

Reading & Discussion Questions – Bauer pp. 273-280, 291-300, 307-315, Excerpts from “The Life of Muhammad” and “The Qu’ran”

Directions: Please **choose one** of the following prompts and type a 300-word response that fully addresses the question(s) posed, including...

- Text-based evidence from this week’s readings (with citations)
- MLA formatting standards
- Printed document submitted in class on due date
- Submission to Turnitin.com by class time

Option #1: Explain how Islam embodied both a political and religious purpose from its very beginning and how this contrasts with both the foundations and spread of Christianity.

Option #2: Explain what it was about the “Prophet” and his teachings that initially attracted people to follow Muhammad? How and why did his teachings change over the course of his lifetime?

Option #3: Why did the caliphates who reigned after the death of Muhammad struggle to hold the people together? How did they change Islam from its original intent and how did their decisions impact Islam for future generations?