

*Ways of the World: A Global History with Sources for the AP® Course*

**AP® Skills Workshop Activity Handout: Contextualization**

**Chapter 10: The Worlds of Christendom**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

**1. Activity: Identifying Contextualization.** Read the opening paragraph of the section “Christian Contraction in Asia and Africa” (page 404) reprinted below. What are some of the contexts the authors identify for the rise of Europe as the seat of Christianity?

*It was the wholly unforeseen birth of Islam, an expanding Arab Empire, and a sophisticated transcontinental Muslim civilization that led to the contraction of Christendom in Asia and Africa. As a result, European civilization emerged as the principal center of the Christian faith.*

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**2. Activity: Identifying Contextualization and Claims.** Read the section “Byzantine Christendom: Building on the Roman Past,” which begins on page 409. First, identify the claim of the section, and then explain what context the authors provide and how the context sets the stage for that claim. (Note that sometimes the claim comes before the context, which is perfectly alright!)

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**3. Activity: Working with Contextualization.** Look at the photograph of St. Mark’s Basilica and its caption on page 412. Create a contextualizing statement for the claim below.

*Consecrated in 1094 and located in Venice, Italy, St. Mark’s Basilica is one of the finest examples of Byzantine architecture.*

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