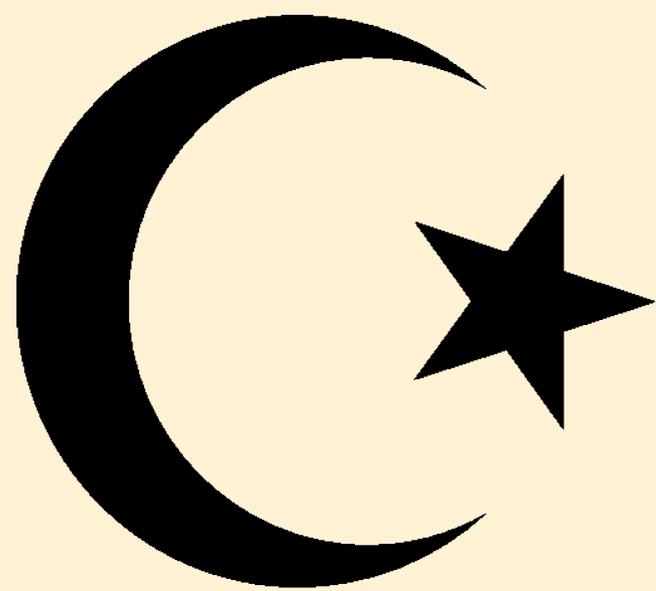
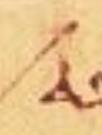




# THE CONDENSED HISTORY OF TURKEY



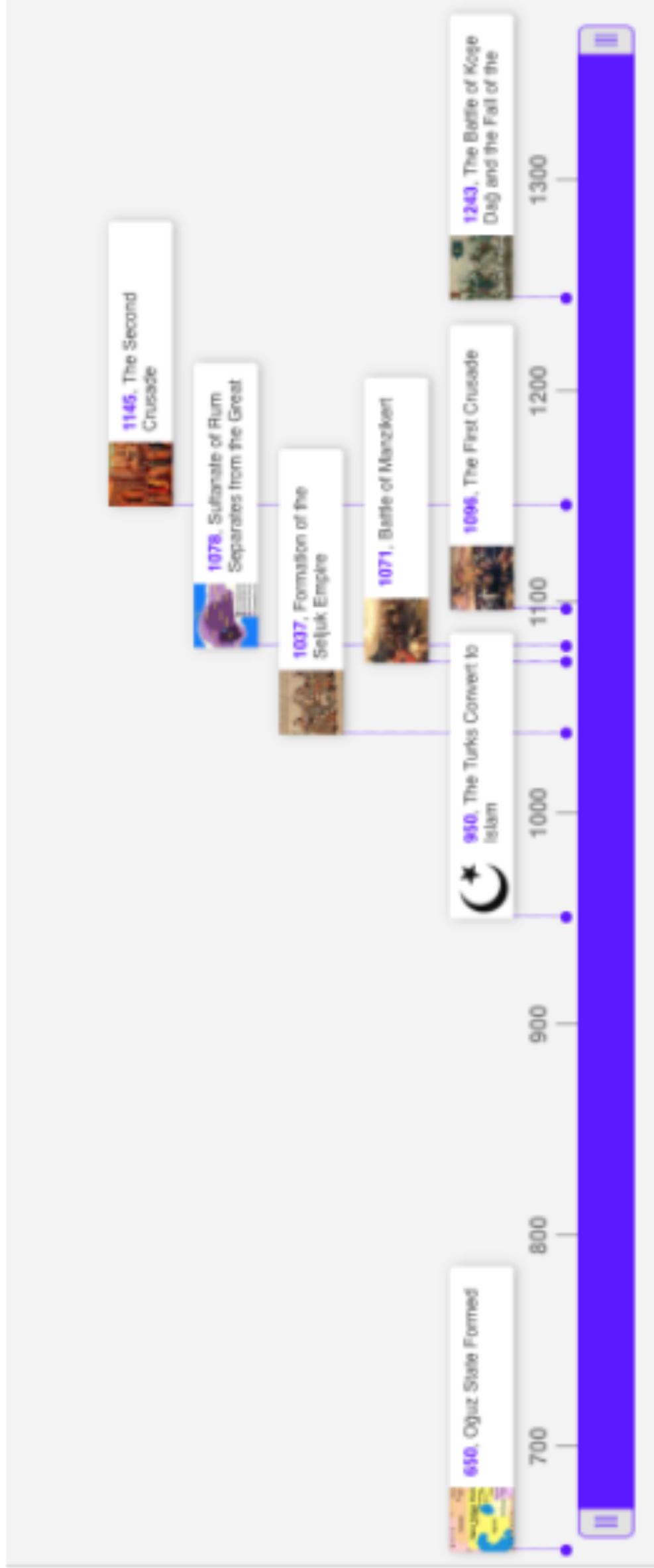
مختلفين أحدهما شديدة الرزفة والآخر يميل إلى السواد  
ولحدهما تنظر إلى قبور والآخر إلى استقبال  وكانت  
أسنانه دافقة حادة الرؤوس  وكان وجهه  
الأسود وكان شجاعاً جريئاً على الحرب  فمد الله له روحه



1.

**THE SELJUK EMPIRE**

باب الأبيات





The Seljuks fighting the Crusaders

# SECTION 1: THE BEGINNING OF TURKIC POWER



The Byzantine Empire under Justinian I

## SETTING THE STAGE

After the fall of the Roman Empire in 476 CE, the Eastern Roman Empire called Asia Minor was the only surviving region of the massive empire that fell to the Barbarians. A new empire, the Byzantine Empire, was constructed in this region. The Byzantines began to regain land in the Mediterranean, and made Constantinople their capital city. Meanwhile, in Central Asia, a group of fierce horsemen called the Selçuks were rising to power as they gradually expanded their territory in Persia and the Middle East. Soon, they would clash with the Byzantine Empire in order to annex the Anatolian region.

## KEY TERMS

<u>Byzantine</u>	<u>The 1st Crusade</u>	<u>Emperor Romanos IV Diogenes</u>	<u>Persia</u>	<u>Anatolia</u>
<u>Seljuk Turks</u>	<u>Sultan Alp Arslan</u>	<u>Sultan Ahmad Sanjar</u>	<u>Qara Khitai</u>	<u>Mongols</u>
<u>Sultan Gıyaseddin Keyhüsrev II</u>	<u>Baycu</u>	<u>Beyliks</u>	<u>Osmanoğullari</u>	<u>Battle of Manzikert</u>

**Byzantine:** The Byzantine Empire was an empire that occupied the Eastern Mediterranean region (Anatolia) from 330 to 1453 AD, which was a continuation of the Roman Empire after its fall.

**Persia:** The Persian Empire was an empire located at western Asia during the ancient times from 550 BC to 334 BC.

**Sultan Alp Arslan:** The second sultan of the selçuk Empire who reigned from 1063 to 1072. He was a significant leader in the expansion of the selçuks into Anatolia and their victory in the Battle of Manzikert.

**The 1st Crusade:** The first Crusade, which is the first crusade that attempted to capture the Holy land, happened in 1096.

**Anatolia:** Anatolia, otherwise known as Asia Minor is the westmost protrusion of Asia, located and covering most of present day Turkey.

**Emperor Romanos IV Diogenes:** The emperor of the Byzantine Empire during the selçuk conquest of Anatolia. He was defeated in the Battle of Manzikert.

**Seljuk Turks:** The Seljuk Turks, known for the Great Seljuk Empire, located at central and western Asia. The empire was set up in 1037 and destroyed in 1243.

**Qara Khitai:** The Qara Khitai, also known as the Great Liao or Western Liao, located at central Asia from 916 to 1125.

**Sultan Ahmed Sanjar:** The sultan of the Seljuk Empire who reigned from 1097 to 1157 AD. He was the leader of the selçuk Empire in the First Crusades.

**Battle of Manzikert:** The Battle of Manzikert was a battle between the Byzantine Empire and the Seljuk Empire at Manzikert. It happened on August 26, 1071. It ended by the victory of the Seljuk Empire.

**Sultan Gıyaseddin Keyhüsrev II:** The young and inexperienced Sultan that ruled over the Seljuk turks in their defeat against the Mongols in the Battle of Köşe Dağ.

**Baycu:** The leader of the Iranian Mongols that led the Mongols to a victory against the Seljuk Turks in the Battle of Köşe Dağ.

**Osmanoğulları:** The beylik founded by Osman I which eventually led to the Ottoman Empire.

**Beyliks:** The various warlike principalities that were carved in Anatolia after the fall of the Seljuk Empire that were under full authority of a prince or in this case a bey.



