



SSWH5: EXAMINE THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND CULTURAL INTERACTIONS WITHIN THE MEDIEVAL MEDITERRANEAN WORLD BETWEEN 600 CE/ AD AND 1300 CE/AD
Element C: Assess the economic impact of Muslim trade routes to India, China, Europe, and Africa.

Economics

- The Islamic world laid at the heart of four of the world's major trade routes in the period from 600 to 1300.
 - The stability offered by vast the Islamic caliphates fostered the growth of these trade routes and the economic prosperity of the regions they connected.
 - These trade routes include the Mediterranean, trans-Saharan caravan route, Silk Road, and the Indian Ocean maritime system.
 - Together these interconnected routes linked the manufactures, mines and markets of China, Southeast Asia, India, East Africa, the Middle East, Central Asia, West Africa, and Europe.
 - The trade on these routes include the exchange of key commodities like silk and porcelain from China, spices and textiles from South and Southeast Asia, ivory, slaves, and gold from Africa, glass from Europe, and metal-ware, slaves, and textiles from the Middle East.

Economics

- This trade was facilitated by technological advances.
 - The Arab dhow made travel in the Indian Ocean easier; it was equipped with a triangular lateen sail that increased the ship's maneuverability.
 - Arabian camel saddles that diffused to North Africa improved the security and efficiency of trans-Saharan trade.
- The common moral code that Islam offered also promoted the growth of trade in the region.
- Taken together, these Afro-Eurasian trade routes that meet in the Muslim world spurred the entire region's economic growth.
 - This growth is evidenced by the increased prosperity in major trading cities like Timbuktu, Mombasa, Alexandria, Constantinople, Venice, Hormuz, Baghdad, Melaka, Calicut, Canton, and Hangzhou among others.

