

# The Muslim World Expands, 1300–1700

## PREVIEWING THEMES

### Cultural Interaction

As powerful societies moved to expand their empires, Turkish, Mongol, Persian, and Arab ways of life came face to face. The result was a flowering of Islamic culture, which peaked in the 16th century.

### Empire Building

Many conquerors emerged in the Muslim world between the 12th and 16th centuries; From their conquests arose three of the great empires of history—the Ottomans in Turkey, the Safavids in Iran, and the Mughals in India.

### Power and Authority

The rulers of all three great Muslim empires of this era based their authority on the Islamic religion. Advanced technology and effective artillery supported this authority on the battlefield.

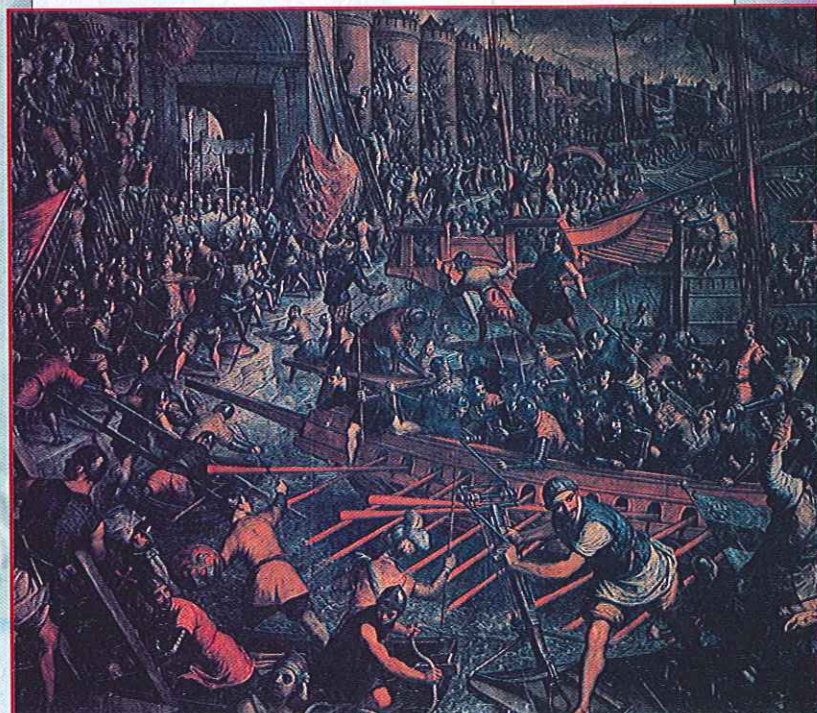
## EMPIRE BUILDERS, 1700



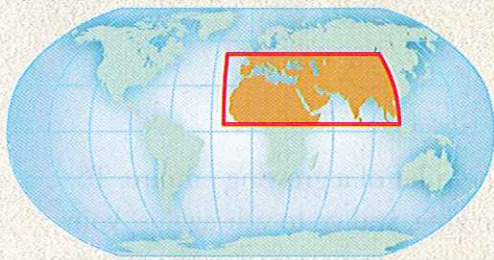
Constantinople was one of the most influential cities of the 15th-century world and seemed invulnerable. Its legend lasted far into the next century when Italian Jacopo Palma Giovane recreated the clamor and chaos of its fall to the Ottomans in his painting *The First Attack on Constantinople by the Turks in 1453*. This 51-day Ottoman siege by 125 ships, 100,000 men, and cannons that launched half-ton boulders turned the city into a Muslim outpost.

### INTERNET CONNECTION

Visit us at [www.mcdougallittell.com](http://www.mcdougallittell.com) to learn more about the Ottoman, the Safavid, and the Mughal empires.

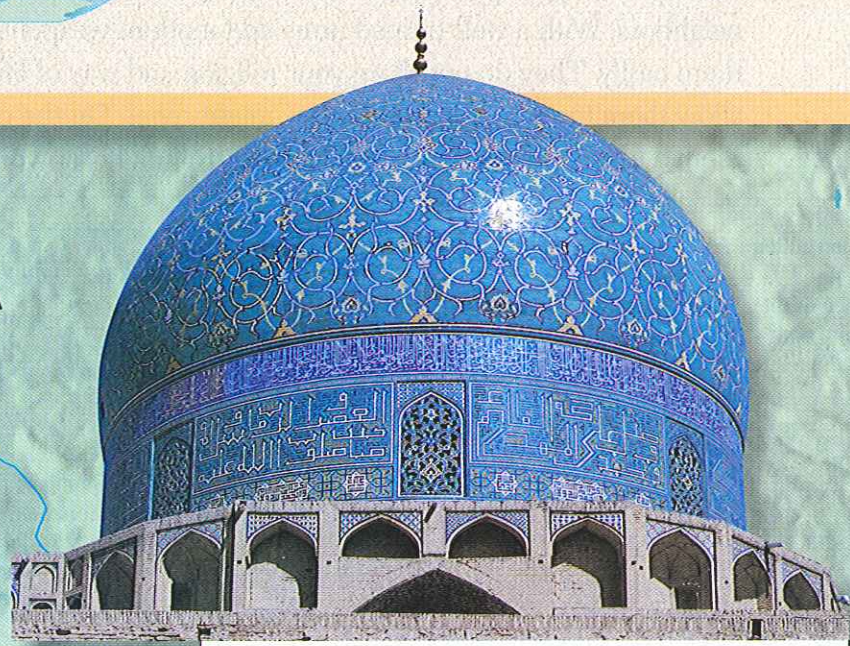
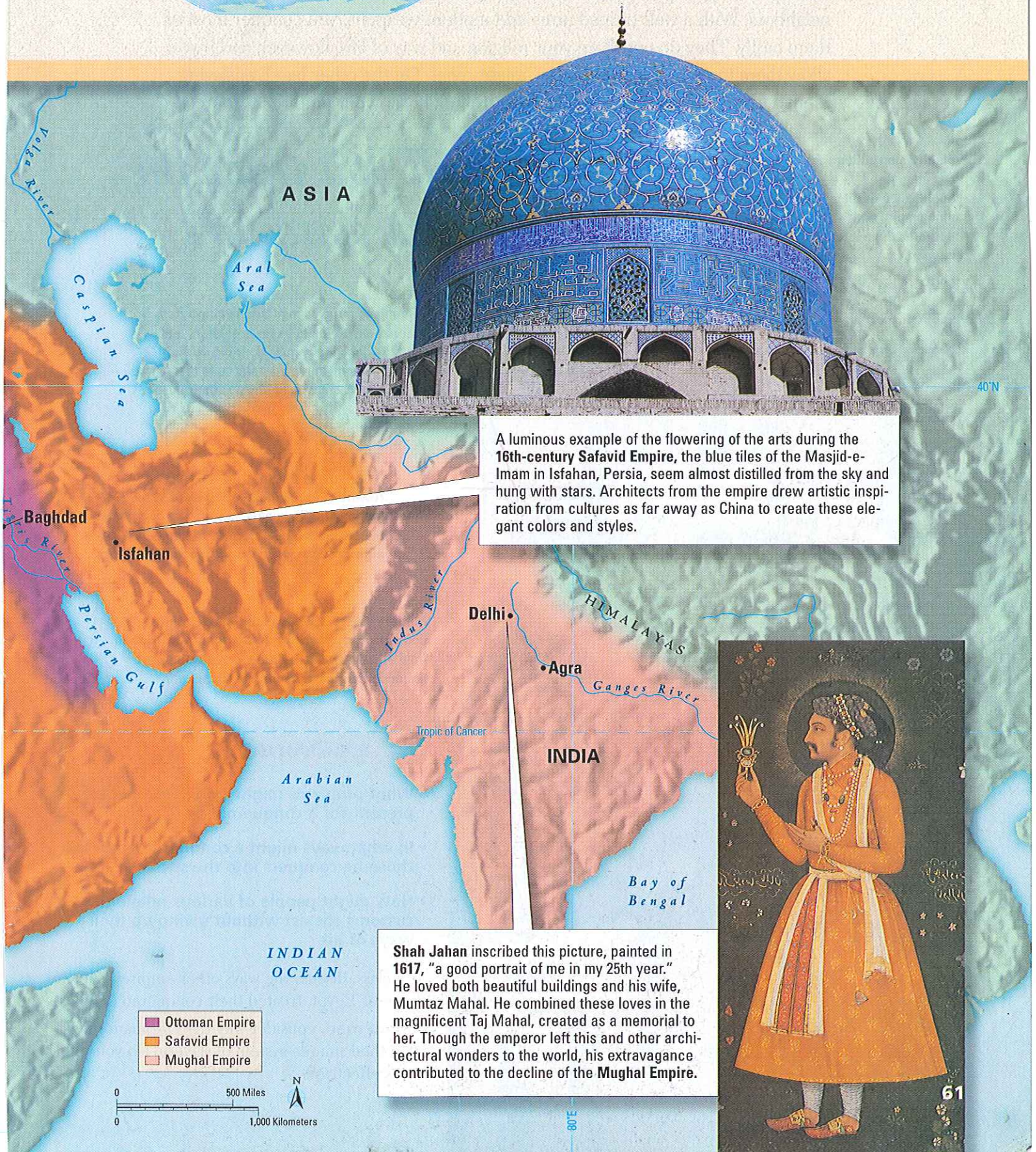






**PREVIEWING THE CHAPTER**

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A luminous example of the flowering of the arts during the 16th-century Safavid Empire, the blue tiles of the Masjed-e-Imam in Isfahan, Persia, seem almost distilled from the sky and hung with stars. Architects from the empire drew artistic inspiration from cultures as far away as China to create these elegant colors and styles.



Shah Jahan inscribed this picture, painted in 1617, "a good portrait of me in my 25th year." He loved both beautiful buildings and his wife, Mumtaz Mahal. He combined these loves in the magnificent Taj Mahal, created as a memorial to her. Though the emperor left this and other architectural wonders to the world, his extravagance contributed to the decline of the Mughal Empire.