A Seljuk warrior

Seljuk, 11th-12th centuries



Present-day Khwarezm in Turkmenistan



Tengriist diagram

## THE CONVERSION TO ISLAM

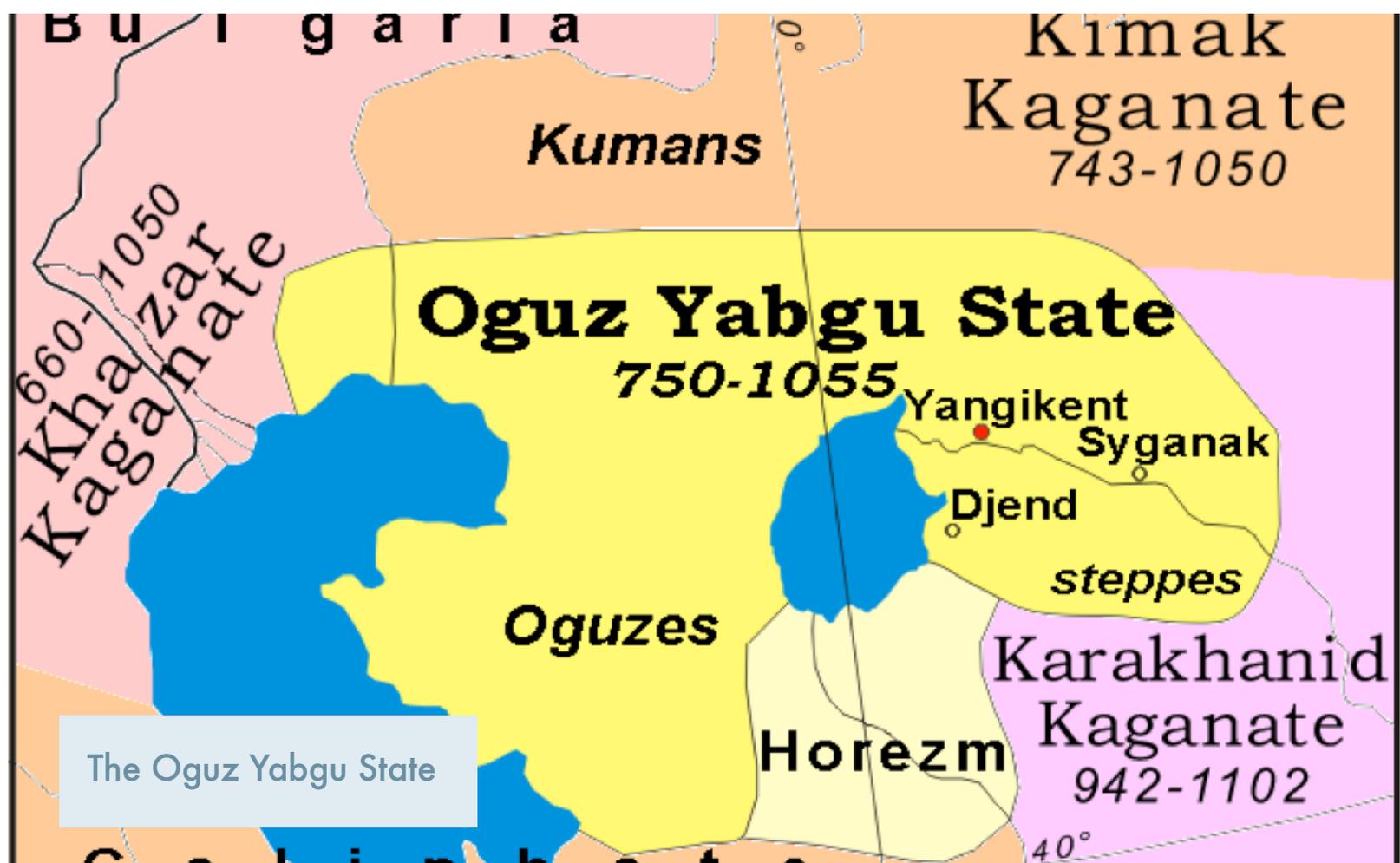
Turkey is a beautiful and historical country, with a geographical position in a region called Anatolia in both Europe and Asia, and is surrounded at three sides by the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Aegean Sea. Turkey has a strong industrial base, as one of the world's emerging economies. It is also one of the fastest growing countries in the world. Nowadays, most Turks are known to follow the religion Islam, which plays a significant role in the culture and history of Turkey. However, Islam had not always been Turks' religion.

The first historical references to the Turks appeared in Chinese records of about 200 B.C. These records refer to tribes called the Hsiung-nu, an early form of the Western term Hun, who lived in an area bounded by the Altai Mountains, Lake Baikal, and the northern edge of the Gobi Desert and are believed to have been the ancestors of the Turks (Goldschmidt, Arthur). Down to the 650 C.E., the Oğuz Yabgu State appeared. The Oğuz Yabgu State was a Turkic state, geographical position was an area between the coast of Caspian and Aral Sea.

There were in total twenty-four tribes in the Oğuz Yabgu State. The Oğuz Turks was one of them, and they were the origin of the [Seljuk Turks](#). The Oğuz Turks had been strong believers of Tengriism, a shamanistic religion praising the god, Tengri (“History of Jihad”). This religion was practiced majorly in Central Asia, specifically by nationalities such as the Mongols, Huns, Bulgars, and Turks.

Between 650 and 1050 C.E., a number of events had taken place, and was a time of fierce Turkic struggle against the Islamic Jihad. Initially, the Turks had not wanted to give up their religion Tengriism, fighting fiercely against the Jihadis, the Persian Muslims (“History of Jihad”). It is said that during a battle with a Turkic tribe, the Jihadi commander, Ahnaf, had deceived the Turks - he had hid himself outside the Turkic camps, and each time a Turkic herald came out to blow the bugle, Ahnaf would fight and kill him. More heralds would come to complete the task, unbeknown of the fate he would come to (Goldschmidt, Arthur). When the Khan of Farghana, a Turkic tribe, had come out to see what had happened, he found the dead bodies of the heralds and saw this as a bad omen. He decided to withdraw his forces and return to Farghana, ultimately submitting to the Arabs. Ironically, the Turks had resisted against the Jihad for hundreds of years, only to embrace Islam in later years, and become Jihadis themselves (“History of Jihad”).

In the tenth century, the Seljuk Turks appeared after Oğuz Turks. Originally, the House of Seljuk was a branch of Oğuz Turks who had embraced Islam and established themselves around Bukhara in Transoxiana under their khan, Seljuk (Goldschmidt, Arthur). The traditional ancestor of the Seljuks was their [chieftain Seljuk](#), who was reputed to have served in the Khazar army, under whom, the Seljuks migrated to Khwarezm, near the city of Jend also called Khujand circa 950 C.E., where they converted to Islam (“Seljuk Turks”). Due to the Mongols occupying [Qara Khitai](#), the region where they originated from, the Seljuks eventually migrated to [Persia](#) and began their territorial conquest.





Pope Urban II



Seljuks defeating Persians



Seljuk and Crusader

## THE ANNEXATION OF ANATOLIA

The Selçuks, who originated from the Oğuz tribes of Central Asia, gradually migrated into Persia in the 10th century. There were constant territorial disputes in this region as the Selçuk leader Tugrul Bey struggled to annex multiple regions in Persia. The Selçuk empire was growing and thus they turned their eyes eastward onto Anatolia. Before the Selçuks, many of the Oğuz turk tribes conducted raids on eastern Anatolia at the beginning of the 10th century (Douglas Howard). Most of Anatolia was seized by the Byzantine empire, the successor and half brother of the Roman Empire, which held differing religion to the Selçuks (Richard Stoneman et al). The Byzantines noticed the Selçuks arrive at Aremia in 1016, however did not pay much concern to that region as they believed it to be futile to benefit the empire (Richard Stoneman et al). Tugrul Bey thus marched and annexed northern Persia and Armenia with haste (Richard Stoneman et al). By 1055, funded by iqta' of, and encouraged by the Abbasid Caliph (who was married to Tugrul's Niece), Tugrul Bey marched on Baghdad, the religious and political capital of the Islamic civilization, to restore Caliphal authority (Goldschmidt). In his great success the Caliph titled him 'sultan' translated as 'authority' (Goldschmidt, Arthur) further cementing turic power not in the islamic world. Meanwhile, the Byzantine empire was rotting away from the inside; following Emperor Basil's death in 1025 ("Seljuk Turks").

Political tensions grew between the imperial loyalists and the greek nobility in the capital of Constantinople (Douglas Howard); this was accentuated when the Byzantine governors struggled to deal with Turkic raids on the region (Douglas Howard).

With the Seljuks having Baghdad, parts of Armenia, and Persia, and the Byzantine empire being weakened by internal struggle the successor of Tugrul Bey saw it was high time to take Anatolia. In 1063, Tugrul bey died and was succeeded by [Alp Arslan](#), his nephew, who saw the conquest of Herat (in modern day Afghanistan) as a necessity for the Selcuk empire (Richard Stoneman et al). However, his focus quickly shifted eastward and began many raids on eastern Anatolia. The Seljuks began their conquest of Anatolia by conquering Byzantine cities such as Caesarea (present-day Kayseri), Iconium (Konya), and Chonae (Honaz). The Byzantines now dreaded the arrival of the Seljuks at their capital city, Constantinople (Richard Stoneman et al). When the Seljuks arrived at Choanae the Byzantine defenders hid in caverns which are drowned by a flash flood (Richard Stoneman et al) the Seljuks saw this a divine sign of their virtue to take Anatolia which raised their morale and fighting spirit. Alp Arslan began to make way to Constantinople. The two armies of the Byzantine Empire and the Seljuk Empire finally confronted one another in the Battle of Manzikert (modern-day Malazgirt) in 1071. The legendary battle saw a decisive victory for the Seljuks due to the treachery of a Byzantine general Andronicus Ducas (Richard Stoneman et al). In August 19th 1071 The Byzantine emperor, [Romanus IV Diogenes](#), was captured by the Seljuk forces and brought to Alp Arslan. Romanus was humiliated by Arslan and his capture signaled the Byzantine empire was weak. As a result the Byzantine empire broke out into a civil war and began to crumble (Richard Stoneman et al). Regardless, after the Battle of Manzikert, Seljuk forces swept through central Anatolia encountering little Byzantine resistance.

In 1078 the Seljuk leader Suleyman annexed Nicaea (Iznik) proclaiming it to be the capital of a western turkic state in Anatolia. Suleyman was paving way towards the Sultanate of Rum (Rum meaning Anatolia in Arabic languages). The Seljuk empire was now split into two the Sultanate of Rum (Based in Nicaea and Konya) and the great Seljuk empire (Based in Baghdad) (Douglas Howard). The Seljuk empire at its largest extent bordered Byzantium in the West and China in the East. Their rule spread to modern-day Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, and multiple regions in Central Asia. Suleyman died in 1084 while facing the leader of the great Seljuk empire Malik Shah while laying siege to Aleppo (Douglas Howard). From now onwards the great Seljuk empire began to stagnate while the Sultanate of Rum began to prosper.



