

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

UNIT 2: Death, Trade, and Revival

CHPRIDE

## How did the Islamic Empire Succeed?

During the early eighth century, the Muslims swiftly extended their empire, conquering Southwest Asia. There has been much debate surrounding their success.

**DIRECTIONS:** The following passages are secondary and primary sources. As you read each passage, imagine what it would have been like to be in the Middle East at this time.

### Document 1

“They were aided by the weakness of the two contemporary empires, the Persian and the Byzantine, which had largely exhausted themselves by their wars on one another...Nor were these Arabs simply zealots fired by the ideal of a Holy War. They were by a long tradition tough fighters, accustomed to raiding out of hunger and want; many or perhaps even most of them were not ardent followers of Mohammed. Yet, there can be little question that what got the Arabs started, and kept them going was mainly the personality and the teaching of the Prophet.”

SOURCE: Herbert J. Muller, *The of History*, 1958

**R&R:**

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**THINK:** Ask yourself... “According to Muller, what were the reasons for Arab success?”

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**PAIR:** What does your partner say? Please include information your partner has that you missed!

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## Document 2

“Perhaps...another kind of explanation can be given for the acceptance of Arab rule by the population of the conquered countries. To most of them it did not matter whether they were ruled by their old governments of the Iranians, Greeks, or Arabs. Before the Arabs came, governments impinged on the life of cities and city-dwellers might not care much who ruled them, as long as they were safe and their taxes fair. The people of the countryside lived under their own laws with their own customs, and it made little difference to them who ruled the cities. For some, the replacement of Greeks and Iranians by Arabs even offered advantages.”

SOURCE: In the 1991 Albert Hourani published *A History of the Arab Peoples*

**R&R:**

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**THINK:** Ask yourself... “According to Hourani, what were the reasons for Arab success?” Explain

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**PAIR:** What does your partner say? Please include information your partner has that you missed!

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### Document 3

“In the name of Allah, the compassionate, the merciful, this is what the Caliph grants the inhabitants of this newly conquered city...He promises to give them security for their lives, property and churches for them to worship in any tradition they see fit. Their city walls shall not be demolished; neither shall any Muslim soldier be asked to stay in their houses without permission. We give them a pact of Allah and the protection of His Prophet, the Caliphs and the believers. So long as they pay the tax, nothing but grace shall fall upon them.

SOURCE: Khalid Ibn Al-Walid, quoted in Early Islam

**R&R:**

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**THINK:** 1) After conquering new lands, what does the text lead you to believe about the treatment of people in conquered lands?

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2) Do you think the strategy outlined in the above passage helped or hindered the expansion of the Islamic Empire?

EXPLAIN!

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**PAIR:** What does your partner say? Please include information your partner has that you missed!

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### **DOCUMENT-BASED RESPONSE**

**Directions:** Write well-organized paragraphs addressing the task below. USE THE DOCUMENTS ABOVE IN YOUR ESSAY. Support your response with relevant facts and examples. YOUR PARAGRAPHS MUST INCLUDE ADDITIONAL OUTSIDE INFORMATION! YOU MUST USE YOUR DBQ GRAPHIC ORGANIZER IN ORDER TO RECEIVE CREDIT!

#### **HISTORICAL CONTEXT:**

During the early eighth century, the Muslims swiftly extended their empire, conquering Southwest Asia. There has been much debate surrounding their success.

**TASK:** Using information from the documents and your knowledge of global history, write an essay in which you...

- *Discuss* three factors that enabled the Islamic Empire to succeed

#### **GUIDELINES:**

In your essay, be sure to:

- Address all aspects of the *Task*
- Incorporate information from the documents
- Incorporate relevant outside information
- Support the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details
- Use a logical plan of organization based on T.I.E.D.
- State your purpose RIGHT AWAY!
- **DO NOT USE “I, YOU, WE, MY” IN YOUR ESSAY**