Ottoman Empire  
 Safavid Empire  
 Mughal Empire

0 500 Miles  
 0 1,000 Kilometers



**Y**ou are a 15th-century Ottoman sultan, the ruler of a growing empire. To increase your power and control over the area, you go to war against your neighbors. With a well-trained army and modern weapons, you conquer most of them easily. They do not share your religion and way of life, however, and if you allow them too much freedom, they might rebel. On the other hand, enslaving them and keeping them under strict control might sap your empire's resources.

This Ottoman sultan sees conquered people as an asset to his empire and integrates them into his court.

## How will you treat the people you conquer?

The Ottomans force young Christian boys from conquered territories to become soldiers and convert to Islam. Many miss their old way of life terribly and resent serving as slaves to the sultan. Others see this as a way to improve their lives.

Once a slave himself, this man has been rewarded for his competence and good leadership. He kneels and swears allegiance to the sultan, who has appointed him leader of the elite military corps and adviser to the throne.

Military chiefs (left) and scholars (right) wear distinctive headgear to identify their rank. Drawn from all segments of Ottoman society, they are united in their loyal service to the sultan.

### EXAMINING *the* ISSUES

- What problems might conquered people present for a conqueror?
- In what ways might a conqueror integrate those he conquers into the society?
- How might people of various religions and customs coexist without giving up their ways of life?

As a class, discuss the ways other empires, such as Rome or Egypt, treated their conquered peoples.

**As you read,** consider why the Ottomans developed their unique system of slavery. Do you think it was effective?



# The Ottomans Build a Vast Empire

## TERMS & NAMES

- ghazi
- Osman
- Timur the Lame
- Mehmet II
- Suleiman the Lawgiver
- janissary
- devshirme

### MAIN IDEA

The Ottomans established a Muslim empire that combined many cultures and lasted for more than 600 years.

### WHY IT MATTERS NOW

Many modern societies—from Algeria to the Balkan countries—had their origins under Ottoman rule.

**SETTING THE STAGE** In 1300, the Byzantine Empire had begun to shrink, and the Mongols had destroyed the Turkish Seljuk sultanate, or kingdom, of Rum. Anatolia was inhabited mostly by the descendants of nomadic Turks. They were a militaristic people who had a long history of invading other countries. They were loyal to their own groups and were not united by a strong central power.

## Turks Settle in Christian Byzantium

Many Anatolian Turks saw themselves as **ghazis** (GAH-zees), or warriors for Islam. The ghazis were similar to the Christian knights in Europe during the Middle Ages. However, they formed military societies under the leadership of an emir and followed a strict Islamic code of conduct. They raided the territories of the “infidels,” or people who didn’t believe in Islam. These “infidels” lived on the frontiers of the Byzantine Empire.

**Osman Establishes a State** The most successful ghazi was **Osman**. People in the West called him Othman, however, and named his followers Ottomans. Osman built a small state in Anatolia between 1300 and 1326. His successors expanded it by buying land, forming alliances with other emirs, and conquering everyone they could.

The Ottomans’ military success was largely based on the use of gunpowder. They replaced their archers on horseback with musket-carrying foot soldiers. They also were among the first people to use cannons as offensive weapons. Even heavily walled cities fell to an all-out attack by the Turks.

The second Ottoman leader, Orkhan I, felt strong enough to declare himself sultan, meaning “overlord” or “one with power.” And in 1361, the Ottomans captured Adrianople (ay-dree-uh-NOH-puhl), the second most important city in the Byzantine Empire. A new Turkish Empire was on the rise.

The Ottomans acted kindly toward the people they conquered, however. They ruled through local officials appointed by the sultan and often improved the lives of the peasants. Most Muslims were required to serve in Turkish armies but did not have to pay a personal tax to the state. Non-Muslims did not have to serve in the army but had to pay the tax.

**Timur the Lame Rebels** Most of the conquered peoples seem to have adjusted to this somewhat lenient rule. The rise of the Ottoman Empire was briefly interrupted in the early 1400s, though, by a rebellious warrior and conqueror from Samarkand in central Asia. He was called Timur-i-Lang, or **Timur the Lame**, in his homeland. Europeans called him Tamerlane. Timur claimed to be descended

**Vocabulary**  
emir: a prince or chief (derived from the Arabic *‘amir*, meaning “commander”).

## HISTORY MAKERS



**Osman**  
1258–13267

Osman I was just one of many ghazi princes who operated along the Byzantine frontier until 1301. At that time he gained sudden fame by defeating a 2,000-man Byzantine army with a much smaller force. This victory drew people eager for adventure, and enabled Osman to undertake larger conquests.

Osman’s greatest success came in the last year of his life. That year his forces conquered the city of Bursa in northwest Turkey. Osman himself was too old and weak to lead the battle. Therefore, his son, Orkhan, commanded the troops. When Osman died, he probably had no idea that this conquest marked the birth of one of history’s largest and longest-lived empires.





Timur the Lame's steely strength blazes from his eyes in this painting by an unknown 14th-century Italian artist.

from the Mongol conqueror, Genghis Khan. Although historians doubt the truth of this claim, Timur was certainly as ferocious as Genghis Khan. He was also physically impressive. Tall and with a large head, he had a dark, rosy complexion. This was set off by white hair, which he had had since he was a child.

Timur conquered both Russia and Persia. He also burned the powerful city of Baghdad in present-day Iraq to the ground. In 1398, he swept through northern India, leaving destruction and decaying corpses in his wake. He butchered the inhabitants of Delhi and made a pyramid of their skulls. Moving back west into Anatolia, he crushed the Ottoman forces at the Battle of Ankara in 1402. This defeat halted the expansion of their empire. Timur then took their sultan back to Samarkand in an iron cage. The sultan died in captivity.

Timur himself died three years later on his way to conquer China. His body was returned to Samarkand, where he was buried in a magnificent tomb. That tomb remains a glorious sight today.

## Powerful Sultans Spur Dramatic Expansion

As soon as Timur moved out of Anatolia on the way to China, war broke out among the four sons of the Ottoman sultan. Mehmet I defeated his brothers and took the throne. His son, Murad II, restored the Ottoman military to its former power. Murad defeated the Venetians, invaded Hungary, and overcame an army of Italian crusaders in the Balkans. He was the first of four powerful sultans who kept the Ottoman Empire expanding through 1566.

**Mehmet II Conquers Constantinople** Murad's son **Mehmet II**, or Mehmet the Conqueror, achieved the most dramatic feat in Ottoman history. By the time Mehmet took power in 1451, the ancient city of Constantinople had shrunk from a population of a million to a mere 50,000. Although it controlled no territory outside its walls, it still dominated the Bosphorus Strait. Controlling this waterway meant that it could choke off traffic between the Ottomans' territories in Asia and in the Balkans.

Mehmet II decided to face this situation head-on. "Give me Constantinople!" he thundered, shortly after taking power at age 21. He spent two years building a force of 125 ships and 100,000 foot soldiers. Then, in April 1453, he launched his attack. The Byzantine emperor in Constantinople sent desperate appeals to the Christian West, but only 700 volunteers from Italy responded.

Mehmet's forces began firing on the city walls with mighty cannons. One of these was a 26-foot gun that fired 1,200-pound boulders. Constantinople's 7,000 defenders could barely man all the walls. A chain across the Golden Horn between the Bosphorus Strait and the Sea of Marmara kept the Turkish fleet out of the city's harbor. But beginning on the night of April 21, Mehmet's army advanced. They dragged 70 ships over a hill on greased runners from the Bosphorus to the harbor. Constantinople was thus under attack from two sides. The city held out for five weeks, but the Turks finally found a break in the wall and gained entry to the city. The Muslim historian Oruc reported:

### A VOICE FROM THE PAST

The ghazis, entering by force on every side, found a way in through the breaches in the fortress made by the guns. . . . Mounting on the tower they destroyed the infidels who were inside and entered the city. They looted and plundered. They seized their money and possessions and made their sons and daughters slaves. . . . They plundered for three days, and after three days plunder was forbidden.

ORUC, quoted in *The Muslim Discovery of Europe*

### THINK THROUGH HISTORY

**A. Recognizing Effects** What were Timur the Lame's accomplishments?

### THINK THROUGH HISTORY

**B. Analyzing Motives** Why was taking Constantinople so important to Mehmet II?

### Background

Conquerors did not usually limit the plundering of the cities they captured. Mehmet stopped the sacking of Constantinople after three days to protect the treasures he had won.



Mehmet then proceeded to the Hagia Sophia on the Bosphorus. This was the most important church in the Eastern Christian world. Reportedly, he found a soldier hacking at the marble floors. The church now belonged to the Muslim sultan. Therefore, Mehmet insisted that it be treated with respect. He had the soldier put to death. He then declared the Hagia Sophia a mosque. Muslim prayers were held there the first Friday the Ottomans occupied the city.

Mehmet the Conqueror, as he was now called, proved to be an able ruler as well as a magnificent warrior. He opened Constantinople to new citizens of many religions and backgrounds. Jews, Christians, and Muslims, Turks and non-Turks all flowed in. They helped rebuild the city that was now called Istanbul.

