

ISLAMIC GUNPOWDER EMPIRES

**EARLY MODERN ISLAM
1450 TO 1750**

DYNASTIC STATE

The Ottoman, Safavid, Mughal rulers and Islam

All three Islamic empires were military creations

Called Gunpowder empires as guns were critical to rise of empire

Military prowess of rulers, elite units critical

Authority of dynasty derived from personal piety

Devotion to Islam led rulers to extend faith to new lands

Steppe traditions

All three were Turkish in origin; two were Shia

Autocratic: emperors imposed their will on the state

Ongoing problems with royal succession

Ottoman rulers legally killed brothers after taking the throne

Royal women often wielded great influence on politics

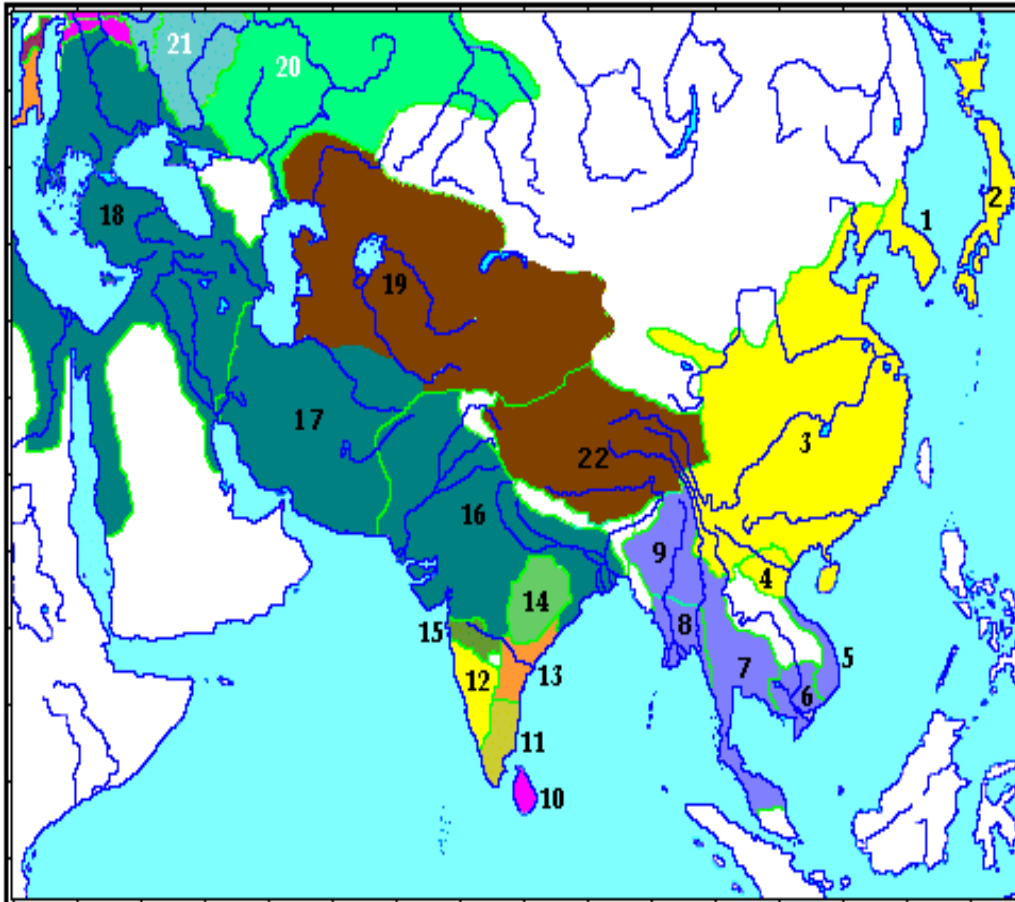
Wives, sisters, daughters, aunts, mother of sultan lived in harem

