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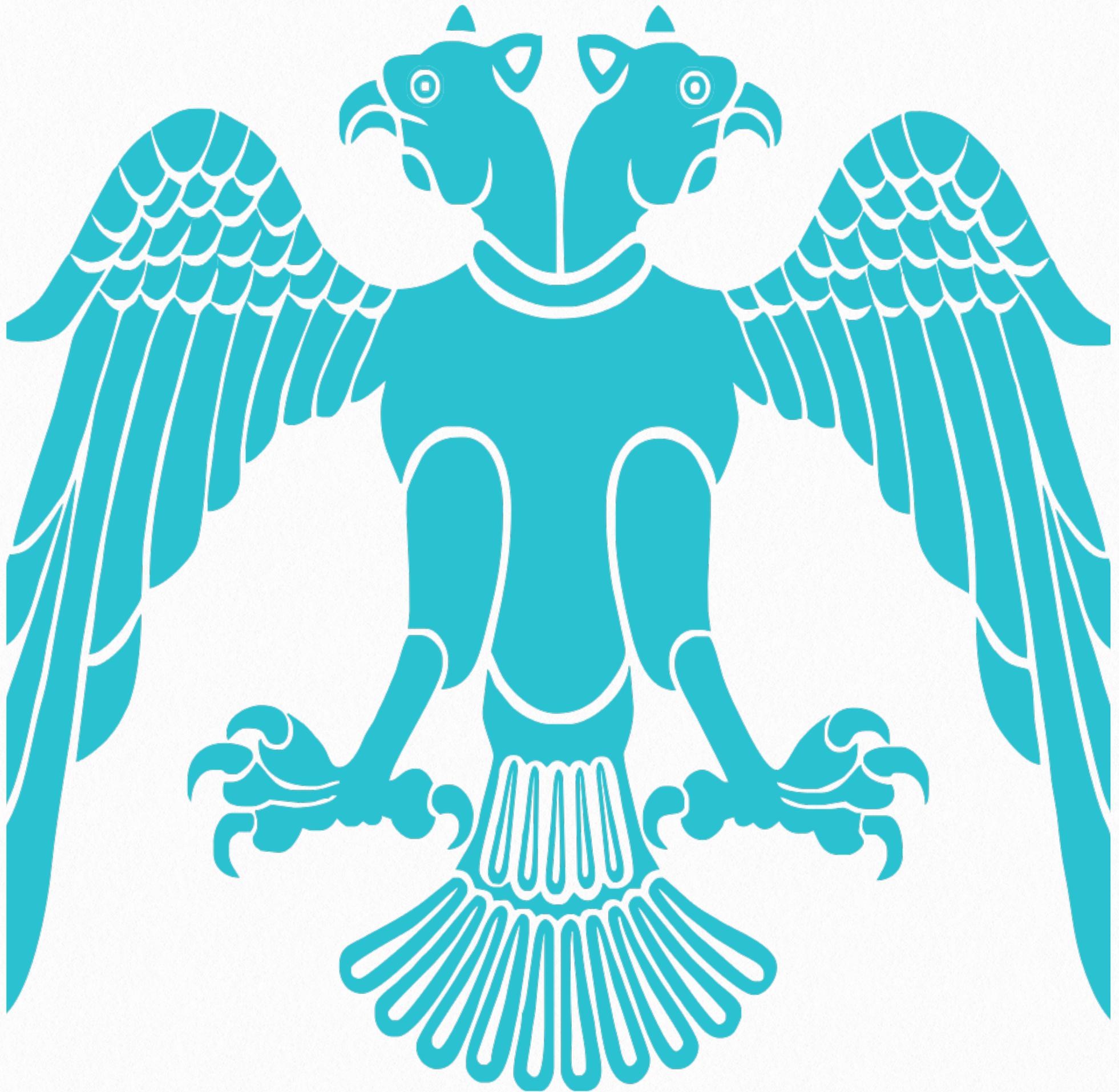
# The Condensed History of Turkey



1

# The Seljuq Empire

1037 - 1243



## INTRODUCTION

The Turkey that we see in the news today was once the center of a great empire. For centuries, the Ottoman Empire dominated the Mediterranean, Mesopotamian, and Balkan regions. It started from humble roots, a nomadic tribe from central Asia. The Turks soon settled down and created the Seljuq Empire. Although its lifespan was shortened by a Mongol invasion, it was the foundation to the Ottoman Empire, named after the strongest kingdom after the division of the Seljuqs. By re-conquering their home in Asia Minor, the Ottomans successfully conquered Constantinople, the most sought-after city in Europe at the time. From then on, the Ottomans continued to prove that they were the most successful empire at the time by continuously expanding while leading ahead of their western rivals regarding military, education, and religious tolerance.

However, as with all empires, its downfall was inevitable. Following successive ineffective Sultans (leaders), the Ottoman Empire began its decline. Their official doom came with World War One, which saw the Empire and Turkey itself divided amongst victors. Then, Turkey was established under the leadership of Ataturk, who recaptured and then reformed the new and secular Republic of Turkey. After a turbulent 20th century filled with coups, conflicts, and reform, we arrive in modern Turkey. To understand the current situation, one must understand its rich past, starting with the beginning: The Seljuqs...

# Setting the Stage

During the 10th century, several nomadic tribes migrated to Central Asia to escape warring states and to find fertile farming lands, one of which were the Oghuz Turks, who were led by chief Seljuq. Later on, his grandsons decided to spread their influence to the west, starting with Anatolia. Once they settled down and named themselves the great Seljuqs, they began to follow Islam. This religious conversion gained political allies and formed their government system. Following Islam proved to be beneficial in their annexation of Anatolia, which lead them one step closer to the Seljuq (and later Ottoman) aspiration to conquer Constantinople, the Byzantine capital. As their land expanded to cover most of modern-day Turkey, so did their economy and power. However, there were also numerous setbacks of varying consequence that would be endured; one of which took place in Kose Dag.

# Section 1

## The Beginning of Turkic Power

### KEY TERMS

- **Byzantine:** The Byzantine Empire was the eastern remain of the Roman Empire with Constantinople as its capital. In 1071, the Byzantines lost most of the Asia Minor, the heart of the Seljuq empire.
- **The 1st Crusade:** After Seljuq Turks took over territories in Syria, Byzantine Emperor Alexius I requested aid from Pope Urban II, who in return called for a crusade to free him from the Turks. (1096-1099)
- **Emperor Romanos IV Diogenes:** Byzantine emperor, ruled from 1068 – 1071, a member of the Cappadocian military aristocracy, and leader of the Byzantine forces during the Battle of Manzikert.
- **Persia:** The location the Seljuqs settled in after converting to Sunni Muslims in the Northern Iranian region.
- **Anatolia:** The Peninsula that makes up most of modern Turkey today, also known as Asian Turkey.
- **Seljuq Turks:** The Seljuq Empire or Seljuq Turks refer to the Sunni Muslim dynasty that ruled Central Asia and the Middle East from the 11th century to the 12th - 14th centuries. It's also called the Seljuq dynasty.
- **Qara Khitai:** Khitan Empire in Central Asia (Mongolia) from 1124-1218. Destroyed by Mongol Empire,

- Sultan Alp Arslan: 1030-1073, Second Sultan of Seljuq Turks, Conquered Georgia, Armenia, and Asia Minor (from Byzantines)
- Sultan Ahmad Sanjar: 1085-1157, The last sultan of the Seljuq Empire

## **SUBTOPIC ONE: CONVERSION TO ISLAM**

The nomadic Turks became known as the "Turkmens" or "Oghuz" in the 10th century ("Seljuq"). One of their most important leaders was Seljuk Bey, who was constantly searching for better pastures for their livestock due to their transhuman lifestyle. They settled in a land nourished by both the Syr Darya and Amu Darya Rivers, which later became the Great Seljuq Empire after other tribes joined in force. However, their presence was not felt until they embraced Sunni Islamic belief, marking the beginning of a united Turkic force that was funded by the Eastern Caliphate. Converting to Islam would shape the political, economic and militaristic conquests of the Seljuqs and their identity.

The reason for a religious conversion were political and economic incentives ("Seljuq"). Surrounded by greater powers, the Seljuqs' geographic location between the Byzantine Empire and the Middle East forced them to ally with either the Christians or the Muslims. Since Constantinople was the center of world trade, it controlled both the Mediterranean and Black Seas while holding a trade monopoly on the European side. An alliance with the Seljuqs would provide too little benefit to the Byzantines for it to be significant. Whereas Asia Minor provided funding from the Caliphate to followers of Islam and relied on the geographically more convenient trade with the Seljuqs. Hence, by becoming Sunni Islam, the Seljuqs gained a secure livelihood and were able to unite with other followers of Islam.



### RULE OF THE CALIPHATE IN 750

Empire of the Caliphate, in 750.. Photograph. Britannica ImageQuest, Encyclopædia Britannica, 25 May 2016.

While this religious conversion was gradual and took time, the Sufism already present within the Seljuks allowed for a smoother transition. It is a shamanistic belief with often exoteric practices (“Sufism”), but was swiftly replaced for most tribes after the equality in Islamic belief appealed to people. Furthermore, the militaristic nature of the Turks was also strengthened by the idea of jihad, or holy war. Christianity did not appeal to them, and directly opposed to the Seljuqs’ original religion, but there had to be another benefit to joining Islam. That benefit was economic backing and funding from the Eastern Caliphate, which was ruled by Abbasids at the time. They were looking to expand westwards, and since the Seljuqs were at a geographically advantageous location, the Abbasids took measures in turning them Islam, and uniting their forces. This was key in the future of the Empire, and it would allow the Seljuqs to expand after internal advancement.

Through force, the Turks became the active “guardians of the faith” (Kultur), organized into units called “gazis” whose purpose was to defend and fight for Islamic belief (“Ghazi”). Fueled by the power of the ghazis, Islam spread substantially through militaristic campaigns, contributing to its current worldwide prevalence(Kultur). By converting to Islam, the Seljuqs made an important decision



**ONE OF THE FIRST ISLAMIC MOSQUES IN TURKEY, THE AKCEBE SULTAN MOSQUE**

Photo of Akcebe Sultan Mosque, Alanya. *Blogspot.com*, [4.bp.blogspot.com/](http://4.bp.blogspot.com/)

that would change the outlook of their empire. It formed the basis of the Ottoman Empire's future and started their tradition of unification under a common religion. The Islamic faith played a decisive role in their conquests as they continued to migrate and conquer. This was shown in their decision to choose Asia Minor (Anatolia), a region west of Persia, as their final home. However, the conquest of Anatolia was not simple. The Byzantine Empire, the Eastern remains of the Roman Empire, and holder of the jewel of Constantinople opposed the Seljuqs ("Anatolia"; "Seljuq"). This would be the beginning of the power struggle between Europe and the emerging Ottoman Empire that would last for centuries.



MAP OF BYZANTINE EMPIRES DURING SELJUQ RAIDS (ORANGE AREA BELONG TO BYZANTINES)

Historic map Roman Empire / Copper engr.. Fine Art. Britannica ImageQuest, Encyclopædia Britannica, 25 May 2016.  
 quest.eb.com/search/109\_125143/1/109\_125143/cite. Accessed 5 Apr 2017.

## SUBTOPIC TWO: ANNEXATION OF ANATOLIA

The common belief that united the Seljuqs strengthened their forces, which could now unite under a leader. With the change in religion came a change in society. The unorganized horsemen would become an offensive force that rivalled the remains of the Roman Empire, the Byzantine army. With elite forces the Seljuqs focused on military prowess to set expansionist policies. Constantinople (see map below) was a key city at the time which every power, including the Seljuqs, had their eyes on, as it connected three continents, thus controlled trade. However, the Seljuqs were still far from their goal, as they had Asia Minor, modern-day Anatolia, to pass. Meant as the first challenge against the Byzantines, the Seljuqs annexation of Anatolia would create their new home, and the future home of the Ottomans, and it would disrupt the balance of power in that region. The soldiers were motivated because Anatolia was more nourishing for crops than the drylands of Iran ("Anatolia"), and it would greatly help their families. The Seljuqs invaded Anatolia for its proximity to Constantinople, its agricultural land, and to expand their empire by challenging the Byzantine Empire ("Roman, Byzantine").



#### EMPEROR ROMANOS IV DIOGENES

"Romanos IV Diogenes." Alchetron, [alchetron.com/Romanos-IV-Diogenes-951257-W](http://alchetron.com/Romanos-IV-Diogenes-951257-W).  
Accessed 11 Apr. 2017.

After inheriting the throne in 1063 Alp Arslan, who became the sultan of the Seljuqs, proceeded to make huge advancements into Anatolia, and led the Seljuqs against the Byzantine emperor, Romanus IV Diogenes in the Battle of Manzikert. The end of this battle signalled the start of the collapse of the Byzantine Empire and the start of the Seljuq Sultanate of Rum (“Battle of Manzikert”).

Romanus IV gathered a Byzantine army on the eastern border of Anatolia in response to continuous Seljuq raids. He led them to modern-day Armenia near Lake Van, at a town called Manzikert, which belonged to the Seljuqs. Alp Arslan called for battle. However, Romanus IV had to gather more soldiers to defend his attack. During this, he was ambushed, surrounded, and taken prisoner by the Seljuqs (“Battle of Manzikert”). The Byzantine army lost the Battle of Manzikert without a leader. Manzikert was a decisive victory for the Seljuqs, as the Byzantine loss of its eastern border gave them a clear path to the rest of Anatolia. As a result, the Seljuk Sultanate of Rum was formed on the basis of their newly gained Anatolia.



#### BATTLE OF MANZIKERT

"Battle of Manzikert." ThoughtCo, [thoughtco.com/byzantine-seljuk-wars-battle-of-manzikert-2360708](https://www.thoughtco.com/byzantine-seljuk-wars-battle-of-manzikert-2360708). Accessed 11 Apr. 2017.

Consequently, the weakening Byzantine Empire called for help from Pope Urban II, which resulted in the historic First Crusade (“Anatolia”) composed of Roman Catholic countries to fight against the Seljuqs (“First Crusade”). While the popular belief is that the crusades were solely for recapturing Jerusalem, the real reason was to help the Byzantines, who were part of the catholic church. In 1097, the Crusaders captured Jerusalem and converted the region into Christianity again (“Seljuq”). This crusade drove Alp Arslan’s son, Malik Shah, back to southern Anatolia. In the 12th Century, Qilich Arslan II made a pact with the Byzantine Empire, which focused their expansion towards the east instead (“Anatolia”). Malik’s son, Ahmad Sanjar, would greatly help the Sultanate after he fought for his position against relatives. He was the last beneficial Sultan of the Seljuqs, as he reorganized the Seljuqs of Iran. His success would be overshadowed by his downfall, which came after uprisings from tribes who still did not accept his rule. In addition to the end of the Great Seljuqs, a new power was emerging from Central Asia that would disrupt this temporary peace and prove to be more dangerous to the Seljuks than the Byzantine Empire. In 1206, a Mongol chief called Genghis Khan united the Mongol tribes, beginning their rapid expansion throughout all of Asia.



**TOMB OF AHMAD SANJAR**

"Tomb of Ahmad Sanjar." WAM, [www.worldarchitecturemap.org/buildings/ahmad-sanjar-mausoleum](http://www.worldarchitecturemap.org/buildings/ahmad-sanjar-mausoleum). Accessed 11 Apr. 2017.



**TAKING OF JERUSALEM BY THE FIRST CRUSADE**

("Ezekiel 39:1-20: A Preterist Commentary." Revelation Revolution. N.p., 14 Dec. 2015. Web. 11 Apr. 2017.)

### SUBTOPIC THREE: DEFEAT AT KOSE DAG

In the 13th Century, after the successful Anatolia campaigns, the Seljuqs enjoyed their power as “one of the most important Muslim states” (“Anatolia”). Regardless of military victories, they also flourished economically with the trade opportunity that the Crusades brought, as the western Europeans were not only invaders but also consumers of Eastern goods. However, the ruling sultan, Kay-Khrusraw II, sparked the Turkmens’ Bābā’ī rebellion, a three year uprising in 1239 among parts of Anatolia, against his succession to throne through fratricide. More importantly, the approaching Mongols became a bigger threat. This would plant the seeds for more unrest in the Seljuk Empire’s western borders and its reducing to a Mongol vassal after the defeat at Kose Dag.

