

More Mehmet II

- ▶ Mehmet failed to take Belgrade meant that Hungary was the major European power facing the Ottomans for the next 60 yrs.
- ▶ Established conquered the Khanate of Crimea (the most important successor states of the Golden Horde)



Empire of Mehmet II

pink, red, brown and olive green



Bayazid II and Selim I

- ▶ Mostly preoccupied with events with the Safavids in Iran (practiced Shi'ism, a different form of Islam) and became a haven for Ottoman enemies
- ▶ Selim also dealt with Mamelukes in Egypt
 - Brought Aleppo, Damascus, Cairo, Syria and all of Egypt under Ottoman control



Empire After Selim (pink, red brown, and all greens)



Suleyman the Magnificent (1520–1566)

- ▶ Known as the “lawgiver”, also a great builder (employed the famous architect, Sinan)
- ▶ Defeated Belgrade in 1521
- ▶ Compelled the knight of St. John to abandon Rhodes (one of the last Christian strongholds)
- ▶ Victory at the Battle of Mohacs, = conquest of Buda
- ▶ Vienna unsuccessfully laid siege to Vienna in 1529
- ▶ Brought North Africa up to Morocco under Ottoman suzerainty
- ▶ Took Mesopotamia from Persia (gave Ottoman's outlet to the Persian gulf) engaged in a naval war w/ Portuguese
- ▶ Brought the Ottomans to the height of their empire



Suleyman cont.

- ▶ **Had many titles including...**
 - Slave of God
 - Deputy of God on earth
 - Master of all lands
 - The shadow of God over all nations
- ▶ **He saw himself as...**
 - Mast of the world
 - The Shah of Baghdad and Iraq
 - Caesar of all the land of Rome
 - Sultan of Egypt
 - Master of the land of Caesar and Alexander the Great
 - Believed that the entire world was his possession as a gift of God
- ▶ **He sought to keep Europe weak and divided**
 - Gave money to the Protestants to try to keep Europe politically and religiously divided
 - Saw Europe as the principle threat to Islam
 - Helped any Islamic state threaten by Europe
 - Declared himself the supreme Caliph of Islam
 - Often invaded other Islamic lands to root out heresy and heterodoxy



Suleyman and his symbol



his conquests... the whole map!



The state of the empire

- ▶ Sulyeman brought about the height of the Ottomans Empire politically, militarily, economically and culturally
- ▶ Cultivated the arts (visual, music, writing and philosophy), brought about the highest point of Ottoman culture
- ▶ Ottomans in a position of strength in European dealing
- ▶ treaties were often truces
- ▶ many areas in the Balkans were either under direct Ottoman control or had to pay tribute and submit to the sovereignty of the Ottomans



Trade cont.

- ▶ Permitted European commerce and goods
- ▶ Destroyed some native craft industries
- ▶ Balance of trade eventually shifts out of the hands of the empire



The Famous Sultans

- ▶ Review
- ▶ What were these famous Sultans famous for?
- ▶ Osman
- ▶ Mehmet II
- ▶ Sulyeman



Ottoman Society

▶ Government

- Military
- Timar system
- Sultan & the Harem
- Millet system

▶ Trade

▶ Religion

▶ **Lots of contact w/
foreigners (tolerance towards
minorities)



Military

- ▶ Established a standing cavalry (horses)
- ▶ Infantry regiments (ground troops) called Janissaries
- ▶ Recruited children (often as prisoners) from Christian territory
- ▶ many families wanted their children to join for social status
- ▶ Were trained not only in military discipline but were educated in the ways of the Muslim faith
- ▶ Only campaigned from late spring to early fall





Janissaries



Timar system

- ▶ Rooted in Ghazi warrior tradition
- ▶ Land grants given as payment for yearly service or cavalrymen and later other military positions (Janissary)
- ▶ Were in charge of governing & cultivating the land
- ▶ Governors were held responsible if their workers abandoned the land and left and uncultivated
- ▶ Were in charge of governing but still subject to the courts and rulings of the Centralized Ottoman state
- ▶ Were often located on the fringes of the Empire to help protect and spread the empire



The Office of Sultan

- ▶ In the beginning, the position had to be earned not merely inherited
- ▶ Sons proved their worthiness by engaging in military campaigns and by participating in government (usually given governorship of a city)
- ▶ Best son=sultan
- ▶ Rivals to the throne were usually killed in order to avoid civil war
- ▶ Was also held the position of caliphate (religious leader/defender of the faith)



Harems

- ▶ Where the women of place lived.
- ▶ Not all women were the Sultan's wives (Sultans rarely more than one or 2 wives)
- ▶ Middle Eastern culture at the time dictated that a man could have more than one wife if he could provide for her and not show favoritism towards any wife
- ▶ Since the Sultan was wealthy, the Harem provided a way for girls to live a comfortable and protected life
- ▶ Where the children of the Sultan were raised (for a time, after succession becomes more hereditary, the Harem becomes the powerful and corrupt because different wives manipulated politics and officials to try and get their son on the throne)
- ▶ Many European misconceptions about the Harem the reality was that in many ways the women who lived in the Sultan's Harem were more free than their European counterparts



Harem at Topkapi Palace



Trade...

Location, Location, Location

- ▶ Center of land routes between Europe and Asia
- ▶ Dardanelles
- ▶ Black Sea
- ▶ Control of Mediterranean (Naval commander Barbarossa, attacked European ships, Europeans viewed him as a pirate)
- ▶ Red Sea
- ▶ Age of exploration and the discovery of the Americas led to a decline in this Ottoman advantage
- ▶ Europe begins to look for alternative routes to Asia
 - Christopher Columbus was looking for a land route to China to avoid having to submit to the trade conditions of the Ottoman Empire



?

- ▶ How do you think an empire build largely upon trade would treat foreigners and people that are different than them?
- ▶ What type of attitudes and actions towards foreign people and culture would be most beneficial to this type of economy?



Religion

- ▶ Very important!
- ▶ Islam is the dominant and accepted religion
- ▶ Is not a secular (non-religious) state
- ▶ Mosques were often the focus of building projects and the centers of neighborhood communities
- ▶ Was tolerant towards different religions



**The Millet System

- ▶ Autonomous areas that were created for minority groups that were not Sunni Muslim (Jews, Greek Orthodox and Armenians)
- ▶ Practiced their own religion and traditions Were allowed to live by their own laws and courts (as long as the issue did not involve a Muslim)
- ▶ Had to pay an additional tax (conversions = tax break)
- ▶ During the Spanish Inquisition, many Jews fled to the Ottoman Empire because of the Millet system (Sephardic) which offer them better treatment than Europe



Jewish Millet (Istanbul)

