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Shed the societal and cultural narratives holding you back and let free step-by-step World History: The Human Journey textbook solutions reorient your old paradigms. NOW is the time to make today the first day of the rest of your life.

Muhammad and the Origins of Islam The Life of Muhammad Orphaned at 6, Muhammad was saved from a life of slavery by his uncle who gave him a job in his successful caravan business. Married to a successful businesswoman in her own right, Muhammad saw firsthand how the leading families of the Quraysh lived. They were arrogant, reckless, niggardly and egotistical, believed only in riches, and took no responsibility for people outside their immediate, elite circle. Muhammad saw this decline in traditional values as a threat to the very existence of his tribe. He was sure that social reform had to be based on a new spiritual foundation, though before the revelations, he had no idea that his destiny would be to implement these changes. These were Muhammad ibn Ishaq d. These scholars reconstructed their narrative from oral traditions and early documents, and through their effort we know more about Muhammad than we do of any other Prophet. As we have noted with the stories surrounding the Axial Sages, the Old Testament and the Gospels, such accounts are not to be taken literally. Like the infancy narratives in the Gospels, these stories are not intended to relate historical events, but to elucidate the mystery of the prophetic experience. They answer the questions: What does it mean to be a prophet? What is important is what these stories say about our prophets, our messiahs, our kings: Tradition tells that Abraha, the Abyssinian Christian ruler of Yemen, attacked Mecca with a herd of elephants imported from Africa. But just as it was about to be attacked, the sky went dark as a flock of birds, each carrying a stone in its beak, rained down on the invading army which was forced to retreat. Muhammad was a Quraysh from the clan of Hashim. Many stories surround his childhood and birth, which was announced in a tale similar to the Christian story of Mary: But by the time he was eight years old, his grandfather, too, had died and Muhammad was taken in by his Uncle Abu Talib and employed in his successful caravan business, so he was saved from a life of slavery or indebtedness experienced by so many orphans at the time. Khadija was unusual for a woman of her time, she was a respected member of Meccan society and a very successful businesswoman in her own right. When he returned home with more profits than she anticipated, she proposed marriage to him and he accepted, thus acquiring status and entry into Meccan society. Although polygamy was the norm at the time, Muhammad and Khadija were in a monogamous marriage for twenty-five years until her death. They had six children. With his marriage and his businesses doing well, he now had access to the prosperous life. He saw firsthand that although the leading families of the Quraysh believed in the one God, this belief was not relevant to their lives; they had forgotten that everything depended upon Him. Now that they were rich, they adhered to the very worst aspects of murawah and had thrown away the best: The cave Hira in the mountain Jabal al-Nour where, according to Muslim belief, Muhammad received his first revelation. Muhammad saw the decline in traditional values as a threat to the very existence of his tribe. He was sure that social reform had to be based on a new spiritual foundation for it to actually take effect. As a trader, Muhammad came in frequent contact with Jews and Christians. His own people had no such thing and because of this their lives were in chaos, many were suffering and destitute, and the whole tribe was in danger of extinction. Before the revelations, he had no idea that his destiny would be to implement these vital changes.

2: The Life of Muhammad - The Human Journey

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One of the earliest and most significant ancient civilizations was that of Egypt, "the gift of the Nile." The Nile River, the longest river in the world, measures over miles and flows south.

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