

POINTS TO-GO – LESSON 6

The environment:

Most of the population lived in the rural areas. However, the loci of power concentrated in the urban settlements, where the elites resided. In mid-11th century many cities and towns were abandoned. We still do not know the reason...

Urban daily life:

In the absence of the function of mayor in the pre-modern Muslim city, the three important institutions that shaped urban life were: the mosque (prayer house), the hammam (bath house), and the court of the qadi (the judge).

Charity and awqaf (endowments):

Many of the urban services were supplied by private initiatives rather than the authorities. The legal and financial mechanism for this private charity was setting up endowments. In addition to moral context, endowments also carried political meaning.