

The End of an Empire

► Decline due to...

- Decreased involvement of the Sultan in the affairs of the state
 - Prospective Sultans stop participating in the apprentice training that was supposed to prepare them for the throne (military campaigns and ruling a city government) and were instead isolated in the Harem
 - growth of the bureaucracy (which became corrupt), position became determined by heredity instead of merit
 - Suleyman himself began this process by handing over power to his Grand Vizer (broken by the execution of his 2 favorite sons)



Other reasons for decline

- ▶ Government's decrease in the interest of popular opinion
 - Lack of Sultan involvement led to a corrupt and predatory local government
- ▶ Series of weak, sometimes insane Sultans
- ▶ End to the practice of killing rival Sultans
 - would often come back to try to seize the throne
 - Led to instability
- ▶ Aggressive European expansion



Subsequent Sultans / Grand Vezirs

- ▶ Selim II (“Selim the Drunkard”)
- ▶ Mehmet Koprulu (Vezir)
 - tried to root out injustice and revive the Ottoman practice of conquest and protection of Muslim countries from European invasion



18th century

▶ Dominated by continuous war w/ enemies

- Persia
- Poland
- Austria
- Russia (Peter the great)

▶ Russo–Ottoman War

- Lost the Crimean khanate
- Granted autonomy to the Danube providence
- Russia get free access to Ottoman waters
- Eventually Russian will gain free access to the Black Sea and the Mediterranean and the Ottomans would lose the Crimea and Moldavia and Wallachia



Russia

- ▶ Wanted a warm sea port (which meant taking Constantinople)
- ▶ The desire for a “balance of power” cause other European powers to, at times, side in favor of the Ottoman Empire to keep Russian expansion in check
- ▶ Russia would later claim to be the protector of Orthodox Christians within the Ottoman Empire and also a right in intervene in Balkan affairs



Problems in the 19th century

▶ External decline

- Ottomans had lost much of their territory
- Growing rise of nationalism threatened further dissolution of the Ottoman empire

▶ Internal decline

- Increase population
- Refusal to modernize
 - Craft guilds couldn't compete with cheaper European manufactured goods
- Loss of trade dominance (Europeans find alternative routes to Asia)
 - Severe decline in tariff revenue



The Eastern Question

- ▶ In 1853, Tsar Nicholas called the Ottoman Empire “the sick man of Europe”
- ▶ The problem for Europe was how to dispose of the empire in such a way that no other power would take over and disrupt the European balance of power



Greek War of Independence (1821–1832)

- ▶ Put down at first
- ▶ England, France and Russia form an alliance to help the Greeks (note this will be the Allied powers in WWI)
- ▶ In 1830, the Ottoman's accepted the establishment of an independent Greek Empire



Trouble in the Balkans

- ▶ Decline of power of the central government = rise of local rulers (“lords of the valley”)
- ▶ Timar system became more like the European feudal system
- ▶ Anatolian rulers tried to solidify their positions of leadership by



Russian troubles...again

- ▶ Crimean war
- ▶ Russia had be slowly conquering Muslim states in Central Asia
- ▶ Was getting closer and closer to the Black Sea so was looking for any excuse to go to war with the Ottomans
- ▶ Ottomans gave France right to protect Christian sites in the Holy Land
- ▶ Was reason enough for Russia
- ▶ Britain and France allied with the Ottomans to protect their trade interests



Results of the Crimean War

- ▶ Russia abandoned its claim to be the protector of Orthodox Christianity in Ottoman Empire
- ▶ Russia abandoned its right to intervene in the Balkans
- ▶ Ottomans see themselves as heavily controlled by Europe = decline in morale (especially of the military)
- ▶ Europeans no longer saw the Ottomans as a force to be reckoned with but just as a tool to maintain a balance of power in Europe
 - (European intervention for this reason is one of the reasons that the Ottoman empire continued to exist for so long after its decline)



Russia and The Balkans

- ▶ Russia wants control over Istanbul in order to control the trade between Europe and Asia via the Black Sea
- ▶ 1875, prompted by Nationalism and the desire to unite all Pan-Slavic people, Slavic people living in Ottoman provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina rebelled against the Ottoman state to gain their freedom
- ▶ Montenegro, Serbia and Bulgaria join the rebellion
- ▶ Russians, seeking their own motive of conquest against the Ottomans allied with the rebels and declared war against Russia



Congress of Berlin (1878)

- ▶ ...called because other European power did not want to accept the dominance of Russia in the Balkans
 - Serbia and Romania recognized as independent
 - Bulgaria became autonomous but still owed nominal suzerainty to Ottomans
 - Bosnia & Herzegovina placed under Austrian administration
 - Cyprus became a British protectorate
- ▶ Eventually, France would gain Algeria and Tunisia and Britain would occupy Egypt