Eunuchs protected women; both eunuchs, women had influence

Children raised in harem; often not allowed out until teenager

Harem politics: women often influenced policies, selections

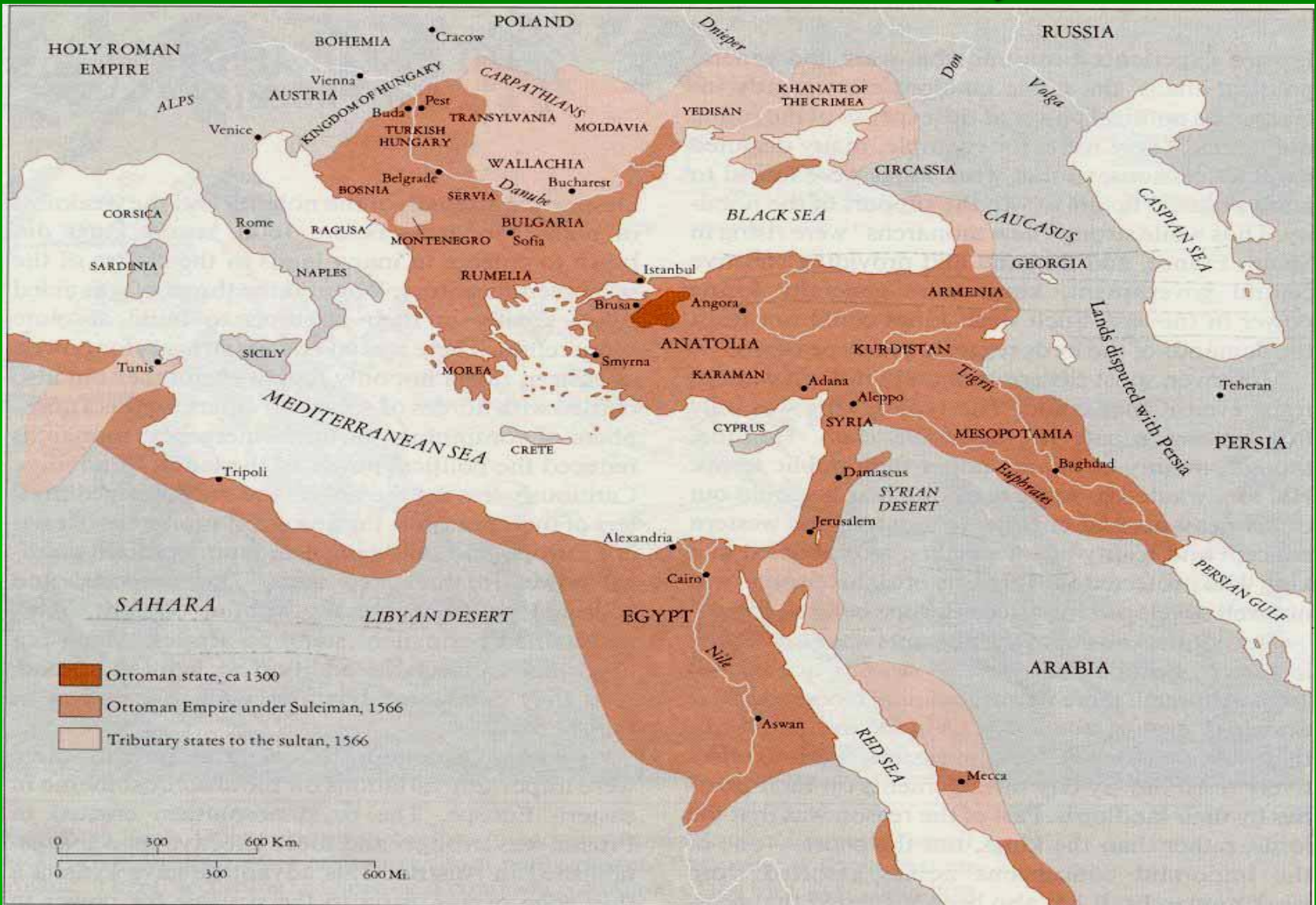
MAP: THE MUSLIM WORLD



ASIA 1600

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|------------------|
| 1 | Korea | 20 | Russia |
| 2 | Japan | 21 | Poland-Lithuania |
| 3 | Ming China | 22 | Tibet |
| 4 | Tonkin | | |
| 5 | Annam | | |
| 6 | Cambodia | | |
| 7 | Siam | | |
| 8 | Pegu | | |
| 9 | Ava | | |
| 10 | Ceylon | | |
| 11 | Polygars | | |
| 12 | Bijapur | | |
| 13 | Golconda | | |
| 14 | Gondwana | | |
| 15 | Ahmedabad | | |
| 16 | Moghul Empire | | |
| 17 | Safavid Persia | | |
| 18 | Ottoman Empire | | |
| 19 | Kazakhs, Uzbeks | | |

OTTOMAN EMPIRE, 1566



RISE OF OTTOMAN EMPIRE

Anatolian clan of the Seljuk Turks

Frontier Emirate Founded 1289

Founder was Osman Bey

Led Muslim religious warriors (*ghazi*)

Ottoman expansion into Byzantine empire

Seized city of Bursa, then into the Balkans

Organized *ghazi* into formidable military machine

Central role of the Janissaries (slave troops)

Effective use of gunpowder in battles and sieges

14th – 15th Century Expanded into S. E. Europe

Conquered Bulgaria, Serbia, Albania, Greece

Would have conquered Byzantines early except for Timurlane

Established the *devshirme*

Mehmed the Conqueror (reigned 1451-1481)

