Blue Mosque
Autonomous areas, for non-Muslim minority groups (Jews, Greek Orthodox and Armenians)

Practiced their own religion and traditions

Lived by their own laws & courts (except when a Muslim was involved)

Pay an additional tax (conversions = tax break)

During the Spanish Inquisition, many Jews fled to the Ottoman Empire because of the Millet system (better treatment than Europe)
Jewish Millet (Istanbul)
Economy
Religion
Geography
Customs
Economy

- Largely agrarian & herding
- Heart of trade network → taxes, taxes, taxes
- Raw materials & exports:
  - Spices: saffron, cumin, cinnamon, cloves, mace, pepper, salt, and sugar.
  - Textiles: silk (green, blue, red), crimson damask, crimson velvet, camlets, cotton, linens, carpets.
  - Foods: wheat, barley, millet, raisins, olive oil, oranges, lemons, rhubarb, wines (malmsey, madeira).
  - Dyes: Cochineal (red), indigo (blue).
  - Luxuries: copper, quicksilver, coral
Most roads lead through Istanbul

Traditional Eurasian Trade Routes

Vasco da Gama 1497
Religion

- Islam is the dominant religion
- Mosque complexes, with their social services
- Millet system allows for minority religions to remain (Jews, Christians [all types])