Making Connections

How do Muslims celebrate their beliefs?

Jama Masjid, the largest mosque in India, was built during the Mogul Empire. The Muslims shown here are offering prayers during the celebration known as Eid-Al-Fitr, or the Celebration of Breaking the Fast. In this chapter, you will learn more about the history and culture of Muslims.

- What are the most widely practiced religions in the United States?
- How do other religious groups practice their beliefs?
1739
Delhi is destroyed by Persians

1757
British forces, led by Sir Robert Clive, defeat the Moguls

1776
Thomas Jefferson writes the Declaration of Independence

Categorizing
Create a Folded Table to categorize information about the Ottoman, Safavid, and Mogul Empires. Information should include key events and rulers, religion and art, and society and culture.
At its high point under Süleyman the Magnificent, the Ottoman Empire consisted of lands in western Asia, North Africa, and Europe. The Ottomans contributed a unique architectural design to world art, as seen in their magnificent mosques. They also practiced religious tolerance, which allowed subjects to follow their own religion.

Rise of the Ottoman Turks

Over a span of three hundred years, the Ottomans conquered the Byzantine Empire and expanded into western Asia, Africa, and Europe to create the Ottoman Empire.

HISTORY & YOU

What would you do if you were asked to defend your city or hometown against invaders that had more advanced weapons? Learn how the Ottomans laid siege to the city of Constantinople.

In the late thirteenth century, a new group of Turks under their leader Osman began to build power in the northwest corner of the Anatolian Peninsula. In the early fourteenth century, the Osman Turks began to expand and began the Ottoman dynasty.

Expansion of the Empire

The Ottomans expanded westward and eventually controlled the Bosporus and the Dardanelles. These two straits (narrow passageways), separated by the Sea of Marmara, connect the Black Sea and the Aegean Sea, which leads to the Mediterranean. The Byzantine Empire had controlled this area for centuries.

In the fourteenth century, the Ottoman Turks expanded into the Balkans. The Ottoman rulers built a strong military by developing an elite guard called janissaries. Recruited from the local Christian population, the janissaries were converted to Islam. Trained as foot soldiers or administrators, they served the sultan.

As knowledge of firearms spread in the late fourteenth century, the Ottomans began to master the new technology. The janissaries, trained as a well-armed infantry, were able to spread Ottoman control in the Balkans. With their new forces, the Ottomans defeated the Serbs at the Battle of Kosovo in 1389. During the 1390s, they advanced northward and annexed Bulgaria.
The Byzantine Empire

Over the next three hundred years, Ottoman rule expanded to areas in western Asia, North Africa, and Europe.

Under the leadership of Mehmed II, the Ottomans moved to end the Byzantine Empire. With eighty thousand troops ranged against only seven thousand defenders, Mehmed laid siege to Constantinople.

The attack began on April 6, 1453, as the Ottomans bombarded the city with massive cannons hurling stone balls weighing up to 1,200 pounds (545 kg) each. The Byzantines took their final stand behind the walls along the western edge of the city. They fought desperately for almost two months to save their city. Finally, on May 29, the walls were breached, and Ottoman soldiers poured into the city.

The Byzantine emperor died in the final battle, and a great three-day sack of the city began. When Mehmed II saw the ruin and destruction, he lamented, “What a city we have given over to plunder and destruction.”

Western Asia and Africa

With their new capital at Constantinople (later renamed İstanbul), the Ottoman Turks dominated the Balkans and the Anatolian Peninsula. From 1514 to 1517, Sultan Selim I took control of Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Arabia—the original heartland of Islam. Through these conquests, Selim I was now in control of several of Islam’s holy cities.
These cities included Jerusalem, Makkah (Mecca), and Madinah (Medina). Selim declared himself the new caliph. That is, he was the defender of the faith and the successor to Muhammad. After their victories in the east, Ottoman forces spent the next few years advancing westward along the African coast almost to the Strait of Gibraltar.

The Ottomans were Muslims. Where possible, they administered their conquered regions through local rulers. The central government appointed officials, or pashas, who collected taxes, maintained law and order, and were directly responsible to the sultan’s court in Constantinople.

Expansion into Europe

After capturing Constantinople in 1453, the Ottoman Turks tried to complete their conquest of the Balkans. They took the Romanian territory of Walachia, but the Hungarians stopped their advance up the Danube Valley.

Under Süleyman I, whose reign began in 1520, the Ottomans advanced anew up the Danube, seized Belgrade, and won a major victory over the Hungarians in 1526 at the Battle of Mohács (MOH•hach) on the Danube. They then conquered most of Hungary and moved into Austria. They advanced to Vienna, where they were defeated in 1529. At the same time, they advanced into the western Mediterranean until the Spanish destroyed a large Ottoman fleet at Lepanto in 1571 (see Chapter 14).

During the first half of the seventeenth century, the Ottoman Empire in eastern Europe remained a “sleeping giant.” Occupied with internal problems, the Ottomans kept the status quo in eastern Europe. However, in the second half of the seventeenth century, they again went on the offensive.

By mid-1683, the Ottomans had laid siege to Vienna. Repulsed by a European army, the Ottomans retreated and were pushed out of Hungary. Although they retained the core of their empire, the Ottoman Turks would never again be a threat to central Europe.

Under the rule of the sultans, the Ottoman Empire grew strong. Religious tolerance and unique architectural designs, as seen in the mosques, were among the Ottoman Empire’s strengths and contributions.

