

“It was by the grace of God, glory be to Him, that He came to the rescue of Islam, by reviving its last breath and restoring in Egypt the unity of the Muslims [in the mid-thirteenth century]. He did this by sending the Mamluks to the Muslims as guardian rulers and devoted defenders, who were imported as slaves from the lands of the heathen Qipchaq Turks. The Turkish slaves embrace Islam with the determination of true believers, while retaining their nomadic virtues.

The slave merchants bring them to Egypt in batch after batch. Then the rulers lodge them in the royal chambers, and give them a careful upbringing, including the study of the Qur’an. Then they train them in the use of the bow and the sword, in riding horses, and in fighting with the lance until they become tough and seasoned soldiers. When the rulers are convinced that they are prepared to defend and die for them, they increase their pay, lands, and incomes. Then they appoint them to high offices of state, and even sultans are chosen from them who direct the affairs of the Muslims.”

Source: Ibn Khaldun, Arab scholar and historian writing about the Mamluk dynasty of Egypt, late fourteenth century

2. Using the excerpt, respond to **parts a, b, and c**.

- a. Identify ONE claim that the author makes about the Mamluks in the **first paragraph**.
- b. Identify ONE way the passage illustrates the political situation of the Islamic world in the period before circa 1450.
- c. Explain ONE way the passage could be used to illustrate differences in forms of coerced labor in the period before circa 1750.

“We consider Buddhists to be a direct threat. For over 1500 years, Buddhism has been spreading in our kingdom, yet neither happiness nor profit has been gained. This is recorded in the historical books, which Your Majesty has certainly studied thoroughly. Must you wait for your ministers to tell you?

We think of all the unorthodox teachings, Buddhism is the worst. The Buddhists live alone with their barbaric customs, apart from the common productive population; yet they cause the people to be poor and to steal. What is worse than their crimes? Beasts and birds that damage grain are certainly chased away because they harm the people. Yet even though beasts and birds eat the people’s food, they are nevertheless useful to the people. Buddhists, however, sit around and eat, and there has not yet been a visible profit.”

Yun Hoe, Korean Confucian scholar and adviser to the Korean Choson monarchy, *On the Harmfulness of Buddhism*, 1424

2. Using the excerpt, respond to **parts a, b, and c**.

- a. Identify ONE claim the author makes in the passage.
- b. Explain ONE way the author’s point of view likely influenced his argument.
- c. Explain ONE way Chinese cultural traditions influenced Asian societies (other than Korea) in the period 1200–1450.