As the Seljuk territories spread eastwards, the Byzantines, who still possessed Constantinople, feared that the Islamic rule of the Seljuks would soon conquer their city as well. Therefore, they looked to Pope Urban II to convince Western European empires to regain Anatolia from the Selcuk Empire. The Seljuks had also taken over Jerusalem, also known as the Holy Places, during their massive conquest of the Middle East. However, their occupation in Jerusalem made it difficult for Christians to travel and worship in the Holy land. All was too good to last, as in 1095 pope Urban the II summoned many peasants from Europe to regain the Jerusalem from Muslim rule (Douglas Howard). [The First Crusade](#) was on the horizon and thus the Christians marched; in 1097 they defeated the Seljuks at Dorylaeum and a year later stood at Antioch(Richard Stoneman et al). The Byzantines began to climb back and regain a number of their cities from the Seljuks. Furthermore, the crusaders captured Jerusalem from the Seljuks in 1099. In the Second Crusade, [Sultan Ahmad Sanjar](#) (the Selcuk leader) had to battle both the Crusaders and the Mongols, who had been revolting before and during the Crusades. Following many harsh raids from the first and second Crusades, the Seljuks, however, did retaliate in 1176 when the Selcuk leader Kilic Arslan ambushed the Byzantine armies at the battle of Myriokephalon and annihilated them granting another decisive victory for the Seljuks (Douglas Howard). However, a very heavy impact was felt for the Seljuks during the fourth crusade (sometimes titled the unholy crusade) which oversaw the sack of Constantinople. In 1203 the Crusaders took Galata and from there began to lay siege to the city and having taken in conducted mass slaughter of fellow christians (Richard Stoneman et al). This lead to Constantinople being ruled as a crusader state until 1261 (Douglas Howard). Over the course of 200 years, the Crusades continued on in multiple series, but the Seljuks finally began to decline as external forces such as the Mongols began to stir conflict in their territories.



The First Crusades



The Seljuks fight the Mongols

## THE DEFEAT AT KÖŞE DAĞ

The Battle of Köşe Dağ was fought between the Seljuks of Anatolia and the [Mongols](#). The Seljuks had offered friendship to the Mongols, but they they started pressuring the [Sultan Gıyaseddin Keyhüsrev II](#) to pay taxes in the form of Darughachi and give hostages, which led to hostility between the two empires. The Mongols were known for removing every obstacle in their way, and their next target was Anatolia. They had been intimidated by the Anatolian Seljuk Empire's strong leader (Goldschmidt, Arthur), Alaeddin Keykubad, and for this reason had not attacked or attempted to invade Anatolia. After the death of Keykubad, his young and inexperienced son Gıyaseddin Keyhüsrev II became the Sultan. This change in leaders gave the Mongols the opportunity to invade the city ("Seljuq History").

In order to plan the invasion of Anatolia, the Mongols from Iran called their leader, [Baycu](#). Finding an opportunity to attack, Baycu called for help from the Georgians and Armenians. Using Gıyaseddin Keyhüsrev II's inexperience as an advantage, the Mongols began by attacking Erzurum. This was in the winter of 1242-43. By committing massacres, they plundered the Muslims' goods. When word of the attack reached the Sultan, he immediately called for assistance from neighboring nations (Goldschmidt, Arthur). He set camp for an army of 80,000 men, and began to wait. Baycu was not fazed by the larger Seljuk army. Allegedly, he had even said to his Georgian officer, "the more they are the more glorious it is to win and the more plunder we shall secure" ("Seljuq History"). When he learned that Keyhüsrev had set up camp in Sivas, he began to move.

The experienced commanders advised the Sultan to stay in Sivas, which was full of weapons and supplies, and wage war against the now tired Mongols. Keyhüsrev sent a wave of 20,000 against the Mongolian army, to initiate the battle.

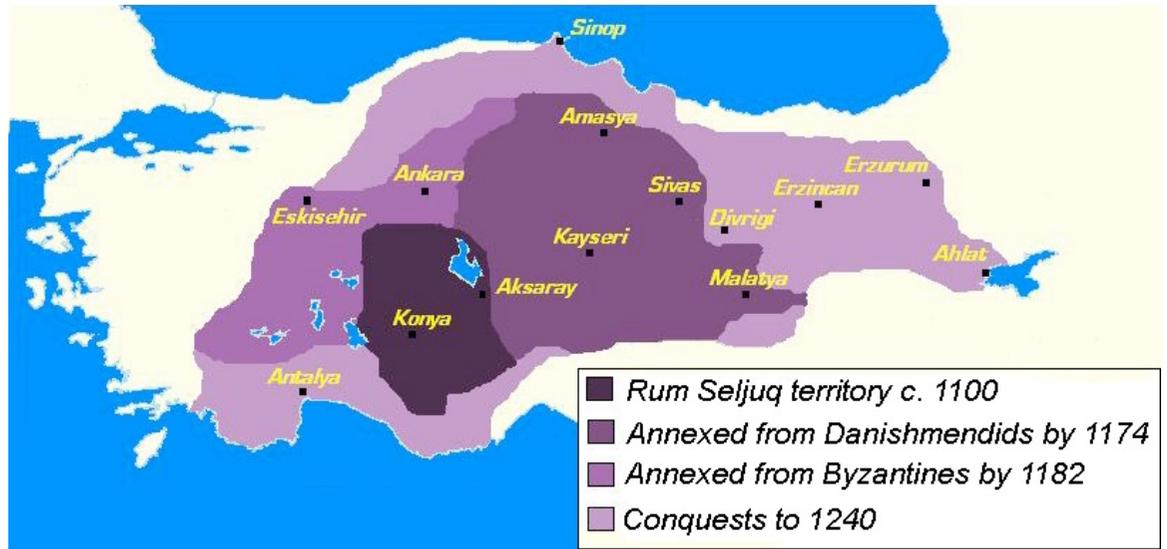
Pretending to retreat, the Mongols deceived the Seljuks by turning back and surrounding their army. Seeing the defeat of the first soldiers, the rest of the Seljuk army fled the battlefield, including the Sultan. This was when the defeat of the Seljuks was decided. After their victory at Köşe Dağ, the Mongols seized the cities Kayseri and Sivas. Immediately after the defeat, Keyhüsrev escaped to Antalya, but was forced to make peace with Baycu and pay tribute to the Mongolian Empire (Goldschmidt, Arthur). The battle caused chaos in Anatolia, which later resulted in the collapse of the Seljuk Empire.

Keyhüsrev II's son, Keyhüsrev III had taken over the throne, at the age of six, this resulted in most of the power remaining in the hands of the regent Pervane. After the battle of Kose Dag, Pervane was able to keep a small portion of independents whilst under the rule of the Mongols. However, in 1276, he conducted a plan with Baybars, the Mamluk Sultan of Egypt, to remove the Mongols from Asia Minor and make himself Sultan. Though Baybars initially arrived to defeat the Mongols in the cities of Elbistan and Kayseri, in the end he backed out, leaving Pervane alone in Tokat to be put to death by the Mongols ("Seljuq History"). After the death of Pervane, there were many struggles and Keyhüsrev III was even put to death by the Mongols.

Alâeddin Keykubad III and Giyaseddin Mesud II continuously fought each other for claim of the throne at Konya. Under Mongol control, the Anatolian Selçuk State declined over the course of several years, with repeated dynastic conflict. Mesud II's death in 1308 was the direct cause of the collapse of the state. Nonetheless, the hegemony of the Mongols began to weaken as well. Anatolia was in possession of both the hands of the Mongols who struggled to hold it, and the local emirs (beys) who had come to existence over the last few years by breaking away in order to form their own authority. These men found various mini-states ([beyliks](#)) close to the borders, during the Seljuk era. The beyliks included the Germiyan, Karaman, Hamid, Eşref, Çandar, Menteşe, Sahip Ata, Pervane, Saruhan, Karesi, [Osmanoğulları](#), and Aydın states. During the Beylik era, the entirety of Anatolia came under Turkish rule, and the country underwent a new period of prosperity, after repairing the damage done by the Mongolians ("Seljuq History").

In the Beylik Period, all of Anatolia came under Turkish rule and a new period of welfare began in the country which had been previously exposed to a great extent to Mongolian destruction. One of these beyliks, the powerful Karamans of Southern Turkey, became important for a non-military reason: their leader Mehmed Bey prohibited the use of any language other than Turkish at meetings of the court (Goldschmidt, Arthur). The Beyliks continued the active building program of the Seljuks, with a varied and highly original aspect.