The Nature of Ottoman Rule

Like the other Muslim empires in Persia and India, the Ottoman Empire is often labeled a “gunpowder empire.” Gunpowder empires were formed by outside conquerors who unified the regions that they conquered. As the name suggests, such an empire’s success was largely based on its mastery of the technology of firearms.

At the head of the Ottoman system was the sultan, who was the supreme authority in both a political and a military sense. The position of the sultan was hereditary. A son, although not necessarily the eldest, always succeeded the father. This practice led to struggles over succession upon the death of individual sultans. The losers in these struggles were often executed.

The Imperial Sultans

As the empire expanded, the status and prestige of the sultan increased. The position took on the trappings of imperial rule. A centralized administrative system was adopted, and the sultan became increasingly isolated from his people.

The private domain of the sultan was called the harem (“sacred place”). Here, the sultan and his wives resided. Often a sultan chose four wives as his favorites.

When a son became a sultan, his mother became known as the queen mother and acted as a major adviser to the throne. This tradition often gave considerable power to the queen mother in the affairs of state.
The sultan controlled his bureaucracy through an imperial council that met four days a week. The grand vizier, a chief minister who carried the main burdens of the state, led the meetings of the council. During the council meetings, the sultan sat behind a screen, overhearing the proceedings, and then privately indicated his desires to the grand vizier.

The empire was divided into provinces and districts, each governed by officials. They were assisted by bureaucrats who had been trained in a palace school for officials in Istanbul. The sultan gave land to the senior officials. They were then responsible for collecting taxes and supplying armies for the empire from this landed area.

The Topkapi ("iron gate") Palace in Istanbul, the new name for Constantinople, was the center of the sultan’s power. The palace was built in the fifteenth century by Mehmed II. Like Versailles in France, it had an administrative purpose and served as the private residence of the ruler and his family.

Religion in the Ottoman World

Like most Turkic-speaking peoples in the Anatolian Peninsula and throughout western Asia, the Ottomans were Sunni Muslims (see Chapter 6). Ottoman sultans had claimed the title of caliph since the early sixteenth century. In theory, they were responsible for guiding the flock and maintaining Islamic law. In practice, the sultans gave their religious duties to a group of religious advisers known as the ulema. This group administered the legal system and schools for educating Muslims. Islamic law and customs were applied to all Muslims in the empire.

The Ottoman system was generally tolerant of non-Muslims, who made up a significant minority within the empire. Non-Muslims paid a tax, but they were allowed to practice their religion or to convert to Islam. Most people in the European areas of the empire remained Christian. In some areas, however, such as present-day Bosnia, large numbers of non-Muslims converted to the Islamic faith.
Architecture and the Arts

The Ottoman sultans were enthusiastic patrons of the arts. The period from Mehmed II to the early eighteenth century witnessed a flourishing production of pottery; rugs, silk, and other textiles; jewelry; and arms and armor. All of these adorned the palaces of the rulers. Artists came from all over the world to compete for the sultans’ generous rewards.

By far the greatest contribution of the Ottoman Empire to world art was in architecture, especially the magnificent mosques of the last half of the sixteenth century. The Ottoman Turks modeled their mosques on the open floor plan of Constantinople’s Byzantine church of Hagia Sophia, creating a prayer hall with an open central area under one large dome.

In the mid-sixteenth century, the greatest of all Ottoman architects, Sinan, began building the first of his 81 mosques. One of Sinan’s masterpieces was the Suleymaniye Mosque in Istanbul. Each of his mosques was topped by an imposing dome, and often the entire building was framed with four towers, or minarets.

The sixteenth century also witnessed the flourishing of textiles and rugs. The Byzantine emperor Justinian had introduced silk cultivation to the West in the sixth century. Under the Ottomans, the silk industry resurfaced. Factories produced silks for wall hangings, sofa covers, and especially court costumes. Rugs were a peasant industry. The rugs were made of wool and cotton in villages from different regions. Each village boasted its own distinctive designs and color schemes.

Society and the Role of Women

The subjects of the Ottoman Empire were divided by occupation. In addition to the ruling class, there were four main occupational groups: peasants, artisans, merchants, and pastoral peoples—nomadic herders. Peasants farmed land that the state leased to them.

Ultimate ownership of all land resided with the sultan. Artisans were organized according to craft guilds. Each guild provided financial services, social security, and training to its members. Outside the ruling elite, merchants were the most privileged class in Ottoman society. They were largely exempt from government regulations and taxes and were able, in many cases, to amass large fortunes. Pastoral peoples were placed in a separate group with their own regulations and laws.

Technically, women in the Ottoman Empire were subject to the same restrictions as women in other Muslim societies. However, their position was somewhat better. As applied in the Ottoman Empire, Islamic law was more tolerant in defining the legal position of women. This relatively tolerant attitude was probably due to Turkish traditions that regarded women as almost equal to men. For instance, women were allowed to own and inherit property. They could not be forced into marriage and, in certain cases, were permitted to seek divorce. Women often gained considerable power within the palace. In a few instances, women even served as senior officials, such as governors of provinces.

Reading Check

Identifying

What did the Ottomans contribute to world art?

