The Geography of the Great Empires: Holy Roman and Ottoman

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Purpose: The lesson provides a way to lead students to understand a comparison of Holy Roman Empire and the Ottoman Empire and to understand their interconnections.

Overview of Main Ideas: The 16th century Ottoman and Holy Roman Empires shared many characteristics in common and their combined impact led to many of the developments of the modern world not only in both western Europe and the Middle East, but in the outlying areas of their empires.

Connection to the Curriculum: Fits in a World History, World Studies, or AP Human Geography course

Grade Level: 9-12

Connections to the National/Arizona Social Studies Standards:

World History:

Concept 3: World in Transition

PO 3. Compare the development of empires (e.g., Roman, Han, Mali, Incan, Ottoman)
PO 4. Describe the interaction of European and Asian civilizations from the 12th to the 16th centuries:

Geography

Concept 2: Places and Regions

PO 1. Identify the characteristics that define a region:
   a. physical processes such as climate, terrain, and resources. human processes such as religion, political organization, economy, and demographics

PO 2. Describe the factors systems, economic systems, resources, culture) that contribute to the variations between developing and developed regions.

Concept 6: Geographic Applications

PO 3. Analyze how geography influences historical events and movements

Time: 2-3 class periods with extensions possible

Materials: Lecture materials, texts and other reference materials; internet connection if possible.

Objectives: Students are expected to be able to describe major characteristics of the 16th century Holy Roman Empire and the Ottoman Empires. Students will be able to compare and contrast those Empires. Students will be able to draw inferences about the significant contributions of the empires on subsequent eras up to the present day.
**Suggested Procedures**

Preparation for the Lesson: Students will hear lectures or see videos and engage in discussion about the Holy Roman and Ottoman Empires of the periods leading to the 16th century.

Opening the Lesson: Map work to review the areas involved. The instructor will review basic instruction and assign roles for class members.

Developing the Lesson: Students will break into half. Each group will represent one of the empires. Within the larger group, smaller groups will assume responsibility for some facet of the empire to fill in the attached graphic organizer.

Concluding the Lesson: Students will report back on their particular areas. They will do this in character as representatives of whatever empire they were assigned to research.

Assessing Student Learning: Assessment will be in the form of the completed graphic organizer and the unit test.

Extending the Lesson: Students may extend the study to art, music, literature, or architecture forms of the empires. They may be assigned writing tasks such as creating a newspaper or a travel brochure. They may prepare a debate on the differing perceptions of their empires. They may also be asked to research current events in their areas and see what connections may be made to the empires that once controlled those areas.
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The Ottoman Empire as it grew under Suleyman
The Holy Roman Empire in 1556
The Holy Roman Empire at the start of Charles V's reign
The Holy Roman Empire as Charles left the throne
Map 2. Decline of the Ottoman Empire from the conquests of the 16-17th centuries until the end of the 19th century.

From: Ottoman Empire, in Encyclopedia Judaica 1971, Vol. 18, col. 1533-1534