucracy to oversee infrastructure and long-distance exchange.

### CORE OBJECTIVES

- ▶ DESCRIBE the nature and origins of the crises spanning Afro-Eurasia during the fourteenth century.
- ▶ ASSESS the impact of the Black Death on China, the Islamic world, and Europe.
- ▶ COMPARE the ways in which regional rulers in postplague Afro-Eurasia attempted to construct unified states and ANALYZE the extent and nature of their successes.
- ▶ EXPLAIN the role that religious belief systems played in rebuilding the Islamic world, Europe, and Ming China in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.
- ▶ EXAMINE the way art and architecture reflected the political realities of the Islamic world, Europe, and Ming China after the Black Death.
- ▶ COMPARE how Ottoman, Iberian, and Ming rulers extended their territories and regional influence.

## New Empires and Common Cultures, 600 – 1000 CE



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## Global Storylines/Main Chapter 2 Topics

- The universalizing religion of Islam, based on the message of the prophet Muhammad, originates on the Arabian Peninsula and spreads rapidly across Afro-Eurasia.
  - The expanding Tang dynasty in East Asia consolidates its bureaucracy, struggles with religious pluralism, and extends its influence into Korea and Japan.
  - Christianity splits over religious and political differences, leading to a divide between Roman Catholicism in the west and Greek Orthodoxy in the east.
- 
- A series of four short, curved yellow dashed lines arranged in a slightly upward-curving path on the right side of the slide.

# The Basics of Islam

- Islam developed in the Arabian peninsula from the interactions among Jews, Christians, and Zoroastrians with the local peoples and expanded to many parts of Afro-Eurasia due to military expansion and the activities of merchants and missionaries.

## Remember:

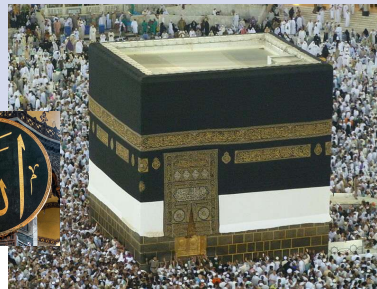
Islam: the religion

Muslim: the follower



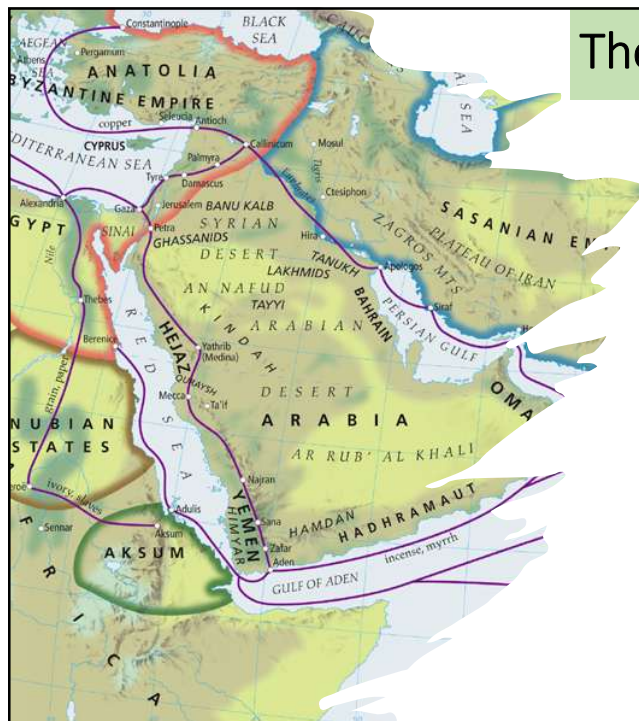
## Islam began inside Arabia.

- Sixth century: Arabia was exposed to long-distance trade, religious debate, and imperial politics.
- Mecca was home to a revered sanctuary called the Kaaba.



## A vision, a text, a new community

- Muhammad was born in Mecca around 570 CE.
- In the year 610, Muhammad had a vision commanding him to recite a series of revelations.
- He urged followers to:
  - Act righteously,
  - Set aside false deities,
  - Submit to one and only true God, and
  - Care for the less fortunate.