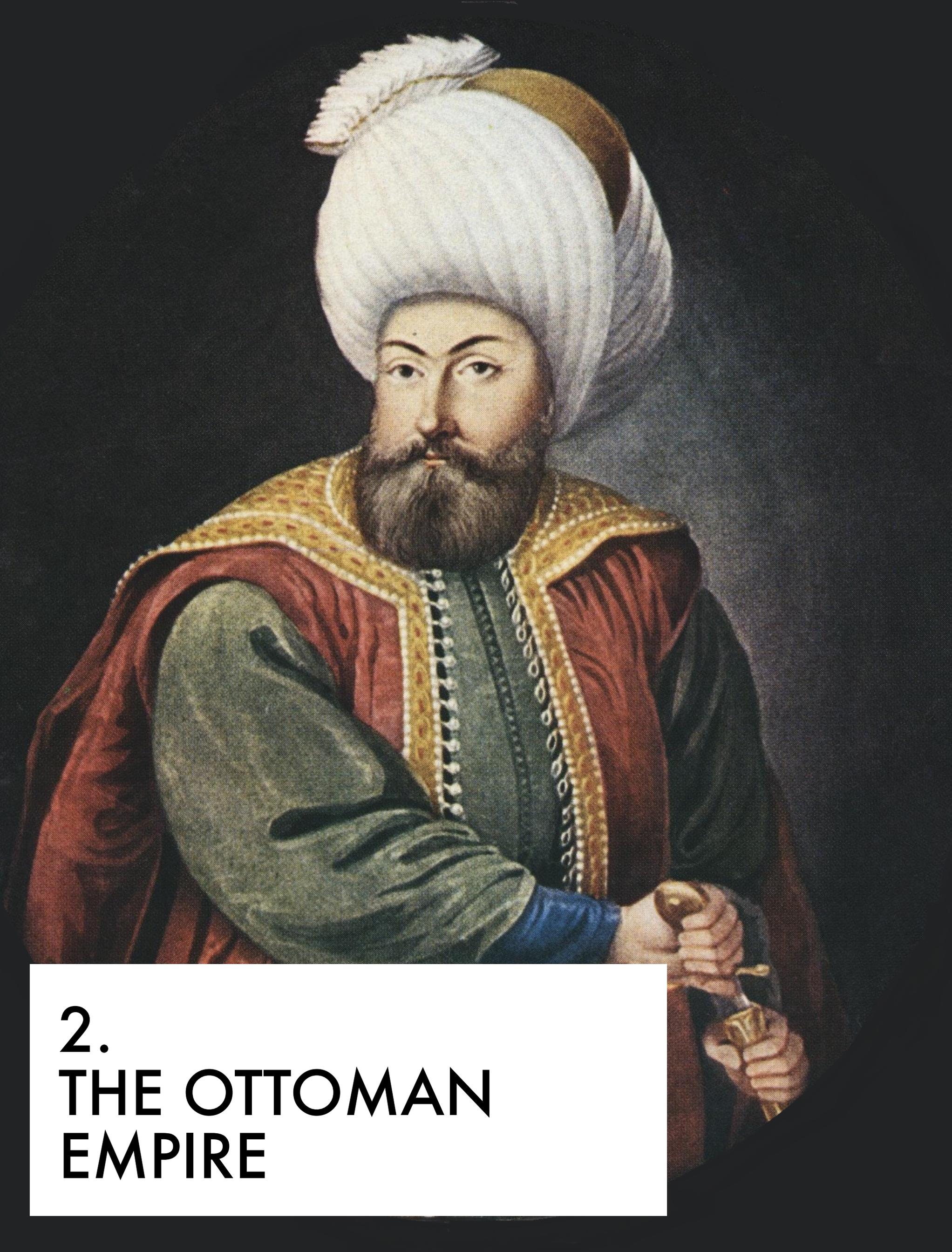


Sultan Ghiyath al-Din Muhammad II

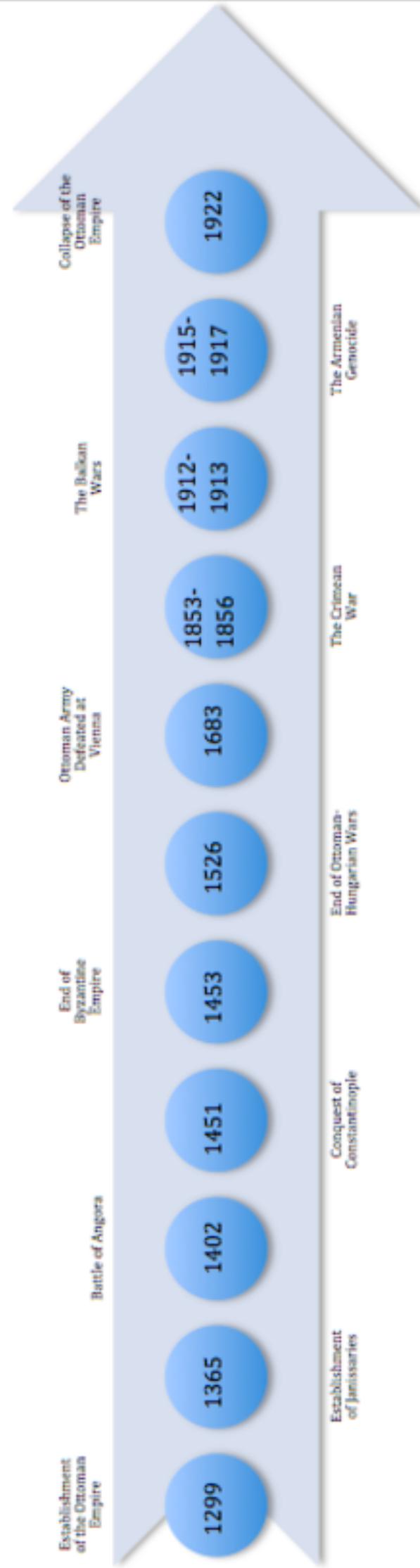
Anatolian Seljuk Sultanate



Persian Painting of Köşe Dağ



## 2. THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE





## SECTION 1:

# THE RISE OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE



Osman I

## SETTING THE STAGE

The Selçuk Empire, which had ruled most of Anatolia, Central Asia, and the Middle East, began to crumble to the Mongols after the Battle of Köşe Dağ. The Anatolian Selçuk State began to decline under the Mongolian rule and eventually broke away into small states called beyliks during this period. This occurred because each of the states wanted to form their own authority under the Mongolian rule. Of the multiple beyliks that was established in northwest Anatolia, the Osmanoğulları (“sons of Osman”) emerged to become an unimagined and unforeseen force in the world that would quickly take over Anatolia: the Ottomans.

## KEY TERMS

<a href="#">Osman I</a>	<a href="#">Beylik</a>	<a href="#">Murad II</a>	<a href="#">Timurid Empire</a>	<a href="#">Establishment of Janissaries</a>
<a href="#">Bursa</a>	<a href="#">Sultanate of Rum</a>	<a href="#">Second Battle of Kosovo</a>	<a href="#">Bayezid I</a>	<a href="#">Battle of Angora</a>

**Osman I:** The founding father and the first sultan of the Ottoman Empire who reigned from 1299 to 1326. He united the Turkoman Beyliks in Anatolia after the collapse of the selçuk Empire under the rule of the Ottoman Beylik.

**Beylik:** The various warlike principalities that were carved in Anatolia after the fall of the selçuk Empire that were under full authority of a prince or in this case a bey.

**Murad II:** The sultan of the Ottoman Empire from 1444 to 1481. He led the Ottomans in expanding their empire in the Balkans and helped it to recover after its defeat in the Battle of Angora against the Timurid Empire.

**Timurid Empire:** A Turco-Mongol Empire that originated from the Samarkand region in southern Kazakhstan which defeated the Ottoman Empire at the Battle of Angora in 1402.

**Establishment of Janissaries:** An event in 1365 which was created by Sultan Murad I to establish elite infantry units in the military body of the Ottoman Empire. The Janissaries were young Christian Balkans who converted to Islam and fought for the sultan as troops or bodyguards.

**Bursa:** The city capture from the Byzantines in 1326 that was soon after named the capital of the Ottoman Empire in 1335.

**Sultanate of Rum:** The Turko Persian state that occupied Anatolia from 1077 to 1307 which was established by the selçuk Turks. It was annexed from the preceding Byzantine Empire.

**Second Battle of Kosovo:** A military conflict fought between the Ottoman Empire and the Hungarian-Wallachian coalition on October 17-20, 1448, which was a final attempt by the Christians to annex the Balkan region and Constantinople from the Ottomans.

**Bayezid I:** The sultan of the Ottoman Empire from 1389 to 1402. He led the Ottomans to victory in the Battle of Nicopolis against the Crusaders in 1396. However, he led the empire to in the Battle of Angora and was captured after their loss against the Timurids.

**Battle of Angora:** A military conflict fought between the Timurid Empire and the Ottoman Empire that took place on July 20, 1402, which resulted in the loss of the Ottomans and their temporary decline.



Orhan I



The Mamluks



Ghazi Leader

## ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OTTOMAN BEYLİK

Recalling what you learned in Chapter One, the Turkic civilization rose to great prominence in the form of the Selcuk empire. Alas, the power fell to Mongol rule after their defeat in the battle of Köşe Dağ. This blow was devastating and collapsed the Anatolian Selcuk empire for good (Formerly the Selcuk empire was put under vassalage by the Ilkhanids of Iran (Inalcik Halil)); however, due to the nature of Mongol rule, the Turks were able to keep their religion, ideology, and practices thus still somewhat maintaining turkic identity (Goldschmidt, Arthur). The invasion was immediately felt by the Turkomans (nomadic turkic tribes) who were now displaced across Anatolia (Inalcik Halil).

The people of Anatolia, wanting to restore their empire due to them having maintained this turkic identity, began to revolt against mongol rule in 1277 (Inalcik Halil). Even with the Muslim forces of Mamluks assistance the attempt was hopeless; the Mongolian forces crushed the uprising and to prevent further straying permanently stationed forces in Anatolia. Regardless many more revolts and uprisings continued throughout the next 50 years(Inalcik Halil) showing the strength and faith of the Turkic people.

With the Ilkhanids occupying Baghdad and most of Iran, an influx of refugees and nomadic tribes were observed being dispersed into western Anatolia. As mentioned earlier the Turkoman tribes were among them; as newly converted to Islam the Turkomans were a cocktail of ethnicities and some of Selcuk descent; the pressure of the Mongolian conquest combined with the defeat of the Selcuks, and their military power, The Turkoman amalgamated with the people of Anatolia (Goldschmidt, Arthur). All in all these events were very beneficial and of great importance to rise of the Ottomans as they injected various ethnicities into anatolia, brought in them what would become turkish culture and turkic history, a vivid example is the writer Yunus Emre who charted down the epics of the Oğuz turks, and military benefits to the Anatolian region which would directly form the Turkish ethnicity as well as grant Turks the ability to conquest for new regions(Howard Douglas).

