

CHAPTER 27: THE ISLAMIC EMPIRES READING QUESTIONS

FORMATION OF THE ISLAMIC EMPIRES – P. 596

1. The Ottoman Empire was known for being expansionists. What about their beliefs, or ethos, led them to expand?
2. What was the Ottoman institution of *devshirme*?
3. Ottoman strength grew most by the capture of _____ in 1453. They renamed it _____.
4. Why did the Ottomans call Suleiman “the Magnificent?” In other words, what did he do to earn that title?

THE SAFAVID EMPIRE – P. 598

5. What religion did the Safavid Empire push under Shah Ismail (be as specific as possible)?
6. What did Twelver Shiism believe?
7. Why did the Ottomans in particular despise the Safavids?

THE MUGHAL EMPIRE – P. 600

8. How was Babur the Tiger different from the Ottomans and the Safavids?
9. Where did Babur establish his empire?
10. What kind of ruler was Akbar? In other words, how did he rule?
11. Akbar was a deeply religious man. How did he treat those not of his faith (Islam)?
12. Why did the Hindus of India eventually begin rebelling against the Mughals?

IMPERIAL ISLAMIC SOCIETY – P. 603

13. What women were especially revered within these Muslim empires?

AGRICULTURE AND TRADE – P. 604

14. What cash crops were the most popular in the Muslim world? (there are three main ones – list all three)
15. What was happening regarding demographics in this period?
16. With what European powers did the Muslim empires trade?

RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS IN THE ISLAMIC EMPIRES – P. 605

17. Describe Akbar’s “divine faith.”
18. How did the Ottoman Empire treat religious minorities?

CULTURAL PATRONAGE OF THE ISLAMIC EMPERORS – P. 607

19. How did the Islamic rulers attempt to enhance their prestige?
20. Who built the Taj Mahal (include both the person and the empire they hailed from)?

THE EMPIRES IN TRANSITION – P. 609

21. All three of the great Muslim empires faced difficulties because of problems with their ruling houses. What, specifically, led to the problems?
22. What angered many of the Islamic people?

ECONOMIC AND MILITARY DECLINE – P. 610

23. What role did the cessation of expansion play in the empires’ declines?
24. Officials often tried to raise money by raising taxes, selling public offices, accepting bribes, or resorting to extortion. Why were these measures counterproductive?

CULTURAL CONSERVATISM – P. 611

25. Why did the Muslim empires remain unaware of European inventions and developments?