

# Impact of islam assignment

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The conversion to Islam in Africa was beneficial because it helped improve the relations between the Muslim merchants and the African merchants. This was also beneficial because goods, knowledge, as well as religion was traded in the trade routes of Sub-Saharan West Africa and the Middle East. However, both the Middle East and West Africa had different opinions of what they wanted to do with their thriving economies. The Middle East was experiencing urbanization, which was when people had started to move from rural areas to urban areas. In the Middle East, they wanted to transform their towns into cities to expand. Because of the boost in trade, these two regions were able to become more knowledgeable about new goods as well as religion. They were also able to expand their trade routes by creating cities/towns. Islam was practiced differently in West Africa than it was in the Middle East. Although both believed in Allah, the West Africans incorporated their beliefs and traditions into Islam. Even though there were Muslim kings in West Africa, they did not force their kingdom to convert to Islam.

In the Middle East, if they weren't Muslims, they were called *dhimmis*. The rulers also did not force Islam onto *dhimmis*, however, a tax called the *jizya*, was created for these people to pay because they were not Muslim. This also helped the spread of Islam because since people did not want to pay this tax, they converted to Islam. However, even though they converted, they did not fully accept the religion. Even though Islam was practiced differently in Africa, it still remained the most popular religion in the region.

Islam was not forced upon people, although the tax and encouragement was what made Muslims convert, even if some did not fully commit to the

religion. Lastly, education in the two regions were both able to be expanded due to trade as stated above. Since goods and knowledge were able to be traded, many new technologies, literature, math, and art were introduced. Technologies such as the compass, painting, printing, writing systems, tools, math, medicine, etc. were advancements that were introduced to West Africa and the Middle East.

However, even though sub-Saharan West Africa did have advancements in technology and knowledge, theirs was not as big as compared to the Middle East. Cities such as the Islamic capital city, Baghdad, became very advanced in technology and knowledge, attracting scholars from all over the world, eager to find new and more advancements in mathematics and science.