Considering Turkish conquest, the Turkoman tribes saw great value in the rich plains of western anatolia which belong to Byzantine empire (Inalcik Halil) thus they mounted numerous raids to wrestle these regions out of Byzantine hands(Howard Douglas). The raids were not merely ordinary nomadic raids as Turkoman called onto ghazis[gazis], holy warriors who saw the infidelity (believing a differing or no religion to that of the subject) as an insult to Islam(Inalcik Halil). This of course was a masking to justify the conquest of western anatolia by the Turkoman. Many ghazi leaders took parts of the tribes and lead them conduct fierce raids on the Byzantine lands(Inalcik Halil). These raids lasted from 1260-1320 (Inalcik Halil) and carved Anatolia into differing warlike principalities(lesser states under full authority of a prince or in this case a bey) also known as beyliks (Howard Douglas).





Battle of Maritsa, 1371

The principle of gaza or Holy War was, if not the, most fundamental event that led to the establishment of the Ottoman and other beyliks (Goldschmidt, Arthur). The principle of a Holy War was a praised one in Turkic societies; this stressed how vital it was for the Seljuks and thus Turkomans to convert to Islam as it gave them faith and spirit to fight and expand the Muslim faith under a more abstract, greater ideology (Inalcik Halil). The Holy War was viewed as a religious duty (Inalcik Halil) and thus propelled Turkic men to fight in it. It was also a grand economic opportunity for the Turkoman tribes as they were not intending to eradicate Christian or Jewish faith but let them pay tax to maintain their practices (Inalcik Halil). It thus that the principle of Holy War propelled and almost single handedly established the Ottoman as well as other beyliks of Anatolia.

These beyliks were respectively under the rule of the ghazi leaders that led them to wrestle this land from the Byzantines. This sequence of events is vital to the rise of Ottomans as it:

1. Demonstrates the power of Islamic faith which the Ottomans take pride in
2. Establishes the Turkish ethnicity that would finally settle Anatolia
3. Establishes independent Turkish Beyliks from which the Ottoman empire would be definitively established.

The Turkoman Beyliks at the end of the thirteenth century were so numerous and powerful that their raids on Anatolia were comparable to large scale invasions (Inalcik Halil). Out of all the beyliks the one that Osman Gazi held was the furthest to the North and thus the closest to the remaining Byzantine territories (Inalcik Halil). Osman Gazi would be the namesake of the Ottoman empire the beginning of his fame was marked in 1302 where he would lay siege to Iznik (Nicaea) utterly obliterating two thousand superiorly armed men of the Byzantine Empire. This lead Osman Gazi to be viewed as superior leader and flocked many **beyliks**, such as the Mihalgazi Beylik (Howard Douglas), to his side further expanding his rule over Anatolia (Howard Douglas). This event cemented and consolidated that the Osman (or Ottoman) Beylik was established and would soon rise to great prominence. All of the other beyliks have adopted Selcuk culture and values as well as the Ottoman Beylik showing how Selcuk legacy helped paint the Ottoman values.

**Osman** was succeeded by Orhan who saw a magnanimous conquest of beyliks and other territories alike (Howard Douglas). He struck an alliance with the usurper of the Byzantine empire John Cantecuzenos (Howard Douglas) and to further legitimize the alliance Orhan married Theodora John's daughter (Howard Douglas). The Ottoman Beylik was now in motion to prominence with the son of Orhan, Murad, and Murad's son, Bayezid, facing off against other beys in Anatolia and being wary of the Byzantine empire after 1346 (Howard Douglas). Another son of Orhan was to capture Tzympe in 1352 and fortress in Gallipoli in 1354 (Howard Douglas). In 1355 the Serbian King died (Howard Douglas) and this offered a window for the Ottomans into the Balkans, something that would be crucial in amalgamation of the Turkic Beyliks and thus the rise of the Ottoman empire. Furthermore, follow Orhans death, Murad took Adrianople (Edirne) as well as defeated a merged Serbo-Macedonian army at Maritsa River in 1371 all elevating the Ottoman Beylik to great prominence (Howard Douglas). Following the 1390s the Ottoman Beylik controlled nearly the entire Balkan peninsula.

It is evident that the Ottoman Beylik rose to glory from the time of its establishment which cemented the Turkish ethnicity in anatolia and Ottoman power. The real rise of the Ottoman empire begins when the Ottoman Beylik fuses all of the Turkic states finally unifying Anatolia under one unchallenged rule (Goldschmidt, Arthur). In conclusion, the defeat of the Selcuks by the mongols fractured and injected various more ethnicities. The Ottoman Beylik is the nucleation point for the Ottoman empire; from where all of the greatness sparked.



Byzantine Soldier



Battle of Manzikert



Balkans under Ottomans,

Transylvania

Bosnia

Ottoman Empire

The Balkans under Ottoman rule

## AMALGAMATION OF TURKIC STATES

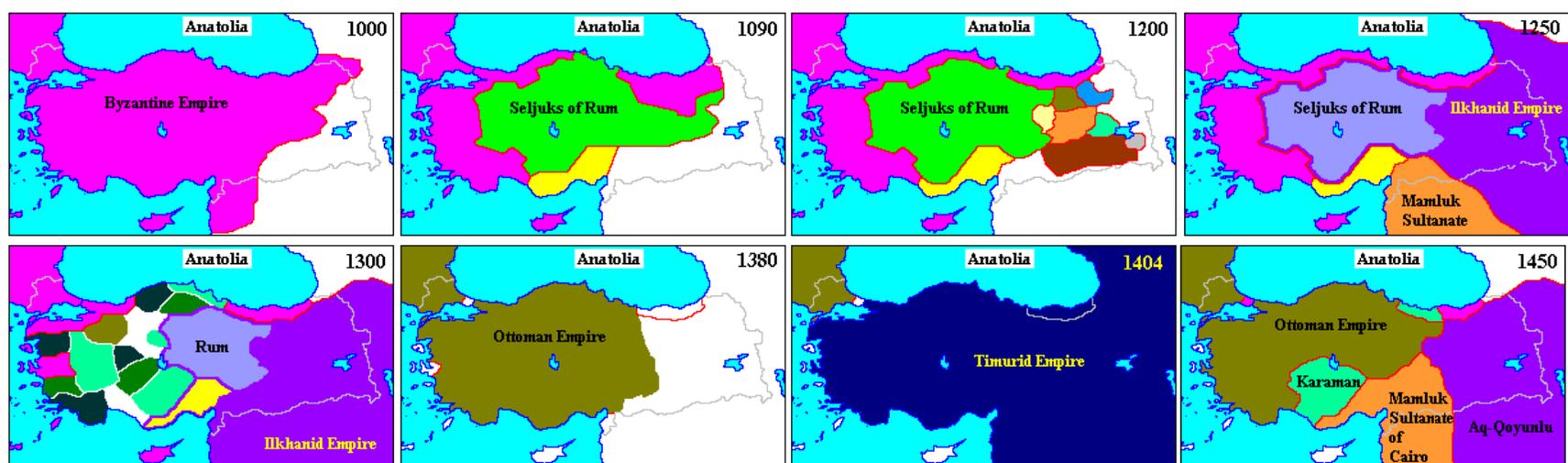
As we can recall from the previous chapter, the Turks who migrated from their homelands to the former Byzantine territory while intermarrying local people were converting to Islam. After their defeat at Manzikert, the Byzantine Empire was still a significant threat to the Turks, and due to this, the Turks were in a tense conflict with the Byzantine Empire. This resulted in the Turks developing a society to raise soldiers to fight the Byzantines.

Osman attacked the Byzantine lands and in the early 1300s, he achieved a number of military victories against the crumbling empire. Osman was the founder of the Ottoman Beylik, which, in his reign, he renamed to the Ottoman state. By the time he died, he had already laid the foundation for a powerful Ottoman Empire ("Ottoman Empire"). All of the future sultans including Osman's son Orhan, were guided towards Osman's ideals. Osman had wished to be certain that one of the top priorities for his state was that the society put emphasis on Islam and remained with the mindset of the Ghazis ("Osman").

He passed on the belief that the characteristics of a good Muslim should always be followed, and hoped that this belief would bring forward a sense of unity among the states. His son Orhan continued the expansion into Christian lands, and while expanding his father's s, he captured the important city of Bursa from the Byzantines in 1326 ("Ottoman Empire"). He eventually made this city the capital of the new state. During the next few decades, Orhan and his successors continued to expand the Ottoman state. They were able to conquer a large amount of territory from the Byzantines and gain strength. Some of the principles that led to such a successful expansion, were expansionism (Ghaza of holy war against the non-Muslims), absolutism, Muslim law system (embracing the sacred law based on the Quran using Islamic teachers to spread the Islamic doctrine), an efficient system of taxation, and division of the society (Howard Douglas). The territory that they had won from the Byzantines allowed the Ottoman State to grow into Europe and gain territory from there as well. As the Empire continued growing, they begun absorbing other Turkish States through marriage, alliances, and in some cases, force. The similarity in culture and their connection to Islam was what brought all of the Turkish states together.

The unification of the beyliks was significant in the creation of the Ottoman Empire. Since they had a shared belief of Islam due to the allowance of religion in the previous Mongol rule, this made it easier for the people to unify under one beylik, which was the Ottoman state (Goldschmidt, Arthur). The amalgamation ignited the rapid growth of the Ottoman Empire, since without the unification of the beyliks, the empire would have never been created. Now that Osman had joined forces with the other beyliks, their power as a single empire began to grow. This allowed stronger military forces that invaded other regions to expand the empire.

