The Eastern World
Chapter 6
PEP World History
Mr. Lewis
What Happened to Rome?

In the 4th and 5th centuries barbarian tribes threatened Rome's borders. In 476 AD the Roman Empire collapsed in the West when Odoacer deposed Emperor Romulus. The Eastern Empire endured for another 1,000 years and became known as the Byzantine Empire. The Byzantine civilization was a blending of the cultural heritage of ancient Greece and the cultures of the Near East.
The Rise and Fall of the Byzantine Empire
The Byzantine Civilization

The Rise of "New Rome"

In 330 AD the emperor Constantine dedicated a new capital for the Roman Empire that he called "New Rome." It became more widely known as Constantinople. Constantinople was the meeting place of East and West, the vital link in both land and sea trade routes. Constantinople also became an important political and religious center. The inhabitants of this empire still considered themselves Romans. The eastern empire retained the political and legal structures of ancient Rome.
Justinian, 527-565

- Wife Theodora - power behind the throne
- Riot in Constantinople in 532 called the Nika Revolt
  - People cried “Nika!” (“Conquer”)
  - Justinian wanted to run away, but Theodora convinced him to stay
  - “For one who has been an emperor it is unendurable to be a fugitive. May I never be separated from this purple... If, no, it is your wish to save yourself, O Emperor, there is no difficulty. For we have much money, and there is the sea, here the boats. However consider whether it will not come about after you have been saved that you would gladly exchange that safety for death. For as for myself, I approve a certain ancient saying that royalty is a good burial shroud”
- Justinian crushed the revolt - firm as emperor
Emperor Justinian

- Chief objective – restore the greatness of the Roman Empire
- Defeated Vandals in North Africa
- Captured Italy from the Ostrogoth’s
- Took southern part of Visigoth kingdom in Spain
- Preserved Roman laws
  - Justinian appointed a commission of 10 scholars to compile, reorganize, condense Roman law
  - Result called the Justinian Code
  - Clarified Roman laws
  - Preserved Roman legal system
  - Most modern European nations built their political and legal systems

Justinian reconquered many former territories of the Western Roman Empire, including Italy, Dalmatia, Africa, and southern Hispania.
Emperor Justinian

Justinian's reign marked a golden age of Byzantine culture. He initiated an extensive building program to construct churches, public buildings, aqueducts and roads throughout the empire. He left an empire beset by many problems. He neglected the defense of the empire's eastern and northern borders. His costly military campaigns coupled with his massive building programs left the empire financially drained.
Eastern Orthodox Church

- Constantine established a new political capital AND a new religious center
- Constantinople became one of the Churches five patriarchal cities
- The bishop of Rome was the most important religious leader in the West
- The patriarch of Constantinople held that position in the East
Eastern Orthodox Church

- Constantine established a new political capital AND a new religious center in Constantinople
- Did not recognize Rome’s control or the control of the Pope
- Head of church in East - the Patriarch of Constantinople
- Differences
  - When to celebrate Easter
  - Whether parish priests should marry
  - Reverence of icons – painted images of Christ and the Saints – rather than a personal relationship with Christ
- Orthodox = Greek words = straight (orthos) opinion (doxa)
  - Some beliefs contrary to Scripture
  - Various national churches
    - Russian Orthodox Church
    - Greek Orthodox Church
    - Romanian Orthodox Church
Icons

- Icon from Greek word for Image
- Religious work of art
- Byzantine art influenced by Syrian and Persian art
  - Formal and stylized
- Early Christians did not like artistic pictures of Christ and the apostles
- 5th century-use of pictures to aid worship and as decorations more common
- 725 Emperor Leo III-attacked use of icons and destroyed many works of art
- 787 Council of Nicaea-icons again permitted
- 813-Emperor Leo V iconoclasm
  - Destruction of icons
- 843-icons restored
Abraham-Islam & Judaism

- God promised Abraham an heir in his old age.
- Abraham didn’t believe Him as he and Sarah were old.
- Abraham had a child with Sarah’s maid, Hagar: Ishmael.
- Abraham then had a child with Sarah: Isaac.
- Promise to Abraham:
  - His descendants would be more numerous than the stars in the heavens.
  - The Christ/Savior would come from Abraham’s line.
Abraham-Islam and Judaism

Abraham

- Hagar: Arabs
  - Ishmael
- Sarah: Father of Israelites
  - Isaac: Judaism
Islam

- What do Muslims believe about Jesus Christ?
  - He was a prophet
  - Was not the Son of God
  - “Far is it removed from His transcendent majesty that He should have a son”-Surah 4:171

- What is the holy book of Islam?
  - The Koran – Recitation
Islam

- Religion of works
- Five basic acts
  - Pillars of Islam
    - 1st pillar = The Shahada
      - "There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is his messenger"
      - Denial of Bible’s NT and Jesus as Christ
    - 2nd pillar = Salat - Pray 5 times a day
    - 3rd pillar = Sawm - Fast during the month of Ramadan
      - Ramadan-9th month of Islamic calendar
      - Lasts 29–30 days based on the visual sightings of the crescent moon
    - 4th pillar = Zakat - Give alms to the poor
    - 5th pillar = Hajj - Make a pilgrimage to Mecca once in a lifetime
Muhammad: Prophet of Islam

- Muhammad (14th century AD)
  - Born in Mecca, 800 miles from Jerusalem in 570 CE.
  - Receives the word of God from his angel Gabriel.
  - Islamic tradition holds that Muhammad is a direct descendant of Abraham, through his son Ishmael.
  - God gives the Koran, Arabic for "the recitation," directly to Muhammad.
  - The Koran addresses the issues of the day.
  - Muslims believe Muhammad was a prophet along with Abraham, Moses, Noah, and Jesus.

