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”

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

3. Farmers and herders “men of husbandry”

Almost entirely Muslim

Included Non-Muslims

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.