

(6) A VISION FOR THE WORLD, OR THE GENIUS OF THE SPIRIT

Between Rome and the Space Age march two millennia rich in human drama. The tragic collapse of the Roman Empire and the rise of Byzantium, the conversion of the large Turkish Khazar kingdom to Judaism (as documented in Hebrew correspondence between the King of Khazaria and the Jews of Spain) created a colourful new mosaic on the map of the world.

However Greek dualistic ways of thinking continued to clash with the universal view of the Bible. That created a negative affect on the Churches views of the Jews. The sudden rise of Islam from the mid7th Century also turned against the Christian population offering conversion or death. The sad record of the Crusades and the Inquisition also casts a dark cloud on the emerging Middle Ages.



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The Koran

Rome's demise instructs us in what inevitably happens when impoverished and rapidly expanding populations press up against a rich and ordered society. Reading the scholarly volumes of Bernard Lewis on Islam, we are forced to come to terms with the West's almost total ignorance of the Islamic world, and to our surprise, the almost total lack of the Islamic world's appreciation of the West.