

## Civilization: Ottoman Empire 1280-1919CE

Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Varied climates/landforms due to diversity of conquered territory</li> <li>• Desert in North Africa and coast of Arabian Peninsula, Balkan climate varied</li> <li>• Prime trading position on the Mediterranean, middleman between Europe and the East (yet didn't take full advantage); strategic location between the 3 continents</li> <li>• Stretched from Persian Gulf to Crimea, over to Hungary, and down to Northern Africa, and parts of Arabian peninsula</li> <li>• Based at <b>Anatolia</b> (Asia Minor); Empire reached its height size wise and culture wise under Suleiman and then began to lose territory over the next few centuries</li> </ul>
Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Founded in end of 13<sup>th</sup> century, <b>Osman I</b> is ruler as a result of filling power void left by the Mongols</li> <li>• Known as a <b>Gun Powder Empire</b></li> <li>• 1350s, Ottomans cross Bosphorus Strait into Europe, conquer Balkans; strategy was to surround Constantinople before attacking</li> <li>• <b>Mehmed II</b> conquers Constantinople in 1453, shows Western Europe the threat the Ottomans have become; using <b>GUNPOWDER</b> siege weapons</li> <li>• Ottomans were victorious because of advanced siege machinery in the hands of skilled janissaries (warriors who were conscripted and trained)</li> <li>• 1683, last <b>Siege of Vienna</b> takes place, Ottomans are once again halted</li> <li>• Ruled by a <b>sultan</b>, who is an absolute ruler</li> <li>• <b>Grand Vizier</b> is the head of the extensive bureaucracy and advisor to the sultan</li> <li>• Didn't have a problem in the 1<sup>st</sup> few hundred years of the empire to have not Turkic people in seats of gov't – <b>Devshirme System</b> and <b>Janissary Corp</b></li> <li>• Law is based on <b>Sharia</b>, and amended by <b>Suleiman</b> in the 16<sup>th</sup> century (known as the Lawgiver to his people and the Magnificent to the Europeans); golden age occurred under Suleiman</li> </ul>
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vital position for trade, crossroads between Europe and China- but due to conquest do not fully take advantage; although in phases of the early empire building utilized the money coming into the empire as a form of tribute to build empire (like Mongols in Russia)</li> <li>• Economy is mainly agricultural, but economy depends on conquest to increase revenue</li> <li>• Imported more than they exported but did craft Ceramics, and carpets famous</li> <li>• Individual merchants become the middlemen as prior Muslim merchants were in past empires</li> <li>• European silver after the first wave of imperialism caused inflation</li> <li>• Middleman position indirectly caused European exploration; Spain and Portugal wanted to avoid high prices on imported goods and get hands directly on Asian luxury goods; fighting in the empire may have caused cost of goods to rise</li> <li>• Once the Western Europeans industrialized, the Ottomans were outpaced by the West</li> </ul>
Religious	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ottoman leadership was Sunni, Safavids (their eastern neighbor) are Shi'ites, causes conflict along borders</li> <li>• Subjects were religiously diverse, Christianity/Judaism in Balkans, Muslim in Africa, etc.</li> <li>• Originally tolerated dhimmis, or People of the Book (Jews and Christians) because they were worshipping the same god</li> <li>• Persecution occurs later on, Armenian Christians attacked in late 1800s and during WWI – <b>Armenian Massacre</b></li> <li>• Non-Muslims were grouped into religious ghettos called <b>millet</b>s; mostly found in the Balkans</li> </ul>
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very ethnically diverse: Serbian, Greek, Macedonian, Bulgarian, Turkic, Arab etc. – considerable level of tolerance at first</li> <li>• Jews and Christians confined to millets so they were easier to handle and collect the jizya (head tax for non-Muslims) from</li> <li>• More Muslim, more elite in social system</li> <li><b>SOCIAL STRUCTURE.....</b></li> <li>• Sultan on top, absolute ruler</li> <li>• Nobles/Educated people next, includes lawyers and other professions, only the <u>Muslims</u> though (Men of the Pen)</li> <li>• Military comes next, Janissaries, cavalry, etc. (Men of the Sword)</li> <li>• Tax collectors/Merchants/Artisans make up something that resembles a middle class (Men of Negotiation)</li> <li>• Farmers are second to last, (Men of Husbandry) followed by slaves (domestic)</li> </ul>
Intellectual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aqueducts built from surrounding hills bring water into the cities – not innovative</li> <li>• Hospitals, mansions, and religious schools were built</li> <li>• Extensive bureaucracy, inspectors hired to enforce standard measurement system</li> <li>• Persian, Arabic and Turkic influences</li> <li>• Advanced in literature, ceramics, carpet-making, and architecture</li> <li>• Arches and domes, often guilds were formed – again not innovative</li> <li>• <b>Coffee houses</b> promoted poetry and were gathering places for intellectuals; as decline began gov't began to be shut down due to fear of undermining the gov't</li> <li>• Generally, the Ottomans took the ideas of others and improved upon them while making them their own</li> </ul>
Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suleiman mosque is an engineering marvel, largest domed structure of its time</li> <li>• Public/private gardens, crafts fairs</li> </ul>