The Ottoman ruler Süleyman held absolute power and the right of life or death over his subjects. Yet he was known as Kanuni, the Lawgiver, who protected the powerless among his people. Upon visiting his empire, a Venetian ambassador reported, “I know of no State which is happier than this one. It is furnished with all God’s gifts…” Süleyman was skilled in crafts as well as in government and war. He supported the arts and built public baths, bridges, and grand mosque complexes. However, this educated man would be forced to kill two of his sons and even his grandsons to avoid civil war and preserve the throne for his son Selim II. His choice could have been better. Known as the Drunkard, Selim II left the running of the state to his advisers, and many date the slow decline of the empire to his reign. How did Süleyman’s choice of a successor affect the Ottoman Empire?
Problems in the Ottoman Empire

After reaching its high point under Süleyman the Magnificent, the Ottoman Empire began to disintegrate.

HISTORY & YOU Have you heard a parent or teacher voice disapproval of a trend they felt was bad? Learn how some sultans tried to counter trends they believed were harmful to their country.

The Ottoman Empire reached its high point under Süleyman I. (He was called “the Magnificent” by Europeans who both feared and admired him.) It may also have been during Süleyman’s rule (1520–1566) that problems began to occur, however. Having executed his two most able sons on suspicion of treason, Süleyman was succeeded by his only surviving son, Selim II.

The problems of the Ottoman Empire did not become visible until 1699. This is when the empire began to lose some of its territory. However, signs of internal disintegration had already appeared at the beginning of the 1600s.

Changes in Government

After the death of Süleyman, sultans became less involved in government. They allowed their ministers to exercise more power. The training of officials declined, and senior positions were increasingly assigned to the sons or daughters of elites. Members of the elite soon formed a privileged group seeking wealth and power. The central bureaucracy lost its links with rural areas. Local officials grew corrupt, and taxes rose. Constant wars depleted the imperial treasury. Corruption and palace intrigue grew.

Cultural Changes

Another sign of change within the empire was the exchange of Western and Ottoman ideas and customs. Officials and merchants began to imitate the habits and lifestyles of Europeans. They wore European clothes and bought Western furniture and art objects. Europeans borrowed Ottoman military technology and decorated their homes with tiles, tulips, pottery, and rugs. During the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, coffee was introduced to Ottoman society and spread to Europe.

Some sultans attempted to counter this exchange. One sultan in the early seventeenth century issued a decree outlawing both coffee and tobacco. He even began to patrol the streets of Istanbul at night. If he caught any of his subjects in immoral or illegal acts, he had them immediately executed.

Vocabulary

1. **Explain** the significance of: Anatolian Peninsula, expand, Bosporus, Dardanelles, Sea of Marmara, Mehmed II, janissaries, Constantinople, Sultan Selim I, Jerusalem, Makkah, Madinah, pashas, gunpowder empire, sultan, domain, harem, grand vizier, ulema, Sinan.

Main Ideas

2. **Discuss** how superior weaponry aided the Ottoman siege of Constantinople.
3. **Identify** the four main occupational groups in the Ottoman Empire.
4. **Summarize** the contributions of Mehmed II, Selim I, and Süleyman I to the Ottoman Empire, using a chart like the one below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ruler</th>
<th>Contributions</th>
<th>Effect on Empire</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mehmed II</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selim I</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Süleyman I</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Critical Thinking

5. **The BIG Idea** Drawing Inferences

Describe the organization of Ottoman government and explain why it was effective.

6. **Evaluating** Evaluate how the problems in the Ottoman Empire may have begun during the reign of Süleyman the Magnificent.

7. **Analyzing Visuals** Examine the image of Topkapi Palace on page 487. What typical feature of the architect Sinan do you see?

Writing About History

8. **Expository Writing** The Ottoman Empire was considered a “gunpowder empire.” Research the history of gunpowder and write an essay explaining how the Ottomans acquired it. What impact did this acquisition have on the expansion of the Ottoman Empire? Use both primary and secondary sources.
Istanbul linked the European and Asian halves of the Ottoman Empire.

Roman Emperor Constantine founded Constantinople in 330.
Crossroads of Europe and Asia  For centuries, empires fought over the site of Constantinople because of its strategic location. Constantinople was located between Asia and Europe. The city controlled a choke point, or narrow passageway, where overland trade routes crossed the peninsula. Dominating the crossroads between continents, it became a wealthy trading city.

The Bosporus, a strait, divides the peninsula and links the Black Sea with the Mediterranean. Constantinople was surrounded by water—the Golden Horn, the Bosporus, and the Sea of Marmara—making it easy to defend and giving it control of this important passage between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean.

New Rome  In the fourth century, Emperor Constantine, recognizing its strategic importance, built a new capital for the Roman Empire on the site. The new Rome was named Constantinople—Constantine’s City. When the Roman Empire split in A.D. 395, Constantinople was the capital of the eastern half, which became the Byzantine Empire.

A Turning Point in History  By the time Mehmed II laid siege to Constantinople, the city was all that remained of the once powerful Byzantine Empire. On May 29, 1453, the Turks took the city and linked the European and Asian parts of the Ottoman Empire. Mehmed II renamed the city Istanbul. With the Ottoman Empire in control of this important crossroads, Europeans looked to the seas for trading routes to Asia. These explorations lead Europeans to Africa and the Americas.

1. **Location**  What about Istanbul’s location made it an important trading center?

2. **Place**  Examine the fifteenth century map of Constantinople. Why would you expect the city to control travel on the waterways surrounding it?
The Rule of the Šafavids

The shortest-lived of the three Muslim empires, the Šafavid Empire was nonetheless influential. The Shia faith, declared as the state religion, unified the empire. The empire reached its high point under the reign of Šāh ‘Abbās.