The Seljuqs had battled against the European Crusaders and Arab Muslims, but were more worried about the relentless Mongol Empire from the East. During the reign of Khan Ogedei of Mongolia from 1229 to 1241, the Seljuqs kept the ever-feared Mongols at bay with treaties of friendship. However, unlike his predecessors, Bayju saw how he could exploit the Seljuqs economically. He began an attempt to force Seljuq acceptance of Mongol Darugachi, a safety tax (“cite”). After Kay-Khusraw II refused, the Mongols invaded.



BATTLE OF KOSE DAG

Battle of Kose Dag." Mongol Khans, [www.mongolkhans.com/](http://www.mongolkhans.com/). Accessed 11 Apr. 2017.

The invasion began with General Bayju leading the Mongols to take Erzurum in northeastern Anatolia. Sultan Kay-Khusraw II was overwhelmed and requested aid from neighbours. The Empire of Trebizond, established after the fall of the Byzantine Empire in the 4th Crusade in modern day Trabzon, (“Anatolia”) sent soldiers along with several Georgian warlords who, while under the rule of Mongols, also favored the less barbaric Seljuqs (“Battle of Kose Dag”). However, the Seljuq’s superiority with the size of their forces did not save them.



**BAYU (IN RED) COLLECTING TAXES FROM MONGOL VASSELS**

bayu and mongol vassels." *TURKCEBILGI*, [www.turkcebilgi.com/baycu\\_noyan](http://www.turkcebilgi.com/baycu_noyan).

Accessed 30 May 2017. Map.

In spite of the fact that the measure of the armed forces is not conclusively known, it is widely acknowledged that the Turks had the advantage (“Anatolia”). Kay-Khusraw II disregarded the exhortation of his officers and offered to negotiate. The Mongols faked their withdrawal, then turned suddenly to assault the Turks. They froze and immediately collapsed, with back troops left the combat zone while they were surrounded. Kay-Khusraw II survived and was permitted to live, but only ruling as a vassal of the Mongol Empire (“Seljuq”).

The defeat resulted in unequivocal triumph for the Mongols. The victory of the mongols enabled them to establish suzerainty over the Seljuq sultanate of Rum. The Seljuk Sultanate of Rum and the

Empire of Trebizond were subjected to becoming vassals as a result of a period of turmoil in Anatolia, leading to the direct deterioration and dissolution of the Seljuq state. For a period, it functioned as a Mongol province, albeit some Turkmen emirs kept up little sectors of their own in faraway highland communes. The mongols employed complete power over Anatolia. The Seljuqs evaporated by the thirteenth century, as the Mongols split them up into separate principalities to weaken them. However, one of them would soon establish a great empire again, the Ottoman Empire (“Seljuq”). Anatolia had become a major east-west trade crossroads, as well as linking Tabriz, Persia, the center of the Khanate, to to Konya through Erzurum, that had grown as a commercial centre. The mongols’ demolition and savagery provoked anarchy and famine in Anatolia. After having been fragmented for a long period, Anatolia was later unified by the the Ottoman Empire (Ring, Trudy).



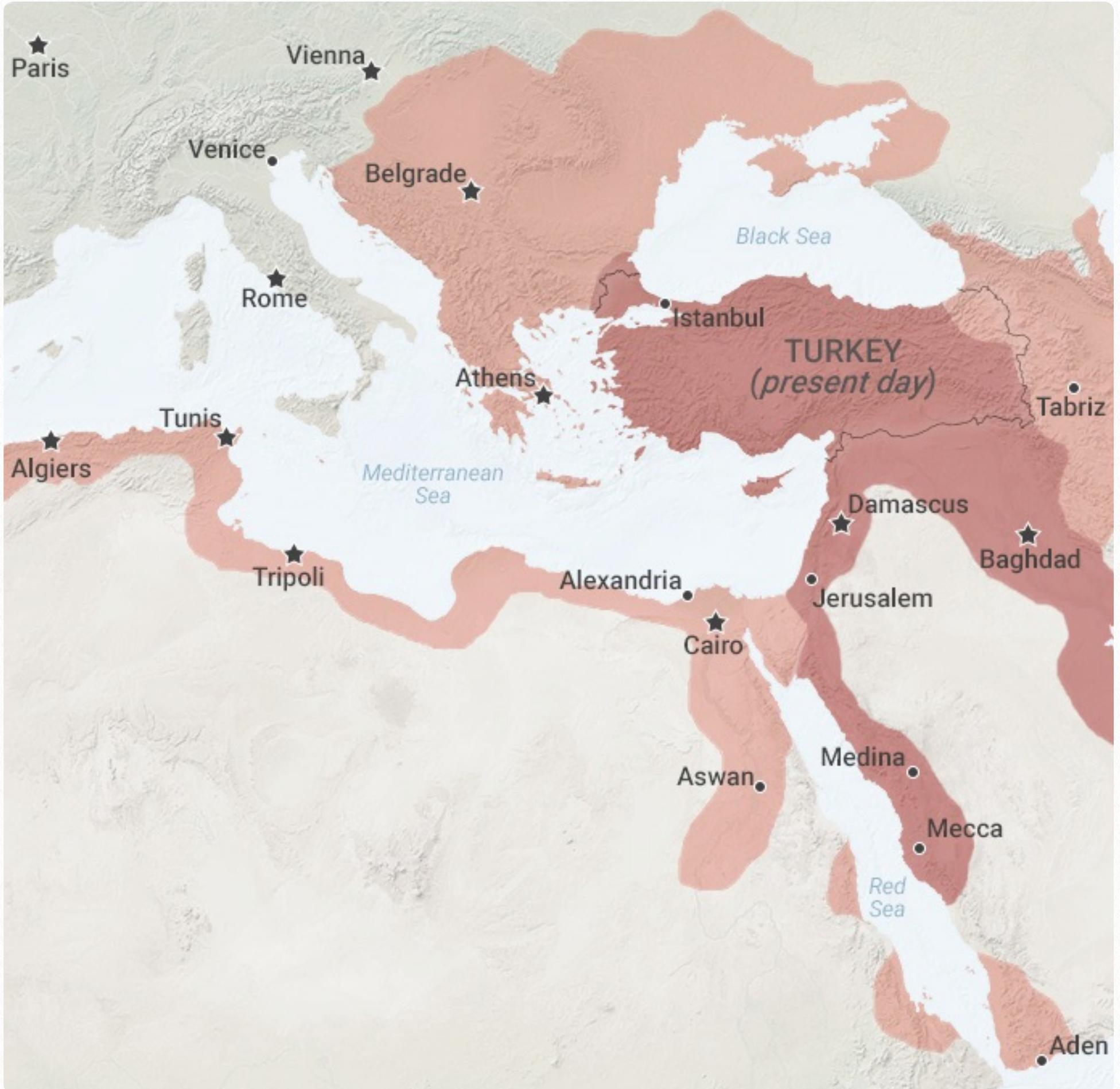
**MAP OF ANATOLIA AFTER MONGOL INVASION**

Map of Anatolia after Mongol Invasion." <https://sites.google.com/site/romeandromania/>, sites.google.com/site/romeandromania/Home/13th-c/1250.

# 2

## The Ottoman Empire

1299 - 1453



# Setting the Stage

After the defeat at Kose Dag, Seljuq power disintegrated and was replaced by Mongolian suzerainty, enforced by military occupation in eastern Anatolia. The Seljuqs were not only weak, but also divided into kingdoms called Beyliks. The remainder of that region was still controlled by the ghazis, who were fighting the Mongols for independence, unsuccessfully. However, the Mongols were experiencing internal uprisings, which distracted them from their vassals, including Anatolia. With that key advantage, the descendants of the Great Seljuqs were slowly uniting and waiting for the right time to free themselves, but also for the right leader who could unite them. This was the birth of the Ottoman Empire.

As historian Ibn Khaldun philosophized, each empire has its own life during which it grows, prospers, declines and dies to be replaced. Although the Ottoman Empire had no clear beginning, it lasted for over 600 years; great change was bound to occur. Stretching across Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East, the Ottoman Empire would not only impact, but also define the future of the region that is often in the news nowadays. Starting from a dream, a warrior, and the city of Bursa, the Ottoman Empire's beginnings would already show its greatness...

# Section 1

## The Rise of the Ottoman Empire

### KEY TERMS

- **Suzerainty (noun):** feudal control over another internally autonomous state's foreign affairs, often with a certain tax that the conquered state must pay the conquering state.
- **Osman 1:** First Ottoman Sultan, founder of the Ottoman Empire, reigned from 1299-1324 until his death.
- **Bursa:** Major Turkish city in northwest Anatolia, close to present-day Istanbul. It was the first major Ottoman city after it was conquered from the Byzantines in 1326 by Osman I's son, Orhan I.
- **Beylik:** Principality in Anatolia created after the Seljuk victory in Manzikert, ruled by a "Bey" (prince), usually referring to a Ghazi warrior who attained his own militia.
- **Sultanate of Rum:** The Seljuk state in modern-day Anatolia, conquered from the Byzantine Empire in the 10th to 13th centuries.
- **Murad II:** Ottoman Sultan (ruled from 1421-1444 and 1446-1451) known for securing Ottoman control over the Balkans and the resurrection of Ottoman power in Anatolia after devastating loss in the 1402 Battle of Ankara.
- **Second Battle of Kosovo:** A battle between the Kingdom of Hungary and the Ottoman Empire in 1448. It resulted in Ottoman victory led by Murad II, and brought all of the Balkan States under Ottoman control.
- **Timurid Empire:** An empire in the Middle East that contained parts of Iran, Syria and India between 1370 - 1506. Established by Timur, a Mongolian warrior and an aggressive leader. It fell due to internal conflicts.

- Bayezid I: An Ottoman Sultan who ruled from 1389 - 1402. He strived towards establishing Ottoman rule in Anatolia, which resulted in conflict with the Timurid Empire and his loss in the 1402 Battle of Ankara. He died in captivity in Timurid Empire.
- Janissaries: Elite Ottoman infantry established by Murad I in the 14th century. It was initially started as a unit of captured prisoners but later evolved to a training of warriors taken from Balkan families at a young age. With absolute loyalty to the Sultan and precise skills, the Janissaries were one of the most feared military corps in Europe.

### **SUBTOPIC ONE: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OTTOMAN BEYLIK**

Along with the Seljuks, the Ottomans were a Turkic tribe that migrated from Central Asia to Anatolia. Despite popular belief, the Ottomans and Seljuqs were separate tribes, but the Ottomans migrated to Anatolia after the establishment of the Seljuq Sultanate of Rum. This migration can be traced back to the victory of the Seljuks in the 1071 Battle of Manzikert, which allowed them to open the eastern borders to other tribes that could help them defeat the Byzantines (Inalcik). For this cause, the Seljuks also created a new society that had skilled warrior-ghazis as its elite. The Ottomans took an important role in Ghazi Society, as they have been focussing on military advancement, even before their migration (“Ottoman Empire”). Their military beginning would be reflected in the future, but first Osman I had to start the first step towards imperial power, establishing a strong base that could unite the weak Turkic states.

Osman came to power after the Battle of Angora, which divided the Seljuq Empire into principalities called “Beyliks” (Jürgen). One of these beyliks was centered at Söğüt, bordering the Byzantine Empire in northwestern Anatolia (“Ottoman Empire”). It emerged as the strongest principality since it was the furthest from the eastern Mongol threat. Osman named it the Ottoman Beylik in around 1300, a name derived from his own (“Rise of the Ottoman Empire”). Even though the principality existed before the Battle of Angora, they were simply pawns of the Seljuk Sultanate. After they became independent, Osman built his ambitions with his ghazis.

They continued to fight against the Byzantines and pushed them back towards Europe, as masses of nomads and urban unemployed populations joined them because of the promise of expansion and economic prosperity. However, not even they knew just how ambitious Osman's true aspirations were, as he already had a vision named: "Osman's Dream", which religious scholars determined as a sign that Osman would create an empire (Shaw). Fueled by this dream, Osman looked to expand, but he knew that he could not even pose a threat to the Byzantines by himself (see map above). At the beginning of the 14th century, Osman only had a title and a smaller beylik which he inherited from his father, but a huge change would occur that would change the fate of Asia forever. The Mongols could not continue their expansion westwards due to civil wars, which erupted instantly after the death of Kublai Khan, the fifth Khagan of Mongol Empire, in 1294 ("Birth of the Ottoman"). They had conquered too vast an area to have control of all their vassals, and their end as a great empire was starting.



#### ANATOLIA AFTER THE BATTLE OF ANGORA

Anatolia after the Battle of Angora." Lostislamichistory,

lostislamichistory.com/the-birth-of-the-ottoman-empire/. Accessed 30 May



#### GAZI SOCIETY

Ghazi Society." Epicworldhistory, [epicworldhistory.blogspot.com.tr/2012/10/ottoman-empire-12991453.html](http://epicworldhistory.blogspot.com.tr/2012/10/ottoman-empire-12991453.html). Accessed 30 May 2017.

Osman had to capitalize on this opportunity for his dream to come true, so he decided to unite against their old enemy, the Byzantines. The significance of this decision lies in the impact that it created. Once again, the balance of power was being disrupted by the Seljuqs, back to fight a weaker Byzantine Empire ("Osman I"). They posed a greater threat to the Christian world, which would be justified in their expansionist policies. Without the establishment of the Ottoman Beylik, the Empire would have never come to existence, and the Turks would be divided and weak. However, before becoming the 'founding father' of the Ottoman Empire, Osman still had to find a way, peaceful or not, to amalgamate the former states of the Seljuq Empire.



**OSMAN I, FOUNDER OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE**

Osman I." TeacherProbs, [teacherprobs.com/can-you-pass-a-high-school-quiz-on-the-ottoman-empire/](https://teacherprobs.com/can-you-pass-a-high-school-quiz-on-the-ottoman-empire/). Accessed 30 May

## **SUBTOPIC TWO: AMALGAMATION OF TURKIC STATES**

During the birth and initial stages of the Ottoman Empire, there was a steep period of militaristic aggression characterized by the Ghazi desire to pillage and conquer. With most of Asia Minor converted to Islam, nomads and beyliks could easily cede with the Ottoman empire under a common religious belief (“Ottoman Empire”). Their common goal to gain sovereignty from Mongols also united them, and their obvious choice was to join with the strongest Beylik, which was the Ottoman one. The amalgamation of the Turkic states was a huge step towards building the power of the Ottomans, since it effectively transformed the Empire from divided principalities into a united force (Alk-hateeb).

The early Ottoman strength can be owed to the promise of protection of nomadic tribes from foes including the Byzantines and other Turkic tribes (Quataert 16). With ghazi strength supporting it, the Ottoman beylik had a reputation of being fierce in battle (see picture above), therefore their protection was widely sought for. Though in return the protected tribes were obligated to contribute to the



#### GAZIS IN MIDST OF FIGHT

Gazis." TeacherProbs, [teacherprobs.com/](https://www.teacherprobs.com/)

[can-you-pass-a-high-school-quiz-on-the-ottoman-empire/](#). Accessed 30 May

Ottoman army. Aside from the benefit of protection and stability, fulfilling Islamic based religious domination seemed to be a very appealing prospect for nomads as well as Ghazis. Ghazi based warrior beyliks that sought to be led by strong militaristic and religious leaders began to amalgamate with the Ottoman state, whose military strength was growing at an alarming rate.

He started off by uniting with Germiyan and Karasi Beyliks to organize raids, and after a short time, western Anatolia was all under the rule of Osman. He did have to take extreme measures to maintain his position in power, as several other Beys contended, but none succeeded (Alkhateeb). He continued to show his opportunism by taking advantage of the increase in economic, social, and religious discontent in the Byzantine Empire. The Byzantines were not only of a different faith but they were developed, productive and populated agrarian settlements that seemed very attractive to plunder (Quataert 16). The Byzantines were also severely vulnerable after being mercilessly plundered by Venetians and Crusaders in 1204. They struggled to recover after this heavy damage and thus were still rebuilding themselves when the Ottomans rose to power (Quataert 25). The Ottoman empire suc



#### THE JOINING OF TWO BEYLIK FORCES

The joining of two Beylik's forces." OttomanEmpireHistory,

[www.ottomanempirehistory.com/ottoman-empire-people.html](http://www.ottomanempirehistory.com/ottoman-empire-people.html). Accessed 30 May

ceeded in uniting Beyliks in Anatolia through a common enemy and religion. Thus they gained more landmass and population.