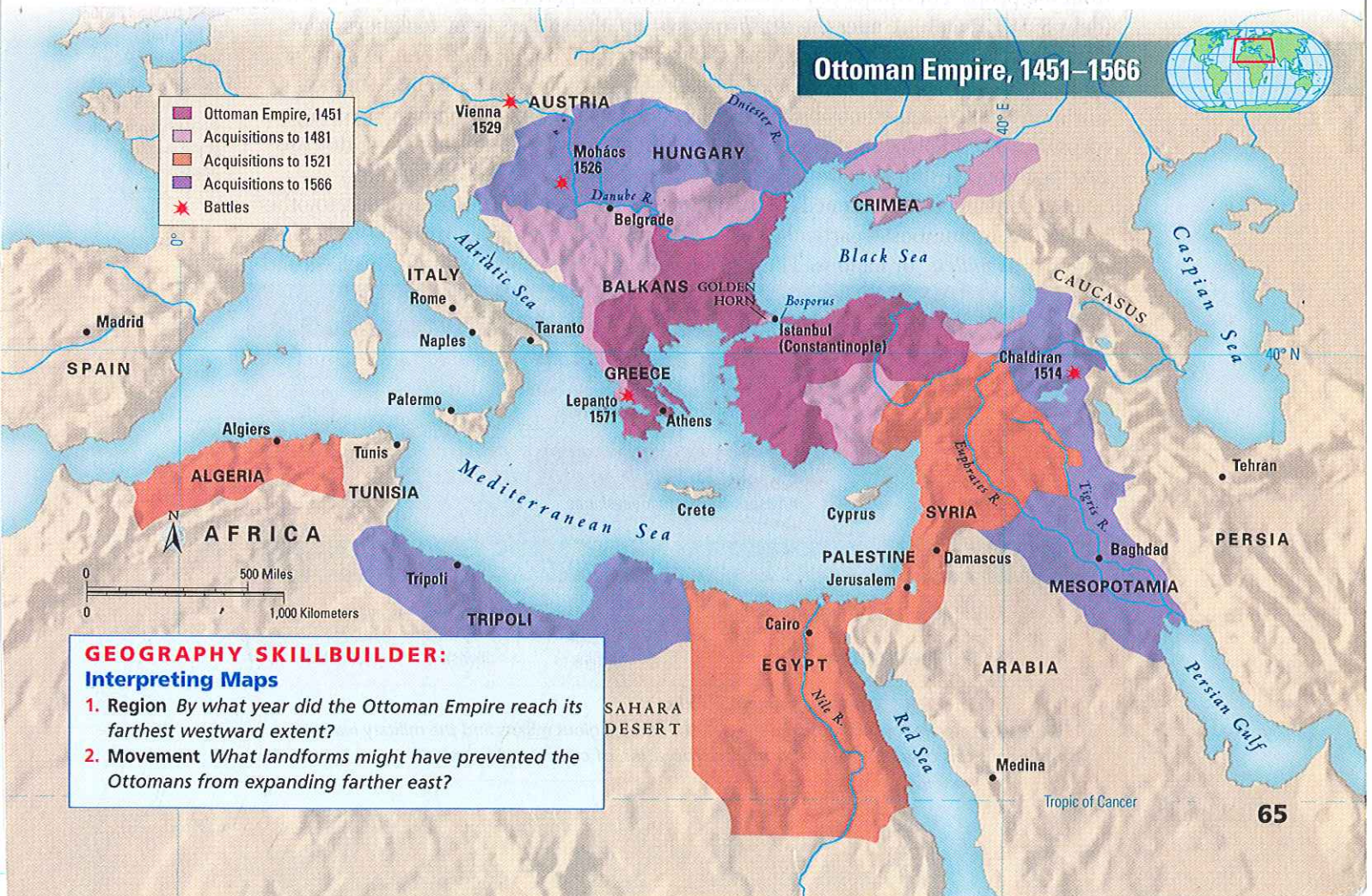
**Background**

Between the reigns of Mehmet II and Selim the Grim, Bayazid II oversaw the internal development and economic growth of the Ottoman Empire.

**Selim the Grim Takes Islam's Holy Cities** The next important sultan came to power in 1512. He did so by overthrowing his father and murdering his brothers. To protect his position, he also executed his nephews and all but one of his sons. It is small wonder that he is known as Selim the Grim. For all his brutality, Selim was an effective sultan and a great general. In 1514, he defeated the Safavids (suh-FAH-vihdz) of Persia at the Battle of Chaldiran. Then he swept south through Syria and Palestine and into North Africa. At the same time that Cortez was toppling the Aztec Empire in the Americas, Selim captured Mecca and Medina, the holiest cities of Islam. Finally he took Cairo, the intellectual center of the Muslim world. This conquest ended the Egyptian Mameluke Dynasty. The once-great civilization of Egypt had become just another province in the growing Ottoman Empire.

**Suleiman the Lawgiver**

Mehmet the Conqueror and Selim the Grim had achieved impressive military successes. However, the Ottoman Empire didn't reach its peak size and grandeur until the reign of Selim's son, Suleiman I (SOO-lay-mahn). Suleiman came to the throne in





1520 and ruled for 46 years. His own people called him **Suleiman the Lawgiver**. He was known in the West, though, as Suleiman the Magnificent. This title was a tribute to the splendor of his court and to his cultural achievements.

**The Empire Reaches Its Limits** Suleiman was above all a military leader. He conquered the important city of Belgrade in 1521. The next year, Turkish forces captured the island of Rhodes in the Mediterranean. With that conquest, the Ottomans dominated the whole eastern Mediterranean.

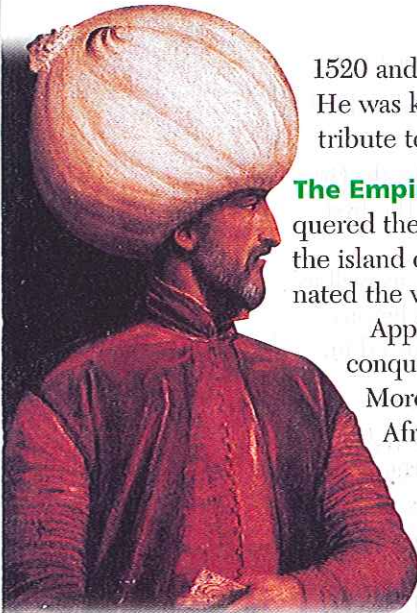
Applying their immense naval power, they captured Tripoli. They then continued conquering peoples along the North African coastline. Finally, they reached the Moroccan border. Although the Ottomans occupied only the coastal cities of Africa, they managed to control trade routes to the interior of the continent.

In 1525, Suleiman advanced into Hungary and Austria, throwing central Europe into a panic. Suleiman's armies then pushed to the outskirts of Vienna, Austria. But there the Ottoman expansion ended. When the 1529 siege of Vienna failed, Suleiman devoted himself to domestic affairs for two years. He then moved his forces east to deal with border uprisings with Safavid Persia. Reigning from Istanbul, Suleiman had waged war with central Europeans, North Africans, and central Asians. He had become the most powerful monarch on earth. Only Charles V, head of the Hapsburg Empire in Europe, came close to rivaling his power.

**Highly Structured Social Organization** Suleiman's massive Ottoman Empire required an efficient government structure and social organization. The empire was a complex military state. The Ottoman family—a dynasty that ruled for 600 years—held the power. Surrounding the family was the palace bureaucracy. It was staffed by the sultan's 20,000 personal slaves.

Among the sultan's slaves were the **janissaries**. This elite force of 30,000 was drawn from the peoples of conquered Christian territories as part of a policy called *devshirme* (dehv-SHEER-meh). Under the *devshirme* system, the sultan's army took boys from their families, educated them, converted them to Islam, and trained them as soldiers. Their superb discipline made them the heart of the Ottoman war machine. In fact, Christian families sometimes bribed officials to take their children into the janissary corps, because the brightest ones could rise to high government posts. The Ottomans also took non-Muslim girls from their families to become slaves to the wealthy.

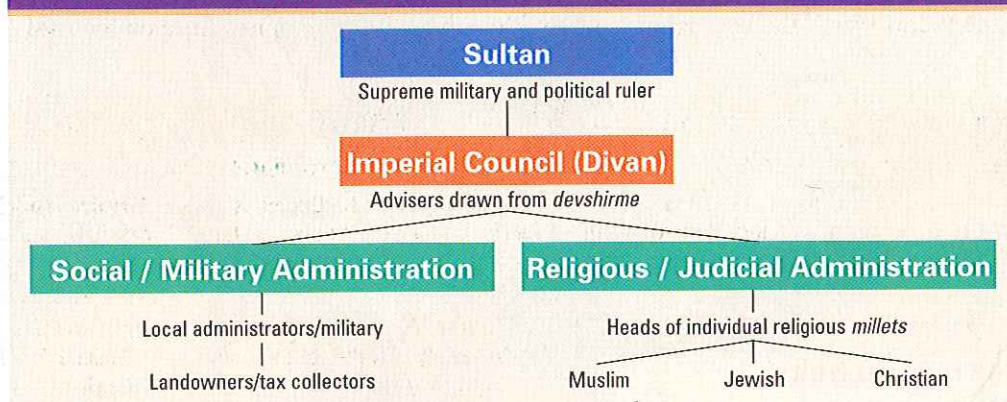
In accordance with Islamic law, the Ottomans granted freedom of worship to other religious communities—particularly to Christians and Jews. They treated these communities as *millets*, or nations. They allowed each to follow its own religious laws and



Suleiman the Lawgiver's magnificent turban marked him as an influential man. But it was his outstanding contributions to Ottoman territory and culture that made his mark in history.

**THINK THROUGH HISTORY**  
**C. Making Inferences** What were the advantages and disadvantages of the *devshirme* system to the recruited slaves?

### Organization of Ottoman Government



**SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Charts**

1. What was the relationship between the heads of the religious millets and the military leaders?
2. How does this organization show the incorporation of conquered peoples?



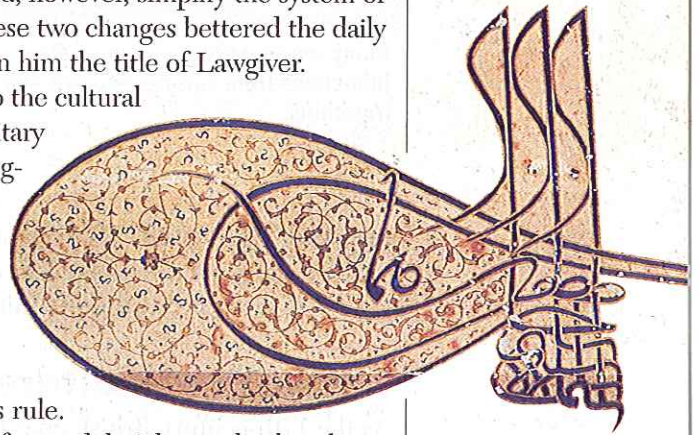
practices. The head of the *millet*s reported to the sultan and his staff. This patchwork system kept conflict among people of the various religions to a minimum. But it may have sowed the seeds of modern ethnic conflicts in the area.

**Cultural Achievements** Binding the Ottoman Empire together in a workable social structure was surely Suleiman's crowning achievement. Suleiman was required to follow Islamic law, which covered most social matters. He did, however, simplify the system of taxation and reduce the government bureaucracy. These two changes bettered the daily life of almost every citizen. These reforms helped earn him the title of Lawgiver.

