

The Ottoman and Safavid Empires



Warm Up Question (March 3)

- If you were a King or Queen name 3 characteristics you would need to be successful when ruling an empire.
- Why did you choose those qualities?

Warm Up Question March 4

- Why do you believe powerful empires decline?
- List 3 reasons why you believe powerful empires decline.

The Ottomans

- Turkish-speaking nomadic group.
- Migrated from into Asia Minor.
Central Asia
- The Ottoman expansion threatened the crumbling Byzantine empire.

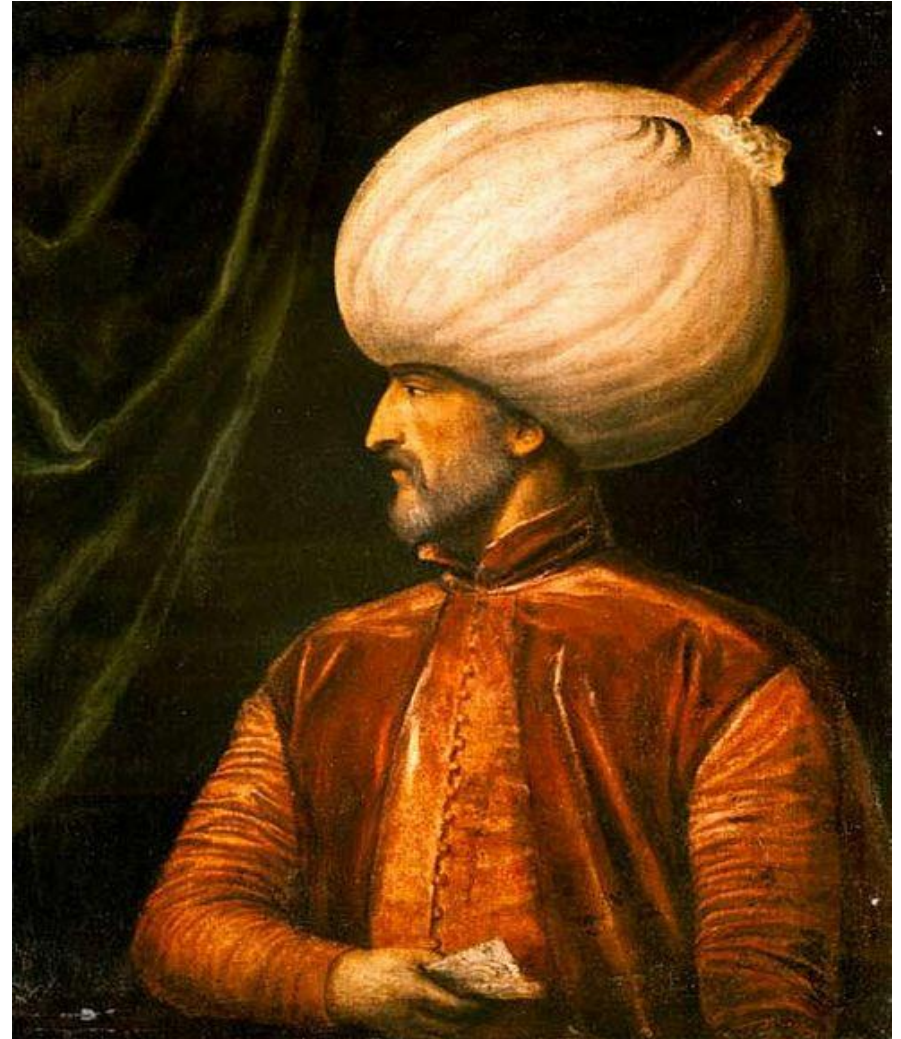
Constantinople falls to the Ottomans

- After many failed attempts, Mehmet II finally succeeds to take Constantinople in 1453.
- 2 month siege
- Constantinople will become the new capital, but was renamed Istanbul.



Suleiman the Magnificent

- The Ottoman empire enjoys a Golden Age under Suleiman- ruler from 1520-1566.
- Brilliant general, expanded the empire east and west.
- Felt he was the leader of all Muslims



Ottoman Culture

- Suleiman strengthened the government.
- Improved its system of justice
- Suleiman had absolute power but ruled with the advice of a council.
- Ottoman law was based on the Sharia



Society organized into classes

1. Soldiers who defended the state and scientists, lawyers and poets. “men of the sword and pen”

 **Almost entirely Muslim**

2. Merchants and tax collectors and artisans “men of negotiation”

 **Included Non-Muslims**

3. Farmers and herders “men of husbandry”

 **Included Non-Muslims**



Military Life

- Best soldiers won a prized place in the Janissaries- elite force of the Ottoman army.
- The best of these received special education to become government officials.



Decline of the Ottomans

- Began after the death of Suleiman.
- Suleiman had killed two of his sons because he suspected them of treason.
- Another son, Selim II, took over but left the government work to ministers. It soon became corrupt.



The Safavid Empire

- 1500 the Safavid- a dynasty that united an empire in Persia (present day Iran).
- Sandwiched between the Ottoman empire and the Mughal empire they often engaged in warfare.
- Safavids were Shiite Muslims and the Ottomans were Sunni Muslims. Many tensions

Abbas the Great

- Safavid king was called the Shah.
- Shah Abbas- revived the glory of Persia.
- Centralized the government and made a powerful military.
- Looked for alliances with European powers who feared the Ottomans.



Shah Abbas I the Great
1587-1629

Abbas and the economy

- Reduced taxes
- Encouraged the growth of industry
- Tolerated non-Muslims and valued their economic contributions.
- Built new capital at Isfahan- which became a center of the international silk trade.



The Safavid empire declines

- Empire declines after the death of Shah Abbas
- Shiite Muslims challenge the authority of the Shah. They want persecution of religious minorities, pushing Sunni Afghans to rebel
- The rebels will win and capture Isfahan.
- 1700's- Qajars- won control of Iran. Made Tehran its capital. They ruled until 1925.