Osman I's desire to conquer territory from the Byzantine Empire can be seen when he conquered Yenisehir, Bursa and Iznik. This began an exponential militaristic ascent for the Ottoman empire, as beyliks started to join the ottoman empire to become more powerful in order to wage war against the Byzantines. This gain in land in turn increased the Ottoman empire's political influence, allowing it to amalgamate more beyliks who joined to be under a politically and economically strong leadership. The Germiyan, Ankara, Kastamonu and Karaman beyliks around the Ottoman Beylik were amalgamated in 1359 and then again in 1420, as they were taken during the battle of Angora. In the following years, the Ottoman empire began its siege on Constantinople. This leads to the statement that those Beyliks amalgamated with the Ottoman empire and vice versa with the purpose to defeat the Byzantines.



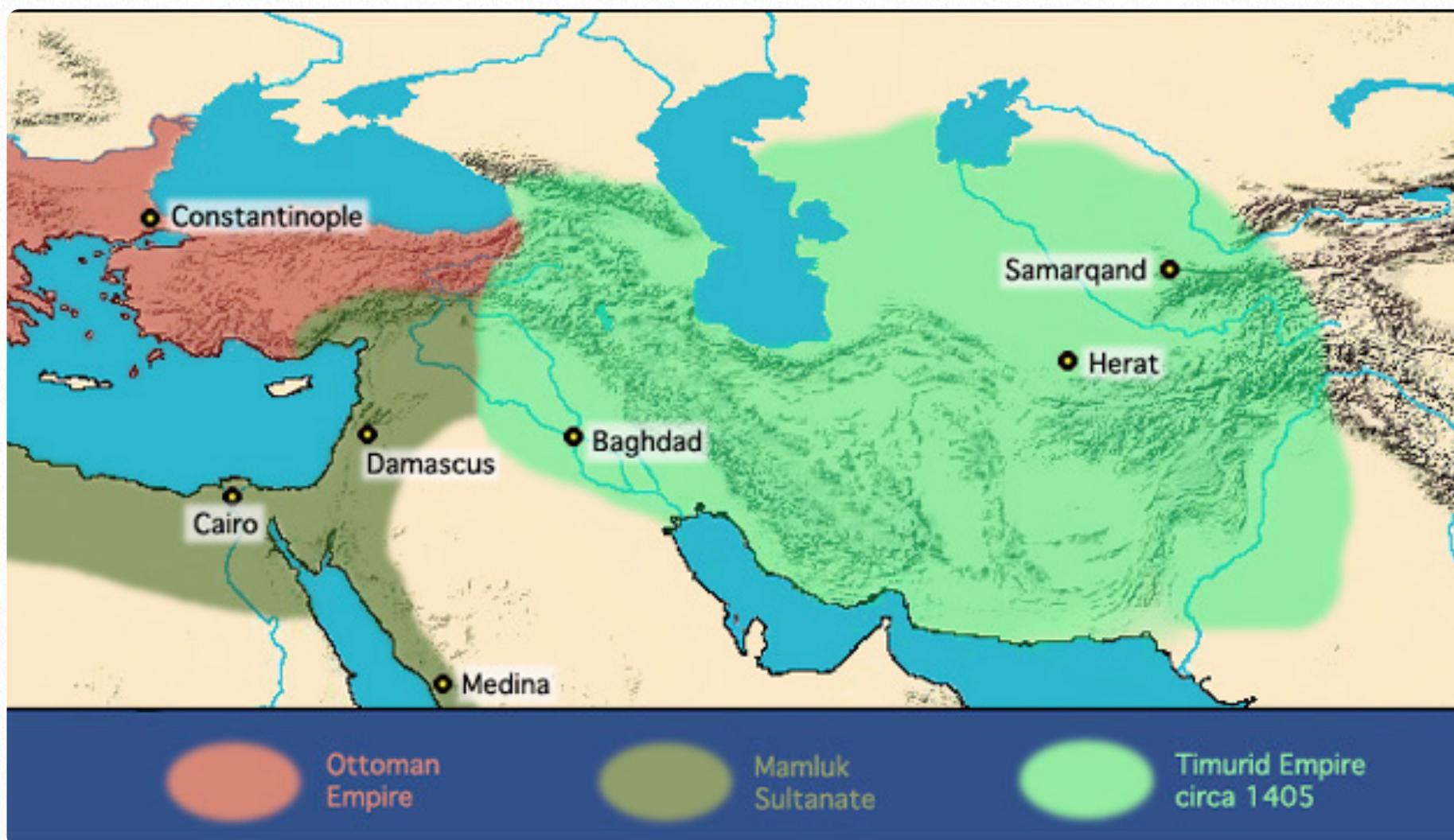
#### **THE SACKING OF CONSTANTINOPLE IN 1204**

The Fourth Crusade sacking Constantinople in 1204. HistoryToday,  
[www.historytoday.com/jonathan-phillips/fourth-crusade-and-sack-constantinople](http://www.historytoday.com/jonathan-phillips/fourth-crusade-and-sack-constantinople).

### **SUBTOPIC THREE: THE BATTLE OF ANGORA**

The Battle of Angora, commonly known as the Battle of Ankara, was a major battle fought between the armies of Ottoman Sultan Bayezid I and Timur, the ruler of the Timurid Empire on July 20th 1402 at the Çubuk plain near Ankara (Bunting). Its significance lies in the fact that it almost destroyed the Ottoman Empire and ultimately led to a period of crisis for the Ottoman empire.

In 1402, most of the Middle East belonged to the Timurid Empire. Timur was an ethnically Mongolian but culturally Turkic conqueror, who sought to rebuild Genghis Khan's Mongolian Empire. He was closer to achieving his goal than anybody else ever has, other than Genghis Khan. After killing an estimated 8 to 20 million people from Central Asia to the borders of Mamluk Syria in his reign of about 35 years, Timur reinstated order. He was strategically adept in invading other countries. The Mongols' expansion were previously hindered by the Mamluks in Egypt and Syria; Timur responded by swiftly capturing Damascus in 1400, subjecting the Mamluks under his rule until his death in 1405 ("Ottoman Empire").



#### TIMURID EMPIRE

1405-1405\_AD\_Timurid\_Empire. Hourmo, [www.hourmo.eu/Karten%20-%20Maps/1405-1405\\_AD\\_Timurid\\_Empire.html](http://www.hourmo.eu/Karten%20-%20Maps/1405-1405_AD_Timurid_Empire.html). Accessed 30 May 2017.

Meanwhile, the Ottomans were beginning to march to the west. Since 1389, they had been ruled by Bayezid I, known as Yıldırım or “the thunderbolt” for his fast military advances succeeding his father Murad I, who was killed at the 1389 Battle of Kosovo. After establishing rule in Europe, Bayezid I decided to shift his attention to expanding his land into Central and Eastern Anatolia, divided into beyliks. Many were more powerful than others, for example, the Karaminds located in Southern Anatolia, yet most were very small and easily controlled. After simultaneously defeating Karaman in 1397 and laying siege to Constantinople, Bayezid’s forces were large enough to campaign towards both east and west (Davidson). Bayezid I, who was blinded by his success, made the mistake of demanding tribute from Timur’s Anatolian vassals. Ottoman plans for expansion were put on hold as a bitter reaction from Timur sparked the Battle of Angora.

Logistically, Timur had more men than Bayezid I, upon examination of historical sources. An estimate would put his army at around 150,000 men against the Ottomans, amounting to less than 100,000 men (Davidson). This disparity in military force was likely due to the fact that Bayezid I had been settling many of his men and troops in the siege of Constantinople and multiple ongoing in



#### TIMURID EMPIRE

[zukhra\\_rakhimova. Sanat, sanat.orexca.com/2008/2008-3/zukhra\\_rakhimova-4/](http://zukhra_rakhimova.Sanat,sanat.orexca.com/2008/2008-3/zukhra_rakhimova-4/)

Accessed 30 May 2017.

vasions of other European countries. Nevertheless, this wasn't the biggest obstacle Bayezid faced with his army of Ottomans (Davidson). His largest disadvantage was that most of his men were fighting a compulsory battle, since they were from multiple Anatolian beyliks that Bayezid occupied as he expanded his Ottoman Empire. Multitudes of these soldiers abandoned Bayezid I and paid tribute or surrendered to Timur. Many even turned around and fought against Bayezid's army. This left his main army consisting of only the Janissary infantry. Ultimately, Timur's larger number of men and his decision to deprive the Ottomans access to water, a nearby stream, won him the battle. After being caught by opposing forces, Bayezid spent roughly one year as Timur's prisoner until his death (Rickard).

The loss in Ankara almost left the Ottoman Empire into ruins. They lost their vast majority of recent gains in Anatolia, as well as Europe, including Serbia. After Bayezid's death in 1403, Timur decided not to abandon the Ottoman empire completely. Instead, he decided to set one of Bayezid's sons, Mehmed I, in charge of the corrupt land, sparking jealousy from Mehmed's siblings. For the next 11 years, the Ottoman Empire was enrolled in a civil war called the Ottoman Interregnum, whilst Meh



**BATTLE OF ANGORA, MUGHAL ILLUSTRATION**

Battle of Angora, Mughal Illustration (20 July 1402, Cubuk plain near Angora)

med I “outlasted his siblings and emerged as the Sultan in 1413.” (Davidson). However one sibling, Mustafa, remained a problem until executed by Mehmed’s son and successor Murad II. It is clear that the empire could eventually emerge again after the battle. This crisis remains a major event that tested the real power and endurance of the Ottoman Empire, which can be seen in their conquering of Constantinople.



**BAYEZID I**

Bayezid-i. EpicWorldHistory, [epicworldhistory.blogspot.com.tr/2013/10/bayezid-i.html](http://epicworldhistory.blogspot.com.tr/2013/10/bayezid-i.html). Accessed 30 May 2017.

## Section 2

# The Height of the Ottoman Empire

### KEY TERMS

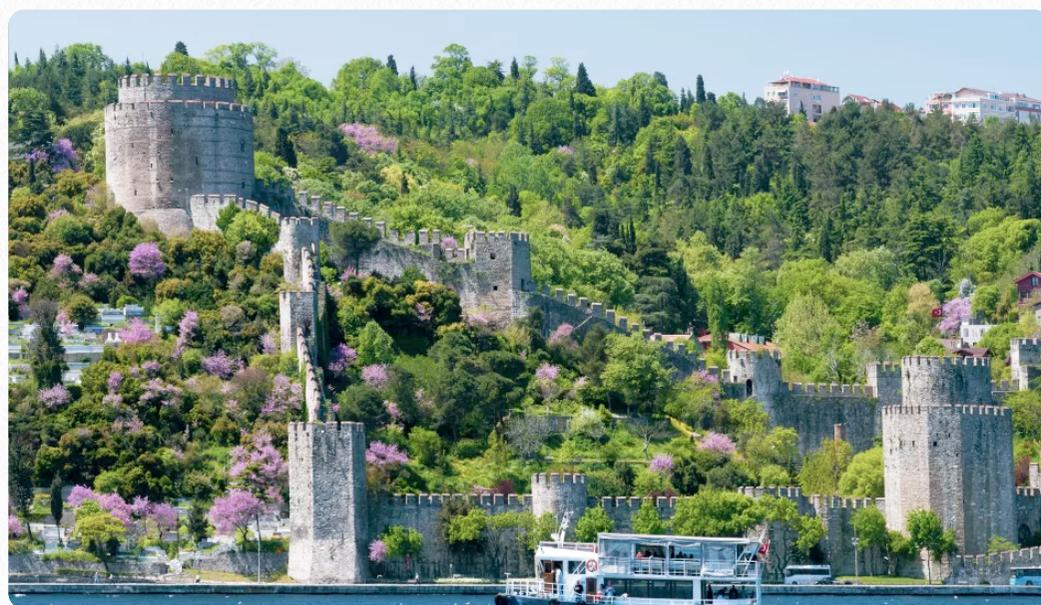
- Suleiman: “the Magnificent”
- Ottoman-Hungarian Wars: A series of battles between the Ottoman Empire and the Kingdom of Hungary.
- Pax Ottomana: The term referring to social and economic stability attained in the conquered the Ottoman empire, often used to describe its peak in peace and prosperity.
- Vienna: The capital city of the Austrian Empire. It is also as far as the Ottomans were able to expand into Europe.
- Constantinople: the capital of Byzantium, captured in May 29th 1453 by Mehmed II, sultan of the Ottoman empire, and got renamed Istanbul. It played an important role in the Ottoman empire's advancement into the Eastern Mediterranean and the Balkans and securing control.
- Habsburg: House of Habsburg was an Austrian royal house in Europe. The Ottoman–Habsburg wars were fought from the 16th through the 18th centuries between the Ottoman Empire and the Habsburg Empire.
- 3 days of pillage: A medieval convention of war where the victorious army is given a three days’ allowance to pillage the land that they had conquered, often bringing damage to the people, livestock, and infrastructure of that region.
- Mehmed II: Also known as Mehmed the Conqueror, he was an Ottoman Sultan who ruled from 1444 to 1446 and then again from 1451 to 1481.
- Millet Rule: Imposed by Mehmed II, the millet (nation) rule is a type of governance when a Sultan rules over various autonomous states, offering religious tolerance in return of a devsirme (collection) of Christian boys to serve his army.

## **SUBTOPIC ONE: CONQUEST OF CONSTANTINOPLE**

Following the Battle of Angora, the Ottomans were now even further united than before with more experience of battle. Now, came the true goal of every Ottoman Sultan: conquering Constantinople. Since the Seljuk period, the Byzantine capital had been an ambition for the Turks, which took over 400 years to attain.

Sultan Mehmed II's underlying reason to take Constantinople was to strengthen his empire and gain access to Europe for trade benefits. However, he also wanted to gain personal fame. Besides from his dedication to the conquest and the Ottoman dream, Mehmed II was ruling at the right moment to besiege the city. Europe was bitterly divided and occupied with their own wars, thus without the resources to aid Constantinople when it was attacked. Since the Fourth Crusade in 1204, the Byzantine Empire was eroding as Latin crusaders sacked Constantinople; little peace remained in their empire as the Byzantines struggled to control their provinces in Asia Minor, engaged in civil war, and had weakened border defenses. Their decline was proportional to the Ottomans' rise to power.

Preparations for the siege started from 1452, when Sultan Mehmed II signed peace treaties favourable to Italy and Hungary to keep them neutral. During this year, Mehmed II was devoted to building the fortress of Boğazkesen on the Bosphorus, which would later be known as the Rumeli Hisari (Britannica). Using slaves and then-modern architecture, the fortress was built in only four months. The Ottomans gained complete control over the Bosphorus and its sea traffic (theottomans).



**THE FORTRESS OF BOGAZKESEN TODAY**

FORTRESS OF BOGAZKESEN TODAY. Cloudinary, [res.cloudinary.com/dk/image/upload/q\\_80,c\\_fit,w\\_1200,h\\_630,f\\_auto/istanbul/fortress-of-europe.jpg](https://res.cloudinary.com/dk/image/upload/q_80,c_fit,w_1200,h_630,f_auto/istanbul/fortress-of-europe.jpg). Accessed 30



### **Fatih Sultan Mehmed's Land Transport of The Ottoman Navy from Galata into Golden Horn**

Rise of the Ottoman Empire. Fatih Sultan Mehmed's Land Transport of The Ottoman Navy from Galata into Golden Horn. Wikiwand, [www.wikiwand.com/en/](http://www.wikiwand.com/en/)

Large cannons of the size not yet known in Europe were constructed in Hungary (greatistanbul). This military advancement was mixed with strategic planning. Although Constantinople's fortifications were the most comprehensive in the world, it still had points of vulnerability that Mehmed II exposed by placing his heaviest artillery there. The Byzantine's greatest weakness was that its forces only amounted up to 7000 men, even though Pope Nicolas V, Venice and Genoa sent soldiers, and numerous individual paladins volunteered to join.

However, they still had a metal chain floating on the Golden Horn, which blocked all Ottoman ships. After several failed attempts to break the chain, Ottoman morale decreased. Thus, the Sultan decided to launch a surprise attack by moving the fleet from the Dolmabahce bay to the Golden Horn gulf by using logs to move seventy ships and galleys on land, passing the chain (theottomans). The Byzantines woke up on April 22 and were shocked to see Ottoman galleys coming down the hills in the horn. The siege of the city took months, but the final victory was clean cut. The conquest of Constan



**Fatih Sultan Mehmed's Land Transport of The Ottoman Navy from Galata into Golden Horn**

Rise of the Ottoman Empire. Fatih Sultan Mehmed's Land Transport of The Ottoman Navy from Galata into Golden Horn. Wikiwand, [www.wikiwand.com/en/](http://www.wikiwand.com/en/)

tinople lasted from Friday, 6 April, 1453 until the Ottoman army's final attack on tuesday, 29 May 1453 (theottomans).