## The Origins and Spread of Islam

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## Muhammad, *the Hijra*, and the Pillars of Islam

- Muhammad's most insistent message was the oneness of God.
- Teachings were compiled in the Quran after Muhammad's death
  - Muhammad believed that he was a prophet.
  - Quran was seen as the word of God.
  - Muhammad proclaimed tenets of a new faith with some universalizing elements
- *The hijra*: Muhammad and followers escaped from Mecca to present-day Medina.
  - Muslim calendar is dated from this moment
  - Medina becomes birthplace of Islam
  - Constitution of Medina required all the people to go to Muhammad and God to settle disputes, thus replacing clan tradition
- Five pillars of Islam

Belief ( <i>Shahaadatayn</i> )	Prayer ( <i>Salaah</i> )	Charity ( <i>Zakaah</i> )	Fasting ( <i>Siyaam</i> )	Pilgrimage ( <i>Hajj</i> )
Believing there is no deity but the One God, and Muhammad is his messenger	Performing the prescribed prayers five times a day	Giving part of one's wealth to the poor ("giving alms")	Refraining from food and drink from dawn to sunset through the month of Ramadan	Making a pilgrimage to Makkah once in a lifetime
Quran				



# The Messenger and the Message

## Radically New Teachings

- Monotheistic
- Muhammad as “the Seal of the Prophets”
- Return to old, pure religion of Abraham
- **Central Tenet: Submission to Allah** (Muslim = “one who submits”)
- **Need to create a new society of social justice, equality, & care for others (the *umma*)** – this concept sets Islam alongside Buddhism and Christianity as a “universal faith” which has appeal to all people

## ONE UMMAH ONE BODY ONE UNITY

THE BELIEVERS, IN THEIR MUTUAL LOVE, MERCY AND COMPASSION, ARE LIKE ONE BODY: IF ONE ORGAN COMPLAINED, THE REST OF THE BODY DEVELOPS A FEVER. - PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH)

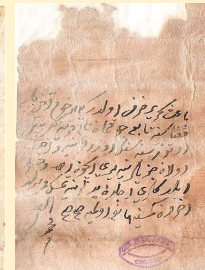
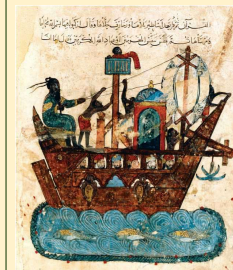


# War, Conquest, and Conversion

Reasons people converted to Islam:

- **Conquests of Islamic Empires:** major motive driving the creation of the Arabic empire was the spread of Islam
  - “God gave us the victory over them, allowing us to take their countries and to settle in their lands, their homes, and their property, we having no strength or force other than the truth.”
- Economic drive and spreading the faith:
  - While the Muslims were eager to spread their faith, there were also very worldly economic interests in building the empire.
  - **Rich trade routes** and **productive farmlands** increased the wealth of the new and expanding empire.
- **Dhimmi** and the **Jizya**:
  - If conversion was encouraged, the empire respected Jews, Christians, and Zoroastrians as fellow “people of the book.”
  - These groups were granted the special status of Dhimmi and were required to pay a tax, the Jizya, in lieu of military service (yet many Dhimmi did serve in the military).
  - Gave some economic incentive to convert – avoid taxes!

- **Social v. Spiritual Conversion:** Also large numbers that went through a social conversion, *meaning that they shifted from one community to another.*
  - slaves, prisoners of war, merchants - examples of social conversions to help status
  - Merchants could broaden their ability to trade if Muslim





# Islamic Caliphates

Caliphates were kingdoms based both in religion and politics which were led by a caliph, or ruler that had authority in a state that was based on Islam at its core. To ignore the caliph is to ignore the religion.