Suleiman had broad interests, which contributed to the cultural achievements of the empire. Even amid his many military campaigns, he found time to study poetry, history, geography, astronomy, mathematics, and architecture. He employed one of the world's finest architects, Sinan, who was probably from Albania. Sinan's masterpiece, the Mosque of Suleiman, is an immense complex topped with domes and half domes. It includes four schools, a college, a library, a bath, and a hospital.

Art and literature also flourished under Suleiman's rule. Both painters and poets looked to Persia and Arabia for models. The works that they produced used these foreign influences to express original Ottoman ideas in the Turkish style.

Despite Suleiman's magnificent social and cultural achievements and his splendid city of Istanbul, though, the Ottoman Empire was losing ground. Its decline had already begun.



Suleiman's artistic nature was reflected in everything he did, including his signature (above).

**THINK THROUGH HISTORY**  
**D. Summarizing**  
 What were the major cultural achievements of Suleiman's reign?

## The Empire Declines Slowly

Suleiman himself set the stage for this decline. Perhaps fearing for his position, he killed his ablest son and drove another into exile. His third son, the incompetent Selim II, inherited the throne. In 1571, Spain and Italy destroyed Selim's Turkish fleet at the Battle of Lepanto. This was a rare defeat for the Ottomans' superior sea power.

At the same time, corruption was eating away at the government. As each sultan grew older, his possible heirs began jockeying for power. It became customary for each new sultan to have his brothers strangled with the silk string of a bow. The sultan would then keep his sons prisoner in the harem, cutting them off from education or contact with the world. This practice produced a long line of weak, ignorant sultans who eventually brought ruin on the empire.

The great Ottoman Empire crumbled slowly. It continued to influence the world into the early 20th century. It was finally dissolved with the creation of the nation of Turkey after World War I. But throughout its long life, other Muslim empires were on the rise.

## Section 1 Assessment

### 1. TERMS & NAMES

Identify

- ghazi
- Osman
- Timur the Lame
- Mehmet II
- Suleiman the Lawgiver
- janissary
- *devshirme*

### 2. TAKING NOTES

Using a chart like the one below, list the main rulers of the Ottoman Empire and their chief accomplishments.

Ottoman Ruler	Major Accomplishment

Rank these leaders in order of their impact on the Ottoman Empire.

### 3. EVALUATING DECISIONS

Do you think that the Ottomans were wise in staffing their military and government with slaves? Why or why not?

**THINK ABOUT**

- the loyalty of slaves to the sultan
- the training slaves received
- others who might have served in the government

### 4. ANALYZING THEMES

**Empire Building** Do you think that Suleiman's religious tolerance helped or hurt the Ottoman Empire? Explain.

**THINK ABOUT**

- Suleiman's treatment of non-Muslims
- the effect on the individual religious groups
- the long-term effect on the empire as a whole



- Safavid
- Isma'il
- Shah Abbas
- Isfahan

PATTERNS  
OF CHANGE

## CASE STUDY: The Safavid Empire

## MAIN IDEA

Many world cultures incorporate influences from various peoples and traditions.

## WHY IT MATTERS NOW

Modern Iran, which plays a key role in global politics, is descended from the culturally diverse Safavid Empire.

**SETTING THE STAGE** The Ottoman Empire provides a striking example of how interaction among peoples can produce a blending of cultures. This mixture often combines the best of contributing cultures in new and exciting ways.

### Patterns of Cultural Blending

As the 17th-century British poet John Donne observed, “No man is an island.” But no group of people, or culture, is an island, either. Throughout history, peoples have mingled and interacted, giving rise to new cultural blends.

**Causes of Cultural Blending** Cultural blending usually occurs in places where two or more cultures interact. This interaction most often is prompted by one or a combination of the following four activities: migration, trade, conquest, and pursuit of religious converts or religious freedom. Societies that are able to benefit from cultural blending are open to new ways and willing to adapt and change.

The blending that contributed to the culture of the Ottomans, for example, depended on all of these activities except migration. Surrounded by the peoples of Christian Byzantium, the Turks were motivated to win both territory for their empire and converts to their Muslim religion. Suleiman’s interest in learning and culture prompted him to bring the best foreign artists and scholars to his court.

**Cultural Blending Through History** Similar patterns of blending have occurred throughout the world and across the ages. A few examples are shown below.

#### THINK THROUGH HISTORY

**A. Summarizing**  
What four activities often contribute to cultural blending?

### PATTERNS OF CHANGE: Cultural Blending

Location	Interacting Cultures	Reason for Interaction	Some Results of Interaction
India—1000 B.C.	Aryan and Dravidian Indian	Migration	Vedic culture, forerunner of Hinduism
East Africa—A.D. 700	Arab, African, Indian, Islamic, Christian	Trade, religious converts	New trade language, Swahili
Russia—A.D. 1000	Christian and Slavic	Religious converts	Eastern Christianity, Russian identity
Mexico—A.D. 1500	Spanish and Aztec Indian	Conquest	Mestizo culture, Mexican Catholicism
United States—A.D. 1900	European, Asian, Caribbean	Migration, religious freedom	Cultural diversity

#### SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Charts

1. What aspects of culture, such as language and religion, did these cultural blendings affect?
2. What evidence of cultural blending do you see in the United States today?



## CASE STUDY: The Safavid Empire

### The Safavids Build a Shi'i Empire

Conquest and ongoing cultural interaction also fueled the development of another empire—the **Safavids**. Originally, the Safavids were members of an Islamic religious brotherhood. They were named after their founder, Safi al-Din, who died in 1334. Although the Safavids were of Iranian origin, they claimed that they were descended from the prophet Muhammad. In the 15th century, the Safavids aligned themselves with the Shi'i branch of Islam.

The Shi'i Safavids were persecuted on religious grounds by the Ottoman Sunni Muslims. This treatment was a departure from the Sunni's traditional religious tolerance. The Safavids were also squeezed geographically between the Ottomans and Uzbek tribespeople. (See the map on page 70.) To protect themselves from these potential enemies, the Safavids concentrated on building a powerful army.

**Isma'il Conquers Persia** The Safavid military became a force to reckon with. They wore unique red headgear with 12 folds, and so became known as the "redheads." In 1499, the leader of the redheads was a 14-year-old named **Isma'il** (is-MAH-eel). Despite his youth, he was a brilliant warrior. Within two years, he had seized most of what is now Iran. To celebrate his achievement, he took the ancient Persian title of shah, or king. He also established Shi'i Islam as the state religion:

#### A VOICE FROM THE PAST

[Isma'il] is loved and revered by his people as a god, and especially by his soldiers, many of whom enter into battle without armour, expecting their master . . . to watch over them in the fight. . . . The name of God is forgotten throughout Persia and only that of Isma'il is remembered.

A 16TH-CENTURY VENETIAN TRAVELER, quoted in *Encyclopedia of Islam*

Despite the reverence of his people, however, Isma'il became a religious tyrant. Any citizen who did not convert to Shi'ism was put to death. Isma'il destroyed the Sunni population of Baghdad in his confrontation with the Ottomans. Their leader, Selim the Grim, later ordered the execution of all Shi'a in the Ottoman Empire. As many as 40,000 died. Their final faceoff was at the Battle of Chaldiran in 1514. But the confrontation between the cultures did not end then. In fact, it still continues today.

Isma'il's son Tahmasp took up the struggle. He expanded the Safavid Empire up to the Caucasus Mountains northeast of Turkey and brought Christians under Safavid rule. In adding this territory to the empire, Tahmasp laid the groundwork for the golden age of the Safavids.

**Cultural Blending During the Reign of Shah Abbas** This golden age came under **Shah Abbas**, or Abbas the Great. He took the throne in 1587. During his reign, he helped create a Safavid culture that drew from the best of the Ottoman, Persian, and Arab worlds.

Shah Abbas reformed both military and civilian aspects of life. He limited the power of the military redheads. He then created two new armies that would be loyal to him alone. One of these was an army of Persians. The other was a force like the Ottoman janissaries, which Abbas recruited from the Christian north. He equipped both of these armies with modern artillery. Abbas also reformed his government. He punished corruption severely and promoted only officials who proved their competence and loyalty.

Shah Abbas established relations with Europe. As a result, industry and art flourished. He also brought Chinese artisans to the

#### THINK THROUGH HISTORY

##### B. Making

**Inferences** Which of Isma'il's traits do you think made him such a successful conqueror?

## GlobalImpact

### First Persian Empire

The Safavid Empire was not the first empire to unite Persia. Centuries before, from about 550 to 350 B.C., the Persian Empire ruled many different people and a vast territory that stretched over 2000 miles.

To control such a huge empire, the Persians combined a strong military with tolerance and respect for people's customs and religions. The Persians also held their empire together by using an efficient administration of 20 provinces, each with its own governor, army leader, and inspector, who answered only to the king.

Thousands of years after the Persian Empire ended, the Safavids maintained control by using a type of government administration similar to the Persians.