Ottoman rule began to extend over Anatolia and the Balkans. The annexation of Bursa meant loss of Byzantine control and over northwestern Anatolia. In 1387, the city of Thessaloniki, was captured by the Venetians. A victory at Kosovo in 1389 marked the end of the Serbian power, aiding the Ottoman expansion into Europe (Howard Douglas). With the Turkish domination into the Balkans, the conquest of Constantinople became an objective. The Empire was close to controlling all of the Byzantine lands, when the Turco Mongol leader Timur, founder of the Timurid Empire, included Anatolia from the east in the battle of Angora in 1402.



Map of Anatolia from Seljuk Empire to the Ottoman Empire



Battle of Angora



Bayezid I



Battle of Angora



Timur

## THE BATTLE OF ANGORA

As the Ottomans began to expand their territories outwards, **Bayezid I**, the successor of Murad I, began to sweep territories in the East and West of Anatolia. However, they were faced with a threatening enemy in the East: the **Timurid Empire**. Timur, the leader of the Timurid Empire, was a Turko-Mongol leader who originated from the Samarkand region in southern Kazakhstan.

His aim was to recreate the empire of Genghis Khan, which led to the Timurid conquest of Central Asia, Persia, Eastern Iraq, Afghanistan, and Northern Pakistan ("Battle of Angora"). Meanwhile, the Byzantine city of Constantinople was in danger of siege by the Ottomans. Therefore, the Byzantine emperor Basilius Manuel II begged for military assistance to neighbouring countries and was answered by Timur. As an excuse to invade the Ottoman Empire for territorial gains, he demanded that Sultan Bayezid restore Byzantine lands, which was refused by the Sultan ("History of Turkey"). Soon, Timur entered Ottoman territory and began to conquer several Turkoman states in Anatolia. Rumors of Timur's intentions to besiege the city of Angora led to a confrontation of the Timurid and Ottoman forces in the Çubuk plains near the city. Timur had ultimately ignited a conflict that was caused by his greed of territorial expansion into the Ottoman Empire.

This military confrontation between the Ottoman sultan, Bayezid I, "the Thunderbolt," -victor at the Battle of Nicopolis in 1396- against the leader of the Timurid Empire, Timur, "the Great Conqueror", was known to be inevitable as Tamerlane captured the city of Sivas, in eastern Anatolia at the Eastern end of Bayezid's empire. The leaders of both sides had already developed fearsome reputations as conquerors. Not only did the two leaders write each other crude, insulting letters for years leading up the battle, but both sides built up a bitter rivalry while acknowledging each other as threats to each others flanks.

The **Battle of Angora** was decided more by the strategic maneuvering than the tactical engagements. While the two forces might have been equal regarding their strengths in numbers, they had different styles in their arts of battle. While Bayezid and his Ottoman force was mostly drawn up with himself and his elite Janissary infantry in the centre, and a Serbian contingent under his brother-in-law Stephen Lazarevic on the right. Although his cavalry was supplied by the Anatolian contingents. Tamerlane's force was largely made up of only cavalry, with some Indian elephants in the centre ("Battle of Angora"). However, his army did contain a number of the Anatolian leaders whose men were now fighting for Bayezid.

Through Timur's engineering feat and with the ignoring of his advisors by Bayezid, the Timurids were able to spoil the only water supply available to the Ottoman forces, and array them for battle. Being thirsty and exhausted, the Ottoman soldiers were reduced of their effectiveness. In the beginning, the Ottoman troops took the initiative unlike their march on territory prior to this battle. The first confrontations by both sides were roughly even, the Janissaries were able to hold their own in the centre, while the Serbs pushed back Tamerlane's left ("History of Turkey"). However, towards the end of the battle the Anatolian troops that sided with the Ottoman forces began to leave the field in fear or even change sides. This was the deciding moment where most of the Ottoman forces began to retreat from loss under attack from both sides. Eventually even the Serbs who were able to hold their ground for a little longer had to retreat as well, leaving Bayezid and his Janissaries to stand alone. The Ottoman troops surprisingly held even longer until nightfall, until there were about 300 men. The 300 men attempted to escape, but Tamerlane's cavalry quickly caught them, and Bayezid was captured after his horse was killed under him.

After the final battle took place in Catal Hill, the defeated Ottomans escaped to the nearby mountains. However, the outnumbering Timurid forces surrounded Bayezid's forces and eventually managed to capture the men and arrest Bayezid and his son. Sultan Bayezid died in captivity in the following year and his son fled Anatolia as the Timurids advanced to the Aegean region.



The Timurid Empire

The victor of the battle was ultimately Timur and the Timurid Empire. The Timurids forced taxes upon the Ottomans and used their military forces. However, they did not force their rule on the empire or annex their region. They sought only the alliance with the Ottomans, which allowed the massive empire to survive after their loss in the battle.

Although the Timurid Empire defeated the Ottomans in the Battle of Angora, their conquest was simply a raid that only declined the Ottoman Empire for about a decade. After Timur's death in 1405, the Timurid Empire also began to deteriorate. The Ottoman defeat at the Battle of Angora was a big strike for the Ottomans at the time, but none of their rivals used this advantage to invade the weakened empire ("History of Turkey"). Therefore, the Ottomans soon began to recover in order to finally conquer Constantinople from the Byzantines.

After Bayezid's death, his sons began a civil war and thus an interregnum in Anatolia from 1402 to 1413 in which the sons competed to obtain the entire rule of the Ottoman Empire. Eventually, the disputes were won by Mehmed I in 1411 who ruled from 1413 to 1420 ("The Ottoman Empire"). After his short reign, he was succeeded by his son **Murad II**, who began to expand the empire which had temporarily declined after the Battle of Angora. As one of his first actions, he expanded into the Balkan region but was confronted by the Christian Hungarian-Wallachian army in the [Second Battle of Kosovo](#), as the Christians attempted to stop the spread of Islamic rule into the Balkans and Constantinople. However, Murad II defeated the Crusaders and successfully landed a secure Ottoman position on the Danube frontier. After the Ottoman Empire defeated the Christians in their last attempt to save Constantinople, the Ottomans sought to cap-



## SECTION 2:

# THE HEIGHT OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE



Siege of Constantinople

## SETTING THE STAGE

Despite their loss in the Battle of Angora, the Ottomans recovered because of the immediate fall of the Timurid Empire after the battle. Bayezid I's successors, Mehmed I and Murad II, began to expand the Ottoman Empire, starting with the Balkan region. The remaining Byzantine Empire only included Constantinople and a small region in Southern Greece. The conquest of the city would finally defeat the Byzantine Empire and make a leeway for the Ottoman Empire to expand further into Central Europe, Northern Africa, and the Middle East.

## KEY TERMS

<a href="#">Suleyman</a>	<a href="#">Pax Ottomana</a>	<a href="#">Constantinople</a>	<a href="#">3 days of pillage</a>	<a href="#">Ottoman Hungarian Wars</a>
<a href="#">Vienna</a>	<a href="#">Hapsburg</a>	<a href="#">Mehmed II</a>	<a href="#">Mamluks</a>	<a href="#">Russians</a>

**Süleyman:** Known as “Süleyman the Magnificent,” he ruled the Ottoman Empire for 46 years, and during this time, doubled the territory of his empire. He expanded his land into Europe and eastward as well, into Egypt and Persia, as well as the whole of the Mediterranean.

**Ottoman-Hungarian Wars:** Following several conquests including the capture of Gallipoli, the Ottoman Empire was determined to conquer the entirety of the Balkans. This caused them to invade Serbia, which in turn resulted in the Kingdom of Hungary to wage war against them. Hungary and the Ottoman Empire fought for the states of Serbia, Wallachia, and Moldavia.

**Pax Ottomana:** Literally meaning “Ottoman Peace,” the Pax Ottomana refers to the social and economic stability in the Ottoman Empire during the 16th and 17th centuries.

**Vienna:** In 1683, an Ottoman army suffered a defeat at Vienna, during their attempted expansion into Western Europe. This defeat is considered to be the beginning of the collapse of the Ottoman Empire.

**Constantinople:** The previously Byzantine city that was seized by the Ottomans in 1453 in the Conquest of Constantinople. Under Ottoman rule, it became known as Istanbul.

**Hapsburg:** The ruling monarchy of Austria during Suleyman’s rule.

**3 days of pillage:** A medieval war convention that Mehmed II used to allow soldiers to loot the city of Constantinople for 3 days during the Conquest of Constantinople.

**Mehmed II:** The sultan of the Ottoman Empire who reigned from 1444 to 1481. He was the leader of the Ottomans during the Conquest of Constantinople.



Constantine XI Palaeologus

2013 04 0



Mehmed the Conqueror

## THE CONQUEST OF CONSTANTINOPLE

Recalling what you learned from the previous section, the Ottomans rose to power by conquering many principalities (beyliks) and territories in the Balkans, but their glory was eventually shattered by Timur (Ruler of the Timurids) who divided their territories back into warring states among the sons of Bayezid (Douglas Howard). What history would call a fully defeated empire would rise once more; this time unifying all of Anatolia.