Captured Constantinople in 1453

Renamed city Istanbul, the Ottoman capital

Absolute monarchy; centralized state

Expanded to Serbia, Greece, Albania

Attacked Italy



TURKISH SOCIAL STRUCTURE

Four social groupings in settled, urban environment

The men of the pen

Judges, imams (prayer leaders), other intellectuals
Under Suleyman, became the empire's bureaucrats
Later split into men of the pen and men of religion

Men of the sword: military

Men of negotiations, such as merchants

Men of husbandry: farmers, livestock raisers

Life on the frontier was far less structured

Society there was divided into two groups

Askeri (the military)

Consisted of the men of pen, religion, sword
Protected the realm, raya
Conquered new territories

Raya (the subjects)

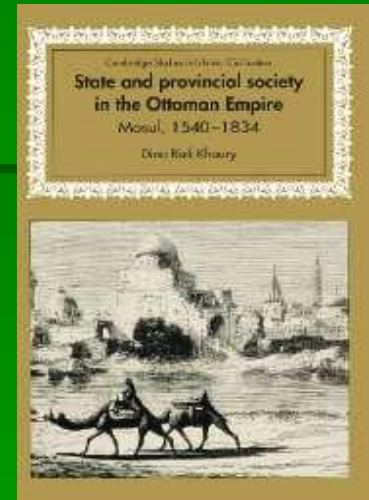
In the early days

Possible for raya to cross over, become askeri
Through outstanding military service

Over time

Separation between askeri and raya became more rigid
Military became almost hereditary

Women had no rights aside from tradition, class, husbands' wishes



TIMAR AND LAND SURVEY

Timar system

Askeri was given a share of the agricultural taxes of a designated region

Usually consisting of several villages

In return for military service as cavalryman, assisted in provincial government

Those who were given such grants were called *timarly*

Like other askeri, they were exempt from taxation.

