**Student Reading: Primary Documents**

**Document A: “The Pact of ibn Muslama” (modified)**

*The following is a pact (agreement) of peace offered in 653 CE to the Christian inhabitants of a region in Western Asia (present-day Armenia and Georgia) by Habib ibn Muslama, the military commander of the conquering Muslim army.*

1 “In the name of Allah, the compassionate, the merciful…securing them safety for their lives, churches,

2 convents, religious services and faith, provided they acknowledge their humiliation and pay tax…on every

3 household…

4 …You owe us counsel and support against the enemies of Allah…to your utmost ability, and are bound

5 (required) to entertain (take care of) the needy Muslim for one night and provide him with food…If you return 6 to the obedience of Allah (become a Muslim) and observe prayer, you are our brethren (brothers/family) in

7 faith, otherwise…tax is incumbent (your duty) upon you…

8…In case an enemy of yours attacks…you while the Muslims are too busy to come to your aid, the Muslims

9 are not held responsible, nor is it a violation of the covenant (agreement) with you. The above are your rights 10 and obligations to which Allah and his angels are witness…”

**Document B: “The Pact of Umar” (modified)**

*The following is possibly an agreement between the Christian people of Syria and their Muslim ruler, Umar, created in the year 637 CE. Some historians think it might have been written 150 years later but reported to be older in order to increase its authority and credibility.*

1 “In the name God, the Merciful, the Compassionate! This is a writing to Umar from the Christians…When

2 you marched against us (fought/conquered), we asked of you protection for ourselves, our posterity (future

3 generations)…and we made this stipulation (agreement) with you that we will not erect (build) in our

4 city…any new monastery, church…(or) repair any of such buildings that might fall into ruins…

5…(W)e will receive any Muslim traveler into our houses and give him food and lodging for three nights…we 6 will not teach our children the Qur’an…we will not make a show of the Christian religion or invite anyone to 7 embrace it…we will not prevent any of our kinsmen (fellow Christians) from embracing Islam…

8 …(W)e will honor the Muslims and rise up (stand) in our assemblies when they wish to take their seats…we

9 will not display the cross upon our churches…or our sacred books in the streets of the Muslims…All this we 10 promise to observe…and receive protection from you in exchange…(I)f we violate…this agreement, then we 11 forfeit (will not receive) your protection and you are at liberty (free) to treat us as enemies and rebels.”

**Source:** Andrea, Alfred J., and James H. Overfield. *The Human Record: Sources of Global History*. Boston: Houghton, 2001. Print.