Decline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Eventually after conquest, it got hard to maintain such a large empire, internal decay resulted</li> <li>•Rivals emerge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some later Sultans indulge in the Harem too much</li> </ul> </li> <li>•Bureaucracy becomes corrupt, vizier holds real power</li> <li>•Military missed industrialization, overpowered by Europeans</li> <li>•Conquests stopped, and so did the bonus revenue</li> <li>•European explorations negate their middleman position</li> <li>•Silver from European colonies caused inflation</li> <li>•Janissaries become less elite, upper class shrinks</li> <li>•Peasants unhappy, rebellion occurs</li> <li>•Less toleration of minority groups – rise of Nationalism for these groups beginning with the Greeks followed by other ethnicities in the Balkans</li> <li>•Eastern Question/<b>Sick Man of Europe</b></li> <li>•Tanzimat is a period of reforms to try to slow down decline (1839-1876);include educational improvement and an attempt at eliminating corruption, also universal conscription; tried to follow German model of political and military organization –like Meiji</li> <li>•Tanzimat reforms of the late 1800s proved ineffective</li> <li>•Young Turks form as nationalist group for modernization after nullification of Tanzimat reforms, but contribute to <b>the Armenian Massacre</b> during WWI</li> <li>•Young Turks overthrow sultan, but are inept at governing, and are soon in WWI, which spells the end for the Ottoman Empire</li> <li>•Treaty of Versailles ends the Ottoman Empire 1919; Rise of Mustafa Kemal AKA Ataturk in 1922 and modern day Turkey is formed</li> </ul>
Global Connection/ Interactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•one of the 1<sup>st</sup> circulated stories printed in Guttenberg’s printing press was the story of the Siege of Constantinople 1453</li> <li>Ottoman merchants served for a brief time as the middlemen of trade between Western Europe and China (Asia) until age of Exploration</li> <li>•Silver from Western Europe caused inflation in the Ottoman economy</li> <li>•Had connections with Shi’ite neighbors the Safavids, often sparred with them</li> <li>• Armies marched as far West as Vienna, coming into contact with the Austrian-Hapsburg forces; caused concern to European countries for a time</li> <li>•Came into conflict with Russia during the Crimean War (1854-1856), was aided by Western European countries as result of the Balance of Power concept</li> <li>• In the 1800s and leading up to WWI- known as “Sick Man of Europe”</li> <li>• Armenian Massacre during WWI</li> <li>• Non-Turkic people like Arabs and other ethnic groups in the Balkans resented the rule of the Turks in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century</li> <li>• Ataturk fights for Ottomans during WWI and leads a fight against the Mandate system set up as a result of Treaty of Versailles— gets Turkey, overthrows last Sultan and sets up Turkey as a republic! First one in the Middle East</li> <li>• Serves as an example of a hegemonous empire in its rise but a dominant empire in its decline</li> </ul>