Values of timars varied, military obligation attached to the timar varied

At height Ottomans put more than 100,000 cavalymen into the field

Gradually became hereditary

Timar was not feudalism

Timar-holder did not dispense justice

Justice was the sultan's prerogative

European feudalism

Government on local level

In absence of central government

In Ottoman Empire

Central government was active and crucial

Timar more like Japanese shogun fief system

Tahrir

The tahrir took place when a new area was conquered

Team of officials surveyed, recorded by *sanjak*

Names of all adult male farmers

All sources of wealth in the area

Their yields and the taxes paid on them



GHULAM

A ghulam was a slave

An old Muslim tradition

By definition, the slave was a non-Muslim

Educated and trained for state service

Similar to the Mameluk system

Ottomans modified the ghulam system by the infamous *devshirme*

Young Christian males between the ages of 8 and 15

Were removed from villages in the Balkans to be trained for state service

Youths were brought before the sultan

Best of them

In terms of physique, intelligence, other qualities

Were selected for education in the palace school

They converted to Islam

Became versed in the Islam, its culture

Learned Ottoman Turkish, Persian, and Arabic

Were trained in the military and social arts

Owed absolute allegiance to the sultan

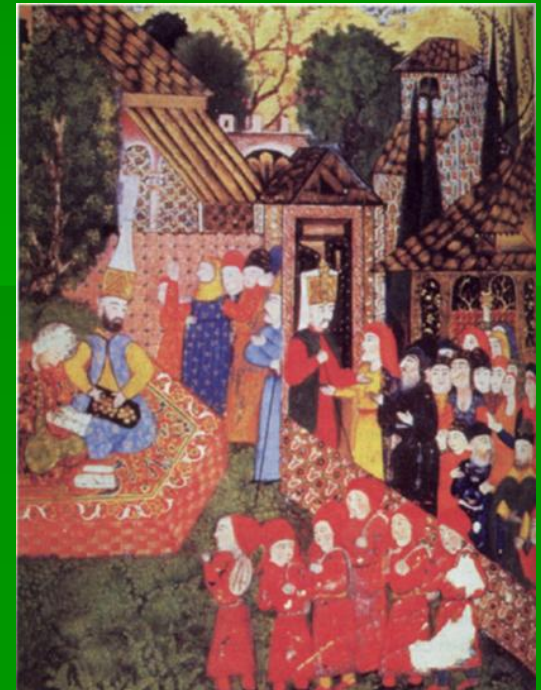
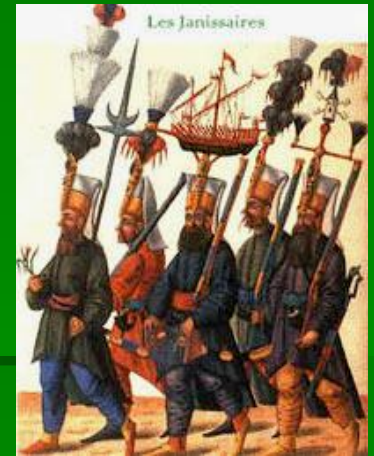
Were destined for the highest offices in the empire

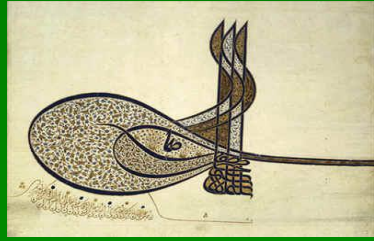
Those not selected for the palace school

Converted to Islam, worked for rural Turkish farmers

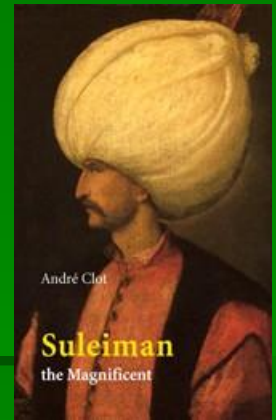
Learned vernacular Turkish, folk Islamic culture

Became sultan's elite infantry: Janissaries.





