

Muslim Empires

*The Emergence of the First
Global Age (1450–1750)*



The Ottoman Empire

The Safavid Empire

The Mughal Empire

Thematic Icons



Economics and business



Geography and environment



Historical concepts and questions



Politics, government and citizenship



Religion and thought



Society and culture



War, diplomacy and foreign policy

Icons: For more detailed instructions, see the *User Guide*



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page



By the end of this section, you will have learned about the rise and decline of the Ottoman Empire, and be able to answer the following key questions:

- Who were the key leaders of the Ottoman Empire and what did they accomplish?
- How did the Ottoman Empire change during this time?
- Why did the Ottoman Empire begin to decline?



Looking back timeline



In order to contextualize the rise of Muslim Empires, use this timeline to recap previous key historical events. Either press on a date or drag the pointer along the timeline to find out information about what happened in each year.

Press **start** to begin.

start





Origins of the Ottoman Empire



As the Byzantine Empire declined, Muslim military societies sprang up across Turkey. Each society was run by an emir, who relied on the strength of his warrior ghazis.

Osman was one such ghazi. Between 1300 and 1326, he established a Muslim state in Anatolia. His followers were known as Ottomans.

His grandson **Murad I** (1326–1389) turned this state into an empire. New technologies like muskets and cannons helped Murad conquer most of modern-day Turkey and the Balkans.





Murad's empire



Murad I declared himself **sultan** of the **Ottoman Empire**.

One key to Murad's success was his creation of the **janissary** corps – highly trained slave soldiers loyal only to the sultan.



Murad ruled his growing empire through local leaders, allowing conquered people to keep their own culture and traditions. Many peoples' lives improved under Ottoman rule.



The fall of Constantinople



By the mid-1400s, much of the Ottomans' territory had broken away.

The tides turned under Murad II, who expanded the empire into the Balkans and Hungary.

His son, **Mehmed II**, came to power in 1451 at the age of 21. In 1453, he lay siege to the Byzantine capital of Constantinople. The city fell after seven weeks of heavy cannon fire.



The Ottomans rebuilt the city and renamed it Istanbul. Mehmed II came to be known as Mehmed the Conqueror.

Why were cannons important to Ottoman expansion?



Growth of the Ottoman Empire



Over the next 200 years, the Ottoman Empire expanded until it controlled vast portions of North Africa and the Middle East. Watch this animation to find out how the Empire grew over time.

Press **start** to begin.

start

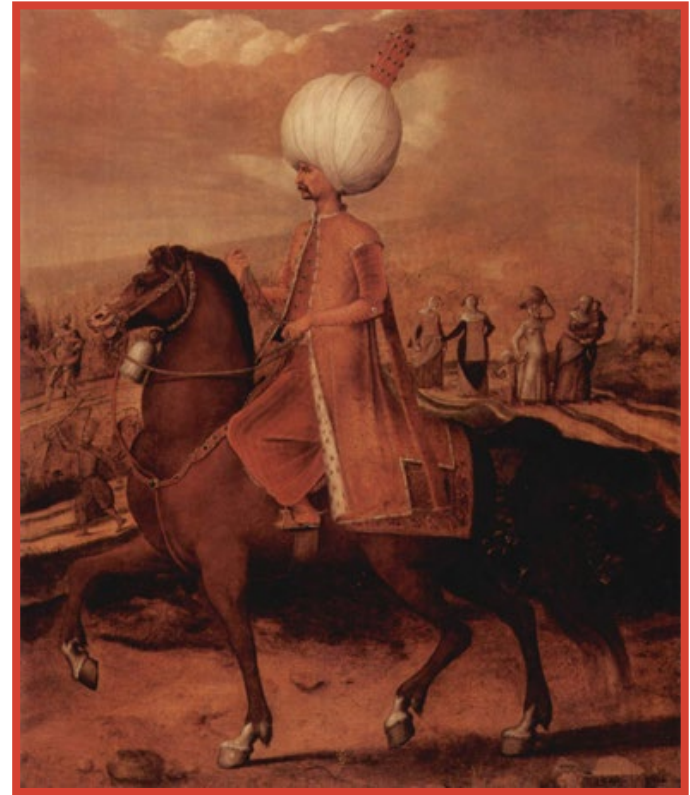




Suleiman the Lawgiver

Suleiman is often considered the greatest Ottoman sultan.

His creation of civil and criminal law codes earned him the name **Suleiman the Lawgiver** among his own people, while his military prowess led Westerners to call him Suleiman the Magnificent.



In accordance with Islamic law, Suleiman permitted religious freedom within his empire. He did this with the **millet** system.



A cultural golden age

People of different faiths lived in groups called millets, which were governed by their own religious laws and customs. The leaders of these millets reported to the sultan and his officials.

Suleiman had a keen interest in the arts. During his rule, the Ottoman Empire experienced a golden age of literature, art and architecture as craftsmen from across the Western world came together to blend their cultures and ideas.



What might be some advantages and disadvantages of the millet system?

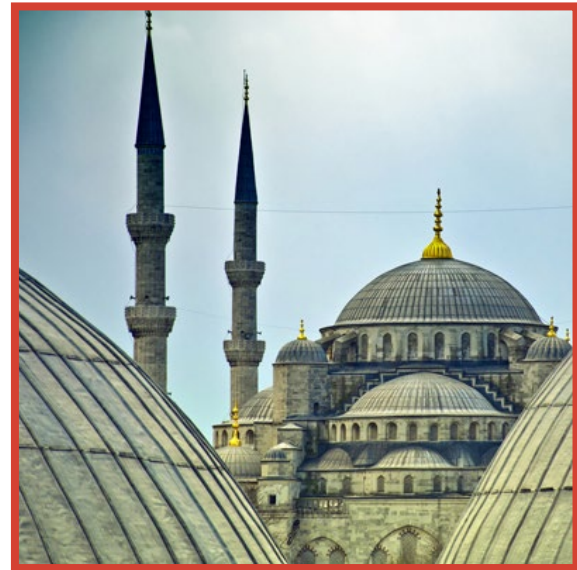


The decline of the Ottoman Empire



Suleiman suspected his sons of plotting to overthrow him. He had two of them killed, leaving his incompetent son Selim II to take over the empire upon his death in 1566.

The tradition of sultans strangling their brothers and raising their sons in ignorance led to a series of weak leaders.



The Ottoman Empire began to seriously decline in the 1800s. However, it did not dissolve until the end of World War I in 1923, 600 years after its formation.





Drag these key events in Ottoman history into the order in which they took place, from earliest to latest.

Press **start** to begin.

start

