

Reading a Primary Source: Jews and Christians in the Muslim Empire

While Christians and Jews who lived in the Muslim Empire were allowed to practice their customs and beliefs, they had to follow certain laws. Read the following paragraph, adapted from a Muslim decree issued in 1354. Then answer the questions in the spaces provided.

[Neither Christians nor Jews] shall . . . build any new church in the lands of Islam, nor rebuild any such building which is destroyed. They shall not harbor spies nor any who are suspect to the Muslims, nor shall they plot against the Muslims. They shall not hinder any of their relatives who wish to accept Islam. They shall not dress like Muslims, but shall wear blue and yellow . . . They shall not ride on a horse or a mule but only on donkeys. They shall not sell intoxicating drinks. They shall keep to their special dress wherever they are. The Christian woman who appears in public shall wear a cotton veil, dyed blue, and the Jewess a yellow veil. [Neither Christians nor Jews] shall . . . build themselves houses higher than the Muslims, nor equal to them. They shall not raise their voices in their churches. They shall not work in the service of our exalted state, nor shall any of them hold a position which would give him authority over any of the Muslims.

1. What passage reveals that the Muslims accepted converts to Islam? _____

2. What rules were established for Jewish and Christian dress and travel? _____

3. What evidence is given that Jews and Christians were allowed to worship in groups? _____