The Šafavid Empire

 Unified as a Shia nation, the Šafavid Empire reached its height under Šāh ‘Abbās.

HISTORY & YOU You and your friends probably have a bond because you believe in the same things. Learn how the Šafavids unified their empire.

After the empire of Timur Lenk (Tamerlane) collapsed in the early fifteenth century, the area extending from Persia into central Asia fell into anarchy. At the beginning of the sixteenth century, however, a new dynasty known as the Šafavids (sah•FAH•weedz) took control. Unlike many of their Islamic neighbors who were Sunni Muslims, the Šafavids became ardent Shias. (As discussed in Chapter 6, the Sunnis and Shias were the two major groups in the Islamic religion.)

The Šafavid Dynasty

The Šafavid dynasty was founded by Šāh Esmā‘īl (ihs•MAH•eel), the descendant of Šaﬁ od-Dīn (thus the name Šafavid). In the early fourteenth century, Šaﬁ od-Dīn had been the leader of a community of Turkish ethnic groups in Azerbaijan, near the Caspian Sea.

In 1501, Esmā‘īl, in his teens at the time, used his forces to seize much of Iran and Iraq. He then called himself the shah, or king, of a new Persian state. Esmā‘īl sent Shia preachers into the Anatolian Peninsula to convert members of Turkish tribes in the Ottoman Empire. The Ottoman sultan tried to halt this activity, but Esmā‘īl refused to stop. Esmā‘īl also ordered the massacre of Sunni Muslims when he conquered Baghdad in 1508.

Alarmed by these activities, the Ottoman sultan, Selim I, advanced against the Šafavids in Persia. With their muskets and artillery, the Ottomans won a major battle near Tabrīz. However, Selim could not maintain control of the area. A few years later, Esmā‘īl regained Tabrīz.

During the following decades, the Šafavids tried to consolidate their rule throughout Persia and in areas to the west. The Šafavids were faced with the problem of integrating various Turkish peoples with the settled Persian-speaking population of the urban
The Shia faith was used as a unifying force. Esma‘īl made conversion to the Shia faith mandatory for the largely Sunni population. Many Sunnis were either killed or exiled. Like the Ottoman sultan, the shah himself claimed to be the spiritual leader of all Islam.

In the 1580s, the Ottomans went on the attack. They placed Azerbaijan under Ottoman rule and controlled the Caspian Sea with their fleet. This forced the new Šafavid shah, ‘Abbās, to sign a peace treaty in which he lost much territory in the northwest. The capital of the Šafavids was moved from the northwestern city of Tabrīz to the more centrally located city of Eşfahān. ‘Abbās adorned his new capital city with the latest Persian architecture. Eşfahān became one of the world’s largest cities with a population of one million.
Glory and Decline

Under Shāh ʿAbbās, who ruled from 1588 to 1629, the ʿAšāfīds reached the high point of their glory. Similar to the Ottoman Empire, administrators were trained to run the kingdom. Shāh ʿAbbās also strengthened his army, which he armed with the latest weapons.

In the early seventeenth century, Shāh ʿAbbās moved against the Ottomans to regain lost territories. Several European states aided ʿAbbās. The ʿAšāfīds had some initial success, but they could not hold all their territorial gains against the Ottoman armies. Nevertheless, in 1612, a peace treaty was signed that returned Azerbaijan to the ʿAšāfīds.

After the death of Shāh ʿAbbās in 1629, the ʿAšāfīd dynasty gradually lost its vigor. Most of ʿAbbās’s successors lacked his talent and political skills. Eventually, the power of Shia religious elements began to increase at court and in ʿAšāfīd society at large.

Intellectual freedom marked the height of the empire. However, the pressure to conform to traditional religious beliefs, called religious orthodoxy, increased. For example, Persian women had considerable freedom during the early empire. Now they were forced into seclusion and required to adopt the wearing of the veil.

In the early eighteenth century, during the reign of Shah Husseina, Afghan peoples invaded and seized the capital of ʿEṣfahān. The remnants of the ʿAšāfīd ruling family were forced to retreat to Azerbaijan, their original homeland. The Turks took advantage of the situation to seize territories along the western border. Persia sank into a long period of political and social anarchy (lawlessness and disorder).

✓ Reading Check   Identifying What led to the fighting between Ottomans and ʿAšāfīds?

Conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq and attacks by terrorists identifying themselves as Muslims have created an atmosphere of fear in the United States. This has put American Muslims on alert. Many are concerned that they might be forced out of businesses and schools or even unjustly imprisoned for crimes. Can Muslim Americans be confident that their civil liberties will be protected?

Today, many Muslim organizations, working with teachers across the nation, speak to students about the religion of Islam. By sharing more information about their faith and rich cultural heritage, they are working to dissolve negative stereotypes.

- Protecting civil liberties for all requires religious and cultural acceptance.
- Ensuring social justice means legislating for the same basic rights, security, and opportunities for all people.

1. Summarizing What are many Muslim organizations doing to educate others about the Muslim faith and traditions?
2. Making Generalizations Why might it be difficult for Muslim teens to maintain their Islamic identities in the United States today?
Life under the Ṣafavids

The Ṣafavid shahs played an active role in government and trade, and they patronized the arts.

