

Sample Test Identifications

Abu-Bakr was a wealthy merchant, close friend, father-in-law and firm supporter of the prophet Muhammad in Mecca in the early seventh century CE. When Muhammad died, the Muslim community chose Abu-Bakr as first khalifa (caliph), or successor, to the prophet. His caliphate only lasted two years before he died. He was important for holding the new religion together and beginning the expansion of Islam out of the Arabian peninsula by invading the Persian and Byzantine empires. (ID credit Samuel Smith)

The Russo-Japanese War was a war that took place between Russia and Japan in the years 1904-1905. It began as a result of Nicholas II's great ambitions of imperialism and was fought over Korea, Mongolia, Manchuria, amongst other things. Because, as usual, Nicholas II went in to this war stumbling and bumbling, the Russians were entirely unprepared for war. In particular, they were extremely unprepared to fight Japan's military. After suffering defeat after defeat at the hands of the Japanese, namely the Japanese surprise attack on the Russian fleet at Port Arthur (Japan's first Pearl Harbor), the final embarrassment came for Russia when the fleet was annihilated during the battle of Tushima Straights. Incidentally, the same flag that was flying on the flagship Mukawa during the Battle of Tushima Straights would be flown again on the carrier Akagi as the Japanese were launching their surprise attack on the United States on December 7, 1941. This would be the final insult for the Russians, and eventually U.S. President would help usher in the peace via the Treaty of Portsmouth authored in part by Sergei Witte. (ID credit Daniel Schwartz)