

World History, 200–1500
A Geographical Overview

I. Introduction

II. The Decline of the Roman Empire and the Rise of Islam

A. The End of the Ancient World, or The Beginning of the Medieval?

1. The Downfall of Rome, or How Was It Able to Last So Long?
2. Struggles of Early Christian Church

B. Charlemagne and the Origins of Christendom

1. Western Europe during the Time of the Muslim Expansion
2. Political, Social, and Economic Relations in the Middle Ages

C. The Origins of Islam: There is no god but God

1. Principles and Tenets of the Religion
- 2.. Important People, Places, and Events

D. Islamic Dominance of African-Eurasian Trade and Culture

1. Expansion of the Empire: From Andalusia to Malacca
2. Islamic Achievements
3. Outstanding Scholars

III. Frontiers, Centers, and Peripheries

A. Civilizations of Black Africa

1. Civilization of the Bow
2. Civilization of the Clearings
3. Civilization of the Granaries
4. Civilization of the Spear
5. Civilization of Cities
6. Civilization of Industries

B. The Medieval European Mind: Dialectic Triumphant

1. *Ecclesia* (The Church) — The Role of Monasticism
2. Intellectual Developments in the Middle Ages

C. The Byzantine Empire

1. Basileus and Patriarch
2. Art and Learning
3. Split Between Eastern Church and Western Church
4. Early Rus' Principalities

D. The Cultures of Pre-Columbian America: Maya, Toltecs, Mississippians, and Aztec

1. Some of the More Prominent Indigenous Societies
2. Culture of Cities
3. Theories for Their Decline

IV. The Rise of the East

A. Tang and Song Dynasties: The Genius That Was China

1. Technological and Administrative Innovation
2. Tang Culture: A Poetic Effervescence

B. Japan and the Bridge of Dreams: The Kami Welcome the Buddha

1. Influence of China
2. Heian Court Culture

B. Pax Mongolica and the Yuan Dynasty

1. Inner Eurasia and the Nomad-Sedentary Nexus
2. The Role of Chinggis Khan
3. The Glory of Qubilai Khan
4. The Voyages of Zheng He

D. Later Rus' Principalities and the Rise of Muscovy

V. The Re-Emergence of the West

A. The Medieval Machine

1. Revival of Trade
2. "Industrial Revolution" of the Middle Ages

B. Origins of the Renaissance

1. Renaissance: What Is It?
2. Preconditions and Impetuses for the Renaissance