

HIS 113

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"What if"

If Constantine had converted to Mithraism instead of Christianity, the world would be a drastically different place. Though Mithraism was popular in the Roman army, it was by no means the only religion at the time, and the power of the Roman Empire was still strong. Mithraism was a polytheistic religion, and its followers believed in many gods and goddesses, as well as the cult of Mithras, its central deity.

The cult of Mithras was a mystery religion with a complex hierarchy of deities and a series of initiation rites. If Constantine had converted to Mithraism, it is likely that the religion would have become the Roman Empire's official religion. This would have resulted in a much different world. Christianity, a relatively new religion then, would not likely have spread as quickly as it did.

The spread of Christianity was due in part to the support of the Roman Empire, and its eventual dominance over Europe and the Middle East was largely due to the fact that it was the empire's official religion. Without the support of the Roman Empire, Christianity would not have been able to spread so quickly and effectively. In addition, without the support of the Roman Empire, the Inquisition and the Crusades, which were both largely motivated by Christian beliefs, may not have taken place. This could have had wide-reaching implications for the development of Europe, the Middle East, and the world as a whole.

Finally, without Christianity, the development of the modern nation-state as we know it today would likely have been quite different. The nation-state developed largely due to the

spread of Christianity, and without its support, the nation-state as we know it today may not have emerged.