

# More Mehmet II

- ▶ 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)



# Empire of Mehmet II

pink, red, brown and olive green



# Bayazid II and Selim I

- ▶ 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, Damacus, Cairo, Syria and all of Egypt under Ottoman control





# Empire After Selim

(pink, red brown, and all greens)



# Suleyman the Magnificent (1520–1566)

- ▶ 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



# Suleyman cont.

## ► 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 state of the empire

- ▶ 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



# Trade cont.

- ▶ Permitted European commerce and goods
- ▶ Destroyed some native craft industries
- ▶ Balance of trade eventually shifts out of the hands of the empire



# The Famous Sultans

- ▶ Review
- ▶ What were these famous Sultans famous for?
- ▶ Osman
- ▶ Mehmet II
- ▶ Sulyeman





# Ottoman Society

## ▶ Government

- Military
- Timar system
- Sultan & the Harem
- Millet system

## ▶ Trade

## ▶ Religion

▶ \*\*Lots of contact w/  
foreigners (tolerance towards  
minorities)



# Military

- ▶ 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







# Janissaries





# 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 and 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



# The Office of Sultan

- ▶ 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)



# Harems

- ▶ 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 hereditary, 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



# Trade...

## Location, Location, Location

- ▶ 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)
- ▶ Red Sea
- ▶ Age of 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?





# Religion

- ▶ 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



# \*\*The Millet System

- ▶ 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)