Economic Woes

- ▶ Less trade tariffs
- ▶ Not enough \$ to industrialize and maintain a modern army
- ▶ Borrowed \$ from Europe to build RxRs
- ▶ So much in debt that they had to take out new loans just to pay the interest on existing loans



Young Ottomans

- ▶ Emerged in the 1860s & 70s
- ▶ Western-oriented intellectuals
- ▶ Wanted the Empire to be accepted as and viewed as equal to Europe
- ▶ Wanted to adopt Western governmental institutions (representative parliament, constitutions)
- ▶ Wanted to subjugate Islamic interests to secular interests



Young Ottomans conflict w/ the Sultan

- ▶ Write out a constitution and it is accepted Vizer Midhap Pasha
- ▶ Successor Abdul Hamid II accepted the constitution as a tactic to gain the throne
- ▶ Called the Empire's first parliament but dismissed them within a year



Ottomans and Germany

- ▶ Germany the only European power the Ottoman Sultan could turn to invest in the economy (RXR from Berlin to Bagdad)
- ▶ Alliance w/ Germany (cemented by the common enemy/threat of Russia) will draw Ottomans into WWI on the Central side



The Young Turks (CUP)

- ▶ Abdul Hamid II, repressive policies
- ▶ Mustafa Kemal (Ataturk) merged w/ other Nationalist organizations to form the Young Turks (AKA Committee of Union and Progress, CUP)
- ▶ CUP sought to restore the constitution and parliament of 1876
- ▶ 1809 Macedonia revolts and demands a return to constitutional government
- ▶ CUP win all the Turkish seats but threatened by traditionalists Muslims and demands by non-Turkish millets for more autonomy



More Losses

- ▶ Abdul Hamid II forced to abdicate to Mehmet V
- ▶ Foreign powers took advantage of instability
 - Austria annexed Bosnia and Herzegovina
 - Bulgaria proclaimed its independence
 - Italy seized Libya
 - Greece, Serbia, Montenegro and Bulgaria invaded Ottoman Macedonia and Thrace
 - Ottomans lose all European territory except eastern Thrace
 - Second Balkan war allowed the Ottomans to regain Edirne



WWI

- ▶ Ill prepared
- ▶ 4 front war (against Russia, England, France)
- ▶ Armenians see Russians as liberator instead of invaders and support the Russians
- ▶ Led to a massive deportation and massacre (600,00–1 mil killed)
- ▶ Ataturk achieves fame by defending the Dardanelles from the British @ Gallipoli
- ▶ When Russians w/drew from the war due to revolution, Ottomans regained some of its eastern providences
- ▶ Sultan Mehmet VI signed the armistice on October 30, 1918



Ataturk

- ▶ Promoted the development of a Turkish nation
- ▶ At the end of the war, European allies sought to carve up the Ottoman Empire
- ▶ Ataturk fought to keep Turkish-speaking people united
- ▶ Renounced claims to Arab provinces
- ▶ Guaranteed minority rights
- ▶ Advocated maintain control of Istanbul and the straits (Which were set to be given to Russia)
- ▶ Negotiations with the Ottoman government failed



Ataturk... Gallipoli



The Final Chapter

- ▶ Allies (Greeks, French, British and Italians) occupied Ottoman territory. Occupied Istanbul in 1920
- ▶ Nationalist signed a treaty with Soviet Russian establishing a boundary with them (eventually Soviets would absorb Armenia)
- ▶ Nationalist continue to fight the Greeks and try to push them out of Turkish territory come in conflict with the other Allied troops which occupied the capital and were defending the Ottoman government
- ▶ British propose and truce and invite both the Ottoman government and the Nationalist forces (Ataturk) to meet in Switzerland



The Birth of a Nation

- ▶ Ataturk wants the Nationalists to be the only Turkish representatives there
- ▶ National Assembly separated the offices of the Sultan and the caliph and abolished the office of Sultan
- ▶ Mehmet VI was sent into exile and his successor (Abdulmecid) was named caliph (perhaps another reason why Ataturk was so eager to set up a secular state...to further weaken any position that was associated with the office of Sultan)
- ▶ National Assembly also declared that the Ottoman regime had ceased to be the government of Turkey after the Allied occupation of the capital
- ▶ On October 29, 1923 Grand National Assembly proclaimed the Republic of Turkey and named Ataturk as its first president and Ankara as its capital



Major changes made by Ataturk

- ▶ Secular state (attempt to be more modernized and European?)
- ▶ Converted Turkish writing to European Roman script (outlawed Arabic script)
- ▶ Laws against the call to prayer
- ▶ Eliminated the office of Caliphate and mystic Sufi orders of Islam



