Mehmet II – All green & crimson
Dealt with Mamelukes in Egypt

- Brought the Levant and all of Egypt under Ottoman control
The “lawgiver” & a great builder (Sinan)

- Defeated Belgrade in 1521
- Controlled North Africa up to Morocco
- Took Mesopotamia from Persia (access to the Persian Gulf)
- Brought the Ottomans to the height of their empire
Suleyman and his symbol
his conquests...
the whole map!

The Ottoman Empire in the Reign of Süleyman the Magnificent

[Map of the Ottoman Empire with major cities and regions highlighted]
The state of the empire

- The height of the Ottomans Empire politically, militarily, economically and culturally
- The arts (visual, music, writing and philosophy), at the highest point of Ottoman culture
- In position of strength vs. Europe
- Many areas in the Balkans were either under direct Ottoman control or had to pay tribute and submit to the sovereignty of the Ottomans
The Famous Sultans

Review

What were these famous Sultans famous for?

Osman

Mehmet II

Suleyman
Ottoman Society

- Government
  - Military
  - Timar system
  - Sultan & the Harem
  - Millet system
- Trade
- Religion
- Lots of contact w/ foreigners (tolerance towards minorities)
Military

- Standing cavalry
- Infantry regiments (Janissaries)
- Trained in military discipline & the ways of the Muslim faith → warriors for Allah
- Only campaigned from late spring to early fall
Janissaries
Rooted in Ghazi warrior tradition
Land grants given as payment for annual service
“Timar” was in charge of governing & cultivating the land
Governors were held responsible if their workers abandoned the land and left and uncultivated
Still subject to the courts and rulings of the Ottoman state
Often located on the fringes of the Empire to protect and spread the empire
Timar
Sultan

- Self-proclaimed “Defender of Islam”
- Ruler of the Empire
- Must uphold the principle of justice in the Empire, for all subjects
- Lived in absolute luxury
Harems

- Where the women of palace lived.
- Not all women were the Sultan’s wives (Sultans rarely have more than 1 or 2 wives)
- Where the children of the Sultan were raised (the Harem becomes the center of power!!!)
- NOT a den of fornication!!!
- 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 baby, location

- Center of land routes between Europe and Asia
- Dardanelles
- Bosporus
- Black Sea
- Eastern Mediterranean
- Rea Sea
How do you think an empire built 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 important!
Islam is the dominant, most accepted religion
Mosques were often the focus of building projects and neighborhood communities
Buuuuuuuuut, Ottomans are tolerant towards different religions