Brief history and culture of Turkey and Balkan areas under the former Ottoman Empire
An Empire before its time? Or An Empire doomed to fail?
Which do you think makes a better government...

one that is accepting and tolerant of people who are different or

one that encourages, by force if necessary its people to be the same in order to create a more unified nation?
Find the connections between history and current culture

Because...

Like it or not; realize it or not, we are all affected by the past
Pay attention to notes that have a **
These are things that are going to influence/affect the Ottomans or modern day culture
Ottoman empire began in modern day Turkey
People are descendants of pastoral nomadic tribes from Central Asia
In 10th century these tribes begin to move east
Called themselves Oguz
called Turkomans/“Turks” by their enemies
Raiding of weaker neighbors (esp. the Byzantines) was common
No formal govt. or laws
  ◦ Temporary leadership in the form of “Hans”
Tribal society**
  ◦ loyalty, bravery family and hospitality important
Shamanistic beliefs**
  ◦ Nature worship
  ◦ Man was powerless
  ◦ Good & evil spirits
Nomadic movement out of Asia
The Seljuks

- Invaded Persia in the 11th Century and conquered Bagdad
- Became mercenary guards for the Abbasid caliphs in Bagdad and protected them against outside threats
- Tugrul Bey became protector of the faith and champion of Orthodox Islam
- Seljuk rule spread to Central Asia, Palestine, Iraq and northern Iran
The Seljuk Empire
Alp Arslan extended Seljuk rule into Syria, Armenia and sent raids into Anatolia (alarmed Byzantines)

Battle of Manzikert (1071), Byzantine army destroyed and emperor captured

Seljuks did not seek to govern Anatolia

Left a vacuum of power

Series of Turkish Islamic state develop (most famous was Seljuk Sultanate of Rum)
Alp Arslan & Battle of Manzikert
Seljuks continue to expand and reach the Mediterranean and Black Sea

Establish a trade

Form trade alliances w/ Byzantines, and other Europeans in the Mediterranean

Set up hans or caravanserais for travelers***
Caravanserai at Edirne Today (Ottoman)

- Made into a modern hotel
1243 Mongols defeat Seljuk forces
1308 Seljuks are reduced to vassals of the Mongols
During 13&14 centuries, many Christian convert to Islam (tax reduction)**
Ruled Anatolia until 1335 when Beylik states begin to be set up by rebel Turkmen tribes of frontier warriors (ghazis)**
Nomadic society values (hospitality, family, courage, and loyalty) must defend herds and family.

Sufi Islam (mystic) will become popular because of its connection and appeal to people with a Shamanistic belief heritage.

Ghazi warrior and raiding fits well with the idea of being a warrior for the faith (still get to keep fighting).

Not to mention the tax benefit! 😊
was a leader of a small army that helped the Seljuks win a battle against the Mongols
Seljuks awarded him with an emirate based in Eskisehir
Absorbs the Seljuks of Rum as the Seljuk state falls into further decline
The Basis of his Emirate (Eskişehir)
Ertugrul’s Tomb
Son or Ertughrul
Became the founder of the Ottoman Empire
Made Bursa his capital
Osman’s dream
  - Tree, symbolizing the empire, w. its roots spread throughout 3 continents and its branches covering the sky
Expanded empire to encompass the Mediterranean coast in Asia Minor
Osman and his dream... Empire will touch 3 continents

The Ottoman Empire Under Suleiman I the Magnificent, 1580

200 Miles
Empire under Osman (pink)
Growth and Expansion
Osman’s son
Married the daughter of a European Emperor
Landed on the European side of the Dardanelles at Gallipoli (walls of the fortress had been destroyed that very morning)
Laid important military foundations:
Coins were used for the 1st time during his rule
Orhan’s Empire (pink & red)

THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE IN 1683

- **Ottoman Beylik, 1300**
- **Acquisitions, 1300 - 1359**
- **Acquisitions, 1359 - 1451**
- **Acquisitions, 1451 - 1481 (Mehmed II)**
- **Acquisitions, 1512 - 1520 (Selim I)**
- **Acquisitions, 1520 - 1566 (Suleiman the Magnificent)**
- **Acquisitions, 1566 - 1683**

