

**Which of these propositions best describes conquest and settlement models in the Islamic period in Sicily? Assess the evidence in each case and evaluate the merits and weakness of each model.**

"The Arab ruling elites from Ifrīqiya formed a ruling elite in their own image in Sicily. The character of Sicily became strongly Arab and Islamic."

"The Muslim conquest resulted in the adoption of a land tenure system that was used in other Islamic countries."

"Such was the long, drawn out conquest of the island, that they never moved much beyond a 'booty economy' towards a tax-based economy."

"It is fair to assume that the Muslim conquest was conducted, on the whole, according to Islamic law of *jihād*."

"Once in control of the island, the Muslims discontinued non-Islamic systems of taxation."

"Sicily remained a closely tied and tightly controlled colony of Ifrīqiya."

"Large numbers of the conquered, indigenous Christian population left the island (either through emigration or slavery) which was subsequently resettled from North Africa."

"The key urban centres which were besieged during the Muslim invasion were depopulated of Greek Christians and repopulated with Arab-Muslims."

"The local population remained, by-and-large, on the land as they had before. Over time, they became Arabic-speaking, assimilated to received norms of Arab-Islamic society, and many converted to Islam."

"The local population became heavily concentrated in certain strongholds, where the Muslims had little control. They retained their local customs and faith to the Eastern church."

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