

Margin Review Questions (XI)

- 1. In what ways did the early history of Islam reflect its Arabian origins?*
- 2. How does the core message of Islam compare with that of Judaism and Christianity?*
- 3. In what ways was the rise of Islam revolutionary, both in theory and in practice*
- 4. Why were Arabs able to construct such a huge empire so quickly?*
- 5. What accounts for the widespread conversion to Islam?*
- 6. What is the difference between Sunni and Shia Islam?*

7. *In what ways were Sufi Muslims critical of mainstream Islam?*

8. *How did the rise of Islam change the lives of women?*

9. *What similarities and differences can you identify in the spread of Islam to India, Anatolia, West Africa, and Spain?*

10. *Why was Anatolia so much more thoroughly Islamized than India?*

11. *What makes it possible to speak of the Islamic world as a distinct and coherent civilization?*

12. *In what ways was the world of Islam a “cosmopolitan civilization”?*

Big Picture Questions (XI)

1. What distinguished the first centuries of Islamic history from the early history of Christianity and Buddhism? What similarities and differences characterized their religious outlooks?
2. How might you account for the immense religious and political/military success of Islam in its early centuries?
3. In what ways might Islamic civilization be described as cosmopolitan, international, or global?
4. “Islam was simultaneously both a single world of shared meaning and interaction and a series of separate and distinct communities, often in conflict with one another.” What evidence could you provide to support both sides of this argument?
5. What changes did Islamic expansion generate in those societies that encountered it, and how was Islam itself transformed by those encounters?