## First Caliphates:

- Rashidun ("Rightly Guided Caliphs") (632-661)
- Umayyad (661-750)
- Abbasid (750-1258, 1261-1517)

Ali, last of the "rightly guided caliphs," killed in 661 CE

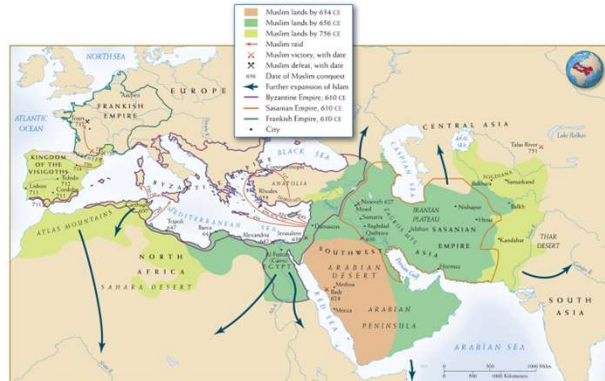
Umayyads move capital to Damascus

Introduced hereditary monarchy to resolve leadership disputes

Non-Arabic-speakers could not hold high political offices.

## The Making of an Arab Empire

- From the Iberian Peninsula to the Indus River, Muslim armies spread rapidly out of the Arabian Peninsula, conquering Spain and invading France in the west and reaching the Indus River in the east.
- Arabs invaded and conquered wealthy Egypt.
- Before they invaded, Arabia was seen as weak by the Byzantines and Persian Sassanids. The Persian Sassanid Empire quickly fell (650s) and the Arabs picked up much Byzantine territory.



## The Abbasid Revolution – Abbasid “Golden Age” of Islam through 1258

- Abbasid family formed coalition and overthrew Umayyad ruler in 750 CE
- Capital shifted back to Baghdad
  - Signified inclusion of non-Arab groups within Islam without eliminating Arab influence
- Islam’s appeal
  - Practical reasons: reduced taxes, power
  - Appeal of the message, community, clear laws
  - Became a faith with a universalizing message and appeal

## How did rise of Islam change the lives of women?

- Pre-Islamic Arabia was one of the last regions that had not become fully patriarchal.
  - Men still married into women's tribes and moved to wives' locations in tribal communities.
  - Women engaged in a variety of occupations and could amass wealth.
  - Muhammad's evolving relations to women reflected larger trends in the influence of patriarchy that made its way to Arabia.
  - Wives after his first had to be veiled.
- The Quran did offer women some protections.
  - Men were required to treat each wife with respect.
  - Women could inherit property, though only half of what a man received.
  - Marriage dowries were paid directly to the bride, not to her guardian.
  - Adultery had to have been witnessed firsthand.
- The legal system reinforced the status of men over women but gave magistrates powers to oversee the definition of male honor and proper behavior.
  - Remember: veiling and the role of women sometimes depended on the cultural contexts – e.g. more freedoms in certain regions than others



## The Abbasid "Golden Age" of Culture and Science

- Arts flourished
- Arabic superseded Greek and became the language of the educated classes.
- Arabic scholarship made many important contributions to the world of learning by preserving Greek and Roman thought.
- Borrowed extensively from other areas: paper, siege warfare, plants, numbering system (from which Arabic numerals were created)
- To house the scholarly works, Abbasids founded massive and magnificent libraries.

- Although the Byzantine Romans spoke Greek and welcomed Greek culture, in the Islamic World, classic Greek thought was embraced with far more enthusiasm and creativity than in Byzantium.
- A massive translation project in the 9th & 10th centuries made Aristotle & many other Greek writers available.
- Of course, during this age of 'light' in the Islamic World, this improved upon 'western learning' would return to Europe during the Renaissance period. However, without the Muslim integration, the Renaissance would not have been quite the same.

