

Enriching Knowledge Series for the Secondary History Curriculum:
Rise and Development of the Islamic Civilisation up to the 19th century
Lecture 4: The influence of Islamic Civilisation (New)
CDI020181013

14 June 2018

Professor David Pomfret

Department of History, University of Hong Kong

Lecture Outline:

This lecture introduces the achievements and influences of Muslim civilisation in a variety of fields. It refers to Islam's emergence and development and explores the achievements and discoveries of Muslim scientists, and architects as well as the influence of the pioneers of Islamic civilisation upon cultural and scientific developments beyond Muslim contexts, such as the European Renaissance, scientific revolution and Enlightenments that shaped the wider world. The lecture thus introduces and underlines the foundational contribution of the 'Islamic world' to subsequent human achievements. And it shows how Islamic thinkers and achievers contributions had important influences and impacts far beyond their immediate contexts. Their connections with other scholars and communities ensured they continued to contribute to the global reverberations of knowledge that would ultimately produce the modern world.

1. Islamic Awakenings

- Why do we need to discuss Islamic Influences?
- Cultural and Religious Background to Islamic 'Awakenings' and 'Expansion'
- The Muslim World and 'Civilisation'
- The Legacy of Islamic Civilisation's Influence today

2. The History of Science and Islam

- Islam and scientific advancement, translation and the Greek inheritance
- The Contributions of Muslim Scholars to science, Empiricism
- Key breakthroughs and Science in the Muslim World

3. Astronomers, Mathematicians, Physicians and Philosophers

- Optic and Astronomy - Ibn Al-Haytham, Al Tusi
- Medicine - Ibn Al-Nafis Ibn
- Philosophy – Al-Kindi and Ibn Rushd
- Alchemy, Trigonometry, Geometry, Algebra

4. Islamic Architecture

- What is 'Islamic Architecture'?

5. The Influence of Islam upon the World: Sites of Learning

- Universities

6. Routes of Transmission between the Islamic World and Europe

- Mass translations and the dissemination of knowledge
- Trade and the flow of ideas
- The Crusades, coercion and cultural contact

7. Legacies of Islamic Civilisation: the European Renaissance

- Reconnecting with Classicism via Islam
- Islamic Literature and the Western Literary Canon
- Music Theory

8. Legacies of Islamic Civilisation: Islam and the Scientific Revolution

- Ways of Seeing, theories of Vision, Islamic optics and painting
- Islamic Data and Copernican Heliocentrism

9. An Islamic Enlightenment?: The Coexistence of Religion and Science

- Cross-pollinations, Concurrent Enlightenment and the Birth of the Modern

Reference List

- Akasoy, Anna. *Islamic Crosspollinations: Interactions in the Medieval Middle East*. Cambridge: Gibb Memorial Trust
- Al-Hassan, Ahmed. And Donald Hill, *Islamic Technology: An Illustrated History* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988.
- Armstrong, Karen. *Islam: A Short History*. New York: Modern Library, 2002
- Arnold, Thomas, and Alfred Guillaume, eds. *The Legacy of Islam*. London: Oxford University Press, 1947.
- Ashraf, Shahid. *Cultural Impact of Islam* New Delhi: Anmol Publications, 2006.
- Bibliotheca Alexandrina Channel. "The Glory of Alexandria."
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dy5XZg8Vkfo>. N.p., 7 Aug. 2014. Web. 03 Nov. 2015.
- Bibliotheca Alexandrina Channel. "Muslim Grandeur." [YouTube, 26 Oct. 2014. Web. 03 Nov. 2015. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OAUeljep3u0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OAUeljep3u0).
- Bloom, Jonathan. *Islam: A Thousand Years of Faith and Power* New Haven: Yale University Press, 2002.
- Chabás, José. "Aspects of Arabic Influence on Astronomical Tables in Medieval Europe." *Suhayl. International Journal for the History of the Exact and Natural Sciences in Islamic Civilisation* 13 (2014): 23-40.
- Faruqi, Yasmeen Mahnaz. "Contributions of Islamic Scholars to the Scientific Enterprise." *International Education Journal* 7.4 (2006): 391-399
- Ghazanfar, Shaikh M. *Islamic Civilisation: History, Contributions and Influence* Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 2006.
- Hillenbrand, Robert. *Islamic Architecture: Form, Function, and Meaning*. New York: Columbia UP, 1994.
- Lapidus, Ira Marvin. *A History of Islamic Societies*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991.
- Lindberg, David C. *Theories of Vision from Al-Kindi to Kepler*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1976.
- Litvak, Meir. *Middle Eastern Societies and The West: Accommodation or Clash of Civilisations?* Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv University, 2006.
- Morgan, Michael Hamilton. *Lost History: The Enduring Legacy of Muslim Scientists, Thinkers, and Artists*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic, 2007.
- Nasr, Seyyed Hossein, *Science and Civilization in Islam* Cambridge: Harvary University Press, 1968.
- Robinson, Maxime. *Europe and the Mystique of Islam*. I.B. Tauris, 2002.
- Scarfe Beckett, Katherine. *Anglo-Saxon Perceptions of the Islamic World*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003

Watt, Montgomery. *The Influence of Islam on Medieval Europe* Edinburgh: University Press, 1972.

---. *Islam a Short History* Oxford: Oneworld, 1999.