

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Between two Superpowers

World History: Global Middle Ages  
2/28/2025

Context: What made the Persians (Sasanians) and Byzantines superpowers? What defined them and their relationship by the 7th century?

<u>Persia (Sasanians)</u>	<u>Byzantine Empire</u>
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**Building Context: Between the Superpowers of Antiquity**

Kingdom/State	Impact of Religion, Exchange	Interactions with other states
Aksum		
Himyar		
Ghassanids (Arabs)		
Lakhmids (Arabs)		

## Discussion

1. What happened in the Last Great War of Antiquity? Why do you think this war is considered a turning point from antiquity (the ancient classical period) to the medieval world?
2. Describe the religious changes that occurred around the Afro-Eurasian world during Late Antiquity. How did religious beliefs serve as both unifying and divisive factors?
3. What do you notice about the comparisons between the four major religions (Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam)?

Zoroastrianism	Judaism	Christianity	Islam
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worship Ahura Mazda</li> <li>• Prophet Zoroaster</li> <li>• Good vs evil (Ahura Mainyu &amp; human choice)</li> <li>• Evil: daevas (spirits) tempting humans</li> <li>• Prayer 5x per day</li> <li>• Purity rituals (veiling, dental hygiene, water &amp; fire)</li> <li>• Avesta: teachings of Zoroaster, law</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worship Yahweh</li> <li>• Prophets Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses</li> <li>• Evil comes from original sin (Adam &amp; Eve)</li> <li>• Satan=temptation</li> <li>• Prayer 3x per day</li> <li>• Purity rituals (kosher, marriage, circumcision)</li> <li>• Torah: Hebrew Bible</li> <li>• Talmud: religious law</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worship God</li> <li>• Prophets (Jewish + Jesus as final prophet)</li> <li>• Evil comes from original sin (Adam &amp; Eve)</li> <li>• Satan=all those opposed to God's will</li> <li>• Prayer 7x per day</li> <li>• Purity rituals (baptism, repentance, forbidden foods)</li> <li>• Bible: Old &amp; New Testament</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worship God (Allah)</li> <li>• Prophets (Jewish + Jesus + Muhammad as final prophet)</li> <li>• Evil comes from human choices against God</li> <li>• Satan=temptation (jinn)</li> <li>• Prayer 5x per day</li> <li>• Purity (halal foods, hygiene, veiling)</li> <li>• Koran: teachings of Muhammad</li> <li>• Hadith: Islamic law</li> </ul>

**The Origins of Islam:** Describe Arab society in and around Mecca around the time of Muhammad.

<b>Life in Mecca at the time of Muhammad</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kaaba</li> <li>• Diversity &amp; beliefs</li> <li>• economic/social life in Muhammad's time</li> </ul>	
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