After the conquest, Sultan Mehmed II reorganized and rehabilitated the collapsed city (theottomans). Their occupation of Constantinople signified a change of power between the Byzantines and Ottomans. In a larger sense, it signaled the end of the Holy Roman Empire, as the Byzantines were the remains of the greatest power in Europe. The Ottomans also set foot in Europe, acquiring Greece as well when they appointed a patriarch as the ruler, which the Greeks accepted easily, due to their weakening financial situation. The Ottomans were open to more trade deals, political influence and a base for future campaigns into Europe. Another advantage was that their new position gave them control of the border of three continents. Its geopolitical location of Constantinople was unmatched at the time, as it had control over several trade routes from Asia to Europe including the Silk Road ("Ottoman Empire"), as well as the access to the Mediterranean and Black Seas. As Constantinople linked Europe to Asia, the Ottomans were able to benefit from this connection through increased amounts of trade and trade taxes.

Although the response from the west was outrage (Wheatcroft 24), the countries who had close relations with Constantinople immediately started negotiating with the Ottomans. The Byzantine refugees fled to the west. Their moves gave the Ottoman Empire better trade deals with the west and Europe's decision to ally with them also gave them more political influence. This can be seen in the Europe's reluctance in reconquering Constantinople, as no country offered material support after Pope Nicholas V called for a holy war in September (Wheatcroft 24). From then on, Europe was forced to acknowledge the Ottoman Empire's military prowess, as their army was more well-equipped and better trained - an example for European forces. After Mehmed II was in control of Constantinople (Istanbul), thousands of non turk Christians and Muslims were brought to the city, and Jews from central and western europe migrated to the city, fleeing from the increase of persecution in those areas. The Armenians and Greeks were not welcoming to the Ottoman Islamic rule, and with its diversity in religions, millets were established under the major religions. Mehmed II granted christian faith in Istanbul to keep a great population of Christians, in order to develop the economy. The siege of constantinople, made the Ottoman turks the most important power in southeastern Europe and the eastern Mediterranean, beginning a long period of expansion for the Ottoman Empire.

## **SUBTOPIC TWO: EXPANSION INTO EUROPE**

After having reached their goal of capturing Constantinople, and having defeated their rival enemy, the Byzantines, The Ottomans continued their expansion after the 1453 Conquest of Constantinople. The Ottoman turks' new goal was to improve their imperial acquisitions, as well as improving politically and economically (Inalcik, Halil). This was significant in starting a long period of expansion after the Ottomans used the momentum of the Constantinople victory and continued north to Europe. Observe the map below of territory controlled by the Ottomans at the time.

The Ottomans were already deep in the Balkan peninsula due to the weakness of the Balkan states, after death and corruption overtook the ruling classes in the 14th Century (Stoneman 134). The Ottomans exploited this weakness and began a quick advance. It was originally supported by Jihad, but the Sultans became focused on the empowerment and maintenance of their Empire. A loss in the 1389 Battle of Kosovo with the Serbs slowed the Ottomans, whereas the Battle of Angora redirect their attention to internal issues until 1453.

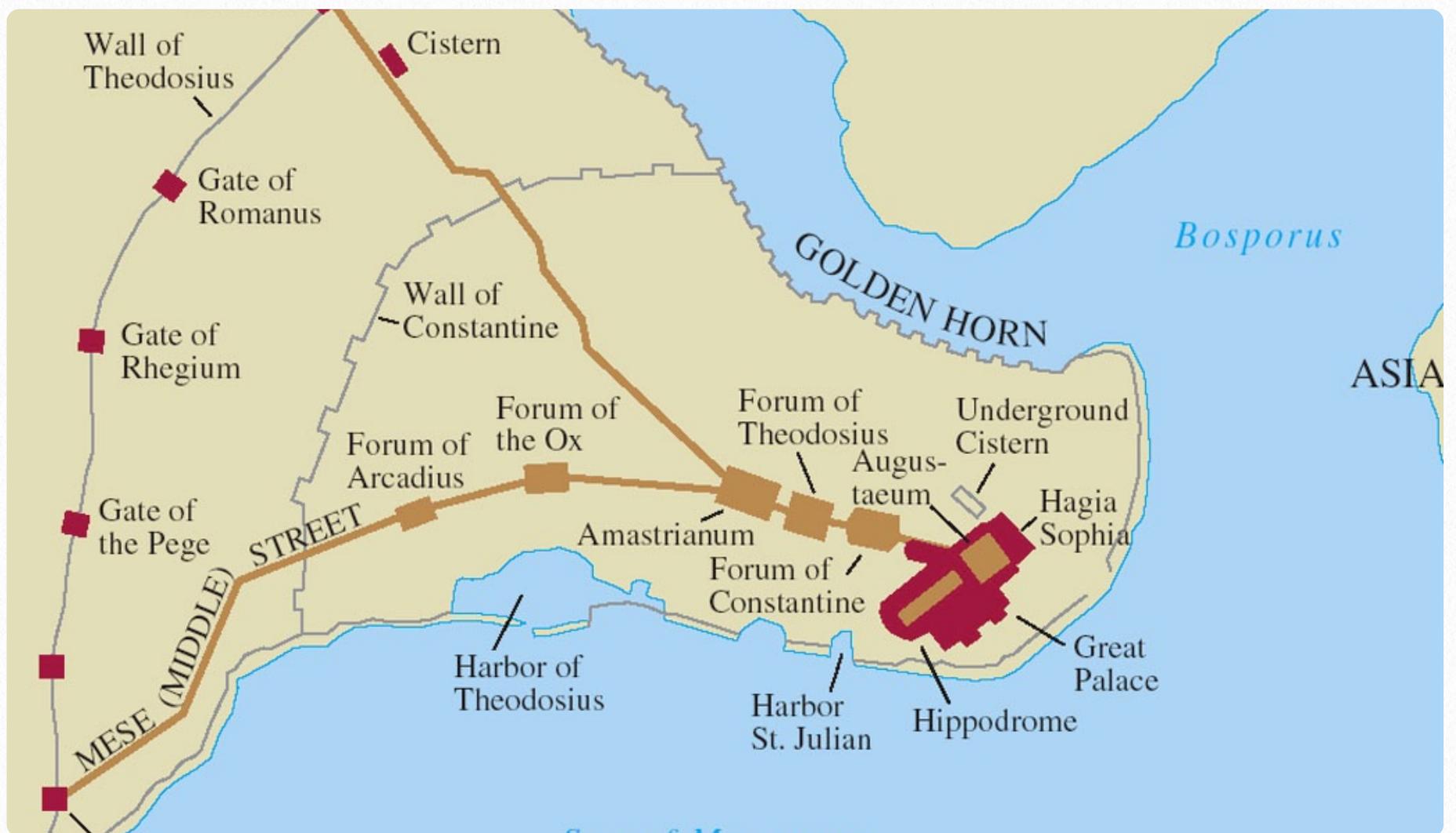


#### TERRITORY CONTROLLED BY THE OTTOMANS

"territory controlled by the Ottomans." Public.iastate.edu,  
[www.public.iastate.edu/~cfford/342ottomanempire.gif](http://www.public.iastate.edu/~cfford/342ottomanempire.gif). Accessed 30 May 2017.

After conquering Constantinople, Mehmed II knew that if they would force their rule upon a territory as large as the Ottoman Empire, civil revolts would destroy the empire (Stoneman, 135). So he decided to impose a Millet Rule. This solved social problems regarding religious tolerance, which was guaranteed by the rule in return for the organization of a Devsirme (collection) of Christian boys at a young age, whose sole purpose was to fight in combat for the Sultan. This was arranged to strengthen the Janissaries in order to build a stronger military force for the crossing of the Danube River. Mehmed II also greatly focused on economic advancement to maintain Ottoman land. The main source of income at the time lay in trade, so he created textile industries and opened trade with the west, especially with Venice and Genoa. He also taxed non-Muslims heavily with the “cizye” poll tax, preparing funding for his attack into Europe.

In the late 15th Century, Mehmed II and his son Bayezid II continued their previous expansions, starting with Serbia. Although they easily conquered Crimea in 1475, and then Rhodes in 1479, Belgrade, the capital, fought back until 1521. Instead, the Ottomans got control of Albania and Romania as vassals. While occasionally held back by internal conflicts such as the battle between the Turko



MAP OF THE GOLDEN HORN

"map of the Golden Horn." SheltonState, [www.sheltonstate.edu/Uploads/files/faculty/Chuck%20Boening/western%20civ/Constantinople.jpg](http://www.sheltonstate.edu/Uploads/files/faculty/Chuck%20Boening/western%20civ/Constantinople.jpg). Accessed 30 May 2017.

man state of Akkoyunlu, the Ottoman strategy of fast-paced attacks with horsemen and large forces of well-trained Janissaries proved to be successful. Bayezid's son, Selim I, would proceed to add a naval force to the army with a shipyard in the Golden Horn of Istanbul, but it was his son, Suleiman, who had a greater impact.

Suleiman, often referred to as "Suleiman the Magnificent", ascended to his throne in the 16th century with no fear of assassination, as his father executed all of his male relatives (Stoneman 136). Following the pattern set by his ancestors, he started his reign with domestic development. He allowed art to flourish by being open to foreign ideas and composed the Kanunname, the Ottoman legal code. However, he is best known for his large territorial expansion of the Empire. He started his military career fighting rebels in Anatolia and officially completed his father's goal of conquering Rhodes in 1522 from Greece. This invasion not only gave the Ottomans a naval entry into Europe but also allowed them to forcefully dominate trade in the Aegean Sea, ending Venice's monopoly in that region (Stoneman 140).

The Ottomans then attempted to invade the Kingdom of Hungary to enter central Europe, which led to the Ottoman-Hungarian Wars. Since the reign of Mehmed II, Hungary managed to resist Ottoman rule for several decades. Suleiman efficiently used his new territory in Belgrade to launch geostrategic attacks, but King Louis II still defended his kingdom for 5 years until the 1526 Battle of Mohacs. The Hungarians were planning to surprise the Ottoman forces after they crossed the Drava River in a plain near the city of Mohacs. However, the Janissaries were well trained and equipped, and chased the Hungarian forces into retreat. This shows how important the Janissaries were, but also how vital the financing of invasions were for the Ottomans to be ready for these situations. After Suleiman conquered Buda, another main city, within a month and Hungary officially became an Ottoman principality, he gained a route to his next aim, Austria.

He finally met his match with the expanding Habsburg Empire of Austria. Suleiman's expansion was halted in the 1529 Siege of Vienna. Suleiman launched a force of 100,000 to challenge Archduke Ferdinand I, but this number greatly decreased while crossing the Black Sea. It constantly rained, causing fatal disease to spread among soldiers. It also dampened their gunpowder, making them unable to destroy the high walls of Vienna and forced the soldiers to climb them instead. The Habsburg Empire easily resisted a last desperate assault as Suleiman was out of ideas and soldiers. The Ottoman Empire would never advance further than Vienna in Europe. After Suleiman's failed attempt at conquering Vienna again in 1532, he stopped his expansion and returned to Turkey, where other issues erupted.

The expansion into Europe changed the history of the Balkans forever, and also destroyed the balance of power with an Islamic Asian empire ruling over Christian European kingdoms. Until then, the Ottomans were simply barbaric Turks who fought for their homeland, but now that they put a foot into Europe, there was more competition. The successful invasions propelled the Ottomans to continue expanding to different directions, yet during this time they were not as brutal as previous empires. Historians often describe the height of the Ottoman Empire with "Pax Ottomana" or "Ottoman Peace". This refers to the stability that the Ottomans had in their vassals in the Balkan region; however, as Suleiman was about to observe, Pax Ottomana would come to an end. The conquests had a downside; Anatolians became more unrestful as rural overpopulation became a threat due to all



#### OTTOMAN EMPIRE IN THE 16th CENTURY

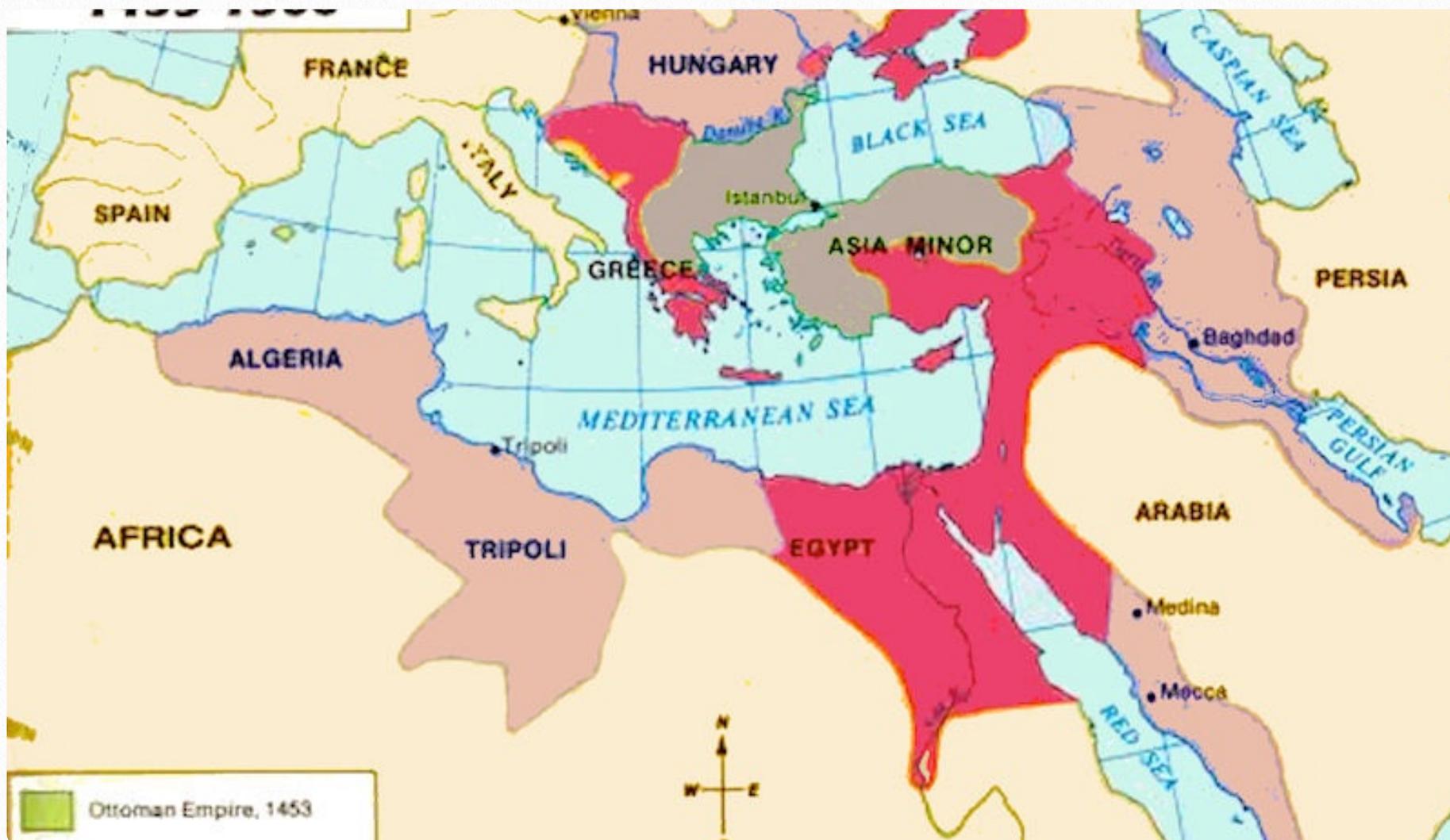
Burak Sansal. "The Ottoman Empire Under Suleiman I the Magnificent, 1580."

All About Turkey, [www.allaboutturkey.com/ottoman.htm](http://www.allaboutturkey.com/ottoman.htm).

of the foreigners from vassals being let in, causing food shortage and tax increase. Suleiman left this problem to his only surviving son, Selim II, who would not be able to live up to his father's name, and did not solve internal divisions. However, he would continue another battle that his father left him, which was the Ottoman expansion into the east, the south, and the west. After having established a great empire, and advancing the once occupied small region in Anatolia, and furthering economically, politically, and imperially, the Ottoman Empire truly converted into a force acquiring Christian Europe and the Balkans, and would now be expanding into all directions (Inalcik, Halil).