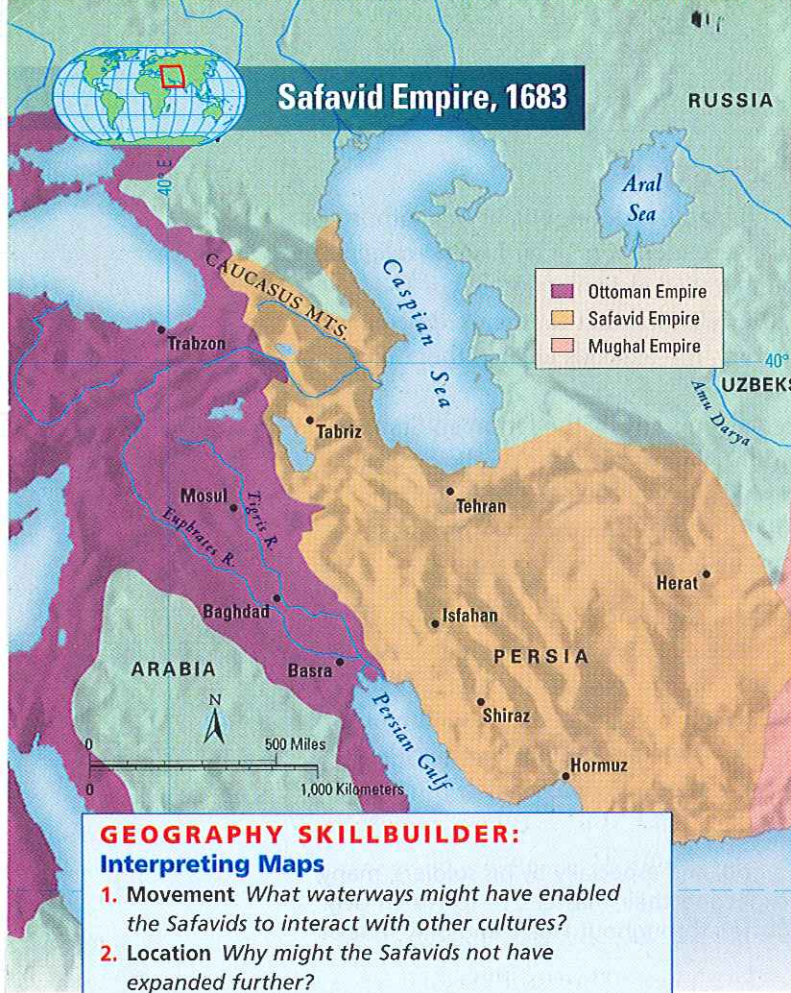
VIDEO

*Building Empires:  
The Rise of the  
Persians and  
the Inca*





## Safavid Empire, 1683



### GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Maps

- 1. Movement** What waterways might have enabled the Safavids to interact with other cultures?
- 2. Location** Why might the Safavids not have expanded further?

Safavid Empire. This collaboration gave rise to gorgeous artwork. These decorations beautified the many mosques, palaces, and marketplaces of Abbas's rebuilt capital city of **Isfahan**.

The most important result of Western influence on the Safavids, however, may have been the demand for Persian carpets. This demand helped change carpet weaving from a local craft to a national industry.

**The Dynasty Declines Quickly** Shah Abbas unfortunately made the same mistake the Ottoman monarch Suleiman made. He killed or blinded his ablest sons. Abbas was succeeded by his incompetent grandson, Safi. This pampered young prince led the Safavids down the same road to decline that the Ottomans had taken, only more quickly.

By 1722, tribal armies from Afghanistan were taking over the eastern portions of the Safavid realm. Ottoman forces were attacking from the west. Some historians claim that these attacks marked the downfall of the Safavids.

In 1736, however, a ruler from a Sunni family—Nadir Shah Afshar—took command.

He conquered all the way to India and created a new Persian empire. But Nadir Shah was a cruel man as well as an inspired military leader. One of his own troops assassinated him. With Nadir Shah's death in 1747, his empire also fell apart.

**The Safavid Legacy** Although the Safavid Empire died out as a political power, the culture that it produced endured. In this culture, the worldly and artistic features of Persian civilization mingled with the religious elements of Shi'ism. The Safavids also borrowed many ways from their enemies, the Ottomans. They based their government on the Ottoman model, welcomed foreigners into their empire, and created a slave army similar to the janissaries.

At the same time that the Safavids flourished, cultural blending and conquest led to the growth of a new empire in India, as you will learn in Section 3.

**THINK THROUGH HISTORY**  
**C. Comparing** In what ways were Shah Abbas and Suleiman the Lawgiver similar?

## Section 2 Assessment

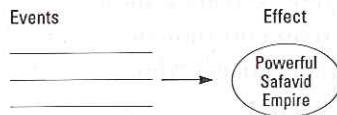
### 1. TERMS & NAMES

Identify

- Safavid
- Isma'il
- Shah Abbas
- Isfahan

### 2. TAKING NOTES

Using a cause-and-effect diagram like the one below, indicate the events that enabled the Safavids to build a powerful empire.



### 3. ANALYZING MOTIVES

Within a century after the Safavids adopted Shi'i Islam, their leader, Isma'il, became a religious tyrant. Why might he have become so intolerant?

#### THINK ABOUT

- the persecution of Safavids by Ottoman Sunni Muslims
- the role of religion in Safavid life
- the geographic location of the Safavid Empire

### 4. THEME ACTIVITY

**Cultural Interaction** Write a letter from Shah Abbas to a Chinese artist persuading him to come teach and work in the Safavid Empire. In the letter, explain why the Safavids are interested in Chinese art and how they treat people from other cultures.



## 3

# The Mughals Establish an Empire in India

## TERMS & NAMES

- Mughal
- Babur
- Akbar
- Jahangir
- Nur Jahan
- Sikh
- Shah Jahan
- Taj Mahal
- Aurangzeb

### MAIN IDEA

The Mughal Empire brought Turks, Persians, and Indians together in a vast empire.

### WHY IT MATTERS NOW

The legacy of great art and deep social division left by the Mughal Empire still influences southern Asia.

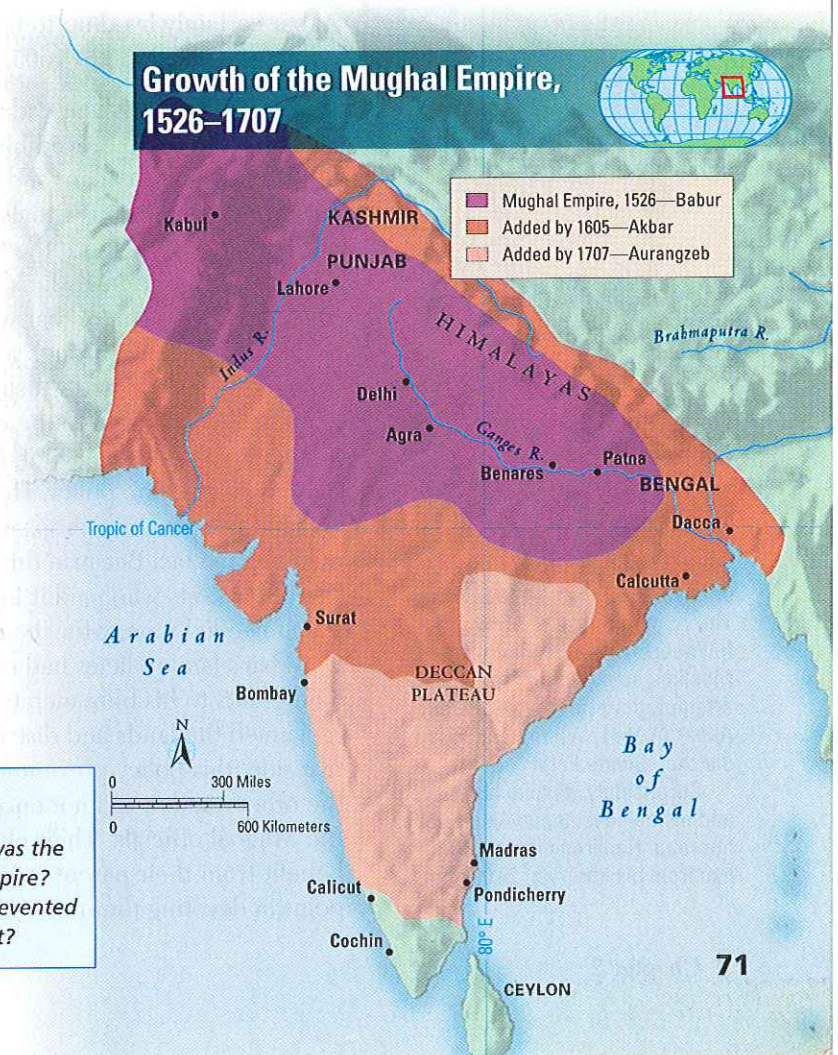
**SETTING THE STAGE** In the late 15th century, India included lush lands studded with cities and temples. The Hindu lower classes labored in the service of their Muslim or Hindu masters. At the same time, nomadic warriors roamed the highlands to the northwest, eager for battle.

## Early History of the Mughal Empire

The people who invaded India called themselves **Mughals**, which means “Mongols.” The land they invaded had been through a long period of turmoil. The Gupta Empire crumbled in the 600s. First, Arabs invaded. Then, warlike Muslim tribes from central Asia carved northwestern India into many small kingdoms. Those kingdoms were ruled by leaders called Rajputs, or “sons of kings.”

**Ongoing Conflicts** The 8th century began with a long, bloody clash between Hindus and Muslims in this fragmented land. For almost 300 years, though, the Hindus held off the Arab Muslims. They were able to advance only as far as the Indus River valley. Starting around the year 1000, however, well-trained Turkish armies swept into India. Led by Sultan Mahmud (muh-MOOD) of Ghazni, they devastated Indian cities and temples in 17 brutal campaigns. These attacks left the region weakened and vulnerable to other conquerors. Delhi eventually became the capital of a loose empire of Turkish warlords called the Delhi Sultanate. These sultans treated the Hindus as conquered people.

Between the 13th and 16th centuries, 33 different sultans ruled this divided territory from its seat in Delhi. In 1398, Timur the Lame destroyed Delhi so completely that, according to one witness, “for two whole months, not a bird moved in



### GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Maps

- 1. Movement** During which time period was the most territory added to the Mughal Empire?
- 2. Location** What landform might have prevented the empire from expanding farther east?



the city.” Delhi eventually was rebuilt. But it was not until the 16th century that a leader arose who would unify the empire.

**Babur Finds an Empire** In 1494, an 11-year-old boy named **Babur** inherited a kingdom in the area that is now Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. It was only a tiny kingdom, and his elders soon took it away and drove him south. But the boy built up an army. In the years that followed, he swept down into India and laid the groundwork for the vast Mughal Empire.

Babur was a strong, sensitive leader. According to legend, he could leap a wall holding a man under each arm. But he also wrote poetry and loved art and gardens. He was a brilliant general as well. In 1526, for example, Babur led 12,000 troops to victory against an army of 100,000 commanded by a sultan of Delhi. Perhaps it was his sensitivity to his soldiers that made him such an effective leader:

#### A VOICE FROM THE PAST

Some in the army were very anxious and full of fear. Nothing recommends anxiety and fear. . . . Why? Because what God has fixed in eternity cannot be changed. But . . . it was no reproach to be afraid and anxious. . . . Why? Because those thus anxious and afraid were there with a two or three months' journey between them and their homes; our affair was with a foreign tribe and people; none knew their tongue, nor did they know ours.