**HISTORY & YOU** Have you ever had to compete for a place on a team, show, or leadership position? Learn how the Ṣafavid shahs appointed their top administrators.

Persia under the Ṣafavids was a mixed society. The combination of Turkish and Persian elements affected virtually all aspects of Ṣafavid society.

**Role of the Shah**

The Ṣafavid rulers were eagerly supported by Shias. In return, the shahs declared Shia Islam to be the state religion. Shahs were more available to their subjects than were rulers elsewhere. “They show great familiarity to strangers,” remarked one visitor, “and even to their own subjects, eating and drinking with them pretty freely.”

Strong-minded shahs firmly controlled the power of the landed aristocracy. In addition, appointment to senior positions in the bureaucracy was based on merit rather than birth. For example, Shah ‘Abbās hired a number of foreigners from neighboring countries for positions in his government.

**Economy and Trade**

The Ṣafavid shahs played an active part in trade and manufacturing activity. Most goods in the empire traveled by horse or camel caravans, and the roads were kept fairly clear of thieves and bandits.

Ṣafavid Persia was probably not as prosperous as its neighbors to the east and west—the Moguls and the Ottomans. Hemmed in by the sea power of the Europeans to the south and the land power of the Ottomans to the west, the Ṣafavids found trade with Europe difficult.

**Ṣafavid Culture**

Knowledge of science, medicine, and mathematics under the Ṣafavids was equal to that of other societies in the region. Persia also witnessed an extraordinary flowering of the arts during the reign of Shah ʿAbbās. Silk weaving and carpet weaving flourished, stimulated by the great demand for Persian carpets in the West. Persian painting enjoyed a long tradition. Riza-i-Abbasi, the most famous artist of this period, created exquisite works. Soft colors and flowing movement dominated the features of Ṣafavid painting.

**Main Ideas**

2. Describe how the Ṣafavids tried to bring the various Turkish and Persian peoples together.

3. Summarize the significant events that occurred during each shah’s reign by using a chart like the one below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shah</th>
<th>Significant Events</th>
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<td></td>
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4. Explain why the Ṣafavids may have found trade with Europe difficult.

**Reading Check**

On what basis were appointments to senior bureaucratic positions made?

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**Vocabulary**


**Critical Thinking**

5. The BIG Idea Explaining What was the shah’s role in Ṣafavid society and government?

6. Evaluating What was the advantage in moving the Ṣafavid capital city from Tabrīz to Eṣfahān?

7. Analyzing Visuals Examine the map on page 493. Approximately how much territory did the Ṣafavids gain between 1501 and the height of the empire?

**Writing About History**

8. Expository Writing Analyze the impact of the Ṣafavid Empire’s geographical location on its economy (what goods could be traded, trading partners, goods in high demand). Compare the Ṣafavid economy with that of another country.
The Șafavids: At the Crossroads of Trade and of History

The nation known today as Iran has been at the center of world commerce for centuries. From 1501 to 1722, the Șafavid Empire unified Iran and added parts of Turkey, Iraq, and Central Asia under their control. Trade with Europe was challenging for the Șafavids, but Iran (or Persia) was a vital connection between Asia and Europe throughout several dynasties. The bazaar at Șfahān, capitol under Shāh ʿAbbās, was the center of Șafavid economic power. Across the empire, bazaars in regional capitols provided citizens with access to a variety of goods and merchandise.

A PLACE FOR EVERYTHING, EVERYTHING IN ITS PLACE

Merchants came from across Central Asia to trade in the Șafavid region. The bazaar was the heart of their commerce. Many bazaars were enclosed and had high vaulted ceilings that covered narrow rows of stalls. Specific sections that housed similar types of goods for shoppers’ convenience. Spaces for manufacturing, storage, and merchants’ offices stood alongside shops. Caravansaries attached to the bazaar received trains of camels or mules loaded with goods. In the caravansary, newly arrived trade goods were sold wholesale. In the bazaar, they were sold retail.

A timce is a covered courtyard that houses a few shops selling the same special product. This one, the Timce Malek, is famous for carpets.

The bazaar sold household goods, tools, and other general merchandise besides luxury items. Barter was a common means of exchange.

Safavid woven textiles were an essential item in the bazaar, and a vital part of overseas trade.
The Šafavids had a chronic shortage of coins in circulation. Silver coins, like those above were used by the government to pay administrative costs, by merchants to pay for goods purchased in large trade deals and by some to pay taxes. Soldiers and the urban lower class used copper coins. Their value changed from year to year and could only be traded for silver coins in large sums. Rural people bartered for goods and services, and rarely saw coins. The empire’s elite hoarded its small number of gold coins.

**Analyzing Visuals**

1. What role did currency play in Šafavid trade?
2. How might buyers have reacted to shopping for an item in a timce? How might merchants have felt about being organized this way?
The Grandeur of the Moguls

Although they were not natives of India, the Moguls established a new dynasty by uniting the country under a single government with a common culture. The Mogul Empire reached its high point under the reign of Shah Akbar. The Taj Mahal, built by Shāh Jahan, is a fine example of the blending of Persian and Indian influences in the Mogul Empire.

The Mogul Dynasty

Uniting India under a single government, the Moguls established a new dynasty but eventually lost their empire.

HISTORY & YOU What would you do if you owed $500 in taxes but had only $150? Learn how Akbar suspended the payment of taxes in hard times.

