Chapter 9: The Sasanid (SUSS-AH-NIDS) Empire and the Rise of Islam 200-1200 (pg. 225)

1. Introduction
   1. Shi’ites: Those who believed descendants of Ali should be in charge
   2. Sunnis: Those who believed that their leaders should be chosen more broadly
   3. Europe was in the “dark ages”; Islam became center of science, trade, etc.
2. The Sasanid Empire 224-651
   1. Becomes major empire in Middle East
3. Politics and Society
   1. Fought against Byzantine Empire
   2. Also traded with them during peaceful times
   3. Invention of Camel Saddle allows Arabs to control caravan trade
   4. Shah = King
   5. Small cities, not directly on Silk Road
   6. Created silver coins
   7. Successfully planted sugar cane, cotton, and rice
4. Religion and Empire
   1. State religion was Zoroastrian
   2. Religion used for political gain/control
5. The Origins of Islam
   1. **Mecca**: Caravan city that contained the Ka’ba (shrine)
6. Muhammad in Mecca
   1. Married wealthy woman (Khadija)
   2. Angel Gabriel spoke to Muhammad on night during vigil
   3. **Muslim**: “One who submits”
   4. **Islam**: Submission to the will of God
   5. Seen as similar to Judaism/Christianity but “more accurate”
7. The Formation of the Umma
   1. Muhammad and company leave for Medina
   2. **Umma**: A community bound together by Islam
   3. Muhammad returns to Mecca after taking over the city
   4. Muhammad died in 632
   5. Abu Bakr became Khalifa/Caliph
   6. Caliphate: Word for Islamic kingdom
   7. Civil war over succession, some nominated Ali
   8. **Umayaad Caliphate**

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1. Islamic Civilization/Law and Dogma
   1. Shari’a Law: Laws of Islam
   2. **Hadith**: Stories claiming to be accounts from Muhammad’s life
      1. Not always reliable
2. Converts and Cities
   1. Urbanization encouraged by caliphs
   2. Conversion meant only reciting confession of faith
   3. No priests to help people understand expectations
   4. Most converts did not know Arabic
   5. People moved to Islamic communities to avoid persecution
   6. Very broad profession of faith allowed for much diversity
   7. Demand in urban areas (cities) helped rural (countryside) economies
   8. Great strides in science and medicine
3. Islam, Women, and Slaves
   1. Women not a part of public life
   2. Quran states that they must be covered in public
   3. Women COULD own property and divorce
   4. Men worried about women’s faithfulness in marriage and their involvement in politics
4. The Recentering of Islam
   1. Many different types of Islam existed in different areas
   2. *Sufi* brotherhood links Muslims together from different areas