#### SUBTOPIC THREE: THE SOUTH, EAST, WEST, AND EAST

After the Ottoman Empire was successful in its military campaigns in Europe, it reached the mass expansion that marked the zenith of the Empire's history. The Ottoman's had control over Egypt and Syria before their European campaigns (Shaw). Cities including Mecca, Jerusalem, and the Suez Canal gave them control over religious sites, and created a Muslim-dominant Middle East which lasts



#### OTTOMAN EMPIRE EXPANSION FROM 1453 - 1566

Map - Ottoman Empire - Expansion 1453 to 1566. Globalsecurity, [www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/europe/ot-maps.htm](http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/europe/ot-maps.htm). Accessed 30 May

until this day, (“Ottoman Empire”) This was the period when Sultans wanted to truly improve upon the land that they conquered. The century after Mehmed II’s rule was the peak of Ottoman power and wealth, as they extended the empire from central Europe to the old Islamic Caliphate (Inalcik).

The 16th century conquests were made possible by the strong foundation that Bayezid II (1481 - 1512) laid. Through his insight, he resolved the political, economic, and social unrests that characterized the reigns before him (“Ottoman Wars”). Mehmed II’s economic restrictions ignited a power struggle between the devşirme and Turkish aristocracy (Shaw). Once Bayezid II settled the disputes by downgrading the devşirme, the threat of an uprising led him to consolidate internal issues (Shaw). He established equal taxes, eliminating the dissatisfaction of citizens with unequal taxes from previous regimes. The most important was the avâriz-ı divaniye (“war chest”) tax (Shaw). It provided military funding while avoiding a heavy levy or material confiscations (Stoneman 146). The positive improvements in finance and Bayezid II’s policies that embraced a multi-religious society also built the Ottoman Empire into a harmonious organism that operated seamlessly. By impos



### **BAYEZID II**

Portrait of Bayezid II. Prabook, [prabook.com/web/person-view.html?profileId=1344360](http://prabook.com/web/person-view.html?profileId=1344360). Accessed 30 May 2017.

ing direct Ottoman rule over vassal states, the Pax Ottomana, Ottoman Peace, would come to being: the social and economic stability in the golden days (Aviv).

Although Bayezid II's rule was focused on maintaining peace to promote internal development, he also had expansionist foreign policies to compromise with the more militant *devşirme* party (Shaw). Turning to the South, Bayezid II expanded the southern frontiers to encompass Herzegovina, including the Danube and Sava Rivers in 1483 ("Ottoman Empire"). He also gained control of the Dneister River by capturing Ukraine. Thus, he gained control over trade ports along the Black Sea and the Mediterranean. Through these conquests, Bayezid started a long line of Sultans who would focus on expanding. However, Bayezid's rule would be cut short by religious uprisings. His tolerance towards Christianity had sparked the tempers of the conservative Janissaries, who also opposed the Sultan's passive rule in the 16th century (Carlson). They placed his son, Selim I, on the throne in 1512.

Unlike Bayezid II, Selim I shared the military interests of the Janissaries, returning to the expansionist policies of Mehmed II. To avoid dependence on other parties, he murdered all potential sultans, leaving Suleiman I as his sole heir. This enabled him to dominate the empire while the devşirme controlled the government, as he held ultimate power. With the European frontiers relatively peaceful, Selim I turned East, to the Şafavids of Iran in 1514 with the objective to absorb Iran into his empire (Alkhateeb). Although his invasion failed due to a discontented army and their lack of motivation, the battle convinced the ruler of Iran, Ismā‘īl, and his successors to avoid military confrontation against the Ottomans for the next century (“Ottoman Empire”). Instead, Selim I conquered the remaining Turkmens in eastern Anatolia in 1517, gaining strategic positions to attack the weakening Mamlūk Empire (Shaw). In one year from 1516 - 1517, the Mamlūk army was overwhelmed by the Ottomans, with their officials’ support of the Ottomans as well as the betrayal of Mamluks by major Syrian and Egyptian populations (Shew). The remaining Iran and Mesopotamia was then conquered by Suleiman I.

The expansion to the South, West, and the East generated immense tax revenues for the Ottomans under the organized financing since Bayezid I, making the Ottoman Empire the wealthiest in the 16th century. The control of Islamic holy places further consolidated their position as the most important Islamic leaders, providing political influence over the Middle East especially. From Constantinople, the Ottomans controlled land in all directions, signalling the height of their existence as they maintained this extensive empire for centuries. They lead advancements in their culture, as trade allowed them to exchange ideas with Europe, Asia, and Africa; flocks of Arab intellectuals also resided in Istanbul and influenced their daily lives, making the empire more traditionally Islam. The Ottomans seemed invincible; however, their zenith could not stop a string of unsuccessful sultans from finally collapsing the empire.



**THE FORTRESS OF BOGAZKESEN TODAY**

Burak Sansal. "The Ottoman Empire Under Suleiman I the Magnificent, 1580."

All About Turkey, [www.allaboutturkey.com/ottoman.htm](http://www.allaboutturkey.com/ottoman.htm).

## Section 3

# The Fall of the Ottoman Empire

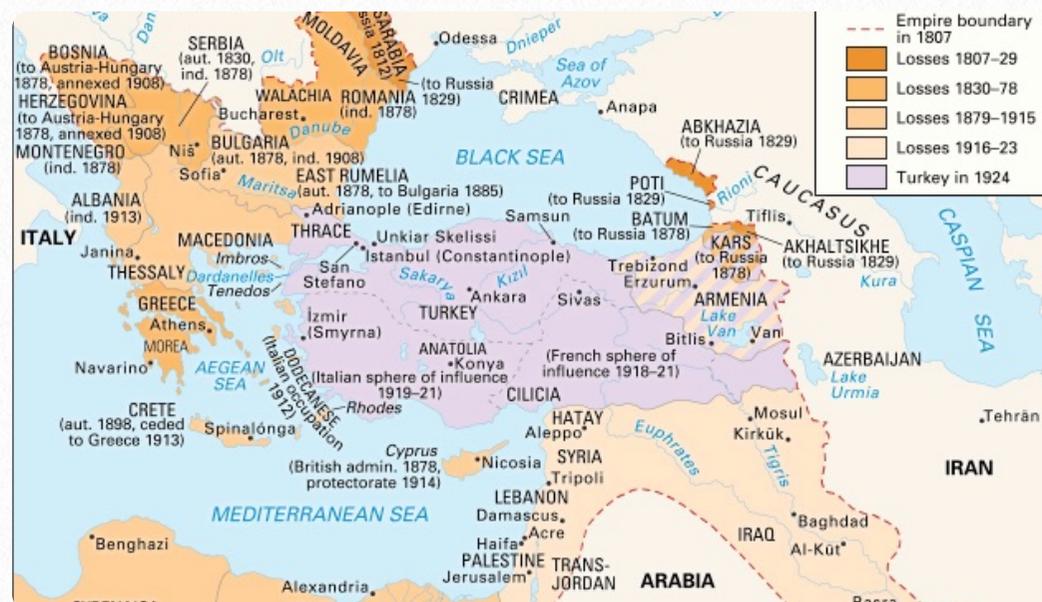
### KEY TERMS

- **Crimean War:** 1853-1856 War between the Russian and Ottoman troops in the Crimean Peninsula, due to conflicts in the Middle East, which was guarded by the Ottomans. The British and French supported the Ottomans due to their individual conflicts with Russia, and after Austria joined these allies for more land on the Danube, Russia surrendered at the Treaty of Paris. This caused major unrest in Russia and the neutralization of the Black Sea.
- **Constitutional Reform:** A change in the constitution of a state which alters the structure and organization of government. This could mean re-distributing power, changing the legislative branches, etc.
- **Arab Revolt:** A series of Arab uprisings in the Middle East from 1916-1918, supported by the British who wished to use the Arabic resentment towards Ottoman multi-ethnicism to weaken the Ottoman Empire in World War 1. The revolts were led by Sharif Hussein from Mecca, Saudi Arabia, who was promised land by the British, but was denied it after the Ottomans were defeated in 1918 in the War, and the European superpowers overtook and divided the Middle East.
- **Armistice of Mudros:** A pact signed in 1918 between Britain and the Ottoman Empire at the Mudros port, signalling the official defeat of the Ottomans in World War 1. The Ottomans surrendered most of their land and all of their strategic points such as the Dardanelles. They also mobilized their army, and gave the Allies the right to invade Anatolia if any disorder happened.
- **Treaty of Sevres:** A pact signed in 1920 between the Allied Powers of WW1 and Ottoman representatives, which signalled the official abolition of the Ottoman Empire. This meant that the Ottomans no longer had power over the Middle East and North Africa, but also the loss of land in Turkey, Armenia, Kurdistan, and Greece. These demands were dropped after they were rejected by a more nationalist Turkish government, and were replaced by the Treaty of Lausanne in 1923, which recognized Turkey's modern borders and ended foreign authority over Turkey.

- Treaty of Karlowitz: 1699 treaty near Belgrade between the Ottomans and the Holy League (European alliance consisted of Poland, Russia, Austria, and Venice) that ended Ottoman power in Eastern Europe. After several Austrian victories and the threat of a Russian attack, Sultan Mustafa II agreed to surrender Hungary and Transylvania to Austria, and Moldova, parts of Ukraine, and Azov to Russia and Poland. This treaty signalled the decrease of Ottoman presence in Europe, and also their general decrease as an Empire.
- Mustafa Kemal: Mustafa Kemal Ataturk (Father of the Turks), 1881-1938, was the founder and first president of the Republic of Turkey. He rose to fame for being a skilled military leader in Gallipoli during WW1, and later organized a revolution against foreign powers such as the Greeks who ruled Turkey in 1919. After he established the republic, he worked on modernizing/westernizing secular Turkey.
- Genocide of Armenians: A systematic mass slaughter of over 1 million Armenians who lived in the Ottoman Empire from 1915-22. This was reasoned by Turkish suspicions that the Armenians were on Russia's side during the war due to their Christianity, but also resentment of other religions by young nationalistic Turkish leaders, called "Young Turks", who came into power at the start of the 20th Century through an overthrow of the Sultan. The genocide ended when the Young Turks had to flee the defeated empire, but deportations and violence continued into the 20s until there were only 400,000 of the past 2,000,000 Armenians in Turkey left.
- Eastern Question: The diplomatic issue concerning the fate of the territory in eastern Europe and northern Africa that was part of the crumbling Ottoman Empire of the 19th Century. With conflicts in Crimea and Greece, it seemed unclear who would take control. The question was solved by the Balkan countries gaining independence, although most of them were allied with Russia. Britain took several territories such as Egypt and Cyprus. Turkey would be separated between several foreign powers such as Greece until 1923.
- Tanzimat: A set of reforms under the Sultans spanning from 1839 to 1876, in order to reorganize the empire and fight its deterioration. The reforms westernized in several aspects, including military and social advancement. It failed due to the abuse of the centralized power that the reforms gave to the Sultan.

## SUBTOPIC ONE: STAGNATION AND REFORM

Under the reign of Sultan Suleiman, the Ottoman Empire was at its peak. The empire had solid control over its enormous land mass and the seas. For this reason, he was given the name of Suleiman the Magnificent, as he also came to represent the ideal leader in the Ottomans' view. After his death, a succession of unfit rulers led to the stagnation and downfall of the Empire. Suleiman the Magnificent's son, Selim II, marked the beginning of this decline.



MAP OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE, 1807-1924

Ottoman-Empire/The-empire-from-1807-to-1920. Britannica, [www.britannica.com/place/Ottoman-Empire/The-empire-from-1807-to-1920](http://www.britannica.com/place/Ottoman-Empire/The-empire-from-1807-to-1920). Accessed 30 May 2017.

Unlike his father, he was not heavily inclined into managing the empire at all; Selim II's interests were drinking wine and expressing his carnal desires, neglecting the needs of the empire and in so, making poor decisions. He relied on the Harem: a house of the Sultan's wives, concubines and servants. He was also willing to give his power to the grand viziers, who were increasingly corrupt with the devsirme system in place. With Mohammed Sukulli as his grand vizier, Selim II attempted to continue the Ottoman empire's conquests by uniting Don and Volga land through a canal. This territory belonged to the Russians, who were formidable opponents. He sent an army of Janissaries and cavalry during the summer of 1569 to besiege Astrakhan and move to the canal to begin their work. Ottoman forces were repelled by Russia's army, concluding the battle in a treaty signed in early 1570 to restore friendly relations (newworldencyclopedia).

Selim II was the first sultan without expansionist military interest. Gradually, borders settled and became more permanent in Selim II's rule, while the administrative system was still based on the outdated need to expand. For the first time, civil administration became more demanding than military

expansion. Without Suleiman the Magnificent's leadership skills, Selim II failed to change the distribution of funds in order to meet his empire's needs. The previously effective taxation system failed under Selim II's rule, and created more unbalance in finance, as taxes were still used for military expansion instead of sustaining civil governance.

This economic stagnation is partially due to the European discovery of the New World; the European hunger for gold lead them to seek new trade routes and seize important ports outside of the Middle East. By the 17th century, trade around the Suez canal and through the Ottoman Empire decreased significantly as the Europeans began trading directly with Asia. Furthermore, the vast amounts of metals excavated from North and South America brought the Europeans large portions of cheap silver. This devastated the Ottoman economy that was based on a silver monetary system; foreign traders were able to purchase large quantities of raw material at a low price.

The ruling class of the Ottoman Empire realized the severity of the previous neglect of civil governance, thus starting a series of social reforms in an attempt to restore order. They were dedicated to rid the empire of corruption. However, the continuing decline of the Ottomans were inevitable. With little revenue, a discontented population and most importantly, a decentralized government, the system was beyond repair.

## **SUBTOPIC TWO: DETERIORATION & MODERNIZATION**

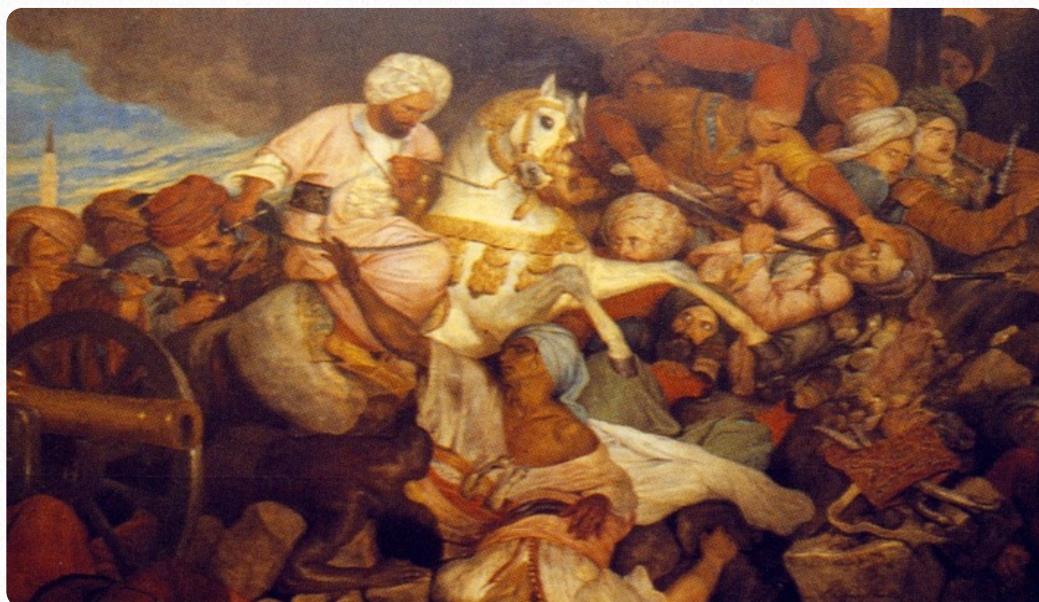
By 1805, the Ottoman Empire's decentralized government had minimal control over their land and vassals (Shaw). The external threats to the empire were also formidable, as western powers scrambled for its territory. In November 1806, Russia invaded modern-day Romania; in February 1807, Britain attempted to seize the Dardanelles and invaded Egypt in the following month (Shaw). Fortunately, Napoleon's conquests in Europe forced Russia and Britain to withdraw from the Ottoman Empire. With the Treaty of Canak (1809) signed with Britain, and the Treaty of Bucharest (1812) with Russia, the Ottomans had peace again ("Empire from 1807 to 1920"; Shaw).

