

Chapter 24

The Gunpowder Empires of Western and Southern Asia

c. 1250	Osman founds the Ghazi Ottoman state
1300s–1500s	Ottoman Empire expands and flourishes
1453	Mehmed the Conqueror seizes Constantinople/Istanbul
1520–1566	Reign of Suleiman the Magnificent
1500s–1722	Safavid Empire in Persia
1556–1605	Reign of Akbar the Great of India
1587–1629	Reign of Shah Abbas the Great of Persia
1500s–mid-1800s	Mughal Empire in India



The Ottoman Empire

- Arrival of Ottoman dynasty in Central Asia a product of two developments:
 - Turkification of the caliphate
 - Abbasid rulers forced to rely on skills of Turkish troops to quell revolts
 - Seljuk victory against Byzantine Empire at Battle of Manzikert (1071 CE) enabled Turks to establish Rum Sultanate in Asia Minor
 - Growing importance of dervish, or Sufi orders in Islam led by Shaykhs



Growth of Ottoman Empire

- Founded in 1250 by Turkish chieftain, Osman, held fiefdom in western Asia minor under Rum sultans
 - Used as a base to wage jihad against the Byzantines
 - ghazi state made up of frontier warriors organized around two dervish orders
 - Survives Mongol destruction of Rum Sultanate
 - State expands at expense of both Christian and Muslim territories



Growth of Ottoman Empire

- Orhan (1326-1359 CE)
 - Expands territory into Balkans
 - Establishes feudal system with landed estates parceled out to military commanders
 - Various nationalities, religious groups absorbed
 - Organized into self-regulating millets



Growth of Ottoman Empire

- Mehmed the Conqueror captured Constantinople in 1453
 - Use of cannon to knock down city walls
 - City renamed Istanbul becomes Ottoman capital
- Empire reached its peak under Suleiman the Magnificent
 - Domains included Hungary, Romania, southern Poland, southern Russia, North Africa, Arab Middle East
 - Military power unmatched



Ottoman Government

- Government, Sublime Porte, divided into secular and religious bureaucracy
- Secular Bureaucracy:
 - Sultan, officials (grand vizier, prime minister to copyists)
 - Most members were converts to Islam
- Religious Bureaucracy
 - Members were ulama, learned scholars of the law, the *Sharia*
 - Shaykh al-Islam was head of bureaucracy
 - Great moral authority, junior partner in government

Army in Ottoman Government

- Far superior to European militaries
 - Professional, disciplined, well-trained, armed Janissaries
- Devshirme – system to staff army
 - Balkan Christian boys drafted at a young age, converted to Islam
 - Had unlimited chances to advance in both the military and civilian government
 - Created army and bureaucracy loyal only to the Sultan
 - Paid salaries
- When Janissaries began to own land, developed local connections became less loyal

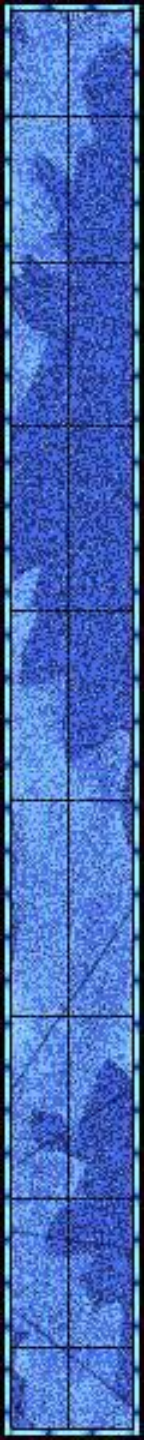


Portrait of Sultan Mehmet II (1432–81) (w/c on paper), Turkish School (15th century)/Topkapi Palace Museum, Istanbul, Turkey/Giraudon/The Bridgeman Art Library



Non-Muslims under Ottoman Rule

- In the early centuries Jews, Christians generally treated fairly
 - Better than Muslims or Jews living under Christian rule
 - Able to elect own headmen
- Limits to tolerance
 - Could not proselytize, bare arms, hold office
 - More heavily taxed
 - Brutality of the devshirme
- As Empire relations deteriorate
- Balkan Christians appeal for help from Austria, Russia – were then treated as potential traitors



Zenith of Ottoman Empire – Suleiman

- Empire reached peak during Suleiman's Rule (1520-1566 CE)
- Pushed Iberians out of Tunis and Algiers
- Seized Rhodes, Belgrade, Budapest
- Failed siege of Vienna
- Defeats Safavids, occupying Iraq
- After death of grand vizier and favorite son he withdrew from political affairs, allowing viziers assume power

VERA EFFIGIES TURCORVM IMPERATORIS IBRAHIM FILII ET
Sultanæ. Eiusdem Matris.

Sub pugna Nautali ab Equatibus Moldauiis captoriam. inq. Insulam Moldauiam abductam.



