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QUESTIONS

1. According to the reading, what benefit do Muslims have?
2. With what we now know about Islam, what are the lives and sayings of the prophet based on?
3. How were approaches to the Koran that are now held as heretical received in the history?
4. How did Islam begin?
5. How did Muhammad's teaching spread?

ANSWERS

1. The Muslims have the benefit of hindsight of the European experience.
2. The lives and sayings of the prophet is based on texts between 130 to 300 years after Muhammad's death.
3. Thousands of years ago, these approaches to the Koran were widely practiced in mainstream Islam.
4. Islam began as a religious movement, rather than a social, economic or "national" one.
5. Muhammad's teaching spread through the Middle East, through military and bureaucratic expansion.

TERMS

Koran- Muslims consider it, the very word of God

Houri- Virgin

Muslim- One who submits

SUMMARY

The origins of Islam have been investigated by scholars as new theories are being uncovered pertaining to the texts meaning. There have been issues in the misreading and mistranslating of the Koran for some years. The interpretation of Islam continues to be hypothetical. The Muslim religion truly began to crystalize in its formation one hundred years after Muhammad's death.