The temporary peace allowed Mahmud II to westernize the army and regain control over Anatolia, the Balkans, and Iraq (Shaw). He also recovered Syria with aid from the Treaty of Hünkâr İskelesi with Russia in 1833 and the Treaty of London with European powers (excluding France) in 1840, de-

spite losing Greece in 1832, Serbia in 1833, and Egypt in 1841 (Shaw). Although the Ottoman Empire was more consolidated internally, European powers began subjecting their power onto it as Russia supported separatists, while Britain opposed them, causing an imbalance of power.

Crisis erupted throughout the Empire as it suffered economically and endured natural disasters, leading to dissatisfaction of its citizens. Ottoman efforts to suppress Christian uprisings led to war with Serbia and Montenegro in July 1876. After Russia's demand of releasing Balkan states due to Ottoman suppression of its Christian beyliks was rejected, they declared war in 1877 (Gurkan). A Russian victory led to the Congress of Berlin's division of Bulgaria and recognition of the independence of Serbia, Montenegro, and Romania. However, external threat was not the only aspect that was playing into the deterioration of the Empire, as internal struggle was also powerfully present.

The Ottomans proved their fighting spirit and fought deterioration through modernization. A new army was created to European standards with improved training and weaponry, as well as German and Prussian advisors ("Reform and Modernization"). They would create an alliance between Germany, Prussia, and the Ottoman Empire. These alliances would be crucial in helping the Ottomans, impacting future decisions in WWI. The modernized army fueled the economy by creating more jobs, relieving the empire's economic stress. The Ottoman Empire's decline can be seen in that their military prowess admired by European counterparts previously is now overwhelmed, and the situation reversed.



#### MASSACRE OF THE JANISSARIES

Massacre of Jannisaries. Flickr, [www.flickr.com/photos/harleart2010/5243067856](http://www.flickr.com/photos/harleart2010/5243067856).

Accessed 30 May 2017.



#### PORTRAIT OF MAHMUD II

Mahmud II. Yahyagungor, [www.yahyagungor.net/](http://www.yahyagungor.net/)

2-mahmut-donemi-islamlatlari-nelerdir.html. Accessed 30 May 2017.

In order to finance the new weaponry to fuel the army, equal taxes were distributed across the empire, abandoning the conservative idea of Muslim superiority. The incentive behind the westernization of the education system was also to provide training for soldiers and officers (Shaw). Mahmud II's goal in modernizing his army was to build an instrument that would effectively protect his empire from European powers and the beyliks that wanted independence (Shaw). This was opposed by the Janissaries, who did not want to surrender the comfort they enjoyed as elites. In June 1826, they struck and mutiny which resolved after Mahmud II eradicated all rebels, dissolving the Janissaries (Shaw). This is known as the Auspicious Incident (Shaw).

Nonetheless, Mahmud II established the positivity of reforms, a legacy his successors would continue by initiating the Tanzimat. It is a series of reforms under Sultan Abdülmecid I and Abdülaziz from 1839 to 1876 ("Empire from 1807 to 1920"). Ultimately, the Tanzimat's purpose was to preserve the Ottoman state (Shaw), which the Ottomans did by compromising some power with the West and its non-Muslim subjects. The central reforms were again in military reorganization, and in administration through changing the education and law (Shaw). Before the Tanzimat, education was

focused on religion, contrary to the first westernized colleges focused on aspects that would aid the army, and included medical departments. The impact of modernizing the army could be felt after the first complete educational system plan was formed with free primary education was proposed in 1869 (Shaw).

The significance in the grand fall of the Empire lies in its effects on Europe. Similar to the Seljuk era, the instrumental influence of the military on the Ottoman Empire can be seen as it shaped the reforms, education and judiciary systems. Those reforms in turn shaped the future of Turkey, which would be preoccupied with westernization. Their deterioration earned them the nickname: “The Sick Man of Europe”. This was due to their decay and the image of more modern powers feeding off of it. Nevertheless, the transition between Pax Ottomana and the Sick Man of Europe was incredible for its rapidity. The greatest empires can be demolished by its military and economic stagnation, rising foreign power, and loss of territory. Due to the Ottoman deterioration, empires like Russia grew in size and strength (“Ottoman Empire”). This played a crucial role in the erupting international tensions, which would bring an end to the Ottomans in the 20th century.



**“Sick Man of Europe” in a French propaganda newspaper, with Germany and Russia tearing away land**

SickManOfEurope. TheDisorderofThings, [thedisorderofthings.com/category/international-monetary-fund/](https://thedisorderofthings.com/category/international-monetary-fund/).

### **SUBTOPIC THREE: WORLD WAR ONE**

The Ottoman Empire, now the “Sick Man of Europe”, is ill as the other European empires were spreading their influence around the globe. The newest one was Germany, looking to gain colonies of its own. However, Britain and France enjoyed a monopoly over colonial territories, so international relations became tense, and several territorial disputes were worsening the situation in the early 20th Century. Additionally, the Archduke of Austria, Franz Ferdinand, was assassinated, which all led to the outbreak of World War One, the war which would bring the end of several empires, including the Ottoman Empire.

On November 1914, the Ottoman Empire abandoned its ambivalent neutrality”, (BBC). After being ruled for 400 years, the Ottoman Empire would collapse, creating massive conflicts and tensions between internal and external powers. After declaring a military jihad against the British, Russians, and French, the Ottoman Empire had become a major part of the World War I conflicts.

As a result of the wars the Ottomans were involved in, it was in ruins. They had lost their territories, had economic disorder, its people were dispirited and extremely weakened. The Ottoman Empire was in need of time to recover and build its empire back up again, as well as making reforms. On the other hand, the world was starting a war and there was no time, and the empire was profoundly improbable to stay away from the approaching conflict. Remaining neutral and recuperation was not an option at this period, so they had to ally. After the Turco-Italian and the Balkan Wars, the empire did not have the financial ability to regain the resources they were drained of, as well as weaponry and machinery. As the Minister of Interior, Talat Pasa, had quoted “Turkey needed to join one of the country groups so that it could organize its domestic administration, strengthen and maintain its commerce and industry, expand its railroads, in short to survive and to preserve its existence.” It did not matter which alliance they would make as long as they had a side, except for Russia, since they had aims to take over the Ottoman Empire, and France was also out of questions because they were allies with the Russians. Ottomans admired German expertise and they had had a fairly shaky relations with the allied powers, especially with the regard to Russia, so they decided that it would be the best to join with Germany.

Following Germany's apparent preparation for war in the east, the emperor of Russia, Tsar Nicholas II responded by ordering a complete mobilization of his Russian Army on 31 July 1914. The Ottoman Minister of War, Enver Pasha, also reacted with a mobilization of the Ottoman Army (nzhis-

tory). The Ottomans joined the Central Powers by signing a secret treaty forming a Turco-German Alliance on August 2, 1914 and forming the Triple Alliance. The Ottomans were going to enter the war on the Central Powers, Germany and Austria-Hungarian side, after Germany had declared war on Russia. The Central powers now consisted of Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire. Ottomans officially entered World War One later in October 28, 1914. In September they entered the Black Sea to bombard Russian ports (Quataert, Donald 171). The Triple Entente (Allied Powers) declared war on the Ottomans on November 4th. The Allied Powers consisted of Britain, France, Russia, Italy and the United States.

On August 5, 1914, a day after the British had declared war on Germany, their government pronounced to demand two Ottoman battleships getting built in British shipyards. Several days later, the Goeben and the Breslau German battleships, escaping from French and British had demanded the passing through the straits to Constantinople. Later, the two German battleships were transferred to Ottoman Navy with a German crew, and the British refused this unless they would remove the Germans. They blockaded access into the Dardanelles. The Ottoman Empire entered the war as a result of Enver Pasha, without consulting, had commanded the his fleet, together with the ships with the German crew to the Black Sea for a attack on the Russian ports. The Ottomans attacked Theodosia, Novorossiysk, Odessa and Sevastopol, where they sank a Russian minelayer and gunboat, as well as fourteen civilian ships. This led to Russia declaring war on the Ottoman Empire on November 2, with the French and the British by its side, since it was such a loss for Russia. Enver Pasha was successful in entering the Ottoman Empire to the First World War (marxist...).

The Germans were pressuring Enver Pasha to perform a land attack on the Russians, which they then later did in December 1914. The Turkish army started a offensive with one hundred thousand troops in the Caucasus. Their aim was to capture the city of Baku and obtain its extensive oil reserves. Enver Pasha carried out a frontal attack on the russians digging into the mountains and making the Russians panic. As the harsh winter conditions worsened, the Turkish soldiers suffered. A large portion of the Turkish soldiers were mostly peasants from Anatolia. They did not have proper footwear or clothes, and soon suffered from frostbite. As a result, 25,000 men died, most of them having frozen to death in the snow, before even getting to the Russians. Many others were deserted, and others weapons were found to be useless in the harsh winter weather conditions. The Russians then began a multi pronged invasion of the Ottoman Empire from the Caucasus. In the Battle of Sarikamish, the Russians had victory and the Turks lost more than 80 percent of their force. They were humiliated

and it resulted in a military catastrophe for them, and so Enver Pasha tried to find a scapegoat for his defeat, since he was responsible for it.

For a long time, minority religious communities within the Ottoman Empire were allowed to keep their religious, social and legal structures, such as the Armenian Christians. During the period of the First World War, there were 2 million Armenians present in the Ottoman Empire, and by 1922 less than 400,000 and 1.5 million were dead. Most of the Armenians were in the areas of Anatolia and were peasants or poorly paid government workers and soldiers. Having a different religion, made it an easy target for them to be blamed of suspicion and resentment. After the defeats of the Turks in the Caucasian front, the Armenians were viewed as propaganda as agents of the Russians, and also blamed for military defeat. There were some Armenians that had acted as guerillas working with the Russians, but were seized in the city of Van in Spring 1915. In this case, the Armenians had not played roles as such. The Committee of Unity and Progress, which is what the young turks called themselves, launched a law to deport anyone that seemed to be a threat to their security, and another allowing the seizure of Armenian property. On April 24, 1915, several hundred Armenian intellectuals were arrested and in the end, executed. This marked the start of the Armenian Genocide, a bloody massacre that would last until 1917.



#### **HANGING OF ARMENIANS**

Armenian Genocide. UTEXAS, [www.edb.utexas.edu/faculty/salinas/students/student\\_sites/Fall2008/2/](http://www.edb.utexas.edu/faculty/salinas/students/student_sites/Fall2008/2/). Accessed 30 May 2017.

The Armenian Genocide was a centrally planned operation, ran by the Turkish Government, which was performed during the First World War from 1915 to 1918, its purpose to purge Armenians living in the Ottoman Empire. Prior to the Genocide, although living in “peace”, Armenians were subjected

under the Ottoman Empire's muslim rule. Due to being christian, Armenians were made to pay higher taxes, and had few legal and political rights. Nearing the fall of the Ottoman Empire, at the end of the nineteenth century, fueled by hatred and jealousy of the thriving Armenian population under his rule and their quest to gain civil rights, Sultan Abdul Hamid II claimed to be able to "solve" the Armenians. In 1890, Sultan Abdul Hamid II told a reporter that he "will give them a box on the ear which will make them...relinquish their revolutionary ambitions." The first Armenian Massacres took place between 1894 and 1896, where Turkish military groups expelled hundreds of thousands of Armenians from their villages and cities.

The Armenian Genocide is still a debatable topic with the Turkish government, denying the systematic massacres having taken place, and the rest of the world, accepting the documentary evidence of Talat ordering the elimination of the Armenians. The world has been content to accept the eyewitnesses of the concentration camps and the enforced marches in which millions of Armenians had died by the end of the war. The Armenians were deported in masses to different places, in order to not intervene with the advancement of the war. It started in November 1914, when they were collected and enforced to walk, village by village. They were mostly sent into the direction of Syria, in which concentration camps were prepared for in the city of Deir-ez-Zor.

The Gallipoli Campaign, also known as the Battle of Gallipoli or the Battle of Çanakkale, was a campaign occurred during the World War I between 1915-1916. In 1915, the Allied Powers were on a way to seize the Dardanelles strait, which was a passage connecting the Aegean Sea to the Sea of Marmara located in the northwestern part of Turkey, by launching a laval expedition, rather than continuing trying to occupy France and Belgium. Early that year, Russia's Grand Duke Nicholas Nikolayevich Romanov appealed to Britain for aid in confronting an invasion from the Ottoman Empire. Therefore, it was ostensible for the Allied Powers to slide in towards the Gallipoli peninsula. The reason why the Britains were planning to gain control was that they thought the conquest of the Dardanelles strait would allow them to obtain an advantageous position to attack Constantinople. Winston Churchill commanded the armies of Britain to gain the strait, but failed numerous times, which gave them heavy losses.

The British force allied with the French and ANZAC (Australian and New Zealand Army Corp) troops and landed in Gallipoli on 25th April 1915. Mustafa Kemal, the Turkish General who of the Turkish army, had positioned his troops upon the hills looking down onto the beaches, prior to the British arrival. Although much lesser in troops, due to their tactical positioning, the Turks maintained

to keep the enemy troops from intercepting the mainland. Later on, the ANZACs gained a foothold which is now known as the “Anzac Cove”, but under sustained Turkish fire from the cliffs above, the ANZACs were unable to push inland, as so the British. The ANZAC retreated from the beach and attempted to take the high ground led by general Frederick Stopford. Stopford’s men landed successfully and overwhelmed the Turkish troops. However, the troops got impeded by the Turkish armies and they eventually had to retreat, in which caused the Britains and ANZACs recede from conquering Turkey.

After the campaign finally ended, the Ottoman Empire would go through a social and political chaos. Mustafa Kemal recognized it was to time he had to stand up, forming an alternative provisional government at Angora (Ankara) and declaring it the new capital of Turkey when he eventually secured power.



**YOUNG MUSTAFA KEMAL AS THE COMMANDER OF THE 57th REGIMENT OF GALLIPOLI**

Mustafa Kemal Gallipoli Young. AWM, [www.awm.gov.au/exhibitions/dawn/turkish/kemal/](http://www.awm.gov.au/exhibitions/dawn/turkish/kemal/). Accessed 30 May 2017.

3

# The Turkish Republic

*1923 - Present Day*



# Setting the Stage

The Sick Man of Europe was getting worse as he continued to lose territory, money, and allies. The fever of nationalism which was spreading in Europe after political distress reached Turkey. The fall of the Ottoman Empire was magnificently fast, and as it was shown throughout history, nationalism succeeds in times of struggle. Several political groups opposed Sultan Mehmed VI, who was being blamed for the Ottoman struggles. One of these groups was the Committee of Union and Progress or the Young Turks, and they would change the Empire's outlooks. However, to the surprise of the whole world, the event that sparked the end of the Ottomans was not caused by internal struggles, but by external conflict.

The crumbling superpower found an unexpected ally in Germany, a new country that was also looking for political recognition. This alliance would be tested when Germany joined Austria-Hungary in World War One against the British, French, and Russians. The Empire's decision to join the War was the last one they made before dissolving. Despite its destruction, the war had made legends out of men in Turkey, and one of their generals would raise Turkey, a new republic, out from the ashes of Imperialism. The modern state of Turkey was formed by the internal hardships of the 20th century, after a decision to stay neutral during World War Two. The Turkey of the 21st century is a changed one, as reforms are abandoning the secularism that came with the state's creation. However, to get a better understanding of these reforms, a comparison could be made between the Turkey which was being swallowed by nationalism 100 years ago...

# Section 1

## The Establishment of the Turkish Republic

### KEY TERMS

- **Republican Parliament:** Modern-day Turkey has a Republican parliament, created by the social-democratic party of the Republican People's Party, established by Ataturk.
- **Ankara:** The modern capital of Turkey after the establishment of the Republic.
- **WWI:** From 1914 to 1918, it is also known as the Great War. The Ottoman Empire allied with the defeated side, Central Powers, resulting in the dissection of its land by European powers.
- **Balkan Wars:** The two wars that took away most of the Ottoman Empire's remaining land pre-WWI, as it caused the Balkan peninsula's independence.
- **The Treaty of Lausanne:** Signed between the Allies and the Ottoman Empire, it was a harsh peace treaty that concluded WWI for the Ottomans. It deprived the Empire of all its European territories except for Istanbul, demilitarized and made international the straits of the Black and Mediterranean Seas, established the Armenian state and an autonomous Kurdistan in Anatolia.
- **Committee of Union and Progress:** A key Turkish national group that propelled the Young Turks Revolution in 1908, which remained in power until their loss of World War I.
- **Three Paşas:** In 1913, three generals rose to power in the CUP: Enver Paşa, Cemal Paşa, and Talât Paşa. They organized the previously chaotic and ineffective coalition government, making reforms that provided Ataturk his basis for modern Turkey.
- **Sultan Mehmet VI Vahdettin:** The last sultan of the Ottoman Empire whose forced exile and abdication led the way to the establishment of the Republic of Turkey by Ataturk. In an attempt to crush the nationalists after allying with the west, his dissolution of the parliament incited anger among Turks and unified them under Ataturk.

