

Chapter 25: Land Empires in the Age of Imperialism 1800-1870

Land Empires= based on old and inefficient ways of governing, barely out of feudalism, no industrialization = Russia, Ottomans, and Qing of China

Age of Imperialism= a time when the industrialized nations on earth looked around for unindustrialized places to dominate. (Britain with India, U.S. with all of Latin America, all of Europe with Africa, etc.) Imperialism lasts until after World War I.

Why 1870? There is a separation in the Age of Imperialism; from 1870 on it's called New Imperialism (another chapter). Also, there is a rise in nationalism after this (also a later chapter).

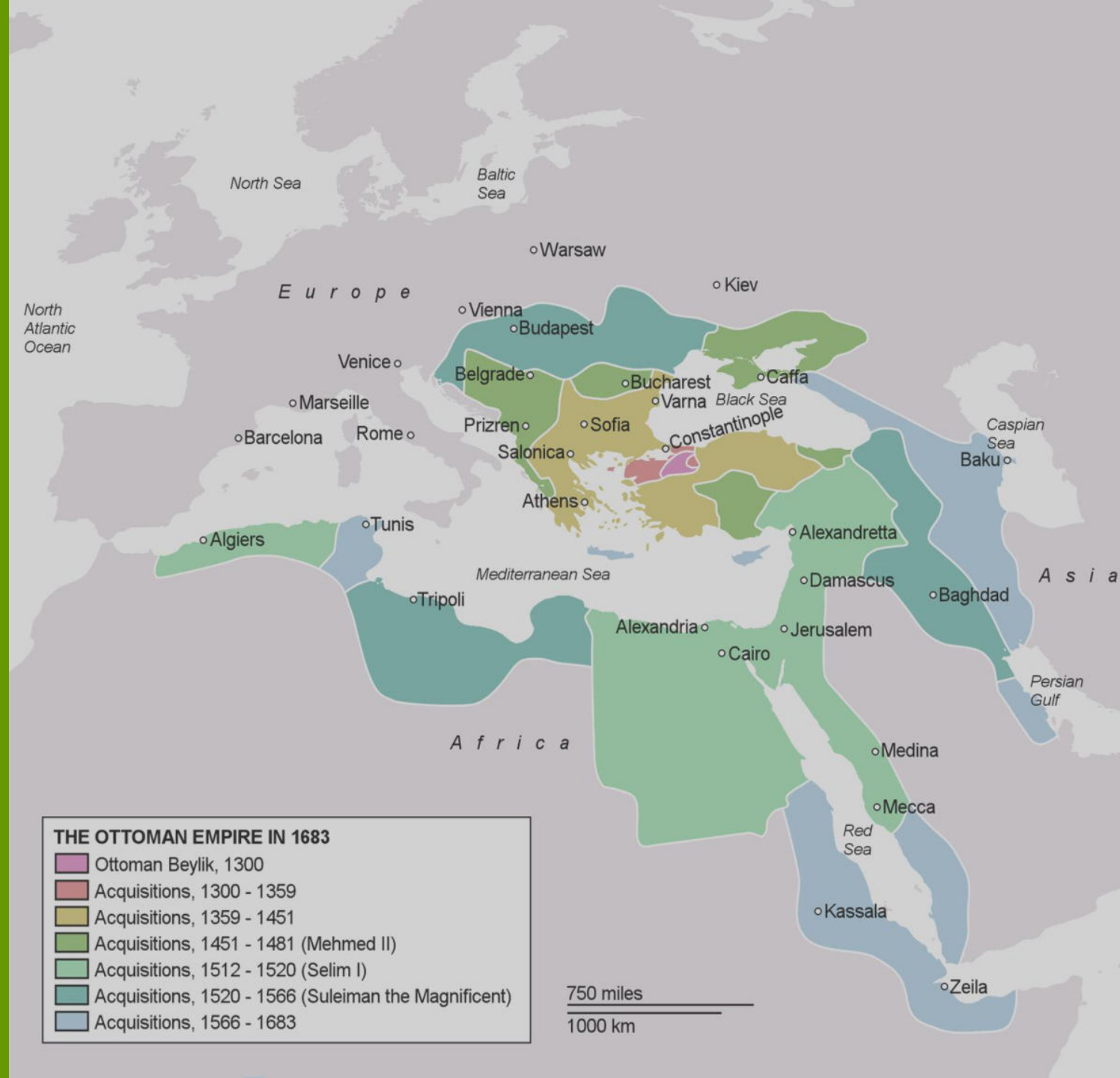
Review of the Ottomans Prior to 1800

“the most long-lived of the post-Mongol Muslim empires...”