BABUR, *The Babur-Nama (Memoirs of Babur)*

A year later, Babur also defeated a massive Rajput army. After Babur's death, his incompetent son, Humayun, lost most of the territory Babur had gained. Babur's 13-year-old grandson took over the throne after Humayun's death.

#### Background

One of the secrets of Babur's success is that he lashed cannons together to fire massive volleys against troops mounted on elephants.

## HISTORYMAKERS



**Akbar**  
1542–1605

Akbar was brilliant and curious, especially about religion. He even invented a religion of his own—the “Divine Faith”—which combined elements of Hinduism, Jainism, Christianity, and Sufism. The religion attracted few followers, however, and offended Muslims so much that they attempted a brief revolt against Akbar in 1581. When he died, so did the “Divine Faith.”

Surprisingly, despite his wisdom and his achievements, Akbar could not read. He hired others to read to him from his library of 24,000 books.

## The Golden Age of Akbar

Babur's grandson was called **Akbar**, which means “Great One.”

Akbar certainly lived up to his name by ruling India with wisdom and tolerance from 1556 to 1605.

**A Liberal Ruler** Akbar was a Muslim, and he firmly defended religious freedom. He proved his tolerance by marrying, among others, two Hindus, a Christian, and a Muslim. He allowed his wives to practice their religious rituals in the palace. He proved his tolerance again by abolishing both the tax on Hindu pilgrims and the hated *jizya*, or tax on non-Muslims. He even appointed a Spanish Jesuit to tutor his second son. Akbar was a genius at cultural blending.

Akbar governed through a bureaucracy of officials. Natives and foreigners, Hindus and Muslims, could all rise to high office. This approach contributed to the quality of his government. Akbar's chief finance minister, Todar Mal, for example, created a clever—and effective—taxation policy. He calculated the tax as a percent of the value of the peasants' crops, similar to the present-day U.S. graduated income tax. Because this tax was fair and affordable, the number of peasants who paid it increased. This payment brought in much needed money for the empire.

Akbar's land policies had more mixed results. He gave generous land grants to his bureaucrats. After they died, however, he reclaimed the lands and distributed them as he saw fit. On the positive side, this policy prevented the growth of feudal aristocracies. On the other hand, it did not encourage dedication and hard work by the Mughal officials. Their children would not inherit the land or benefit from their parents' work. So the officials apparently saw no point in devoting themselves to their property.

#### THINK THROUGH HISTORY

**A. Comparing** In what ways were Akbar's attitudes toward religion similar to those of Suleiman the Lawgiver?



**A Military Conqueror** For all his humanity, however, Akbar recognized military power as the root of his strength. He believed in war for its own sake. “A monarch should ever be intent on conquest,” he said, “otherwise his neighbors rise in arms against him.” Like the Safavids and the Ottomans, Akbar equipped his armies with heavy artillery. Cannons enabled him to crack into walled cities and extend his rule into much of the Deccan plateau. In a brilliant move, he appointed some Rajputs as officers. In this way he turned potential enemies into allies. This combination of military power and political wisdom enabled Akbar to unify a land of at least 100 million people—more than all of Europe put together.

**A Flowering of Culture** As Akbar extended the Mughal Empire, he welcomed influences from the many cultures it included. This cultural mingling affected art, education, politics, and the language as well. Persian was the language of Akbar’s court and of high culture. The common people, however, spoke Hindi, a mixture of Persian and a local language. Hindi remains one of the most widely spoken languages in India today. Out of the Mughal armies, where soldiers of many backgrounds rubbed shoulders, came yet another new language. This language was Urdu, which means “from the soldier’s camp.” A blend of Arabic, Persian, and Hindi, Urdu is today the official language of Pakistan.

The arts flourished at the Mughal court, especially in the form of book illustrations. These small, highly detailed and colorful paintings were called miniatures. They were brought to a peak of perfection in the Safavid Empire. Babur’s son, Humayun, brought two masters of this art to his court to teach it to the Mughals. Some of the most famous Mughal miniatures adorned the *Akbarnamah* (“Book of Akbar”), the story of the great emperor’s campaigns and deeds. Indian art drew from Western traditions as well. After Akbar’s time, for example, portraits of the Mughal emperors showed them wearing halos like Western saints.

**Literature and Architecture** Hindu literature also enjoyed a revival in Akbar’s time. Akbar established a large library. The poet Tulsī Das, for example, was a contemporary of Akbar’s. He retold the epic love story of Rama and Sita from the 4th-century B.C. Indian poem *Ramayana* (rah-MAH-yuh-nuh) in Hindi. This retelling, the *Ramcaritmanas*, is now even more popular than the original.

Akbar devoted himself to architecture, too. The style developed under his reign is still known as Akbar period architecture. Its massive, but graceful, structures are decorated with intricate stonework that depicts Hindu themes. The capital city of Fatehpur Sikri is one of the most important examples of this type of architecture. Akbar had this red-sandstone city built to thank a holy man who had predicted the birth of his first son. It included a great mosque, many palaces and other houses, as well as official and religious buildings. This magnificent city was abandoned after only 15 years because its water supply ran out. Ironically, the son whose birth it honored eventually rebelled against his father. He may even have plotted to cause his father’s death.

## Akbar’s Successors

With Akbar’s death in 1605, the Mughal court changed to deal with the changing times. The next three emperors were powerful men, and each left his mark on the Mughal Empire.



Headgear had symbolic importance in the society of Hindus in India. An important person’s turban might include 50 yards of cloth wound around and held together with a jeweled pin such as this one.

### Background

In Hindu myth, Rama was the perfect king, one of the personalities of the protector god, Vishnu.



## CONNECT to TODAY

### Women Rulers

Since World War II, India has seen the rise of several powerful women. Unlike Nur Jahan, however, they achieved power on their own—not through their husbands.

Indira Gandhi headed the Congress-I Party and dominated Indian politics for almost 30 years. She was elected prime minister in 1966 and again in 1980. Gandhi was assassinated in 1984 by Sikh terrorists.

In neighboring Pakistan, Benazir Bhutto (shown below), took charge of the Pakistan People's Party after her father was executed by his political enemies. She won election as her country's prime minister in 1988—the first woman to run a modern Muslim state. Pakistan's president unseated her, but she was reelected in 1993. In 1996, however, the president again ousted her from office. The supreme court ruled that her government was corrupt. Ironically, that was partially because her husband had made corrupt business deals.



**Jahangir and Nur Jahan** Akbar's son called himself **Jahangir** (juh-hahn-GEER)—“Grasper of the World.” And he certainly did hold India in a powerful grasp. It was not his own hand in the iron glove, though, since Jahangir was an extremely weak ruler. For most of his reign, he left the affairs of state to his wife.

Jahangir's wife was the Persian princess **Nur Jahan**. She was a remarkably talented woman with a variety of interests. Tiger hunting was among her favorite pastimes, and she rode horses with legendary skill. She composed poetry whenever the mood struck her. She also designed clothes that still influence Indian fashions. Above all, she was a brilliant politician who perfectly understood the use of power. As the real ruler of India from 1611 to 1622, she installed her father as prime minister in the Mughal court. She saw Jahangir's son Khusrau as her ticket to future power. But when Khusrau rebelled against his father, Nur Jahan ousted him. She then shifted her favor to another son, the future emperor, Shah Jahan.

This rejection of Khusrau affected more than the political future of the empire. It was also the basis of a long and bitter religious conflict. Both Nur Jahan and Jahangir rejected Akbar's religious tolerance and tried to promote only Islam in the Mughal state. When Khusrau rebelled against his father, he turned to the **Sikhs**. This was a nonviolent religious group whose doctrines blended Buddhism, Hinduism, and Sufism (Islamic mysticism). Their leader, Guru Arjun, sheltered Khusrau and defended him. In response, the Mughal rulers had Arjun arrested and tortured to death. The Sikhs thus became the target of the Mughals' particular hatred.

**Shah Jahan** Like his grandfather, **Shah Jahan** was a cultured man. He could not tolerate competition, however, and secured his throne by assassinating all his possible rivals. But he did have a great passion for two things: beautiful buildings and his wife Mumtaz Mahal (moom-TAHZ mah-HAHL). Nur Jahan had arranged this marriage between Jahangir's son and her niece for political reasons. Shah Jahan, however, fell genuinely in love with his Persian princess.

In 1631, Mumtaz Mahal died at age 38 giving birth to her 14th child. “Empire has no sweetness,” the heartbroken Shah Jahan lamented, “life has no relish for me now.” To enshrine his wife's memory, he ordered that a tomb be built “as beautiful as she was beautiful.” Fine white marble and fabulous jewels were gathered from many parts of Asia. Some 20,000 workers labored for 22 years to build the famous tomb now known as the **Taj Mahal**. This memorial has been called one of the most beautiful buildings in the world. Its towering marble dome and slender towers look like lace and seem to change color as the sun moves across the sky. The inside of the building is as magnificent as the exterior. It is a glittering garden of thousands of carved marble flowers inlaid with tiny precious stones.

Shah Jahan also built the Red Fort at Delhi and completed the Peacock Throne, a priceless seat of gold encrusted with diamonds, rubies, emeralds, and pearls. The throne has a canopy that displays the figure of a peacock lined with blue sapphires. This magnificent throne was lost to the conqueror Nadir Shah in 1739.

**The People Suffer** But while Shah Jahan was building lovely things, his country was suffering. A Dutch merchant who was in India during a famine at that time reported that “. . . men abandoned towns and villages and wandered helplessly . . . eyes sunk deep in head, lips pale and covered with slime, the skin hard, the bones showing through. . . .” Farmers needed tools, roads, and ways of irrigating their crops and dealing with India's harsh environment. What they got instead were taxes and more taxes to support the building of monuments, their rulers' extravagant living, and war.