SULEYMAN THE MAGNIFICENT



Empire at its height under Suleyman

Reigned 1520-1566

Son of Sultan Selim the Grim

Mother was Christian

Came to power through murder of brothers

Conquered lands in Europe, Asia, Africa

Conquered Syria, Holy Land, Egypt

Conquered Hungary, Croatia, Rumania

Siege of Vienna in 1529 failed

Built powerful navy to rule Mediterranean

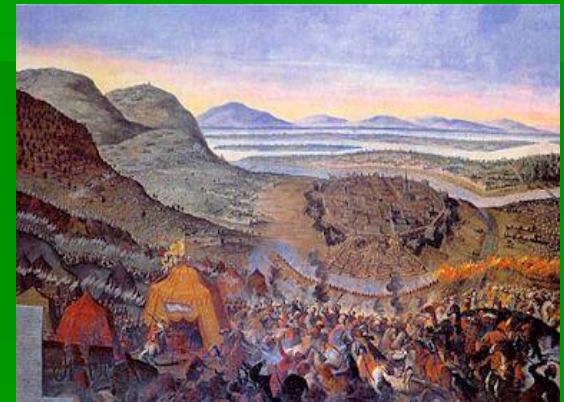
Conquered Rhodes from Knights of St. John

Besieged Malta but did not conquer it

Encouraged development of arts

Beautified Constantinople with mosques

Empire began a slow decline after Suleyman



THE TURKISH MILLET

Each millet

Was headed by its own religious dignitary

Chief rabbi in the case of the Jews

Patriarchs for the Greek Orthodox, Armenian communities

Heads of millet were responsible to Turkish sultan

Advised sultan on affairs in the community

Was punished by sultan for problems of the community

Later expanded to other ethnic communities

Muslims had not millet

Muslims ruled by Quran, sharia

In the millet system

Each community was responsible for

The allocation and collection of its taxes

Its educational arrangements

Internal legal matters pertaining to marriage, divorce, inheritance

In the pre-modern Middle East

Identity was largely based on religion

System functioned well until rise of European nationalism

Most cities were divided into quarters based on religion, language

SAFAVID PERSIA

Turkish conquerors of Persia and Mesopotamia

Founder Shah Ismail (reigned 1501-1524)

Claimed ancient Persian title of shah.

Proclaimed Twelver Shiism official religion

Imposed it on Sunni population

Followers were *qizilbash* (or "Red Hats")

Twelver Shiism

Traced origins to 12 ancient Shiite imams

Ismail believed to be twelfth, or "hidden," imam

Battle of Chaldiran (1514)

Sunni Ottomans persecuted Shiites within Ottoman empire

Qizilbash considered firearms unmanly; lost battle

Shah Abbas the Great (1588-1629)

Revitalized the Safavid empire

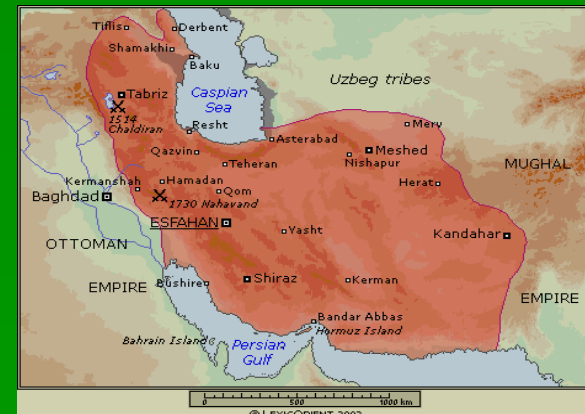
Modernized military

Sought European alliances

Permitted European merchants, missionaries

New capital at Isfahan

Centralized administration



MUGHAL EMPIRE

**Tamerlane was direct predecessor
Babur (1523-1530)**

Founder of Mughal ("Mongol") dynasty in India

Central Asian Turk invaded India in 1523

Seized Delhi in 1526

By 1530, Mughal empire embraced most of India

Akbar (reigned 1556-1605)

A brilliant charismatic ruler

Created centralized, absolutist government

Expanded to Gujarat, Bengal, S. India

Encouraged religious tolerance

Between Muslims and Hindus

Employed Hindus in his government

Developed a syncretic religion called "divine faith"

Eliminated head tax on Hindus, banned sati

Aurangzeb (1659-1707)

Expanded the empire to almost the entire Indian subcontinent

Revoked policies of toleration: Hindus taxed, temples destroyed

His rule troubled by religious tensions and hostility

Arrival of Europeans: permitted them to trade, establish bases



COMMERCE & DEMOGRAPHY

Food crops

Agriculture: the basis of all three empires

Major crops: wheat, rice

Little impacted by new American crops

Imports of coffee, tobacco very popular

Coffee discovered in Jaffa Province (Ethiopia)