### Innovations:

- Advances in mathematics (Nasir al-Din al-Tusi), Muhammad ibn Musa al-Khwarizmi
- Advances in literature ('A'ishah al-Ba'uniyyah)
- Advances in medicine

### Transfers:

- Preservation and commentaries on Greek moral and natural philosophy
- House of Wisdom in Abbasid Baghdad
- Scholarly and cultural transfers in Muslim and Christian Spain



Focal point: Baghdad,  
House of Wisdom  
(Burned by Mongols in 1258 during the siege of the city)



## Islam in a Wider World

- As Islam spread, it became more decentralized and fostered competitive dynasties in some areas.
- Cities in Spain
  - Abd al-Rahman III brought peace and stability to a violent frontier region.
    - Facilitated amicable relations with Muslims, Christians, and Jews
    - Expanded and beautified capital at Cordoba
      - Great Mosque of Cordoba
- Talent in Central Asia
  - Barmaki family from Balkh funneled wealth and talent into Baghdad
  - Patrons of the arts: Arabic translations of manuscripts
  - Al-Khwarizmi modified Indian digits into Arabic numerals; wrote the first book of algebra.
  - Ibn Sina, known in the west as Avicenna
    - Wrote *Canon of Medicine*, stood as the standard medical text in the region for centuries





## Islam and Cultural Encounter: The Case of Spain

- Arab and Berber invasion of Al-Andalus:
  - In 711, Muslim Arab and Berber forces invaded Spain, called Al-Andalus in Arabic.
  - They quickly conquered the peninsula and established a Caliphate; Islam spread widely in the south.
- Cordoba's golden age:
  - At its height, Muslim Spain was prosperous, culturally dynamic, and cosmopolitan.
  - It was also a time of tolerance with special taxes for Jews and Christians but general acceptance of them in society.
  - City of Cordoba – center of this golden age.
  - Al-Andalus was a major center of learning. A number of Greek and Arabic books were collected and translated in the libraries.

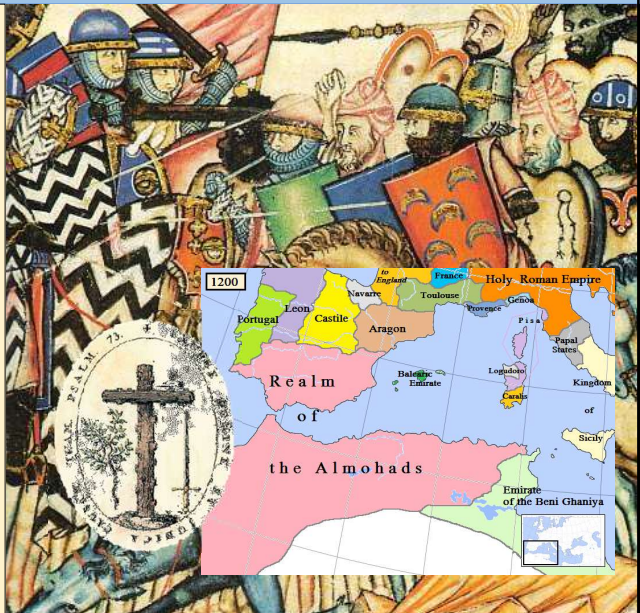
Alhambra ("The Red One") is the most famous piece of Islamic architecture in Spain. It's a palace complex built by the last Islamic dynasty to rule Spain (Nasrid Dynasty 1232-1492). Even Charles V (One of Europe's most powerful people in the next era) built his offices within Alhambra. It actually fell into disrepair before being rebuilt in the 19th Century. Today, it is one of Spain's biggest tourist attractions.