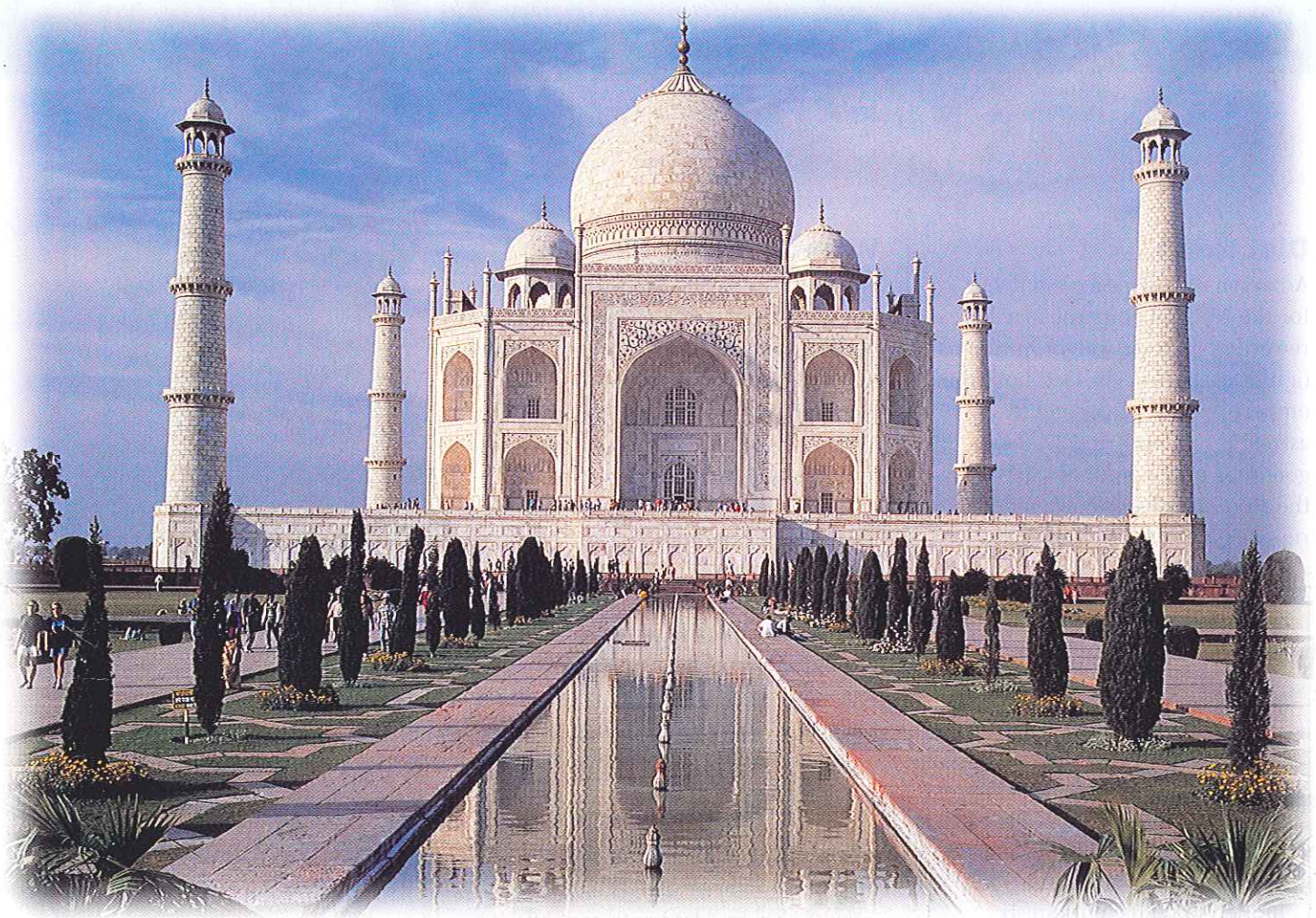
### THINK THROUGH HISTORY

**B. Analyzing Causes** How did the Mughals' dislike of the Sikhs develop?

### Background

Shortly after Shah Jahan spent huge sums of money on the Taj Mahal, King Louis XIV began building his elaborate palace at Versailles. Both rulers heavily taxed their people to pay for their extravagance.





#### THINK THROUGH HISTORY

##### C. Making

**Inferences** Do you think Shah Jahan's policies helped or harmed the Mughal Empire?

All was not well in the royal court either. When Shah Jahan became ill in 1657, his four sons scrambled for the throne. The third son, **Aurangzeb** (AWR-uhng-zehb), moved first and most decisively. In a bitter civil war, he executed his older brother, who was his most serious rival. Then he arrested his father and put him in prison. When Shah Jahan died several years later, a mirror was found in his room, angled so that he could gaze from his cell at the reflection of the Taj Mahal. Aurangzeb, however, had his eyes on the empire.

**Aurangzeb** Aurangzeb ruled from 1658 to 1707. He was a master at military strategy and an aggressive empire builder. Although he expanded the Mughal holdings to their greatest size, the power of the empire weakened during his reign.

This loss of power was due largely to Aurangzeb's oppression of the people. He rigidly enforced Islamic laws, outlawing drinking, gambling, and other vices. He also appointed censors to police his subjects' morals and make sure they prayed at the appointed times. He also tried to erase all the gains Hindus had made under Akbar. For example, he brought back the hated tax on non-Muslims and dismissed Hindus from high positions in his government. He banned the construction of new temples and had Hindu monuments destroyed. Not surprisingly, these actions outraged the Hindus.

The Hindu Rajputs, whom Akbar had converted from potential enemies to allies, rebelled. Aurangzeb defeated them repeatedly, but never completely. In the southwest, militant Hindus called Marathas founded their own breakaway state. Aurangzeb captured their leader, but the Marathas turned to guerrilla warfare. Aurangzeb could never conquer them. Meanwhile, the Sikhs had transformed themselves into a militant brotherhood. They began to build a state in the Punjab, an area in northwest India.

Set in a formal garden and mirrored in a reflecting pool, the Taj Mahal draws tourists to Agra, southeast of New Delhi in India. It remains a monument to both love and the Mughal Empire.



# Mughal Society News

## Diet News

A person who does a good deed for the Mughal emperor may be rewarded with his weight in rupees (a unit of money). In fact, both the emperor's flute player and his astrologer recently received this generous prize. Sources said that the stout astrologer pocketed 200 rupees more than the musician.

## The Doctor Is In

When a woman of the Mughal court gets sick, she must not be seen by a male doctor. The doctor first wraps his head in a cashmere shawl, which serves as a blindfold. He follows a servant into the women's quarters, where the patient lies hidden behind a curtain. If she needs to have a wound treated, the patient sticks her arm or leg out through the curtain. The doctor then examines the patient from his side of the curtain.

## Woman of the Week

Naming Nur Jahan, the monarch's favorite queen "Woman of the Week" is a king-size understatement. Woman of the century is more like it. But people in the know go even further and call her "Light of the World"—and for good reason. In addition to being the true power behind Jahangir's throne, she excels in the arts, business, and sports.

Nur Jahan's bold, original designs for cloth, dresses with long trains, and even carpets dominate India's fashion scene. From her harem, Nur Jahan runs a bustling trade in indigo and cloth. She's also an accomplished huntress, and last week killed four tigers.



Nur Jahan is the power behind the throne and even designs the royal wardrobe.

## The Shopping Corner

If you're trying to impress the emperor, bring him a unique gift. This is how he voted on recent offerings:

### Thumbs Up

- walnut-sized ruby
- portraits of English royal family
- unusual fish

### Thumbs Down

- faded velvet
- mirror with loose frame
- map showing a compressed view of India



## Moving Day

Relocating the Mughal royal court requires as much effort as moving a small city. Simply transporting the royal tents requires 100 elephants, 500 camels, 400 carts, and 100 human bearers. When the procession stops for the night, it spans a length of 20 miles.

## Connect to History

**Making Inferences** What can you conclude about the lives of women in the Mughal court?

SEE SKILLBUILDER HANDBOOK, PAGE 663

## Connect to Today

**Women's Studies** Using information from the "Connect to Today" feature on page 74 and the library or the Internet, research the public role of women in several Muslim cultures today. How has the role of women changed since Mughal times?



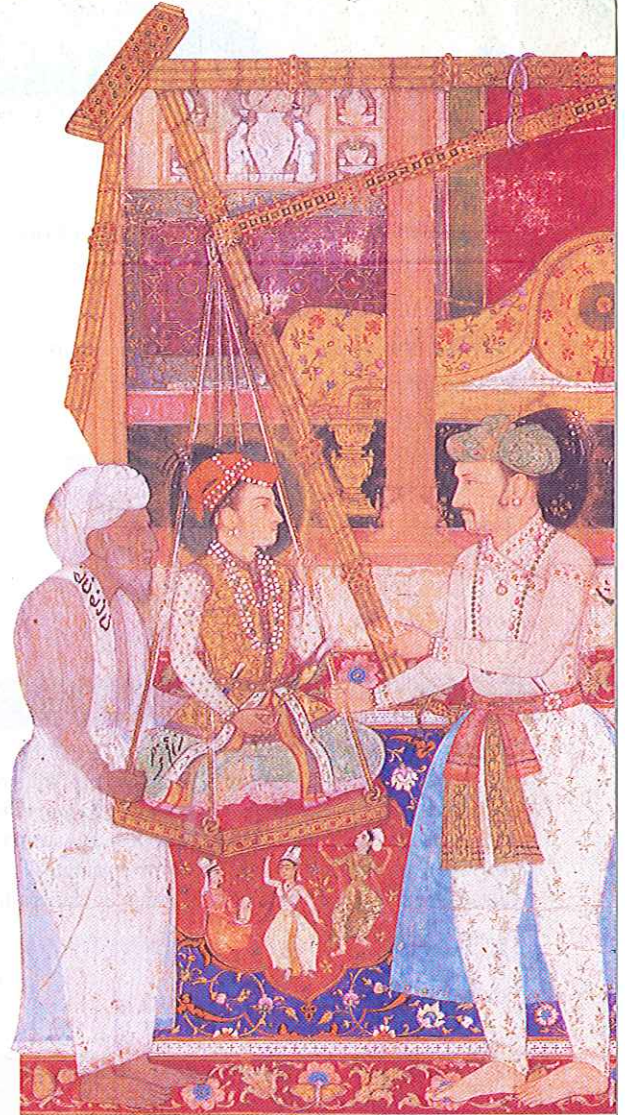
Aurangzeb had to levy oppressive taxes to pay for the wars against these increasing numbers of enemies. He had done away with all taxes not authorized by Islamic law, so he doubled the taxes on Hindu merchants. This increased tax burden deepened the Hindus' bitterness and led to further rebellion. As a result, Aurangzeb needed to raise more money to increase his army. The more territory he conquered, the more desperate his situation became.

