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
- 2 Japan
- 3 Ming China
- 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
- 20 Russia
- 21 Poland-Lithuania
- 22 Tibet
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

14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> 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
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 timarlı
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 cavalrymen 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
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
Tamerlame 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 Gujurat, 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
MAP OF THE MUGHAL STATE
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 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
- Piri Reis, Ottoman cartographer, gathered together European maps
- Muslims seldom traveled to the West, confident of their superiority
- Science and technology ignored as it is western, a 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