

The Arabic Language and Early Globalization

Most people have legitimate and fair reservations against globalization, yet most of them do recognize its positive aspects, which include, but are not limited to the dissemination of knowledge and information, as well as, cultural and scientific cross fertilization.

The earlier Muslims used the Arabic language for that very purpose; great scholars whose contributions to the course of science and civilization are beyond denial used Arabic as a vehicle through which they communicated with people of other linguistic, cultural, ethnic, racial, and also religious backgrounds.

Some examples include: Averoes, from Andalusia (the medieval name for the Iberian Peninsula), Avicenna from Uzbekistan, al-Farabi from Turkistan.

These were physicians, philosophers and/or jurists who felt that writing in their own languages would make their knowledge accessible only by their own country men, whereas writing in Arabic would make it widely available for so many scholars and students from various nations from china in the east to Andalusia in the west.

There was no other language at that time that was a larger vehicle of transmission of knowledge.

For more reading on the Muslims'/Arabs' contribution to civilization:

A History of the Intellectual Development of Europe by John W. Draper; *University Press of the Pacific, reprinted 2002.*

The Moors in Spain by Stanley Lane-Poole; *Darf Publishers Ltd., 1984.*

The Arabs: a Short History by Phillip Khuri Hitti; *Regnery Publishing, Inc., 1996.*

Introduction to the History of Science by George Sarton, *Kreiger Publishing Co., 1975.*