- Began as a tiny state in NW Anatolia in 1300, built by Turkish horsemen including Osman
- Grew because:
 - 1) shrewdness of Osman and successors
 - 2) control of the Dardanelles
 - 3) army with Turkish skills and new guns/military practices

Important people and conquests:

- 1453 Capture of Constantinople (now forever called Istanbul) by Sultan Mehmed II (ended 1100 years of Byzantine rule)
- Egypt and Syria added 1516, northern Africa (Algeria & Tunisia) voluntarily joined.
- Suleiman the Magnificent: conquered Belgrade (Serbia) 1521, Vienna 1529
- Muslims merchants in the Red Sea asked for help against the Portuguese, which the Ottomans provided until it wasn't lucrative.



THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE IN 1683

- Ottoman Beylik, 1300
- Acquisitions, 1300 - 1359
- Acquisitions, 1359 - 1451
- Acquisitions, 1451 - 1481 (Mehmed II)
- Acquisitions, 1512 - 1520 (Selim I)
- Acquisitions, 1520 - 1566 (Suleiman the Magnificent)
- Acquisitions, 1566 - 1683

750 miles

1000 km

Bosporus Strait

Dardanelles Strait



Ottoman Institutions

The military:

- Original military was Turkish cavalry supplemented in late 1300s with captured Christian troops from the Balkans—"new troops"= *The Janissaries*
- In the 15th century Ottomans began recruiting men for the Janissaries and for government positions through the *devshirme* system—taking male Christian children, converting them, and making them fight
- During reign of Suleiman the Magnificent land forces defeated the Safavids, but were defeated at sea by Christians at the Battle of Lepanto (1571)

Society:

- Osmanli -speaking, tax exempt military class was the ***askeri*** served as soldiers and bureaucrats
- Common people (Christians, Jews, and Muslims) were the ***raya*** (flock of sheep)

Law:

- * the sultan supplied justice and defense for the *raya* while the *raya* supported the sultan through taxes.

Military Crisis 1585-1650

- The role of the cavalry lessened as the expense of firearms went up
- Financial deterioration occurred as New World silver caused inflation, messing up the tax system
- military began using short term mercenaries, The Janissaries declined in military readiness
- Religious law prevented them from reforming the tax system
- Revolts occurred from 1590-1610-bandits and widespread violence

The Changed Empire 1650-1750

- The sultan was reduced from a warrior to a leader who stayed home. His grand vizier dealt with government issues.
- Devshirme was discontinued but the Janissaries used their power to become hereditary
- Tax farming rose: advancing the government money in order to obtain the taxpayers money when it came in, making a profit

Decline of the Empire

- The Ottoman Empire was not wealthy enough after in the 1700s to match European advances.
- Because of imbalanced trade agreements, Europe dominated sea trade in the Mediterranean, but since they didn't own any strategic ports, they didn't colonize the Ottoman Empire
- The Tulip Period (1718-1730) named because there was a craze for high-priced tulips, also demonstrating a trade of cultural ideas between Europe and the Ottomans
- The growing weakness of the empire allowed several groups to become more powerful: **Mamluks** in Egypt, Janissaries in Baghdad, a Sunni movement in Arabia by Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab

* From this man comes Wahhabism

Mamluks=Turkish slaves bought from Central Asia and established as a standing army, originally in the old Abbasid Caliphate (covering the Middle East)

Early 1800s

- (#24) The Ottoman Empire included Egypt, and Napoleon invaded in 1798, but did not make a lasting conquest. The power vacuum allowed Muhammad Ali to become leader of Egypt.
- (#25) Muhammad Ali made several military reforms (to try to emulate Europe and eliminate the threat of invasion) paid for by confiscating lands of Muslim religious institutions
- (#26) Some other earlier reforms included: standardization of taxation and land tenure, controlling the provincial governors
- (#27) Janissaries (Christian boys kidnapped from homes, converted to Islam, and forced to serve in Ottoman army for life) had traditionally received special economic privileges and resisted changes in the military.
- (#28) In Serbia, Janissaries were provincial governors that the locals hated. The locals complained about their leaders to the Sultan, who threatened to reassign the Janissaries elsewhere. In response, the Janissaries massacred the local Christians in Serbia. Neighbor Bosnia joined Serbian peasants to resist the Janissaries and helped gain them independence. Russia threatened to intervene, and the Ottoman Empire backed off.

