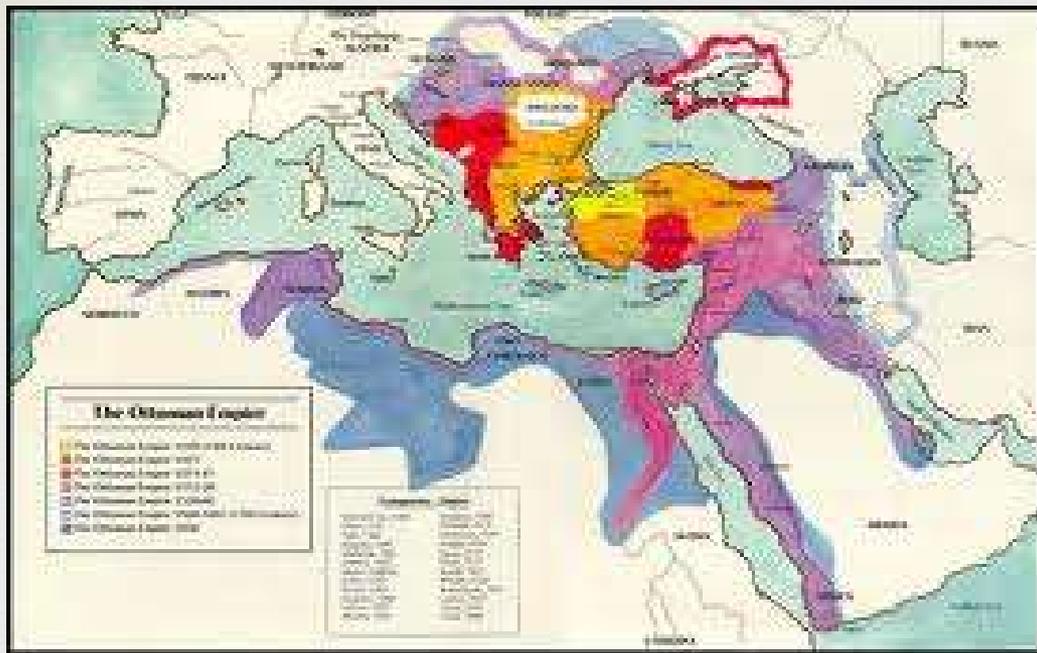




THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE





Location



The Ottoman Empire was centered around the region of Anatolia in Southwest Asia, today known as Turkey. At its height in the 1600s the empire stretched to northern Africa, southwest Asia, and southeast Europe.

CULTURE



- ❧ The culture of the Ottoman Empire developed for many centuries. The primary foundation of the empire was the Islamic Faith.
- ❧ The Ottoman Empire arose with the conquest and downfall of the Christian empire known as the Byzantine Empire.
- ❧ The Ottoman allowed the Byzantine Christians a certain amount of freedom to worship their own religion. This gave great cultural diversity to the region.
- ❧ The greatest cultural influences came from Arabia and Persia, but their language was Turkish, from the dialect of their home region.
- ❧ The Ottomans were renown for their coffee houses, calligraphy, and carpet weaving.
- ❧ The Ottomans became very influential on European artists, especially in France during the 17th and 18th centuries.



Suleiman the Magnificent

GOVERNANCE



- ❧ The highest position in Islam was claimed by the Sultan.
- ❧ A caliphate is a united Muslim state and the sultan is the head of the caliphate.
- ❧ The Sultan of the Ottoman Empire became the most powerful man in Islam from 1300-1922.
- ❧ The sultan's power was delegated through various institutions, though the sultan remained the supreme monarch.
- ❧ The most powerful of these was the role of the Grand Vizier, who had unlimited power to appoint and institute policies under the Sultan. The grand Vizier was chosen by the sultan.
- ❧ The government system is a Theocracy based on the government system instituted by Muhammad's Islamic law.



Society



- ❧ The Ottoman society was overwhelmingly dominated by Islam . Arabic and Persian influences were strong.
- ❧ As the empire expanded, other European and northern African influences began to flow in.
- ❧ Many Byzantines and Greeks who lived in Constantinople remained very influential and enjoyed healthy, productive lives.
- ❧ The slaves brought in from Christian lands in southeast Europe were educated, trained and converted to Islam became as powerful as any Muslim under the Grand Vizier.
- ❧ The Ottomans would take the most gifted boys from villages in southeast Asia and bring them to Constantinople to be educated and trained for leadership roles.



Society



- ❧ The most famous of Ottoman practices was the Harem. The Sultan was permitted to have many wives who lived at court with him. Though many view them as slaves or prisoners, they enjoyed tremendous political power and influence; some even controlled their own militaries. However, they were still forced to live for the Sultan and confined to his palace.
- ❧ The sultan held absolute power over the lives of his subjects, including life or death. The direction and stability of the empire was largely reflective of the direction and stability of the sultan.



SIGNIFICANT EVENTS & INDIVIDUALS

Events

- ✧ In 1265CE., Osman I becomes the first Sultan and marks the beginning of the Ottoman Empire.
- ✧ In 1453CE, The Ottomans under Sultan Mehmed II conquered Constantinople marking the complete end of the Byzantine (Eastern Roman Empire) rule.
- ✧ In the 17th century, the Sultanate of Women occurred an era in which the leader of the Harem ruled over the empire because the Sultan was a minor.
- ✧ In the late 19th century, the people formed a constitution that limited the monarchy. Thus the Sultan became a constitutional monarch.
- ✧ In 1922, the empire collapsed after the defeat of the Central Powers in WWI. Foreign lands conquered in Africa and southeast Europe became independent countries which led to further feuds.

Individuals

- ✧ Osman I- first sultan of the Ottoman Empire
- ✧ Mehmed II “The Conqueror” - only rules for ten years, 1444-1453CE. But he conquered Constantinople. The most important city in the world at that time.
- ✧ Suleiman “The Magnificent” - regarded as the greatest Sultan of the Ottoman Empire. Also known as the “the Law Giver,” he ruled from 1520-1566CE.
- ✧ Ismail Enver- was the controversial military leader of the Ottoman Empire during WWI, he was exiled after the defeat.
- ✧ Kemal Ataturk- The first president of Turkey after the fall of the Ottoman Empire and the founder of modern Turkish state.