The Ottomans Build a Vast Empire

BEFORE YOU READ
In the last chapter, you read about changes in Europe during 1300-1600.
In this section, you will read about the rise of the Ottoman Empire during the same period.

AS YOU READ
Use the time line below to take notes on the major events in the history of the Ottoman Empire.

The Ottomans Build a Vast Empire

Turks Move into Byzantium
(pages 507–508)

How did the Ottoman Empire begin?

In 1300, the world of the eastern Mediterranean was also changing. The Byzantine Empire was fading. The Seljuk Turk state had been destroyed. Anatolia, the area of modern Turkey, was now inhabited by groups of nomadic Turks. They saw themselves as ghazis, or Muslim warriors for Islam. They raided the lands where non-Muslims lived.

The most successful ghazi was Osman. Western Europeans thought his name was Othman. They called his followers Ottomans. Between 1300 and 1326, Osman built a strong but small kingdom in Anatolia. Leaders who came after Osman called themselves sultans, or “ones with power.” They extended the kingdom by buying land. They also formed alliances with other chieftains and conquered everyone they could.
The Ottomans ruled in a kindly way. Muslims had to serve in the army but paid no taxes. Non-Muslims paid tax but did not serve in the army. Many joined Islam just to avoid the tax. Most people adjusted easily to their new rule.

One warrior did not. He was Timur the Lame. He conquered Russia and Persia. In 1402, he defeated the Ottoman forces and captured the sultan and took him to Samarkand in a cage.

1. Who were the Ottomans?

Powerful Sultans Spur Dramatic Expansion (pages 508–509)

**How did the empire grow?**

In Anatolia, the four sons of the last sultan fought for control of the empire. Mehmed I won control. His son and the four sultans who came after him brought the Ottoman Empire to its greatest power. One of them—Mehmed II—took power in 1451. He built a force of 100,000 foot soldiers and 125 ships to gain control of Constantinople. In 1453, he took the city and the waterway it controlled. Mehmed made the city his capital. He renamed it Istanbul. The rebuilt city became home to people from all over the Ottoman Empire.

Other emperors used conquest to make the empire grow. After 1514, Selim the Grim took Persia, Syria, and Palestine. He then captured Arabia, took the Muslim holy cities of Medina and Mecca, and gained control of Egypt.

2. Who was Mehmed II?

Suleyman the Lawgiver; The Empire Declines Slowly (pages 510–511)

**Why was Suleyman the Lawgiver a great leader?**

Suleyman I took power in 1520 and ruled for 46 years. He brought the Ottoman Empire to its greatest size and most impressive achievements. He conquered parts of southeastern Europe. He won control of the entire eastern Mediterranean Sea and took North Africa as far west as Tripoli.

Suleyman revised the laws of the empire. His people called him Suleyman the Lawgiver. Suleyman ruled his empire with a highly structured government. Thousands of slaves served the royal family. The policy of making people slaves was called devshirme. The janissaries were an enslaved group of soldiers. They were Christians taken as children and made slaves. They were trained as soldiers and fought fiercely for the sultan. Other slaves held important government jobs.

The empire allowed people to follow their own religion. Jews and Christians were not mistreated. His empire was also known for great works of art and many fine buildings.

Although the empire lasted long after Suleyman, it spent the next few hundred years in decline. That means its power slipped. None of the sultans were as accomplished as Suleyman had been.

3. What were two of Suleyman’s accomplishments?
Cultural Blending

Case Study: The Safavid Empire

BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read about the Ottomans.
In this section, you will learn about the development of another empire, the Safavid.

AS YOU READ

Use the chart below to show three of the long-lasting effects of the Safavid Empire.

Patterns of Cultural Blending
(pages 512–513)

What is cultural blending?

Throughout history, different peoples have lived together. Their cultures have influenced one another. Often these people have blended one culture with another. This can happen because of migration, trade, conquest, or pursuit of religious freedom or conversion.

