The Muslim Empires

The Ottoman Empire

Background
- Ottomans gain ground in Asia Minor
  - Anatolia
  - 1350’s
  - Grew to be main power in Arabia, Balkans, Black Sea, and Red Sea
- Ottomans capture of Constantinople
  - 1453
  - Official End to Byzantine Power
    - Last of the Romans
  - Ottoman sultan Mehmed II

Expansion
- Army Organization
  - Turkic Cavalry
    - warrior aristocracy
  - Janissaries
    - infantry divisions which dominated the imperial armies
    - Usually conscripted as adolescents
    - Controlled the artillery and firearms
    - Gained tremendous power as time went on

Political Structure
- Sultans were absolute monarchs
  - Worked to build up capital of Istanbul
    - Building of Mosques
      - Suleymaniye Mosque
      - Converted Hagia Sophia
  - The Grand Vizier was true head of “State”
    - In charge of bureaucracy
    - Well organized
      - Administration and taxation
  - Political succession was vague and contested

Decline
- Politically
  - Declined over period of 600 years
  - Poor leadership of Sultans
    - Increasing power of viziers and Janissaries
  - Ottoman defeat at the battle of Lepanto
    - against the combined Spanish and Venetian fleet in 1571
    - Unable to push the Portuguese from the Indian Ocean
  - Lost Siege of Vienna
    - 1688
  - Ottoman tax collectors lose critical revenue
- Economically/Culturally
  - Silver bullion from New World destabilized economy
  - Peasants rebel or runaway
- Did not keep up with Europe
  - Little influence of Scientific Revolutions, enlightenment, and industrial Revolution
- Ottomans fell behind in trade and warfare more than anything
  - Janissaries block change to defend power
The Safavid Empire

Background
- Sunnis
  - recognized the legitimacy of the first three successors to Muhammad
    - abu Bakr, Umar, and Uthman
    - Ottomans
- Shi’a
  - recognized only the fourth caliph
    - Ali
      - Mohammad’s cousin and son-in-law
      - Shi’a
- Sail al-Din
  -Began process of purifying region
- Isma’il as Sufi mystic
  - 1501
  - descendant of Sail al-Din
  - established capital at Tabriz and names himself Shah
  - Begin expanding
- 1514- Battle of Chaldiran
  - defeated by Ottoman
  - stops westward expansion of shi’ism
  - Empire mostly contained to modern Iraq/Iran

Politics
- Absolute monarchy
  - restored by Tasmaph I in 1534
- Abbas the Great
  - rules during golden Age (1589-1627)
    - Built universities
    - Moved capital to Isfahan
      - Central Iran
    - Supported Arts/Architecture
    - Built army to standing size of 40k
      - brought some Turkic warriors under control
      - recruited Persians into bureaucracy
      - created elite gunpowder troops
        - made up of conquered Russian peoples
        - similar to Janissaries

Decline
- Rapid after Abbas I
  - Weak and ineffective Shahs
  - Power struggles
- Fall of Isfahan
  - 1722
  - Afghani Raiders
- Area becomes battleground for nomads and surrounding Empires
The Mughals

Background
- Babur
  o descendant of Tamerlain
    ▪ Uses ottoman tactics
  o invades India in 1526 seeking wealth
    ▪ get stuck and decide to stay
  o by 1528 control most of the Indus and Ganges region
    ▪ Not as religious as other two empires
    ▪ Dynasty lasts 300 years
  o Babur dies at age 48 in 1530
    ▪ His son Humayan takes over
    ▪ Disputes over succession
      • Exiled into Safavid land
      • Returns to restore Mughal rule in 1556, and is successful
    ▪ Dies as a result of library accident

Akbar the Great
- one of Humayan’s sons
- takes over at age 13
  o Imperiled by enemies
- One of the greatest leaders in history
  o Ruled at the same time as Elizabeth I, Philip of Spain, Suleyman the Magnificent, and Abbas I.
- Had a vision of uniting India under his rule
  o Policies of cooperation with Hindu
    ▪ Religious Tolerance
      • Din-i-ilahi
        o New religion
        o Blended Hinduism and Islam
        o Unsuccessful
    ▪ Encouraged Intermarriage
    ▪ Abolished Hindu head-tax
    ▪ Allowed Hindus to take government positions
      • Promoted some to high positions
    ▪ Allowed building of Hindu temples
- Public works
- Improved calendar
- Alcohol regulation
- Discouraged child marriages
- Encouraged widow’s to remarry
  o not accepted in Hindu or Muslim society
  o Outlawed Sati
- His sons fight over who will be successor

Post Akbar
- Mughal rule reaches its zenith under the rule of Akbar’s sons
  o Jahangir (r. 1605-1627) and Shah Jahan (r. 1627-1658).
- Delhi, Agra, and Lahore are cultural centers
- Mughal army was HUGE
  o With elephants!
  o Lacked discipline and technology
- Patrons of the Arts
  o Built Taj Mahal
    ▪ Blending of Persian and Hindu styles
- Socially problems arose
  o Poverty amongst lower classes
  o Religious intolerance re-arose
  o Women of court arose in stature
    ▪ Other women fell in stature
      • Sati re-arose
      • Dowries returned
      • Unveiled women shunned
- India was a trading post for the world, particularly exporting cotton, and other goods imported from Asia

Decline
- Religious policies weakened the internal alliances and disrupted the social peace from Akbar.
  o Revival of sectarian violence
  o Forbade the building of new temples
  o Reinstated the head tax on Hindus.
  o Development of Sikhism as an anti-Muslim force on the subcontinent
- Mughal Empire was under attack from all areas
  o Regional lords gained power
  o Too weak to do anything about it.
    ▪ leads to growing military and economic intervention by the Europeans