Coffee houses developed, a major social tradition

Peasants

Tended to be overtaxed, overworked by nobles

Many so mistreated that they abandoned their lands

Demographics

Population growth less dramatic than in China, Europe

India: significant growth due to intense agriculture

Less dramatic growth in Safavid and Ottoman realms

All empires were multi-national, multi-religious

Commerce

Long-distance trade important to all three empires

Minorities controlled trade in all three states in trade diasporas

Trade goods tended to be traditional arts, crafts; little manufacturing

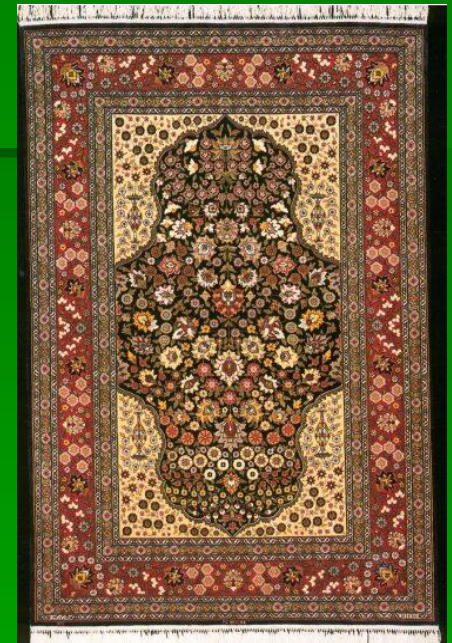
Ottomans, Safavids shared parts of east-west trade routes

Safavids offered silk, carpets, ceramics to Europeans

Mughal empires less attentive to foreign or maritime trading

Mughals permitted stations for English, French, Dutch

Europeans gradually exclude Indian influence



RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

Religious diversity

Created challenges to rule of empires

Uniformity hard with religious differences

Religious minorities

Generally tolerated in Islamic states

In Ottoman empire

Conquered peoples protected, granted religious, civil autonomy

Organized into quasi-legal millets to regulate own affairs

Much of population was Christian, Jewish

Each communities had own millet which handled judicial affairs

In India

Majority of population was Hindu

Early Muslim rulers closely cooperated with Hindu majority

Under Aurangzeb: Islam proclaimed state religion, nonbelievers taxed

In Persia

Shia were fanatical

Enforced articles of faith

Religious diversity in India under the rule of Akbar

Akbar encouraged religious tolerance

Advocated syncretic "divine faith" called Din i-ilahi

Emphasizing loyalty to emperor

Catholic missionaries welcomed at court of Akbar

Tolerated Sikhism

A new faith arose by combing elements of Islam, Hinduism

Egalitarian faith whose members were soldiers, merchants





CULTURAL PATRONAGE

Sponsored arts and public works

Golden Age of Islamic art, architecture

Mosques, palaces, schools, hospitals, caravanserais

Miniature painting flourished in Iran, Mughals

Istanbul

Ottoman capital, a bustling city of a million people

Topkapi palace housed government, sultan's residence

Suleymaniye blended Islamic, Byzantine architecture

Isfahan

Safavid capital

The "queen of Persian cities"

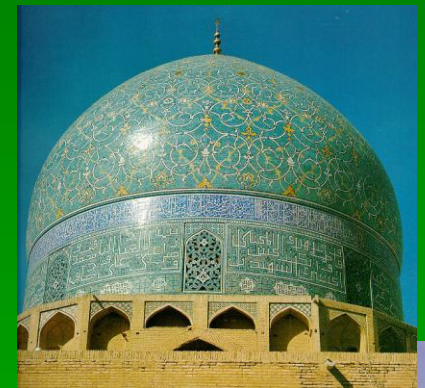
The central mosque is a wonder of architecture

Fatehpur Sikri, Mughal capital, created by Akbar

Combined Islamic style with Indian elements

Site abandoned because of bad water supply

Taj Mahal, exquisite example of Mughal architecture



DETERIORATION

Dynastic decline

Caused by negligent rulers, factions

Constant competition between factions within government

Former elite military units often became threats

Government corruption

Bribery became way of doing business

Many officials pocketed taxes, overtaxed, etc.