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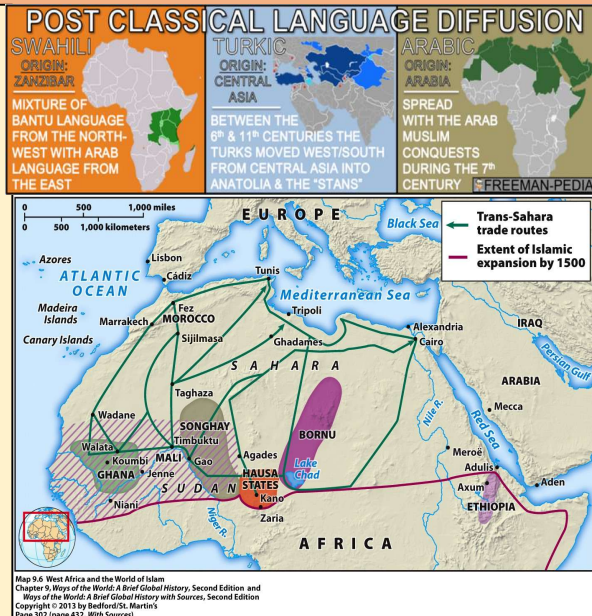
- Increased intolerance:
  - In the late 900s as Christian kingdoms in the north began a series of wars, the Muslims rulers became increasingly intolerant of Christians, and social conflicts developed between the communities.
- Christian reconquest and expulsion:
  - In series of wars, the Christians gradually conquered all of the peninsula, with Granada falling in 1492.
  - The new Spanish monarchy forced many Muslims and some 200,000 Jews to emigrate.
  - Converts, while initially tolerated, were later forced out of Spain.

Isabella and Ferdinand: known for financing Columbus but also for the **Reconquista** of Spain



## Islam and Cultural Encounter: The Case of West Africa

- Islam came to West Africa by **peaceful means**. Muslim merchants traveled south across the Sahara and spread the faith to the urban trading centers of West Africa.
  - Rulers found Muslim scholars to be useful administrators.
  - Islam had an appeal as a connection to a wider world.
- Islam was more relevant in the cities of West Africa until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. While rulers sponsored the building of mosques, libraries, and schools, there was little effort converting the larger rural world.
- Remaining the culture of the urban elite, the villages of West Africa continued to practice their traditions and rituals.
  - Sometimes, elements of Islam were combined with existing faiths and practices but there was no Islamization of the region.
  - There was no large-scale Arab migration to West Africa however languages were changed – like African Bantu which became Swahili when it merges with Arabic

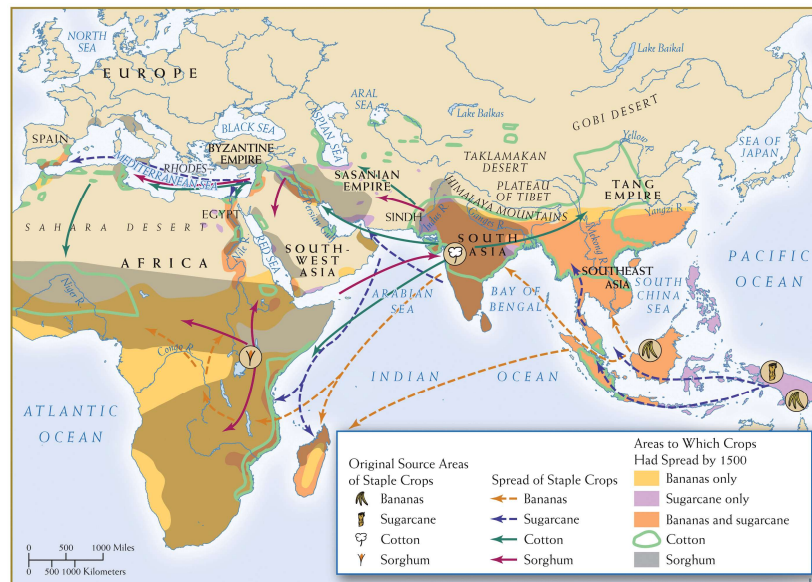


### Sunni versus Shia:

- BIG Question: After Muhammad dies, who leads Muslims?**
- Initially a political dispute over who should rule the Umma, the Sunni-Shia controversy still divides the Islamic world.
- Shia** argue that the leader should come from a direct descendent of Muhammad, while the **Sunnis** hold that a learned member of the community should lead.
- As there was much persecution of the Shia and several of their leaders were killed, they developed the ideology of an oppressed minority and came to hold; Today: there is a general 90%/10% split between Sunni/Shia