- **Armenian Genocide:** A systematic killing of Armenian soldiers and villagers in the Ottoman Empire by their army, directed by the Three Paşas. It remains controversial due to Turkey's refusal to admit genocide.
- **Mustafa Kemal Atatürk:** The founding father of the Republic of Turkey. He was commander in WWI, who won the Battle of Gallipoli. His reforms that included modernization of the education and legal systems created a modern state.

## **SUBTOPIC ONE: THE RISE OF NATIONALISM**

As the Ottoman Empire was slipping into dissolution amidst civil discontent, a group of students from the Imperial Medical Academy hatched a conspiracy theory against the ruling sultan Abdulhamid II in 1889 (Suny). They were not the only group that opposed the traditional Sultanate, who many blamed for Turkey's decay. Their conspiracies spread, forcing them to find refuge in Paris once uncovered. Whilst in Paris, they formed the Committee of Union and Progress (CUP), advocating for a centralized government without foreign influence. In 1907, various other nationalist groups agreed collaborate to achieve their common goal: a constitutional monarchy.

On July 3rd 1908, the first revolt was held in the provincial authorities of Resna, soon spreading throughout the whole empire. Abdulhamid was forced to settle the revolts with the CUP. After the national groups reached their goal, the inherent ideological differences between them that were overseen in the revolution prevented effective control of their coalition government. This was until 1913, when the Three Paşas: Enver Paşa, Cemal Paşa, and Talât Paşa took over the CUP in a coup d'état. They initiated the first Ottoman reforms that promoted centralization, industrialization, secularization of the legal system and education for women; this would be the base for another round of sweeping reforms from Atatürk. These Paşas would also proceed to gain major control in World War One.

While domestic developments were positive, including reforms that allowed the freedom of press for the first time in Ottoman history and principles of economic liberation from the CUP, progress was overshadowed by their disastrous foreign policy. The regime's foreign policy led them to enter World War I as an ally of the Central Powers. As the CUP's control grew, so did their ambition, Ottoman nationalism, and militarism. Their rapid advancements led them to suspicions of non-Ottoman popula-

tions' loyalty to the empire, sparking hostility between Turks and especially Armenians - whom they believed were allying with foreign states. In 1915, the CUP directed the Armenian Genocide.

Armenians fought for both the Ottomans and the Russians along their mutual borders, as they resided in both states, who attempted to recruit them as soldiers (Toprak). When Armenians decided to remain loyal to their respective empires, it was seen as an act of treachery by the CUP (Suny; Toprak). In the humiliating defeat at the Battle of Sarıkamış, Enver Paşa shifted his poor leadership and harsh conditions of battle onto the disloyalty of Armenians (Toprak). They were systematically murdered by Ottoman troops, directed by the Three Paşas ("Young"). Meanwhile, mass killings in Armenian villages by the Ottoman-Russian border were carried out. From 1915 to 1916, the CUP took harsher measures after experiencing resistance, transferring the Armenian population to concentration camps in eastern Anatolian deserts (Suny). Approximately, more than 1,000,000 Armenian lives were killed (Suny).

The rise of Ottoman nationalism both developed and then undermined its empire. Although domestic achievements in the economic and social sphere were positive ("Young"), their participation in WWI on the Central Powers' side and the Armenian Genocide made their Unionist era disastrous (Suny). As defeat was inevitable nearing the end of the war, the CUP decided to resign on October 9, 1918, bringing an end to their 5-year rule of little improvement ("Young"). It would prove to be the groundwork of Turkish nationalism after they discovered their identity post-WWI, leading to the rise of Atatürk. Similarly, their domestic improvements would be built upon in the early days modern Turkey, providing it important basis for reform. However, the Armenian Genocide would taint the establishment of the Turkish Republic, which refuses to admit their act of genocide (Suny); an irreconcilable tear between Turkish and Armenian relations.

## **SUBTOPIC TWO: THE BATTLE OF GALLIPOLI**

Known as The Battle of Gallipoli, Gallipoli Campaign, or the Dardanelles Campaign, it took place from 1915 to 1916, and was fought during World War One (history.com). Gallipoli is a peninsula, located in the northwestern coast of Turkey between the Gulf of Saros and the Dardanelles (anzac). It was a failed attempt by the Allied Powers, attempting to gain control of the sea route from Europe to Russia (history.com).

The objective of Winston Churchill, the British First Lord of the Admiralty, was to eliminate the Ottoman Empire from the war. In order to do this it was decided that a naval and land operation to open up the Dardanelles and gain control of it will be conducted. Though the Dardanelles were heavily defended on their western shore by Ottoman coastal forts and artillery batteries (the guardian). The allied forces also wanted to gain control of the Bosphorus straits to capture Constantinople to cripple the Ottomans into surrender. Gaining control of these territories would allow the allies to link up with the Russians in the Black Sea, in order to open a Black Sea supply route to Russia (info-please). Linking up with the Russians and working together, would allow them to eliminate the Ottomans out of the war (history.com). The Gallipoli Campaign began after Russia had asked Britain and France for assistance. The Allies needed an alternative route to Russia, after it had been isolated by German forces. Although Russia had a large army, it required modern weapons to fight back the Germans (Anzac). Since there wasn't a land route available, and routes by sea also had risks since they were away from fighting, and some routes too close to enemy naval forces (history.com). And so, the British and French plan was to force opening waterway from the Black Sea's only entrance, the Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits, for the Russians to receive weapons and munitions (Anzac).

Winston Churchill, the first Lord of the Admiralty was assigned in February 1915 by The Royal Navy and French Navy to proceed with his plans for a naval attack on the Dardanelles. And so, the first naval attack on the Turkish shores took place on February 19, 1915, with the second one following on March 18. On 19 February 1915 the British ships were in the Dardanelles, they attacked again on 18 March when their ships were greatly damaged. This battle was the Turks' first victory for many years. After the failed naval attacks, the Allies knew that naval power alone would not be enough to open the Dardanelles, so they ended the sea battle. The Turks were already predicting that a land attack was being prepared by the allies because a silence settled over the peninsula ships and there were no guns being fired. They had to fortify the Gallipoli Peninsula quickly because an attack by the allies was expected at any time, and lookouts were placed on hills and cliffs (Anzac).

The British Expeditionary Force (MEF), which was part of the British Army in World War One was formed by the volunteer Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC). The new plan consisted of taking the Gallipoli Peninsula with a military force made of the Australian, New Zealand, British, French and Indian soldiers, with Sir Ian Hamilton being the commander of these troops. They decided to land on the sandy beach on the peninsula because it had high ridges near the beach,

which would act as a natural defense. The Turks did not expect the Allies to land on this coast, and did not have any defense on that beach, and so sent an infantry battalion there. With Mustafa Kemal as their commander, the Turks waited. Hamilton commanded his first attack in the invasion of the Gallipoli peninsula specifically early in the morning of April 25th. The Royal Navy started their fire at around 4:30am, and several battalions arrived under heavy fire and the battle started that day of April 25th, 1915. The turks were being pushed back by the Allies at mid morning and the war had been moved inland as the Australians started to trudge toward the first range of hills. Although it was a successful landing for the Allies, it was not at the right place, as they realized that an error had been made. The ANZACs had placed themselves at an extremely steep hill, the current of the sea strayed them to the north, making them land at the foot of the steepest and most troublesome part of the peninsula. Gun fire of the Turks went on all day, and the Australians were not able to dig trenches because of the heavy gunfire and shrapnel explosions. The Anzacs were not able to see where the firing was coming from and they fought as long as they could before a fearful number of soldiers had died, causing them to give up.

Towards the end of April, the number of dead and wounded on both Turkish and Anzac sides reached the tens of thousands. On December 7, the British government authorized the evacuation of their troops to begin from Sulva Bay. Allied troops had begin to leave the peninsula with the last tropp departing on January 9, 1916. It was a campaign that was predicted to end in a quick and easy Allied victory, which failed with the determined and resourceful Turkish resistance in the battle (anzac.com). Australian fatalities were at 8,709 and about 17,924 were wounded. The battle did not turn out as the British had expected it to, and instead, the Turks had time gather forces and show an impressive and sustained resistance to the Gallipoli landings, a force that was not seen before by the allies. The British forces suffered almost four times as many deaths, with a number close to 80,000 (telegraph). The Turks lost over 87,000 men and 165,000 wounded. The Gallipoli attempt failed with heavy casualties on both sides (anzac).

It was in the Battle of Gallipoli that Mustafa Kemal had settled his reputation as Turkey's leading general. With his most famous order: 'I am not ordering you to attack; I am ordering you to die.' he also said 'I cannot believe that there is anyone in the troops I command who would not rather die than suffer again the disgrace that fell on us in the Balkans.' Together with his brave fervour and the error of the Anzacs landing on the wrong beach, Ari Burnu (Anzac Cove), making advance almost impossible, assured the slaughter of the invading troops and total success of Kemal's division. After



### **TURKISH SOLDIERS WWI**

Turkeyswar, [www.turkeyswar.com/](http://www.turkeyswar.com/) Accessed 30  
May 2017.

the battle, Mustafa Kemal was promoted to colonel, and later in August was named as the commander of all the troops in the Anafarta hills, where once again he succeeded.

The Battle of Gallipoli is a great source of nationalism in turkey. The only major commemoration that the Turks have for World War One, the war that indirectly determined the country's fate, is for the battle of Gallipoli (18th of march, Commemoration Day for Canakkale Martyrs). Turkey's biggest and most outstanding memorial today is in Gelibolu, and if you went there you could see that the entire area is a big memorial, with leftovers still visible in the area. The Battle of Gallipoli is considered as one of the greatest glories of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the nation's founder. Today, “Canakkale gecilmez” (Canakkale cannot be passed) is a very common nationalistic phrase Turks use. The entirety of the Gallipoli campaign was seen as an horrendous failure to the Allied Powers costing thousands of troops with absolutely no gain.

Anzac Day is a day celebrated in New Zealand and Australia that celebrates the returned servicemen and remembers those who gave their lives for the Gallipoli campaign and other campaigns that New



**SULTAN MEHMED VI**

Mehmed 6. Turkeyswar, [www.turkeyswar.com/whoswho/who-vahdettin.html](http://www.turkeyswar.com/whoswho/who-vahdettin.html). Accessed 30 May 2017.

Zealand has been involved in. The day is celebrated on the 25th of April, with the commemoration starting at dawn to coincide with the Anzac Cove landings.

### **SUBTOPIC THREE: THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW SECULAR REPUBLIC**

The Battle of Gallipoli left behind a trail of legends and heroes, who would soon be more important than other war stories. Following a devastating loss in World War I, Turkey was once again divided and weak. Even before the official end of the war, French and British troops were taking parts of Istanbul (“Kemal Ataturk”). Anatolia was being divided as the Allies carved out an Armenian state, Italian forces were occupying the seaside city of Antalya, and Greek forces were making military advances from Izmir to Anatolia in 1919. European powers were regressing to imperial mentalities by attempting to gain as much land as possible, which was unappreciated by the Turks who were witnessing foreign powers taking their homes without any repercussion (Feroz 46). The Turkish resent



MAP OF TURKEY AFTER 1920 TREATY OF SEVRES DIVISION

Map of Turkey after 1920 Treaty of Sevres division. StampWorldHistory,  
[www.stampworldhistory.com/maps/country-specific-maps/europe-turkey-1914-present/](http://www.stampworldhistory.com/maps/country-specific-maps/europe-turkey-1914-present/). Accessed 30 May 2017.

ment towards the situation was shared by the military hero of Gallipoli, Mustafa Kemal, who looked towards action.

Kemal organized several independence forces in Ankara, where the Battle of Angora was fought centuries ago. He needed to unite his people under their resentment, which stemmed from the Sultan's alliance with the Allies. The last sultan of the Ottoman Empire disrespected his title by surrendering Turkey to foreign powers in exchange for his life and rule. The Allies thought that Sultan Mehmed VI could restore order, but they did not know of Kemal's aspirations ("Mehmed VI"). His ambition and nationalism was the underlying reason for exploiting the resentment Turks had for foreign powers and the weak leadership of the Sultan to start a liberation movement.

After the Sultan gave Kemal power over Anatolia, he organized an army in Samsun by the Black Sea in May 19, 1919. The war for independence truly started, as he turned popular opinion against the Sultan in every village he passed through on his way to Anatolia ("Kemal Ataturk"). This caused the Sultan to order his arrest, who supported the struggle as a civilian after he resigned his post. Nonethe

less, Kemal got elected into congress and drafted the National Pact, which established the modern borders of Turkey. He then formed a provisional government in Ankara, which is why it became the Turkish capital. When the Allies began arresting nationalists, the Grand National Assembly elected Kemal as the its new president in 1920, making him the front-runner against the Sultan (Gocek 103).

In the same year, the Sultan signed the Treaty of Sevres, which reduced the size of Turkey to the green section in the map above.

With help from the Soviet Union, Kemal fought the Greeks out from Thrace and defeated the newly formed state of Armenia. By 1921, Turkey had its the eastern borders which it has today, with the Soviet Union as its first ally; Greeks surrendered after the Turkish victories in the 1921 Battle of Inonu and Battle of Sakarya (“Kemal Ataturk”). By 1922, the Sultan was forced into exile and the Sultanate was abolished. By 1923, the Allies came to Ankara with the Treaty of Lausanne, which placed the western borders of Turkey next to Europe. The impacts of this treaty still lasts, as an autonomous Kurdistan was not promised, which would cause conflict later on (Feroz 50). On October 29, 1923, Kemal proclaimed the sovereignty of the Turkish Republic.

Kemal began his new republic with reform and westernization. He formed the Republican People’s Party, which followed principles of nationalism, industrialization, and secularism. Secularism signalled the separation between the Caliphate and the state. Turkey in the 1920s was devoted to abolishing most of religious power from education to clothes, and any religious groups including the Caliphate itself (“Secular Turkey”). The reason for Kemal’s extreme reforms was his goal to westernize Turkey and make it equal with western Europe, which he saw as success. He understood the damage that religion brought to the Ottoman Empire by not allowing reform, and did not want to repeat the mistake of the Sultans and lose power to Islam. Women’s rights improved dramatically as Kemal adopted European laws and civil codes (Gocek 112). He even changed the Turkish alphabet from Arabic to Latin, therefore changing the school system. In 1934, every Turk had to get a surname, differing from the traditional system where most people had one name. That is when he became known as Ataturk (translated to: “Father of the Turks”). These reforms had a huge impact on the Turkey of today, as it defined its culture and identity, as well as its government.



**Mustafa Kemal Atatürk with a hat after banning the fez and turban**

Ataturk. eliamietthessaloniki.wordpress.com/  
eliamietthessaloniki.wordpress.com/. Accessed 30 May 2017.

Ataturk then concentrated on foreign relations by signing favourable treaties with Greece and Britain before agreeing not to invade former Ottoman territories. Minorities were exchanged from Turkey to surrounding states, which created some order between ethnicities. The Bosphorus became neutral again and opened to all nations to use, which signalled a general neutrality for the rest of the century (“Kemal Atatürk”). Unlike the Sultans who always looked to expand, Ataturk was content with his territory. He understood that in the 20th century, expanding was not profitable post-World War One. Instead, he looked at trade benefits with Iraq by gaining a share of its oil by deciding not to make claims to its territory. Adopting a western government-style was the main goal, and with it he wished to advance Turkey from the remains of an empire to a new state (Feroz 73).

Throughout the process of the secularization and its many reforms, separating religion and state, social reforms were carried out, such as a secular education system on March 3, 1924. The closure of



#### TURKS READING PRACTICING ALPHABET

Turks tree latin. pinterest, [www.pinterest.com/pin/188095721907110324/](http://www.pinterest.com/pin/188095721907110324/). Accessed 30 May 2017.

religious events, led to the final move to establish the full separation of government and religion in Turkey.

