CULTURE

The Balkans & Arab Lands

- Economy
- Religion
- Geography
- Customs
Balkan Economy

- High degree of husbandry & farming
- Wheat
- Cattle & leather
- Broadcloth
- Knives/Ironware
- Amber (via Russia)
- Wool cloth & cotton
Balkan Religion

- Largest proportion of Christians in the Empire (Orthodox, Catholic) – millet system
- Islam’s influence spreads though
- Christian children taken for service in the Janissaries
Balkan Geography

- Extremely rugged mountains & difficult terrain
- Goats thrive throughout & cattle in the north
- Cereal crops (wheat)
- Mountain passes are easily defended
Balkan Culture

- Timar, Millet, & Janissary systems are entrenched
- Agrarian, proud and tough people (like the land)
- Colorful and elaborate clothing
- Simple diets – roasted meats, fresh fruits and vegetables
Balkan Costumes
Economy of the Arab Lands

- Raw materials & trade galore!
  - Spices (pepper, ginger, saffron, cloves, salt), Incense, Wools (goats, camels), Cotton, Gold, Silks, Precious gems & metals
- Produce: wheat, barley, millet, raisins, olive oil, oranges, lemons
- Husbandry (especially goats, sheep & camels)
- Silk road & spice routes run through!!
Spice Market
Religion in the Arab Lands

- Birthplace and center of Islam (Mecca & Medina)
- Overwhelmingly Muslim (Sunni in Ottoman Empire)
- Small pockets of Jews and Christians are permitted to worship freely (millet system)
- Mosques and social services blanket the region
Mecca – Arabian Peninsula
Geography of the Arab Lands

- Arid, hot and brutal desert
- Interspersed with mountainous regions & difficult terrain.
- Trade routes are well defined by water supplies & topography
- Egypt is the “breadbasket” of the Middle East
- Goats & camels
Arabian Desert
Physical map of the Arab Lands
Culture of the Arab Lands

- Nomadic, patriarchal society
- Long multiple layers of robes
- Deeply religious
- Culture of courage and individual strength
- Deep ties to the land
Arab nomads