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In this essay, you will again be pondering an alternate history, a "what if" one thing had happened instead of another as you did with Alexander the Great. The advantage of this type of exercise is to see how history could have taken a totally different turn if just the smallest event did not happen or if an instrumental person made a different decision. The assignment, on page 229, asks you to consider the power dynamics of hierarchies and the network connections in the context of the rise of religions. You will be doing one of the alternate histories proposed in this assignment - with the decisions of either Constantine, Ashoka or Muhammad as your centerpiece.

What if Constantine had converted to Mithraism, the religion of much of the Roman army, instead of Christianity? If Constantine had converted to Mithraism he wouldn't have promoted religion and or accepted Christianity therefore, persecution would have continued to all Christians. That being said, religion sets out as a purpose for society in terms of giving meaning and purpose to life. It strengthens unity and stability and it constitute control of actions. It encourages physical and mental health and motivates people to work positive to social change almost like the enlightenment that of the Buddhism. According the

What if Ashoka had not converted to Buddhism? I believe of Ashoka what have not converted to Buddhism there would've been barbaric and there would be no conversion of tranquility and or empathy. Therefore,

What if Muhammad had died ten years earlier than actually did?

Did hierarchical power dynamics and network connections, the evolutionary environment for the religions' development, matter more than religions' specific doctrines?

Would any of these "what ifs" have led the world down a radically different path, or would the path be closely parallel to the one we have already followed?

The Salvation Religions