

Saliba Chapter 7: The Age of Decline

1. What are the two assumptions of the classical narrative about the decline of science in the Islamic World? How does each school of thought/group view the Islamic civilization?
2. What is the evidence against each argument?
3. How do the proponents of CN view scholarly works contained in commentaries? How does Saliba explain their roles?
4. What is some evidence against the idea of deadly struggle between science and religion?
5. According to Saliba when did the age of decline start? How does he define “decline”?

6. According to Saliba what are the causes of the age of decline in Islamic science and the faster rise of science in Europe?

A Closer Look at Tahafut: Refer to the article “Did al-Ghazali Kill the Science in Islam?” and look at the pages from Tahafut

7. What was the purpose of al-Ghazali in writing Tahafut? What specifically does he do in Tahafut? What was his methodology?

8. What does al-Ghazali say about philosophers' mathematics, astronomical sciences or logic.