However, Turkey was still not the land of full democracy, as in 1925, a Kurdish Islamic uprising was brutally dealt with, and Ataturk repressed the creation of additional political parties. He also moved into the Dolmabahce Palace, where Sultans lived, and died there in 1938 from an illness caused by alcoholism. However, he is not remembered for these moments, but instead as the hero of Turkey and as Ataturk, the Father of the Turks. His presence is still shown through pictures in every Turkish school, home, and government building. It was also shown in Turkey's political decisions throughout the 20th century to stay neutral and focus on internal development, especially during the two biggest conflicts: World War Two and the Cold War.

Turkey continued as a democratic, secular, complete parliamentary republic for many years, remaining its diverse cultural ancestry. This continued until the year 2007, when the Justice and Develop

ment Party (AKP) government with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan initiated Islamization. Modern day Turkey has still been continuing with changes ever since the Ottoman Empire period.

# Section 2

## Modern Day Turkey

### KEY TERMS

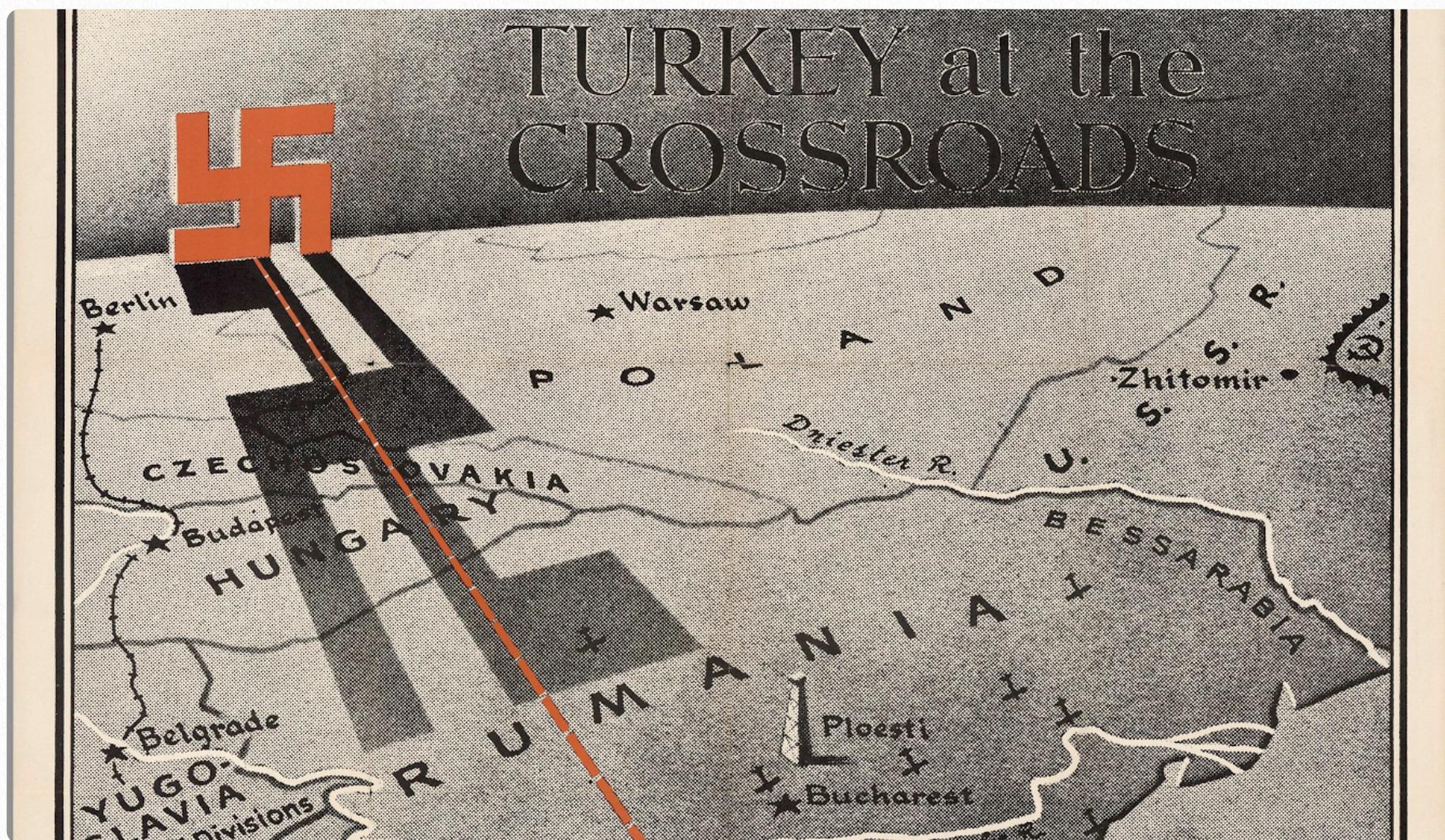
- World War 2: Global war from 1939-45, between the Axis Powers (Germany, Japan, Italy) and the Allies (Britain, France, USA). Mainly caused by the rise of nationalism in Europe, along with resentment left over from WW1 after Germany suffered hyperinflation due to war reparations. Ended in Allied victory, and led to the Cold War.
- Cold War: Economic/Geopolitical conflict between the communist Soviet Union and democratic United States from 1945-91. Led to the division of Europe, wars in several countries, and mass paranoia. Ended in US victory after the Soviet economy collapsed.
- Recep Tayyip Erdogan: President of Turkey since 2014. As the leader of the AKP political party he has changed Turkey's constitution to be more conservative and advocates nationalism.
- Gulen: Fethullah Gulen- an Islamic preacher and political figure who used to be a key figure in Erdogan's plan to make Turkey more religious, until a sudden division in ideas, following which he fled to the US, where he continues to live now, as the rival to Erdogan.
- PKK: Kurdistan Worker's Party- a paramilitary group created in 1978 which fights for the sovereignty of Kurdistan, and is located in Turkey and parts of Iraq. They are considered enemies of the Turkish Republic, and have been in conflict for decades.
- AKP: Justice and Development Party- Political party in Turkey which currently holds the majority of votes with Erdogan as its president. They hold conservative views and lean towards the right-wing as they are also nationalist. Worked against secularism in Turkey since it was elected into power in 2002.
- July 15 Coup (coup d'etat): Failed military coup against the Erdogan regime on July 15, 2016. Led to several deaths as soldiers overtook major cities, but was stopped by civilians and the rest of the

military. The AKP blames Gulen for the attempt, and the nation went into a state of emergency for months which gave more power to AKP and Erdogan.

- **Anglo-Turkish Mutual Aid:** A 1939 treaty of assistance which assured Turkey's help to the Allies and Britain in case of a war, which would start that same year. This was important because the Bosphorus was a way into Russia and North Africa, and the Germans wanted to conquer both but instead the Allies used Turkey's geopolitical advantages.
- **Kurdistan:** A region in eastern Turkey which has a separate culture and language, but is not allowed sovereignty. Kurdistan stretches into Iraq and the Middle East, and has a population of more than 25 million people. Since the end of World War One, they have been fighting peacefully and violently for freedom from Turkey.
- **Turkish Constitutional Referendum:** A national 2017 referendum which guaranteed the President of Turkey more executive power. The government also became more autocratic, as the head of state gained more authority over the legislative and judicial branches, and the parliamentary system would be replaced by a presidential system.

## **SUBTOPIC ONE: TURKEY IN WWII AND THE COLD WAR**

Modern Turkey was born out of the Ottoman Empire after World War One. The second World War took place between the years of 1939 to 1945, which was to a great degree an extremely catastrophic period in which various countries of the world were exposed to disintegration into the Allied and Axis Powers. With the rise of German and Italian fascism, Great Britain and the United States formed an alliance with the communist Soviet Union. Turkey had already encountered the agony of World War One, and taken on the burden of the already collapsed Ottoman Empire, and fought the War of Independence following the invasion by international forces. The new Republic of Turkey was founded with principles with those of western democracies, however lacked enough military and economic resources, and had resolved not to take part in war unless their territorial integrity was under threat, since their politics were established on the decision to survive by preserving their territorial integrity.



Propaganda poster in World War II, "Turkey at the Crossroads"

CROSSROADSTURK pinterest, <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/11470174026996285/> . Accessed 30 May 2017.

While the Second Great War was going on, being by far the most damaging, devastating and violent of all wars, even in comparison to the First World War. Whilst treaties and alliances were also being signed, Turkey, situated at the geopolitical and geostrategic center, trying to organize a new republic after being founded in 1923, was forced to making a fatal decision of whether or not to stay neutral like Switzerland or establishing an alliance with warring states. Turkey viewed their alliance with Germany in World War One as a mistake, and did not want to repeat it. As the new war erupted, the Turks assumed that the Allies to triumph from it, whilst they saw the policies of the Axis powers as aggressive, especially the ones in Italy, forcing Turkey to cooperate with Britain. Turkey was getting closer with the Allies at the beginning of war. Turkey lacked strength economically and military power, and so joined and formed a temporary alliance with Britain, fearing the powerful Axis powers. The Anglo-Turkish Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement of May 12, 1939, the Franco-Turkish Mutual Aid and Defense Agreement of June 23, 1939, and the Turkish-English-French Declaration of Agreement of October 19, 1939 determined the temporary alliance. Although turkey had developed relationships with Britain and France, the Turks were cautious not to harm any German relations further.

Turkey kept trading with both the Axis powers their alliances and maintained their relationships. Turkey, also signed up a non-aggression pact with Germany, prior to Barbarossa. However, the relationship deteriorated with the Axis powers, and Turkey declared war on Germany in February 1945, joining the second World War. Turkey allowed itself to be courted by the Allies by attending the meeting of the United Nations(UN), leading to a declaration of war, to join them. However, Turkish troops weren't sent to the battlefields.

The Soviet Union had wanted to spread communism around Europe, but the United States had wanted to stop communism from being prevalent and establish capitalism in contrast. Turkey was so significant to both superpowers at that time due to its geological features. Since Turkey was a gateway to the Mediterranean and Europe, the Turkish territory had seem to be attractive and necessary to both superpowers. However, when the Truman doctrine went into effect, communist influence completely disappeared, and Turkey turned to purely American support.

On 1952, Turkey ended all commerce between them and the Soviet Union by joining the NATO, providing the west with land at the first step of their enemies, informing Russia how close they were. Keep getting supported by remaining their ideology, which is capitalism from the United States, on 1962, Turkey had begun to set up missiles by the U.S. orders for a purpose of giving precaution to the Soviet Union. This is now known as “the Cuban missile crisis,” one of the greatest stalemates in history.

## **SUBTOPIC TWO: TURKISH-KURDISH CONFLICT**

Starting in 1978, the Kurdish-Turkish conflict is currently an armed conflict between the Republic of Turkey and several Kurdish rebel groups. The conflict stemmed from the Kurdish request of the creation of Kurdistan, an independant state, or as a secondary request, have autonomy and greater cultural and political rights for the Kurds inside the Republic of Turkey.

Although, conflicts between Kurds and Turks date back to the Ottoman Empire, and more recent major events include the Koçgiri Rebellion in 1920, Sheikh Said rebellion in 1925, Ararat rebellion in 1930, and the Dersim Rebellion in 1938.

The primary Kurdish rebel group participating in the conflict against Turkey is the Kurdistan Worker's Party, also known as the PKK, which stands for "Partiya Karkerên Kurdistan".

The PKK announced its first "Kurdish Uprising" on the 15th of August, 1984, which marked the start of many armed clashes between the Worker's Party and Turkish Military Forces. A ceasefire was declared by the PKK on the 1st of September, 1999, but fighting later resumed on the 1st of June, 2004. In recent years, the conflict has become increasingly violent, especially after the end of a more recent ceasefire in mid-2015. Recent estimations suggest that the PKK currently includes around 10,000 active fighters.

Although followers of the Kurdistan Worker's Party have carried out frequent attacks throughout Turkey, heavier attacks in southeast Turkey have resulted in Turkey taking heavy military action, including air and artillery strikes in Iraq's Kurdistan Region. The Kurdistan Worker's Party's actions have also resulted in a loss in tourism within Turkey, and an estimated Turkish economical loss of 400 billion dollars, which mostly derives from the vast military costs.

### **SUBTOPIC THREE: ERDOGAN'S REFORMS**

Recep Tayyip Erdogan, born in Istanbul on February 26, 1954, is the current president of Turkey, and former prime minister of Turkey from 2003 until 2014. His first involvement with politics occurred while he was studying at Marmara University, As the first Islamist to be elected as mayor of Istanbul, he brought back many order and changes for the city.

Erdogan was first elected as mayor of Istanbul in 1994, and as the first muslim in this position, he demonstrated religious commitment and brought back multiple positive changes for the city. He banned alcohol from all city-owned cafes, solved the water shortage problem, reduced pollution, and modernized the country's capital. However, in December 1997, he publicly recited a poem including the lines:



**Erdogan with a Koran in his speech for the opening of a mosque in Maryland, USA.**

ERDOGAN SPEECH. ISMAILSUNNITE, [ismailsunnite.wordpress.com/author/ismailsunnite/page/3/](https://ismailsunnite.wordpress.com/author/ismailsunnite/page/3/). Accessed 30 May 2017.

"The mosques are our barracks, the domes our helmets, the minarets our bayonets and the faithful our soldiers,"

and was charged with violation of secularist law, forced to step down as mayor and excluded from public office, serving 4 months in prison.

Following his prison sentence, Erdogan cofounded the Justice and Development Party (AKP) in 2001, claiming a clear victory in the 2002 parliamentary elections, restoring his power after a constitutional amendment that turned his political ban. In the following years, he was re elected multiple times as the prime minister of Turkey. As prime minister, Erdogan made huge improvements for the country's economic standing (Biography.com Editors). He promoted inflation and foreign investment, leading to a rise in capita income, and close ties with western allies. Nevertheless, he also became more known as a strict leader, imprisoning military officials for life for planning on overthrowing the AKP in 2013, and ordering military forces to end peace demonstrations in istanbul's Gezi Park.

After reaching his term limits as prime minister, Erdogan ran as the AKP's candidate during Turkey's first direct presidential election, and was inaugurated on August 28th 2014. During Erdogan's presidency a coup d'etat took place on July 15 2016. This was a turning point in modern Turkish history as it marks the beginning of rebellion against Erdogan's strict reign, perhaps calling for radical changes in the future. The coup was essentially a military offense that was operated in major cities of Turkey such as Ankara and Istanbul. It aimed to remove Erdogan and his government from power, "to protect democracy from president Recep Tayyip Erdogan" (BBC). During the military operation, several bombs were launched in the two most major cities in Turkey: Ankara and Istanbul. The Turkish government suspected that Fethullah Gulen was behind this military coup (aljazeera). Gulen used to be a close political ally of Erdogan's, close enough for staff in the AKP bureaucracy to be removed and replaced with Fethullah Gulen supporters called Gulenists. Yet as years passed by, the relationship between Gulen and Erdogan weakened, especially during the 2010 Mavi Marmara raid. The raid was done by the Israeli navy upon a ship full of Turkish activists aiming to promote aid to the Gaza Strip. This incident brought our Gulen and Erdogan's opposing views upon Turkey's relationship with Israel. After that in 2013 Gulenist police officers arrested bureaucrats who were close allies of Erdogan's AKP party (theguardian). This worsened the relationship to a point where Erdogan actively sought to remove any Gulenists from the frame of politics (aljazeera). It is then assumed that out of concern and will to fight back Gulenists under Gulen's prompting launched a coup as such.

This coup began by military tanks and troops blocking Istanbul's bridges over the bosphorus. Fighter jets also flew over the city, and the parliament building in Ankara was bombed. Erdogan, who at the time was having a holiday at a resort, quickly returned to Istanbul and via social media and tv broadcasting called his supporters to the streets (BBC). And so they came, thousands of Erdogan supporters and police officers flocked to the streets to prevent further military action. As the night progressed and supporters rallied the coup attempt began to look bleak for the presumed Gulenists. It was then labelled as a failed coup attempt after those that were conducting the coup were overwhelmed and arrested.

Fethullah Gulen still denies any participation in the coup what so ever and so it still remains a mystery if he was involved or not (BBC). And if he didn't do it then who did it? With this heavy blow to Turkey, the government became even more fragile than it was after the gezi park protests.



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