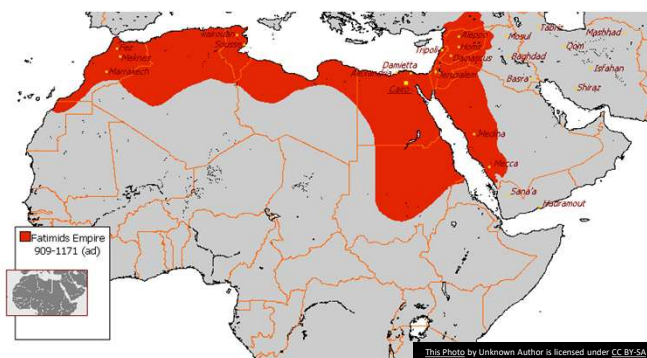
## Map 2.4 | Agricultural Diffusion in the First Millennium



## Shiism and the Fatimids

- The Fatimids
  - In 909 CE, Shiite leader Abu Abdallah overthrew the Sunni ruler in North Africa, beginning the Fatimid regime
  - Rival regime to Abbasid caliphs of Baghdad
  - Capital called al-Qahira (Cairo)
    - Al-Azhar mosque
  - Fatimid regime remained in power until the end of the twelfth century
  - Did not persuade majority Sunni Egyptian population to shift to Shiite beliefs
- Islam grew into a vast political and religious empire.
  - Dominant force in middle regions of Afro-Eurasia
  - Aspired to universality
  - Linked from its outset to political power
  - Political fragmentation within the Muslim world limited its reach.

Important: Shiism would also become prominent in Persia (modern-day Iran) where it is most popular today (along with parts of Iraq) – today, Egypt is mostly Sunni



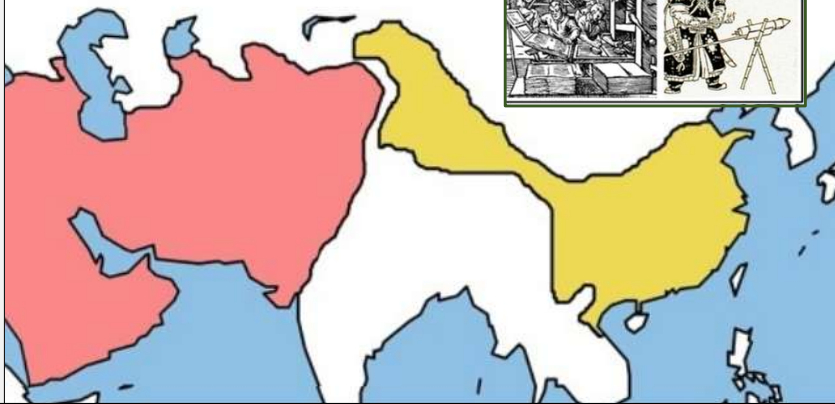


# Interregional Contacts and Conflicts

3.2.II Interregional contacts and conflicts between states and empires encouraged significant technological and cultural transfers, (such as paper making techniques) between Tang China and the Abbasids, transfers (such as gunpowder), transfers during the Crusades

Battle of Talas, 751:

*In 751, the Islamic forces defeated the Chinese in central Asia at the **Battle of Talas**. This allowed the Turkic people to become a widespread Islamic culture and checked the westward spread of China.*



## Key Concept 3.2.II: The Crusades – Historical Impact

1. **Expansion influence of Western Christendom** at the same time that **Eastern Christendom & Byzantium were declining**.
2. **Stimulated demand for Asian luxury goods in Europe**
3. **Europeans learn techniques**: Producing sugar on large plantations using slave labor in Mid East, which had incalculable consequences in later centuries when Europeans transferred the plantation system to the Americas.
4. **Muslim scholarship**: together w/Greek learning that it incorporated, **flowed into Europe**
5. **Crusades hardened cultural barriers between Eastern Orthodoxy & Roman Catholicism**. (Christian anti-Semitism was exacerbated)
6. **European empire building**, especially in the Americas, continued notion that **"God wills it"**
7. **Crusades** have, on many occasions, proved politically or ideologically significant when **the worlds of Europe & Islam have collided over the past 2 centuries**
8. **Economic impact** allows merchants in Mediterranean to grow rich, **later funds Renaissance**