In 1500, the Indian subcontinent was still divided into a number of Hindu and Muslim kingdoms. However, the Moguls established a new dynasty and brought a new era of unity to the region.

Rise of the Moguls

The Moguls were not natives of India. They came from the mountainous region north of the Indus River valley. The founder of the Mogul dynasty was Bābur. His father was descended from the great Asian conqueror Timur Lenk; his mother, from the Mongol conqueror Genghis Khan. Bābur had inherited a part of Timur Lenk’s empire in an upland river valley of the Syr Dar’ya. As a youth, he led a group of warriors who seized Kabul in 1504. Thirteen years later, Bābur’s forces crossed the Khyber Pass into India.

Bābur’s forces were far smaller than those of his enemies. However, they had advanced weapons, including artillery, and used them to great effect. Bābur captured Delhi and established his power in the plains of North India. He continued his conquests in North India until his death in 1530 at the age of 47.

The Reign of Akbar

Bābur’s grandson Akbar was only 14 when he took the throne. Intelligent and industrious, Akbar set out to extend his domain. By 1605, he had brought Mogul rule to most of India.

How was Akbar able to place almost all of India under his rule? By using heavy artillery, Akbar’s armies were able to overpower the stone fortresses of their rivals. The Moguls were also successful negotiators. Akbar’s conquests created the greatest Indian empire since the Mauryan dynasty. The empire appeared highly centralized.
but was actually a collection of semi-independent states held together by the power of the emperor.

Akbar was probably the greatest of the conquering Mogul monarchs, but he is best known for the humane character of his rule. Like all Mogul rulers, Akbar was born a Muslim, but he adopted a policy of religious tolerance. As emperor, he showed a keen interest in other religions and tolerated Hindu practices. He even welcomed the expression of Christian views by his Jesuit advisers at court. By taking a Hindu princess as one of his wives, Akbar put his policy of religious tolerance into practice.

Akbar was also tolerant in his administration of the government. The upper ranks of the government bureaucracy were filled with nonnative Muslims, but many of the lower-ranking officials were Hindus.

It became common practice to give the lower-ranking officials plots of farmland for their temporary use. These local officials, known as zamindars, kept a portion of the taxes paid by the peasants in lieu of a salary. They were then expected to forward the rest of the taxes from the lands under their control to the central government. Zamindars came to exercise considerable power and authority in their local districts.
Akbar aggressively expanded his empire through military conquest. He created an efficient bureaucracy to administer his empire. Each imperial province was ruled by a military governor who was held responsible for any abuses of power, helping to ensure fair rule. Taxes were levied equally.

Akbar, a Muslim, was accepting of other faiths. He eliminated a special tax on non-Muslims and included many Hindus in his bureaucracy. He granted a degree of autonomy to Hindu regions, allowing Hindus to keep their own laws. These actions helped to win over many Hindus to Mogul rule.

Akbar saw himself as a philosopher-king who was responsible for guiding his people spiritually. Though he believed in tolerance, he developed a new religion called “The Religion of God” for which he sought willing followers.

Overall, the Akbar era was a time of progress, at least by the standards of the day. All Indian peasants were required to pay about one-third of their annual harvest to the state, but the system was applied justly. When bad weather struck in the 1590s, taxes were reduced or suspended altogether. Thanks to a long period of peace and political stability, trade and manufacturing flourished.

The era was an especially prosperous one in the area of foreign trade. Indian goods, notably textiles, tropical food products and spices, and precious stones, were exported in exchange for gold and silver. Arab traders handled much of the foreign trade because the Indians, like their Mogul rulers, did not care for travel by sea.

Decline of the Moguls

Jahangir was able and ambitious. During the early years of his reign, he continued to strengthen the central government’s control over his vast empire.

Eventually, however, his grip began to weaken when he fell under the influence of one of his wives, Persian-born Nür Jahân. As Jahangir slowly lost interest in governing, he gave more authority to Nür Jahân. The empress used her position to enrich her own family. She arranged the marriage of her niece to her husband’s third son and successor, Shâh Jahân.

During his reign from 1628 to 1658, Shâh Jahân maintained the political system established by earlier Mogul rulers. He also expanded the boundaries of the empire through successful campaigns in the Deccan Plateau and against the city of Samarqand, north of the Hindu Kush.

Shâh Jahân’s rule was marred by his failure to deal with growing domestic problems, however. He had inherited a
nearly empty treasury. His military campaigns and expensive building projects put a heavy strain on the imperial finances and compelled him to raise taxes. The peasants were even more deprived as a result of these taxes. The majority of Jahān’s subjects lived in poverty.

Shāh Jahān’s troubles worsened with his illness in the mid-1650s. It was widely reported that he had died. Such news led to a struggle for power among his sons. Battles were fought; alliances and defections were made. The victorious son, Aurangzeb, had his brother put to death and imprisoned his father. Aurangzeb then had himself crowned emperor in 1658.

Aurangzeb is one of the most controversial rulers in the history of India. During his reign, the empire reached its greatest physical size. Constant warfare and religious intolerance, however, made his subjects resentful.

As man of high principle, Aurangzeb attempted to eliminate many of what he considered to be India’s social evils. He forbade the Hindu custom of suttee (cremating a widow on her husband’s funeral pyre), and he put a stop to the levying of illegal taxes. He tried to forbid gambling and drinking as well.