Harem politics

Rulers raised in harems let sex carry them away

Rulers took to drinking, partying too much

Rulers' mothers, wives jockeyed for position, sons

Tensions increased

Religious conservatives abandoned tolerance

Ottoman conservatives

Resisted innovations like the telescope, printing press

Resisted western military innovations, industrialization

Discouraged merchants, commercialism

Safavid Empire

Shiite leaders urged shahs to persecute Sunnis, Sufis

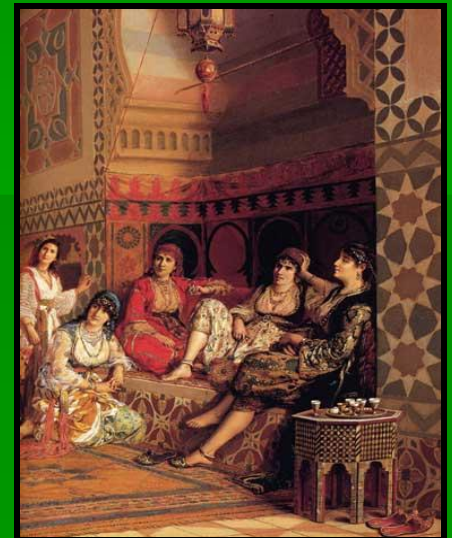
Non-Muslims lost many protections

Mughal India

Aurangzeb's policies provoked deep animosity of Hindus

Rise of Sikhs

Rise of Christians with coming of Europeans



REASONS FOR DECLINE

Economy and Military Expansion

The Conquerors 1/5

Each conquest provided booty to state to help development

End of territorial expansion meant no booty

Difficult to support armies and bureaucrats

Series of long and costly wars with no financial support

Economy Stagnated by eighteenth century

Officials resorted to raising taxes to deal with financial problems

Official, unofficial corruption lost millions in revenue to state

Failure to develop trade and industry

Commerce had always been in hands of Jews, Armenians

Lost initiative to European merchants



Military decline

Imported European weapons but never made their own

Arsenals outdated; tactics outdated; systems outdated

Ottoman Empire

Even purchased military vessels from abroad

Europeans developed extremely modern militaries

1689: Austrians raise 2nd siege of Vienna, liberate Hungary

India

Rise of Marhattas, Rajputs in India

Mughals refused to build a navy, let Europeans rule seas

Led to loss of Mughal provinces

Local princes, rulers assumed control, defied Mughals



Rise of Banditry, Piracy

In countryside, many poor peasants took to banditry

On seas, many ports and merchants too to piracy

Trade disrupted, made Europeans mad who often retaliated

CULTURAL INSULARITY

Cultural conservatism

Ottoman cartographer, Piri Reis, gathered together European maps
Muslims seldom traveled to the West, confident of their superiority
Science, technology ignored as it is western, threat
Ignorant of European technological developments
Hostile to European, Christian inventions, institutions

Social conservatism

Middle classes failed to develop in Muslim states
Growing gap between ruling elite, peasants/slaves
Growing antagonism between religious elites, ruling elites

Resistance to printing press

Introduced by Jewish, late fifteenth century
At first, Ottomans banned printing in Turkish, Arabic
Ban lifted in 1729; conservatives closed Turkish press in 1742
In India, Mughals showed little interest in printing technology

Xenophobia becomes a cultural trait of Islam

Foreign cultural innovations seen as a threat to political stability
Inability to grasp aspects of modern politics, state structures
Muslims cannot believe what is happening to them
More irritating that it is the Christian Europeans who are ruling