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Safavid Empire

- Greatest rival to the Ottomans after 16th century
 - Like Ottomans started as Turkish Sufi Order
 - Converts to Shi'ite Muslim
- Ismael conquers Persia and Iraq
 - Shi'ite Islam made the state religion
- Reached heights under Shah Abbas I
 - Moves capital to Isfahan
 - Becomes cultural center
- Collapsed in the 1720s



Mughal Empire in India

- Babur overthrows Delhi Sultanate founds the Mughal Empire
 - Mughal a corruption of Mongol, although they were Turks
- Akbar (1555-1605) most distinguished ruler
 - Under his leadership Mughals came to control most of India
 - Reorganized central government, developed efficient bureaucracy
 - Religious policies
 - Ethnically equal society
 - Married a Hindu princess
 - Integrated Hindu Rajputs into the military and governance
 - Repealed poll tax on non-Muslims
 - Built new capital at Fatehpur Sikri
 - Patronage of learning despite personal illiteracy





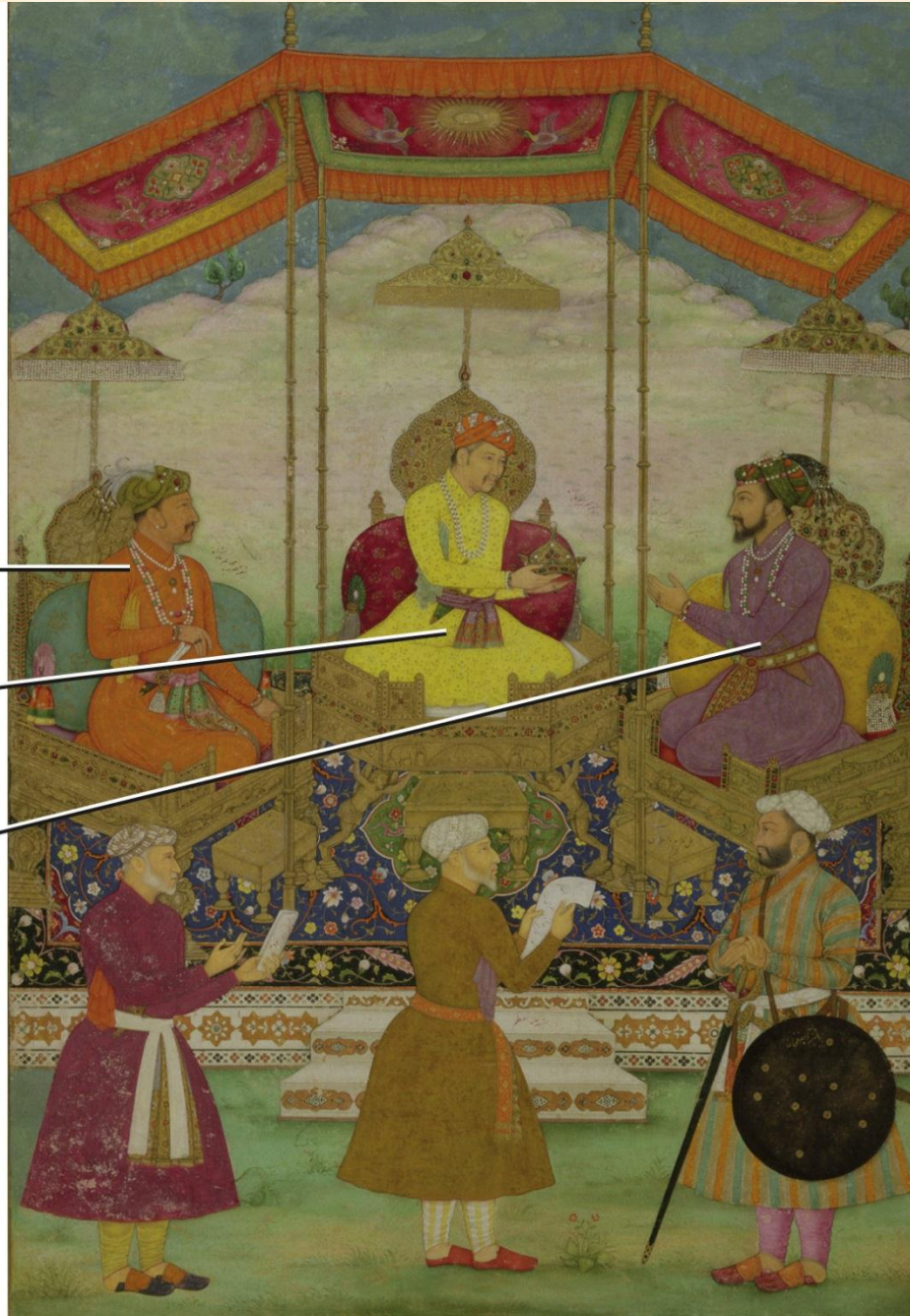
Mughal Society and Culture

- Sikh religion
 - Contained elements of Islam and Hinduism
 - Fought later Mughal rulers to gain control of North India
- Aurangzeb (1668-1707) reasserts Muslim dominance
- Introduced Persian culture in literature, drama, architecture (Taj Mahal)
- System of religious schools (*madrasa*)
- Brahmins handled literacy in the Hindu villages
- Muslims used Urdu language, not Sanskrit
- Cosmopolitan dynasty, aware of local and foreign cultural affairs

Shah Jahangir

Shah Akbar

Shah Jahan



Mughal Emperor Akbar (c. 1605) (centre) Symbolically Passing the Crown to his Grandson Shah Jahan (1627-1658) c. 1630 (vellum), Bichitr (fl. 1620)/
The Trustees of the Chester Beatty Library, Dublin/The Bridgeman Art Library

Mughal Economy

- Agrarian society remained largely undisturbed
- Land grants given to men who served in government and military (mansabdari)
 - Expected to maintain specified number of soldiers and equipment
 - Akbar appointed Hindus as well as Muslims as mansabdars
- Peasants were tenants, not proprietors
 - Standard of living higher than Europe or China
- Freedoms restricted by village tradition, the caste system, and tax collectors
 - Taxes $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of the harvest



Taj Mahal, built 1647 (photo), Lahori, Ustad Ahmad (fl. 1630-47)/Agra, Uttar Pradesh, India/The Bridgeman Art Library