Aurangzeb was a devout Muslim and adopted a number of measures that reversed the Mogul policies of religious tolerance. For instance, he imposed a tax on non-Muslims. Also, he prohibited the building of new Hindu temples, and he forced Hindus to convert to Islam.

Aurangzeb’s policies led to Hindu outcries and domestic unrest. He even received criticism from Shias. In addition, a number of revolts against imperial authority broke out in provinces throughout the empire. Rebellious groups threatened the power of the emperor.

After Aurangzeb’s death in 1707, there were many contenders for the throne. Their reigns were short-lived. India was increasingly divided and vulnerable to attack from abroad. In 1739, Delhi was sacked by the Persians, who left it in ashes.

The Moguls were foreigners in India. In addition, they were Muslims ruling a largely Hindu population. The resulting blend of influences on the lives of ordinary Indians could be complicated. The treatment of women serves as a good example.

Society and the Role of Women

Women had long played an active role in Mogul tribal society. Mogul rulers often relied on female relatives for political advice. To a degree, these Mogul attitudes toward women affected Indian society. Women from aristocratic families frequently received salaries and were allowed to own land.

At the same time, the Moguls placed certain restrictions on women under their interpretations of Islamic law. These practices generally were adopted by Hindus. The practice of isolating women, for example, was followed by many upper-class Hindus.

In other ways, however, Hindu practices remained unchanged by Mogul rule. The custom of suttee continued in spite of efforts by the Moguls to abolish it. Child marriage also remained common.

The Mogul era saw the emergence of a wealthy nobility and a prosperous merchant class. During the late eighteenth century, this prosperity was shaken by the decline of the Moguls and the coming of the British. However, many prominent Indians established trading ties with foreigners.

Mogul Culture

The Moguls brought together Persian and Indian influences in a new and beautiful architectural style. This style is best symbolized by the Taj Mahal, which Shāh Jahān built in Agra in the mid-seventeenth century. The project lasted more than twenty years. To finance it, the government raised land taxes, driving many Indian peasants into complete poverty.
In the mid-1700s, the British East India Company began to consolidate its control of Indian trade. By the mid-1700s, the power of the French East India Company rivaled that of the British. In southern India, the French and British fought a series of wars in the region near Chennai (Madras). In 1751, Sir Robert Clive won an important victory there for the British East India Company against the French and their Indian allies.

In the north, Clive defeated a Mogul-led army at the Battle of Plassey near Fort William (Kolkata) in Bengal in 1757. The balance of power shifted to the British. After defeating the French and the Moguls, the British became the dominant power in India until after World War II. For much of that time, the British East India Company had all the sovereign powers of a government in ruling much of India.

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The Taj Mahal is widely considered to be the most beautiful building in India, if not in the entire world. The building seems to have monumental size, nearly blinding brilliance, and delicate lightness.

Another major artistic achievement of the Mogul period was in painting. Like architecture, painting in Mogul India resulted from the blending of two cultures: Persian and Indian. Akbar established a state workshop for artists, mostly Hindus, who worked under the guidance of Persian masters to create the Mogul school of painting. The “Akbar style” combined Persian with Indian motifs. It included the portrayal of humans in action, for example—a characteristic not usually seen in Persian art. Akbar also encouraged his artists to imitate European art forms, including the use of perspective and life-like portraits.

✓ Reading Check  Describing What was significant about the “Akbar style” of art?
Europeans Come to India

**Main Idea**  Foreigners seeking trade opportunities in India hastened the decline of the Mogul Empire.

**HISTORY & YOU** What would you do if someone set up a concession stand opposite the one you have operated successfully for years? Learn how the British and French competed for trade in India.

The arrival of the British hastened the decline of the Mogul Empire. By 1650, British trading forts had been established at Surat, Fort William (which was renamed Calcutta and is now the city of Kolkata), and Madras (Chennai). British ships carried Indian-made cotton goods to the East Indies, where they were traded for spices.

British success in India attracted rivals, especially the French. The French established their own forts. For a brief period, the French went on the offensive, even capturing the British fort at Chennai.

The British were saved by the military genius of Sir Robert Clive, an aggressive British empire builder. Clive served as the chief representative in India of the East India Company, a private company that acted on behalf of the British Crown. Fighting any force that threatened the Company’s power in India, Clive ultimately restricted the French to the fort at Pondicherry and a few small territories on the southeastern coast.

While fighting the French, Clive was also consolidating British control in Bengal. The Indian ruler of Bengal had attacked Fort William in 1756. He had imprisoned the British garrison in the “Black Hole of Calcutta,” an underground prison. Due to the intense heat in the crowded space, only 23 people (out of 146) survived.

In 1757, Clive led a small British force of about three thousand to victory over a Mogul-led army more than ten times its size in the Battle of Plassey in Bengal. As part of the spoils of victory, the failing Mogul court gave the East India Company the power to collect taxes from lands in the area around Calcutta.

Britain’s rise to power in India, however, was not a story of constant success. Many East India Company officials combined arrogance with incompetence. They offended both their Indian allies and the local population, who were taxed heavily to meet the Company’s growing expenses.

In the late eighteenth century, the East India Company moved inland from the great coastal cities. British expansion brought great riches to individual British merchants and to British officials who found they could obtain money from local rulers by selling trade privileges. The British were in India to stay.