750 miles

1000 km
Orhan’s son

Marched into the Balkans and conquered Edirne, Sofia, Nicopolis

Also conquered land in Asia Minor (Ankara and the principality of Karaman)

Serbians agreed to pay tribute and send troops to fight for the Empire in 1371

Died at the Battle of Kosovo (1389)

- “rivers of blood..great number of severed heads and unraveled turbans had made the battlefield into a colorful field of tulips
- Both Murad and the Serbian King Lazar were killed
- Solidified Ottoman rule of Serbia and would lead to the absorption of Herzegovina, and much of Bosnia
Murad & Battle of Kosovo
Was married for political alliances and to gain territory

Became emperor at the Battle of Kosovo

Siege of Constantinople, but had to lift it in 1400 due to Tamerlane’s invasion of Anatolia

Defended and strengthened this borders in the east

In the Balkans fought and defeated the Hungary army under King Sigismund.

Army was destroyed by Tamerlane @ Ankara in 1402 (Bayazid was captured)
Balkan states and Anatolian emirate took advantage of the Mongol victory and tried to shake off Ottoman rule

- Mehmed I (1413–21) = Reconstruction of the Ottoman state
- Murad II (1421–51) brought eastern & central Anatolia and southern and eastern Balkans under direct or indirect influence of the Ottoman
Mehmed I & Murad II
New rule was better than the oppressive feudal system so Ottomans were seen as deliverers.
Conquered Constantinople (re-named Istanbul)
  ◦ Brought ships overland to by pass the chain that blocked the harbor at the Golden Horn

Gave complete control or the Straits and the Black Sea

Was symbolically important to capture the imperial capital of Byzantine empire

Istanbul became the new capital for Sunni Islam and remained the center of the Greek Orthodox church
Mehmet II

- Entering Constantinople via the Gate of Theodosius
Gate of Theodosius today
Plaque commemorating the event
“From the inside of the city” view
“Saint Sophia”
Orthodox church is not destroyed
Converted into a mosque
Becomes symbolic of how the Ottomans treat those of different faith.
Has elements of Byzantine and Muslim influence
Hagia Sophia today
Inside

- Christian and Muslim symbols on top of one another
Christian iconography was left in place (Mehmet did allow it to be plastered over* but made sure it was not destroyed)

* people & animals are not allowed in Muslim art (considered idolatry)
These are some of the ones that have been uncovered
Mosaics popular in Byzantium & Europe at the time
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)
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)
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
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 OTTOMAN EMPIRE IN 1683
- Pink: Ottoman Beylik, 1300
- Red: Acquisitions, 1300 - 1359
- Yellow: Acquisitions, 1359 - 1451
- Green: Acquisitions, 1451 - 1481 (Mehmed II)
- Dark Green: Acquisitions, 1512 - 1520 (Selim I)
- Light Green: Acquisitions, 1520 - 1566 (Suleiman the Magnificent)
- Blue: Acquisitions, 1566 - 1683

Legend:
- Purple: North Atlantic Ocean
- Blue: Caspian Sea
- Yellow: Mediterranean Sea
- Orange: Black Sea
- Red: Red Sea
- Brown: Persian Gulf
- Gray: Mediterranean Sea
- Light Gray: Asia
- Gray: Europe
- Dark Gray: Africa

Scale:
- 750 miles
- 1000 km
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.
Permitted European commerce and goods
- Destroyed some native craft industries
- Balance of trade eventually shifts out of the hands of the empire
Review

What were these famous Sultans famous for?

- Osman
- Mehmet II
- Sulyeman
Government
- Military
- Timar system
- Sultan & the Harem
- Millet system

Trade

Religion

**Lots of contact w/ foreigners (tolerance towards minorities)**
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
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 it 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
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).
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 heredity, 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
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)
Rea Sea
Age or 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?
Very import!
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
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)
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)
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
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
Dominated by continuous war with 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
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
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
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.
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
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 rules tried to solidify their positions of leadership by
Crimean war
Russia had been 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
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 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.
...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
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
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
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
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 (600,00–1mil 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
Promoted the development of a Turkish nations

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 providences

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
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
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 changed 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