A civil war began between Bayezid I's sons to rule the Ottoman Empire, which resulted in Mehmed I's victory. He was soon succeeded by his son, Murad II, who focused on conquering regions in the West, in the Balkan region. When **Mehmed II** became sultan in 1451, the Ottomans began their conquest of the Byzantine city, **Constantinople**. Conquering Constantinople had been a dream of the Ottomans for many decades. The location of the city, which stood between the continents of Europe and Asia, gave control to waterways in both the Black Sea and the Mediterranean ("History of Turkey"). The Ottoman conquest of the city would give them a valuable trading port and also would allow them to force taxes on ships. These prestigious benefits drove Mehmed II, famously known as Mehmed the Conqueror, or Fatih, to begin the conquest

On the 6th of April, 1453, the young Ottoman Sultan led his army of over 60,000 into Constantinople. It is believed that the Prophet Hz Muhammad had once said, "One day, Constantinople will be conquered. How wonderful and blessed are the commander of it's conquest and his soldiers!". Mehmed the Conqueror was determined to become this commander, the next leader of Islam, and fulfill the prophecy ("1453 The Conquest"). Additionally, he believed that conquering the prosperous city would be a beneficial starting point for the Ottoman Empire and it's economy, as Constantinople had a steady economic growth due to it's advantageous location. Although Mehmed II and his supporters believed Constantinople would be the foundation for the Ottomans to begin their expansion into Europe, he had many oppositions in the Devsirme (Ottoman government) who disagreed with his objectives. They believed that the conquest of the Byzantine city could potentially start a new Crusade and could disintegrate their government. However, Mehmed conducted the siege of Constantinople despite the disaccord. He had been cautious and took care to plan his strategic tactics, taking on the state both from inside and outside, infiltrating city (Stoneman Richard).

Constantinople was overpowered by the Ottoman forces, having only 7,000 defenders against the Ottoman army's 60,000, including tens of thousands of janissaries, and a great deal of artillery such as cannons. The Ottomans were also in possession of the largest gun ever built at the time, designed by a Hungarian craftsman. Even Sultan Mehmed II himself had designed several cannon fires, used to bombard the city. The impact of the Ottomans' artillery had caused extreme damage to the land walls, which can still be seen to this very day on the ruins of the former city of Constantinople.

The Byzantine Emperor Constantine XI Palaeologus seemed to have predicted such an attack. In 1451, when Mehmed the Conqueror had ascended the Turkish throne for the second time, Emperor Constantine had immediately sent embassies to Italy and Venice, requesting for aid and assistance against the Ottoman army. However, Constantinople's pleas were neglected, ultimately leaving Byzantium to defend itself. On the 29th of May, 53 days after the siege had begun, the Ottomans had succeeded in breaching the walls near the gate of St. Romanos and the army started pouring into the city. It is said that once Emperor Constantine XI had heard of the coming wave of Ottoman soldiers, he had discarded all valuables he possessed, seized his own weapons, and fought for his empire one last time ("History of Turkey"). His trampled body was never recovered, although Greeks still believe in the legend that he will rise from the dead and lead his people back to Constantinople. The plundering phase in the conquest of Constantinople was a medieval war convention that allowed soldiers to loot the possessions of the inhabitants in the city. This was therefore known as the "**three days of pillage**". This resulted in the murder and deportation of thousands of civilians and left the city in ruins. This was also the time when the churches in Constantinople were destroyed and replaced with mosques.

The conquest of Constantinople marked a significant point in Ottoman history. Constantinople was changed to Istanbul and caused Byzantine refugees to flee to the West. However, Istanbul did not become the capital of the Ottoman Empire until the rule of Sultan Selim in 1512. After Constantinople fell into the hands of the Ottoman Empire, Mehmed II began to work on restoring the city after the war. Thousands of Non-Turkish Christians and Muslims were brought into the city. Jews from Central and Western Europe also migrated to Istanbul to flee from the growing persecution in Europe. However, the Armenians and Greeks that already inhabited Istanbul were reluctant to welcome the new Ottoman Islamic rule over their city. Due to the diverse range of religions in Istanbul, the Ottomans created millets, which were self-governed communities that were established under the major religions. Although Mehmed II converted many churches in the city to mosques, he allowed Christian faith in Istanbul because he needed the large Christian population to inhabit the city for the economy to thrive after the war. Therefore, the coexistence between the Christians and Muslims was peaceful in Istanbul.



Fall of Constantinople, 1453



The Rumeli Hisar Fortress

## EXPANSION INTO EUROPE

Having now defeated the Byzantines, the greatest and longest enemy of the Ottoman Empire, the Ottomans saw that that an empire confined to Anatolia could not survive (Inalcik Halil). Having just taken the so called gem of the Anatolia, the Ottomans were ready to march into Europe to further their economic, political, and imperial gains.

Mehmed the II was as wise an emperor as he was a military commander, he saw that the Ottoman fleet proved time and time again to be so powerful and so organized it would decimate any enemy if commanded properly (Douglas Howard). Mehmed II immediately recognized that Istanbul was a pivotal geostrategic location for conquest even as far as to say that “if he were to station a fleet in Istanbul he would rule the world” (Inalcik Halil). Mehmed also consoled that an invading party does not suffer as significant of a loss as does the defending party when a failed invasion occurs. From these clauses Mehmed II made the discussion to conquest further into Europe as there was great economic and security reasons to do so (“History of Turkey”).

Controlling the Bosphorous meant controlling routes to the Black Sea and the Sea of Marmara which conversely, through the strait of the Dardanelles, leads to the Aegean Sea. Having already fortified the Bosphorus in 1452 with the fortress of Rumeli Hisari, Mehmed II constructed another pair of fortresses in Canakkale fortifying the Dardanelles(Inalcik Halil). This gave Mehmed II full control of the across these bodies of water which gave him a window into the Balkans and Europe.

First, in 1454, Mehmed II sailed the Black Sea conquering all the states on it's shores such as many Genoese colonies, the kingdom of Trebizond and Moldavia to recognize and pay tribute to the Ottoman empire(Inalcik Halil). Mehmed II saw that by building up his economy with tribute from these states and annexing them they would provide him fuel to move onto the larger states in the Balkans and Europe.

Mehmed established a natural border for his conquest as the Danube river and began to conquer independent states and principalities south of the river(Inalcik Halil). This was more for imperial and political gains as Mehmed was afraid that if an invasion would occur these states would ally with the invading party and thus have a greater chance of success. Mehmed conquered Morea in 1460, northern Albania in 1464 to 1479, and Bosnia in 1463 (Inalcik Halil). He further destabilized and eliminated dynasties of these independent states by exiling their rulers and paying them pensions to not return; in the case of Morea, Mehmed payed their prince, Demetrios Paleologus, 300 thousand akces to stay down. Mehmed later fully eliminated the Comneni of Trebizond and the King of Bosnia(Inalcik Halil) which was an exceptionally smart move as it prevented the people of these regions from following a member of these dynasties into a revolt, as they believed that these dynasties had a divine right to rule. Thus Mehmed established a foothold in the Balkans.

His main task in the Balkans, however, was to contain and undermine a growing enemy: the Hungarians(Inalcik Halil). The Hungarians, with the aid from the Despot of Serbia, too were expanding, having taken the Krusevac region in 1451 they violated the natural frontier of the Ottomans and further expanded south (Inalcik Halil). Furthermore, during the annexation of Serbia, in 1456, the Hungarians impeded the siege of Belgrade forcing Mehmed II to abandon it. Having fully taken Serbia in 1459, Mehmed saw the Hungarians were a threat to the Ottoman empire. Moreover, in 1461 The Prince of Wallachia made an alliance with the Hungarians and attacked the Ottomans right on the Danube (Inalcik Halil). However, Mehmed successfully countered the invasion and invaded Wallachia himself in 1462 and disposed of the Hungarian allied prince replacing him with a puppet thus undermining the Hungarian influence from the Balkans and his natural frontier; furthering the security and imperial gains of the Ottomans ("History of Turkey"). However the struggle with the Hungarians would continue on as this was just the sparking of the lengthy **Ottoman-Hungarian wars**.