Cultural blending results in changes in society. Some results of cultural blending are changes in language, religion, styles of government, or arts and architecture.

Societies that are able to benefit from cultural blending are open to new ways. They are willing to adapt and change.

1. What are the four causes of cultural blending?

The Safavids Build a Shi’ā Empire
(pages 513–514)

How did the Safavids rise to power?

Cultural blending took place in the Safavid Empire of Persia. The Safavids were members of the Shi’a, a branch of Islam. The major group of Muslims, the Sunnis, persecuted the Shi’a for their views. The Safavids feared the Sunni Muslims. They decided to build a strong army to protect themselves.

In 1499, a 14-year-old leader named Isma’il led this army to conquer Iran. He took the traditional Persian title of shah, or king, and made Shi’a the...
religion of the new empire. He destroyed Baghdad’s Sunni population. Ottoman Turk rulers—who were Sunni Muslims—in turn killed all the Shi’a that they met. This conflict between the two groups of Muslims continues today.

2. Why are the Shi’a and Sunni Muslims enemies?

A Safavid Golden Age

Who was Shah Abbas?

The Safavids reached their height in the late 1500s under Shah Abbas. He created two armies that were loyal to him and him alone. He also gave new weapons to the army to make them better fighters. He got rid of corrupt officials in the government. He also brought gifted artists to his empire.

Shah Abbas drew on good ideas from other cultures. The main elements of that culture were the joining together of the Persian tradition of learning and sophistication with the strong faith of the Shi’a. He used Chinese artists. They helped create gorgeous artwork that decorated the rebuilt capital of Esfahan.

Under Shah Abbas, the Safavids enjoyed good relations with nations of Europe. The demand for Persian rugs increased greatly in Europe. In this period, rug-making, which had been a local craft in Persia, became a major industry for the country.

3. What were four reforms made by Shah Abbas?

The Dynasty Declines Quickly

(page 515)

Why did the Safavids lose power?

Like the Ottoman Empire, the Safavid Empire began to decline soon after it had reached its greatest height. Shah Abbas had killed or injured his most talented sons—just as Suleyman had done. Shah Abbas feared that his sons would seize power from him. As a result, a weak and ineffective grandson became shah after him.

4. Why weren't there strong leaders after Shah Abbas?

Skillbuilder

Use the chart to answer the questions.

1. Determining Main Ideas  What are two reasons for interaction?

2. Recognizing Effects  What are some results of cultural interaction?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Interacting Cultures</th>
<th>Reason for Interaction</th>
<th>Some Results of Interaction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>India—1000 B.C.</td>
<td>Aryan and Dravidian Indian, Arab, African, Indian</td>
<td>Migration</td>
<td>Vedic culture, forerunner of Hinduism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Africa—A.D. 700</td>
<td>Islamic, Christian</td>
<td>Trade, religious conversion</td>
<td>New trade language, Swahili</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia—A.D. 1000</td>
<td>Christian and Slavic</td>
<td>Religious conversion</td>
<td>Eastern Christianity, Russian identity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico—A.D. 1500</td>
<td>Spanish and Aztec</td>
<td>Conquest</td>
<td>Mestizo culture, Mexican Catholicism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States—A.D. 1900</td>
<td>European, Asian, Caribbean</td>
<td>Migration, religious freedom</td>
<td>Cultural diversity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Mughal Empire in India

BEFORE YOU READ
In the last section, you learn about how the Safavids established an empire in what is present-day Iran.

In this section, you will learn about the establishment of the Mughal Empire in what is now India.

AS YOU READ
Use the web diagram below to take notes. In each circle, write the name of one important Mughal ruler. Also write two or three words that identify each person or name a major accomplishment or problem of his rule.

