

POINTS TO-GO – LESSON 7

The importance of religious affiliation:

Religious principles and confessional divisions were meaningful, for Muslims and non-Muslims alike. Conversion, even shifts within religions, had public implications and were not a private and intimate choice.

Non-Muslims:

Islam does not recognize polytheism. Christianity and Judaism, being monotheistic beliefs, are acknowledged. The basic concepts are 'Ahl al-Kitab' (People of the Book that is Scriptures) and 'Ahl al-Dhimma' (Protected People: Jews and Christians should recognize Islamic domination in return for protection).

Divisions and shared spaces:

Theological and legal concepts defined religious and communal boundaries, but every-day realities facilitated both tensions and possibilities to physical proximity and contacts.