## The Empire's Decline and Decay

By the end of Aurangzeb's reign, he had drained the empire of its resources. Most of his subjects felt little or no loyalty to him. According to a Dutch observer, "The condition of the common people in India is very miserable. . . . Their huts are low, built generally of mud . . . their bedding is scanty and thin . . . of little use when the weather is bitterly cold. . . . The nobles live in indescribable luxury and extravagance, caring only to indulge themselves whilst they can in every kind of pleasure." Over two million people died in a famine while Aurangzeb was away waging war.

As the power of the central state weakened, the power of local lords grew. After Aurangzeb's death, his sons fought a war of succession. Bahadur, who won the war, was over 60 when he gained the throne. This exhausted emperor did not last long. In fact, three emperors reigned in the 12 years after Aurengzeb died. By the end of this period, the Mughal emperor was nothing but a wealthy figurehead. He ruled not a united empire but a patchwork of independent states.

As the Mughal Empire was rising and falling and creating its cultural legacy, Western traders were slowly building their own power. The Portuguese were the first Europeans to reach India. In fact, they arrived just before Babur did. But they were ousted by the Dutch, who, in turn, gave way to the French and the English. The great Mughal emperors did not feel threatened by the European traders. Shah Jahan let the English build a fortified trading post at Madras. In 1661, Aurangzeb casually handed them the port of Bombay. Aurangzeb had no idea that he had given India's next conquerors their first foothold in a future empire.



Perhaps to offset their excessive spending, the Mughal rulers were weighed once a year. They donated their weight in gold and silver to the people. Here, Jahangir weighs Prince Khurran.

### THINK THROUGH HISTORY

#### D. Recognizing

**Effects** How did Aurangzeb's personal qualities and political policies affect the Mughal Empire?

## Section 3 Assessment

### 1. TERMS & NAMES

Identify

- Mughal
- Babur
- Akbar
- Jahangir
- Nur Jahan
- Sikh
- Shah Jahan
- Taj Mahal
- Aurangzeb

### 2. TAKING NOTES

Using a time line like the one below, indicate the effects each leader had on the Mughal Empire. Write positive effects above the line and negative effects below.

Effects on Mughal Empire



### 3. COMPARING AND CONTRASTING

In what ways was the golden age of Akbar similar to and different from the flowering of the Safavid Empire under Shah Abbas and of the Ottoman Empire under Suleiman I?

**THINK ABOUT**

- the rulers' cultural and military achievements
- their tolerance of other cultures
- their successors

### 4. ANALYZING THEMES

**Power and Authority** Do you think Shah Jahan made good use of his power and authority? Why or why not?

**THINK ABOUT**

- how Shah Jahan came to power
- the beautiful buildings he built
- conditions in India during his reign



# Chapter 2 Assessment

## TERMS & NAMES

Briefly explain the importance of each of the following to the Ottoman, Safavid, or Mughal empires.

1. Timur the Lame
2. Mehmet II
3. Suleiman the Lawgiver
4. *devshirme*
5. Isma'il
6. Shah Abbas
7. Babur
8. Akbar
9. Nur Jahan
10. Aurangzeb

### Interact *with* History

On page 62, you considered how you might treat the people you conquered. Now that you have learned more about three Muslim empires, in what ways do you think you would change your policies? In what ways would you follow and differ from the Ottomans' example? Discuss your thoughts with a small group of classmates.

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

SECTION 1 (pages 63–67)

### The Ottomans Build a Vast Empire

11. Why were the Ottomans such successful conquerors?
12. How did Mehmet the Conqueror show his tolerance of other cultures?
13. Why was Selim the Grim's capture of Mecca, Medina, and Cairo so significant?
14. What role did slaves play in Ottoman society?

SECTION 2 (pages 68–70)

### Cultural Blending

#### Case Study: The Safavid Empire

15. According to the 16th-century Voice from the Past on page 69, "The name of God is forgotten throughout Persia and only that of Isma'il is remembered." What deeds—both positive and negative—contributed to Isma'il's fame?
16. What ideas did Shah Abbas borrow from his enemies, the Ottomans?
17. In what other ways did the Safavids interweave foreign ideas into their culture?

SECTION 3 (pages 71–77)

### The Mughals Establish an Empire in India

18. What opposition did the Mughals face when they invaded India?
19. In what ways did Akbar defend religious freedom during his reign?
20. How did Akbar's successors promote religious conflict in the empire?

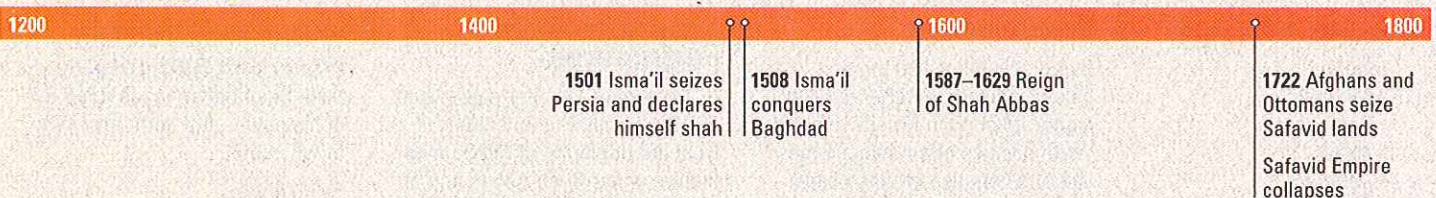
## Visual Summary

### The Muslim World Expands

#### Ottoman Empire



#### Safavid Empire



#### Mughal Empire





## CRITICAL THINKING

### 1. CONSTANTINOPLE'S LAST STAND

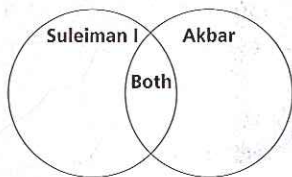
Why do you think that so few European countries helped defend Constantinople from the Ottomans? Consider the results of the Crusades in the Holy Roman Empire.

### 2. GROWTH OF AN EMPIRE

Conquest of new territories certainly contributed to **THEME EMPIRE BUILDING** the growth of the Muslim empires you read about. How might it have also hindered this growth?

### 3. MUSLIM MIRROR ON THE WALL

Using a Venn diagram like the one below, compare the personal traits and policies of Suleiman I and Akbar.



### 4. ANALYZING PRIMARY SOURCES

The Greek historian Kritovoulos was appointed a governor in the court of Mehmet II after his conquest of Constantinople. In the following quotation, Kritovoulos gives his view of Mehmet's actions. Read the paragraph and answer the questions below it.

#### A VOICE FROM THE PAST

When the Sultan [Mehmet] had captured the City of Constantinople, almost his very first care was to have the City repopulated. He also undertook the further care and repairs of it. He sent an order in the form of an imperial command to every part of his realm, that as many inhabitants as possible be transferred to the City, not only Christians but also his own people and many of the Hebrews.

KRITOVoulos, *History of Mehmet the Conqueror*

- Does the tone of this statement indicate that Kritovoulos thought Mehmet dealt fairly with Constantinople? Why or why not?
- Why do you think Mehmet wanted to open the city to Christians and Hebrews as well as Muslims? Support your answer with information from the chapter.

## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

### 1. LIVING HISTORY: Unit Portfolio Project

**THEME CULTURAL INTERACTION** Your unit portfolio project focuses on the cultural interaction that resulted from the expansion of the Muslim world (see page 33). For Chapter 2 you might use one of the following ideas to add to your portfolio.

- Expand your ideas for the Interact with History activity on the previous page into a speech to your people. Explain your policies and ask for your people's support.
- Draw a political cartoon showing that the Safavids borrowed ideas from their enemies, the Ottomans.
- Write an inscription for Akbar's tombstone, focusing on his religious tolerance and on the mix of cultures in his government bureaucracy.

### 2. CONNECT TO TODAY: Cooperative Learning

**THEME POWER AND AUTHORITY** The Muslim empires you have studied based their rule on the Islamic religion. Islam remains an important social and political force in modern Turkey, Iran, India, and Pakistan.

Work with a team to find out the status of Muslims in one of these countries today. Then collaborate with the other teams to create a summary chart of these modern Muslim countries.



Using the Internet or other reference sources, determine the status of Muslims in your team's country.

- What role do Muslims play in the government?
- Do the country's leaders promote religious tolerance? Explain.
- What is the overall economic status of Muslims?

### 3. INTERPRETING A TIME LINE

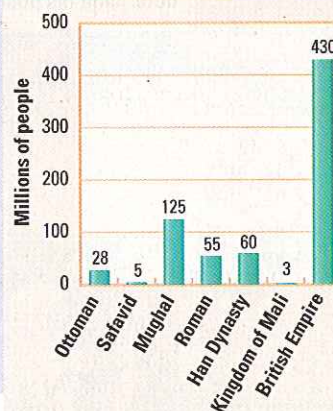
Look at the time lines on the facing page. Which empire lasted longest? Which was the shortest lived?

## FOCUS ON GRAPHS

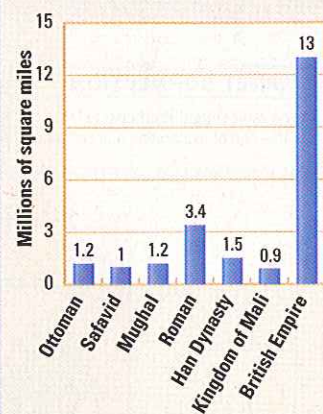
Compare the territory and population of the following seven empires at their height.

- Which four empires had about the same territory?
- Which of those empires had the fewest people per square mile?

#### Population



#### Territory



#### Connect to History

Why might the Safavid Empire have remained so relatively small?