**Vocabulary**


**Main Ideas**

2. List and explain the events that led to the decline of the Mogul Empire using a chart like the one below.

3. Explain why the British and French built forts in India.

4. Describe the Taj Mahal. Who built it? Why is it considered the most beautiful building in India?

**Critical Thinking**

5. The BIG Idea Analyzing Analyze the impact of the Moguls on the Hindu and Muslim peoples of the Indian subcontinent.


7. Analyzing Visuals Examine the illustration from Akbarnama (History of Akbar) on page 500. What details indicate that the officials are paying homage to Akbar?

**Writing About History**

8. Descriptive Writing When the British established trading posts in India, their influence spread throughout the country. Present a speech describing how India would have developed if the British had not colonized the country.

**History ONLINE**

For help with the concepts in this section of *Glencoe World History*, go to glencoe.com and click Study Central.
THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE
History & Culture
- Ottomans conquered the Byzantine Empire and expanded into the Balkans.
- Most Ottomans were Sunni Muslims and were tolerant of other religions.
- Ottoman sultans were enthusiastic patrons of the arts.
- After reaching its peak under Süleyman I, the Ottoman Empire began to decline.

THE ŠAFAVIDS History & Culture
- To unify the Šafavid Empire, Shah Esmā‘īl forced Sunni Muslims to convert to the Shia faith.
- Under Shah ʿAbbās, the Šafavids reached the high point of their glory.
- The shahs played an active role in government, trade, and manufacturing activities.
- The empire’s decline began after the death of Shah ʿAbbās.

THE MOGULS History & Culture
- The Moguls united India under a single government with a common culture.
- The Mogul ruler Akbar was Muslim, but he exercised tolerance toward Hindu practices.
- Persian and Indian cultures blended to create beautiful paintings and architecture.
- British forces defeated the Moguls at the Battle of Plassey. The British eventually ruled most of India.
Reviewing Vocabulary
Directions: Choose the word or words that best complete the sentence.

1. The Hindu custom of cremating a widow on her husband’s funeral pyre is known as ________.
   A ulema
   B suttee
   C harem
   D sultan

2. The ________ was the sultan’s chief minister.
   A grand vizier
   B marshal
   C shah
   D pasha

3. What is another word for lawlessness and disorder?
   A Rebellion
   B Orthodoxy
   C Revolt
   D Anarchy

4. The private domain of a sultan was called the ________.
   A sanctuary
   B mosque
   C harem
   D zamindar

Reviewing Main Ideas
Directions: Choose the best answers to the following questions.

Section 1 (pp. 484–489)
5. Who were the janissaries?
   A Pashas
   B Bureaucrats
   C Religious leaders
   D An elite guard

6. The Ottomans ended the Byzantine Empire by laying siege to which city?
   A Constantinople
   B Lepanto
   C Mohács
   D Topkapi

7. The success of which type of empire was largely based on its mastery of firearms?
   A Bourgeois
   B Gunpowder
   C Blackfriar
   D Pastoral

8. Under which ruler did the Ottoman Empire reach its high point?
   A Selim I
   B Selim II
   C Mehmed II
   D Süleyman I
Section 2 (pp. 492–495)

9. What did the Safavids use as a unifying force?
   A. Shia faith
   B. Sunni faith
   C. Grand vizier
   D. Persians

10. Shah ‘Abbas moved the capital city of the Safavids from Tabriz to which city?
    A. Azerbaijan
    B. Istanbul
    C. Esfahan
    D. Riza-i-Abbasi

11. Safavid society was a combination of Turkish and what kind of elements?
    A. Mogul
    B. Persian
    C. Ottoman
    D. French

Section 3 (pp. 498–503)

12. What was the “Black Hole of Calcutta”?
    A. An oil spill
    B. A great whirlpool
    C. Ornamental art
    D. An underground prison

13. Which building is widely considered the most beautiful in India, if not in the entire world?
    A. Akbar Castle
    B. Chennai Station
    C. Taj Mahal
    D. Bengal Mahal

Critical Thinking

Directions: Choose the best answers to the following questions.

14. How was the Ottoman Empire characterized in the first half of the seventeenth century?
    A. The empire was preoccupied with internal problems.
    B. The bureaucracy slowed down the government.
    C. The queen mother was waiting to assume power.
    D. The empire was preoccupied with the arts.

15. At what location did the British defeat the French?
    A. Fort William
    B. Plassey
    C. Pondicherry
    D. Sri Lanka

Base your answer to questions 15 and 16 on the map below and on your knowledge of world history.

The British in India

15. At what location did the British defeat the French?
    A. Fort William
    B. Plassey
    C. Pondicherry
    D. Sri Lanka
16. In what area of India did the British fight a Mogul army in 1757 for control of Indian trade?
   - A Sri Lanka
   - B Bengal
   - C Delhi
   - D Arabian Sea

17. Which of the following took place in the Safavid Empire after the death of Shāh 'Abbās?
   - A Women no longer wore the veil.
   - B Women were forced from seclusion.
   - C The power of religious elements declined.
   - D Religious orthodoxy increased.

18. Name the ruler and the area conquered that ensured Ottoman control of the Bosporus.
   - A Selim I, Mesopotamia
   - B Mehmed II, Constantinople
   - C Süleyman I, Libya
   - D Selim I, Arabia

19. What type of furnishings did this Indian family have?

20. From reading this passage, what can you conclude about the lives of Indian people during the Mogul Empire?

21. Compare and contrast the rule of Akbar with Louis XIV of France (see Chapter 14).