- (#29) Selim III's reforms also concerned the ulama (Muslim religious scholars) because they were afraid of secularizing the law and taxes
- (#30) The Greeks won their independence from the Ottomans by defeating them with a joint force of British, Russian, and French fleets
- (#31) The Janissaries were ended by a new artillery unit built by Mahmud II after the war of independence in Greece
- (#32) In the 1830s Turkey/Ottoman Empire got the nickname "The Sick Man of Europe." To counteract this moniker they instituted the Tanzimat or "reorganization" with numerous proclamations including, privacy rights, army conscription, secularization of the law, public trials and equal protection under the law.
- (#33) French was the preferred language of the reformed educational system in the Ottoman Empire (and everywhere else in Eurasia)
- (#34) Everywhere in the Ottoman Empire, but especially in the military, people wanted to be European. One indication of the reforms they made was changing to European style dress.

- (#35) The reforms tended to reduce the influence of women in society because economic changes caused competition to push women from the work force.
- (#37) The Crimean War: 1853-1856: Britain, France, Ottomans vs. Russia. Russia wanted access to the Black Sea but were trapped in the sea and its ships were sunk. A lack of railroads hampered Russia's ability to supply its land and sea troops.
- (#38) The Crimean War brought significant changes to the world: modern warfare with breech-loading rifles, propaganda and instant news in newspapers (modern journalism).
- (#39) Young Ottomans: well-educated young urban men who promoted liberal ideas from Europe, national pride in Ottoman independence (nationalism), and modernist views of Islam.
- (#40) European leaders viewed Russia as backward but saw its power and potential, including them as a major partner in European affairs. Unlike in Egypt, this partnership led to Russia's political success.
- (#41) Russia relied on foreign expertise for all industrialization attempts.

- (#42) Since Russia had no middle class, Tsar Nicholas was hesitant to allow Western ideas to spread to the lower classes that might turn against him. A larger middle class was necessary for Industrial Revolution and so Russia preferred to import industrialized goods.
- (#43) Europeans viewed Ottomans as more foreign than Russians, even though both empires were politically and economically “backwards.”
- (#44) Pan-Slavism rose from the Slavophiles, who were like the Young Ottomans who viewed Orthodoxy and the tsar to be the proper basis of Russia, but Pan-Slavism advocated the unity of all Slavic peoples using military force.
- (#45) Russia began to drive east in the 1700s, facing Asian enemies. Even though they were not militarily advanced, it didn't matter in Asia. They also drove south toward Qing China. This added trouble to the Eastern Question: Britain was especially worried that a war-like Russia would become a major threat because they wouldn't stop until they'd conquered the continent—a foreshadowing of Cold War fears of the domino theory.

- (#46) The death of Alexander I in 1825 sparked the Decembrist Revolt where a group of army officers tried to take over the government. In response, his successor, Nicholas I was very conservative and didn't want to reform.
- (#47) Tsar Alexander II reforms: emancipated the serfs, modernized the legal system, encouraged education, and proposed railroad construction.
- (#48) Also under Alexander II were writers such as Dostoyevsky and Tolstoy, who expressed the political ideas of the time in their famous books.
- (#49) The Qing thought Europeans were uninterested in trade at first.
- (#50) Britain's trade deficit with China led them to smuggle opium—get everyone addicted, then they'll want more. Plus, the Chinese merchants made money from selling the opium.
- (#51) The Qing had to debated whether to legalize or ban opium, then decided to ban it. This was considered a direct threat to Britain's economy, so they sent naval war ships to China

- (#52) Bannermen were like Janissaries—obsolete in their tactics.
- (#53) British military advantage in the Opium War was their new gunboats.
- (#54) Treaty of Nanking: Hong Kong became a British colony, British forced the opening of 5 ports for trading, the Qing paid money to the British for starting the war, and British residents got extraterritoriality.
- (#55) The growing numbers of Europeans and their numerous privileges began to wear on the Chinese, causing resentment to grow.
- (#56) Social unhappiness and foreign intrusion led to the Taiping Rebellion
- (#57) Hong Xiquan founded the Taiping Movement. He came from a Hakka (low class) background, kept failing his Confucian exams, and finally met missionaries who inspired him with Christian beliefs. He wanted to start his own kingdom on earth, the “Heavenly Kingdom of Great Peace”, or Taiping.

- (#58) Women in the Taiping Rebellion were made to fight, which scared many Chinese
- (#59) The Taiping Rebellion was the bloodiest civil war until the 20th century.

“Repeated crises in all three empires would eventually result in the fall of the Qing, Romanov (Russian), and Ottoman dynasties in the first two decades of the twentieth century, but in 1870 it was still unclear whether the traditional land empires of Asia would be capable of weathering the storm.”