- Ka'aba in Mecca
  - Most sacred mosque in Islam
  - "the cube" in Arabic
  - Ancient stone structure built and re-built by prophets as a house of monotheistic worship
  - Located inside the Grand Mosque in Makkah, Saudi Arabia
  - Center of the Muslim world-unifying focal point for Islamic worship
Islam

Two sects whose key difference is their beliefs on who should succeed Muhammad:

Sunni – Believed that since Muhammad did not appoint a successor, any worthy Muslim could be appointed to lead Islam.

The Sunni branch of Islam stipulates that, as a head of state, a caliph was a selected or elected position.

Shia – Believed that Muhammad intended his son-in-law Ali to be his successor, with authority over political and spiritual matters.
Muhammad died in 632 AD.

He did not appoint a successor, and Muhammad’s closest friends chose his first four successors from among themselves. These men were called caliphs, which means successors. They directed the affairs of Islam exercising spiritual, political, and military authority. This established the caliphate.

- **Sunni**
  - Believe that the first four caliphs were “rightly guided”
  - Believe that Muslim rulers should follow the Sunna, or Muhammad’s example
  - Claim that the Shi’a have distorted the meaning of various passages in the Qur’an

- **Shi’a**
  - Believe that Ali, the Prophet’s son-in-law, should have succeeded Muhammad
  - Believe that all Muslim rulers should be descended from Muhammad; do not recognize the authority of the Sunna
  - Claim that the Sunni have distorted the meaning of various passages in the Qur’an

This established the caliphate.

**Basic Differences Between Sunni and Shi’a Muslims**

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  - Believe that the first four caliphs were “rightly guided”
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**Percentage Today of Sunni and Shi’a Muslims Worldwide**

- Sunni 83%
- Shi’a 16%
- Other 1%
**Islam - Sunni**

- A **caliphate** *(Arabic: خَلِيَافَة khilāfah)* is an Islamic state under the leadership of an Islamic steward with the title of **caliph**.

- Historically, the **caliphates** were polities based in Islam which developed into multi-ethnic trans-national empires.

- The **caliphs** who directly succeeded Muhammad as leaders of the Muslim community, were chosen through **shura**, a process of community consultation.
Islam - Shia

Shia Islam holds that the Islamic prophet Muhammad designated Ali ibn Abi Talib as his successor and the Imam (leader). Shia beliefs include that Imams possess special spiritual and political authority over the community, having infallibility and other divinely ordained traits. The Imam is a means through which humans receive divine grace, because “He brings men closer to obedience (of Allah) and keeps them away from disobedience.”

Sunni
- Leadership of the community is not a birthright
- 85% of Muslims

Shia
- Imam is sinless by nature, his authority is infallible
- 15% of Muslims

All Muslims
- Follow the Quran as well as the Prophet’s hadith (sayings) and sunna (customs)
- Adhere to 5 pillars of Islam (shahda, salat, zakat, sawm, hajj)
The Spread of Islam

Abu Bakr (AH-bu BAH kur) and the three caliphs who followed him initiated a policy of military conquest that led to the creation of a vast Arab empire founded upon Islam. With amazing speed they conquered Palestine, Syria, Egypt, Iraq, and Persia.
The Spread of Islam

Factors contributing to this rapid expansion

- Arabs sought an escape from poverty, tremendous wealth could be gained through conquest
- The Byzantine and Persian empires had become weak by the 7th century
- Islam united the warring Arab tribes around a common cause
- The Arabs viewed each conquest as a jihad or holy war, their religious zeal was intensified by the promise that a Muslim’s death in battle assured entrance to paradise
Islam - Culture

- Like the Romans, Muslims borrowed, embraced and added from the cultural heritage of the peoples they conquered.

- **Medicine** – Muslim doctors developed amazing surgical skills removing cancer from the body and cataracts from eyes.
Islam - Culture

- **Literature** – Muslim’s produced rich and colorful imagery in both their poetry and their prose

- **Omar Khayyam** (OH-mar kie-YAHM)
Omar Khayyam (1048 – 1131)

Rubaiyat

Poem with verses of four lines

And that inverted Bowl they call the sky,
Where under crawling coop’d we live and die,
Lift not your hands to it for help—for it
As impotently moves as you or I.

Persian poet and mathematician

Greeks-geometry trigonometry

India-algebra

Muslims used Hindu numerals (India)-easier to work with

Called Arabic numerals

Roman numbers could not be lined up and used for decimals

1905 painting
Islamic Mathematics

- Borrowed much of their basic mathematical knowledge from India, studying and improving Algebra, which came from India, as well as improving trigonometry and geometry (Greece).

Islamic Art & Architecture

- Religion plays an important part in Muslim art.
- Muhammad is said to have forbidden the representation of men and animals in art, fearing icons.
Islam - Culture

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Muslim art reached its highest achievement in architecture. The best examples of Muslim architecture are the Mosques, places of Muslim worship, even though Muhammad thought building elaborate Mosques was wasteful.
END CHAPTER 6