TERMS AND NAMES
Babur Founder of the Mughal Empire
Mughal One of the nomads who invaded the Indian subcontinent and established a powerful empire there
Akbar Mughal ruler with a genius for cultural blending, military conquest, and art
Sikh Nonviolent religious group that became the enemy of the Mughals
Shah Jahan Mughal ruler who built Taj Mahal
Taj Mahal Tomb built by Shah Jahan for his wife
Aurangzeb Last important Mughal ruler

Early History of the Mughal Empire (page 516)
How did the Mughal Empire begin?

Starting in the 600s, India went through a long, unsettled period. Nomads from central Asia invaded the area and created many small kingdoms. In the 700s, Muslims arrived on the scene. This began a long history of fighting with the Hindus who had lived in India for centuries.

After about 300 years, a group of Muslim Turks conquered a region around the city of Delhi. They set up a new empire there. They treated the Hindus in their area as conquered peoples. Their rule was brought to an end in 1398.

A little over a hundred years later, a new leader named Babur raised an army and began to win large parts of India. He had many talents. He was a lover of poetry and gardens. He was also an excellent general. His empire was called the Mughal Empire because he and his families were related to the Mongols.

1. Who was Babur?
The Golden Age of Akbar (pages 517–518)

Who was Akbar?

Babur's grandson was Akbar. His name means “Greatest One.” He ruled with great wisdom and fairness for almost 40 years.

Akbar was a Muslim. However, he believed strongly that people should be allowed to follow the religion they choose. Both Hindus and Muslims worked in the government. He hired people in his government based on their ability and not their religion.

Akbar ruled fairly. He ended the tax that Hindu pilgrims had to pay. He also ended the tax that all non-Muslims had to pay. To raise money, he taxed people on a percentage of the food they grew. This made it easier for peasants to pay the tax. His land policy was less wise. He gave much land to government officials. However, when they died he took it back. As a result, workers did not see any point in caring for the land.

He had a strong, well-equipped army that helped him win and keep control of more lands. His empire held about 100 million people—more than lived in all of Europe at the time.

During Akbar's reign, his policy of blending different cultures produced two new languages. The languages were blends of several languages. One was Hindi, which is widely spoken in India today. The other was Urdu. It is now the official language of Pakistan. The empire became famous for its art, literature, and architecture. The best example of this art was small, highly detailed, colorful pictures called miniatures. He also sponsored the building of a new capital city.

2. What are some examples of Akbar's policy of fair rule?

The Empire’s Decline and Decay (page 521)

How did the Mughal Empire lose its power?

Aurangzeb used up the empire’s resources. People did not feel loyalty to him. As the power of the state weakened, the power of local lords grew. Soon there was only a patchwork of independent states. There continued to be a Mughal emperor, but he was only a figurehead, not a ruler with any real power. As the Mughal empire was rising and falling, Western traders were building power. They arrived in India just before Babur did. Shah Jahan let the English build a trading fort in Madras. Aurangzeb handed them the port of Bombay. This gave India's next conquerors a foothold in India.

4. How did the Mughal Empire change after Akbar?

Akbar’s Successors (pages 518–521)

Who ruled after Akbar?

After Akbar’s death in 1605, his son Jahangir, took control of the empire. During his reign, the real power was his wife, Nur Jahan. She plotted with one son to overthrow another son. She had a bitter political battle with the Sikhs, members of a separate, nonviolent religion. That group became the target of attacks by the government.

The next ruler was Shah Jahan. He too chose not to follow Akbar's policy of religious toleration. Shah Jahan was a great patron of the arts and built many beautiful buildings. One was the famous Taj Mahal, a tomb for his wife. His ambitious building plans required high taxes, though. People suffered under his rule.

His son Aurangzeb ruled for almost 50 years. He made the empire grow once again with new conquests. His rule also brought new problems. He was a devout Muslim, and he punished Hindus and destroyed their temples. This led to a rebellion that took part of his empire. At the same time, the Sikhs won control of another part of the empire.

3. How did Aurangzeb deal with Hindus?