

Notes pgs 174 - 180, 184 - 189 (stop @ an age of learning)

Abbasid Elite = sunni Islam, centralized, Absolutist monarchy

Baghdad = New capital

Increased Persian influence

Growth of bureaucracy - Rulers less interested in personal rule

wazir - Chief administrator / advisor to Abbasid caliph

- Chief bureaucrat

Abbasid Rule = more central gov. control of provinces

- Tax collection improves, Abbasid decrees increasingly followed

Conversions and Mawali Acceptance

- Arab & Non-Arab Muslims accepted as equals

- Increased conversion efforts

- Continued benefits for Muslims compared to Non-Muslims

Economic Growth

- status of merchant & landowners grows

- Urban growth

- Afro-Eurasian Trade grows

- Innovation in sailing - Increased opportunities for long-distance trade

- Growth of skilled crafts/artisans - Independent, valued members of society

- Guilds develop

- Widespread slavery (servants, Agri. workers, builders) - Non-Muslim

- Ayan - elite landowners - development of sharecropping system

Islamic Learning

- Architectural innovations (mosques, palaces, city planning, infrastructure)
- Study of philosophy, science, math
 - Preserved ideas of previous civilizations
 - Greek, Roman writings preserved
 - Trade = Diffusion of knowledge, technology
 - Arabic Numerals = Indian numbering system transmitted by Muslim traders across the region

~~750-750~~ Pg 184-189

Middle & Late Abbasid Eras

- Increasing political division, Decreasing interest in rule by caliphs
- Sunni/shia divide widens
- luxury of caliphs / Caliphate = financial hardship
- succession issues continue, court intrigue grows

Extravagance & succession Disputes

Harun Al-Rashid

- Growth in literature & scholarship during his reign
- continued extravagance and court disputes
- Increasing power of Royal advisors
- Court Factions struggle for power

- His death = civil war over succession

- Personal Armies of rulers became more important than state armies

* Mercenaries *



Economic & Agrarian Decline

Civil wars = Economic Decline

- Increasing taxation = civil unrest (especially among lower classes)
- Little ~~upkeep~~ upkeep of infrastructure
- Agricultural production declines

Declining position of Women

Harem = secluded space for wives and concubines of Abbasid caliphs

- wealthy women lose social status, limited opportunities
- Royal women often played a behind-the-scenes role in government

Nomadic Invasions & Decline of Caliph power

- Internal Disorder = External invasions of Abbasid territory
- Egypt & Syria declare independence
- Regional leaders exercise independence
- Buyids - Persian group, captures Baghdad - Caliph becomes a puppet ruler - Buyid leaders = sultans (945-1055)
- 1055 - Seljuk Turks take over as sultans (puppet Abbasid caliph)
- ~~Continued~~ Revived war with Byzantines (Remained)

Impact of the Crusades

- European Christian attempts to conquer the Holy Land (Jerusalem)
- 8 crusades over 200 years - some successful, most not
- Europeans adopt Muslim technology, some architecture, medical and scientific knowledge

- European rediscovery of Greco-Roman learning
- Increased demand for Middle Eastern goods
- Adoption of Arabic (Indian) Numerals
- Muslim groups had very little interest in European things, but did import European glass, cloth, and raw materials.