Notes

7.2

Spread of Islam

Geographic influences on the origin and spread of Islam

* Diffusion (spread) along trade routes from Mecca and Medina
* Expansion despite great distances, desert environments, and mountain barriers
* Spread into the Fertile Crescent, Iran, and Central Asia was made easier by Byzantine and Persian empires, who were too busy fighting each other and making each other weaker

Geographic influences on economic, social, and political development

* Political unity of the first Muslim empire was short-lived
* Arabic language spread with Islam and facilitated (helped) trade across Islamic lands
* Slavery was not based on race