The First Global Civilization: The Rise and Spread of Islam

Social

What are the key social features of Bedouin society? Describe the social structures associated with Bedouin tribes? What was the role of women in pre-slamic Bedouin societies? How did the role of women compare to other societies? Use specific examples. How was the role of women impacted by urbanization? What did the life and teaching’s of Muhammad display about the future of women in Islamic society? Describe the social structure of the Umayyad Imperium? Analyze the changes and continuities in Islamic social structure and gender roles over time.

Political

Describe the early political structures of Bedouin societies. How do the Bedouin structures compare to other nomadic groups? How are they unique? What are the sources of conflict in Bedouin societies? How did the tribal interactions impact later Islamic development? What influence did Bedouin politics have on the development larger government? What were the strengths of the Umayyad political organization? What were the weaknesses? How did politics impact the religious developments of Islam? What political changes did the Abbasid leadership bring about? How did social changes impact political developments, especially in the Abbasid period? How was the Islamic caliphate unique in its political structure? What common political problems did they experience? Analyze the relations between the Islamic empires and their neighbors. What empowered the Caliphate to enjoy such great success when compared to its regional counterparts?

Religious

What were the critical components of Bedouin religion? How did Bedouin religion differ from other major world religions? What insights can we gain about Bedouin society from their religion? What religious values are important to them? What was the grand appeal of Islam? How was Muhammad similar to other religious figures? In which ways was he unique? What are the essential teachings of Islam? Why did Islam spread so rapidly? What was the universal religious appeal of Islam? Why was the Umayyad Imperium not considered an Islamic Empire? How did religion impact the government of the Caliphate? What impact did the Islamic faith have on the Umayyad and Abbasid civilizations? Compare Islam to other monotheistic religions.

Economic

How did geography impact the basic economy of the Islamic world? What were the economic strengths of Bedouin groups? How did their economic priorities impact social and political developments? What role did urbanization play in the development of the Islamic empires? How did economic challenges inhibit the development of the Umayyad Imperium? What is significant about the tax structure in the Arab world? Was Islamic expansion primarily driven by economic or religious motives? (Defend you answer with evidence). What impact did the Islamic empires have on the global economy? Analyze the economic growth in the later Islamic empires. Did this help or hinder the overall development of the civilization?