Uzun Hasan of Cyprus

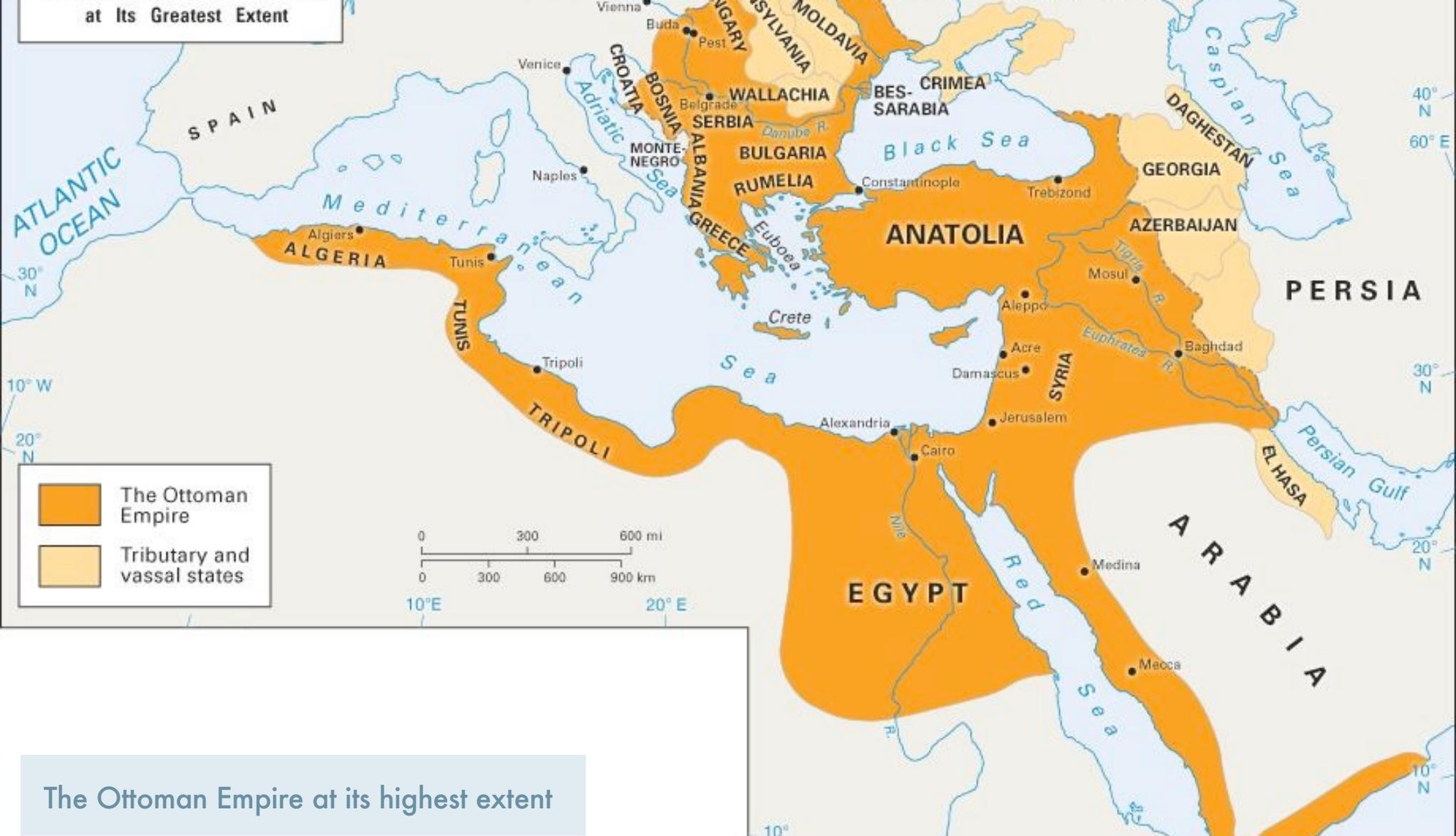


The Ottoman Empire at its peak



Iskender Bey of Albania

More was to come, as Venice threatened Ottoman rule of Albanian and Morea. An ungodly alliance was struck with the King of Argos, the Venetians, and the Pope to resist the Ottoman advances into the Balkans by blockading them in northern Albania. The alliance was successful, and while it resisted the Ottoman advances, the Venetians on their own occupied Scutari and Durazzo which were under the Ottoman umbrella of command (Inalcik Halil). This incident would eventually kickstart a full frontal war with the Ottomans and the Venetians causing the Ottomans to be impeded in their advances in Europe. The war broke out in 1463 and lasted 16 years involving multiple factions and states ("History of Turkey"). First of all, the Hungarians seized the capital of Bosnia while allying with Venice for resources and troops (Inalcik Halil). Secondly, The ruler of Albania, Iskender Bey, also allied with Venice and fought the Ottomans in his regions. Thirdly, the Pope urged other christian ruler to join this epic war to halt the spread of Islam and the power of the Ottomans. Much land fluctuated from and to the Ottomans during this war such as the lands of Karaman and Bursa(Inalcik Halil).



The Ottoman Empire at its highest extent

The Ottomans have yet to face one more formidable enemy, Uzun Hasan the ruler of Iran who allied himself with Venice, the king of Cyprus, and the Bay of Alanya (Inalcik Halil). While this war entailed many chaotic battles and fluctuating victories and losses eventually in 1478 Mehmed himself, in person, laid siege to Albania; having cut Venice off by sea from their ally Hungary, Mehmed successfully seized Albania and thus winning the war (Inalcik Halil). This caused a devastation to Venice which surrendered Scutari, Mania, Morea and agreed to pay annual tribute to the Ottomans for further humility. This goes to show how the Ottoman empire waged this war for furthering their economic, imperial, and political gains emerging victorious and perceived more powerful than ever by her rivals.

This was, however, not enough. Mehmed saw that the real economic and imperial hotbeds, such as Belgrade, the Knights of Rhodes, lower parts of the Danube, and northern Bosnia, still laid with the Hungarians. The Knights of Rhodes especially were pivotal to Mehmed as they blockaded him from full access to the Mediterranean but also would serve as a perfect bufferzone for if there were to be another crusade (Inalcik Halil). Mehmed II, in 1480, send an army to Rhodes in hopes of conquer. An Ottoman fleet sailed to southern Italy and established a foothold. Returning to Rumelia, the Ottomans gathered a larger fleet to take on Italy (Inalcik Halil) and Mehmed lead his final epic battle against Italy dying in a camp in 1481.

Mehmed the Conqueror definitively established the Ottoman empire as a true empire; he furthered the economic, political, and imperial gains of what was a small region in Anatolia and transformed it into a transcontinental force by conquest territories of Christian Europe and the Balkans (Inalcik Halil). Mehmed's death marked a power vacuum in the Ottoman empire following many conflicts and a civil war the Ottoman empire would continue it's conquest this time expanding everywhere.



Janissaries



Bayezid II



Gedik Ahmed

## THE EAST, THE SOUTH, AND THE WEST

The Ottoman empire was now a force known to Europe and the Christian world. With Mehmed II's conquest of the Balkans and the legendary wars that were fought established the Ottoman empire as a true imperial power. The Ottoman empire briefly facing internal turmoil would relapse and now conquest not only Europe but all territories near it setting itself as a world power(Inalcik Halil).

After Mehmed II died in 1481 a revolt of the elite military corps of the Janissaries insued. Mehmed was powerful and ruthless, however, drained the local economy and the exhausted the army with his endless campaigns and conquests. The Janissaries saw his death as an opportunity to break free from these endless conquest and have time to address their local priorities such as having a stable economy not reliant on conquering or having enough farmland to feed the people(Inalcik Halil). The Janissaries launched a revolt and associated a grand vizier to Mehmed to eliminate an advisor to his regime.

The Janissaries then installed a pseudo-puppet Sultan as to not have disapproval of the people but also gave full power to their idol: Gedik Ahmed. Ahmed together with the Sultan, Bayezid, internalized their efforts restoring some of the villages as farming districts and countering some of Mehmed's belligerent policies. Ahmed wished to continue the expansion into Europe, specifically Italy, but Bayezid asserted that the empire needed more time. Ahmed attempted to censor the Sultan but was assassinated and betrayed by his comrades in September 1481 (Inalcik Halil). This series of events would impede the Ottoman conquest in the short term but allow the Ottomans a greater advantage of conquering in the long term as they would be assured that the internal Ottoman empire is stable and the people approve of their living.

Bayezid's assassination of Gedik Ahmed would not go well with the people and, more importantly, the Janissaries and thus Bayezid decided to conquer the rest of Moldavia to show his people his strength and reinforce their beliefs in him. He won a decisive victory in Moldavia in 1484 and thus saw that the Ottoman empire was ready to conquer not only Europe but also parts of the Islamic world. The lands of Egypt and Syria was an imperial gold mine because of their strategic locations; they would serve as a perfect buffer zone to halt invasions from the south (Inalcik Halil). Furthermore, the Mamluks believed that they proclaimed that they had a rightful claim to the lands of southern Anatolia subduing the Turcoman principality of Dulkadir and Karamanids (Inalcik Halil). Thus Bayezid led an excessively long campaign against the Mamluk leaders of Egypt and Syria; while they were both Islamic states the Ottomans claimed that since Mehmed was the greatest gazi warrior the Ottomans have a superior claim to this buffer land (Inalcik Halil). The fight against the Mamluks continued; the Mamluks checkmated Bayezid by assisting his exiled brother, Cem, to enter Anatolia and thus starting a civil war in 1482 (Inalcik Halil). This civil war torn the Ottomans and allowed the Mamluks to recover, however, the peace was not to last as Bayezid defeated Cem and again led an offensive on the Mamluks in 1485; in total Bayezid led six campaigns against the Mamluks none of which would decisively win him the territories (Inalcik Halil). By 1491 Bayezid decided to modernize his armies and not give up on the conquest of the Mamluks (Inalcik Halil). This was crucial as traditionalist ideals did not embrace modernization not even of the army which caused them to have technological inferiority. However, even with this modernization Bayezid was cautious as the Knights of Rhodes held Cem captive and if given order would release him to Anatolia causing a civil war once more (Inalcik Halil).





On February 1495 Cem died and immediately Bayezid declared war on Venice reigniting the feud Mehmed started. Venice was a pivotal economic location and it laid in the center of a vast amount of trade and the territories that Mehmed contested were too rich in resources and plunder. (Douglas Howard). Furthering the conflict, Hungary, being allied with Venice, attacked Ottoman controlled Serbia but the Ottomans seized the pivotal ports of Lepanto, Modon, and Coron and directly engaged the Venetians in a sea combat(Inalcik Halil). This was a pivotal show of power as Venice has had a history of superior navy further showing that the Ottomans were climbing to a status of a world power. The war lasted from 1499 to 1502 and resulted in a Ottoman victory.

However, the Ottomans now faced an alliance of Turcoman tribes united by the descendant of Uzun Hassan: Ismail Safavi. Bayezid took to ignore the enemy and thus let him march on Bursa causing a sacking of the city (Inalcik Halil). This was Bayezid's decline as his age and sickness came to rival him. Bayezid did not conquer and conquer but rather internalized and developed the empire economically and consolidated the conquests of his father(Inalcik Halil). Bayezid's reign was pivotal as it would set the foundations of the peak of the Ottoman empire making a less precarious and more sustainable economic and political state(Douglas Howard). Furthermore, it would set the military prowess of the Ottoman empire at its peak as Bayezid modernized the army by introducing firearms and newer battle tactics. His reign was a foundation for the great conquests of Selim I and Suleiman the Magnificent; essentially a foundation for the peak of the Ottoman empire.

Prince Selim I took over by winning support of the Janissaries and forcing his father, Bayezid to abdicate. Selim then marched against the enemy. Selim was known to eliminate all opposition to his throne by murdering nearly all his relatives (Inalcik Halil). He led a ruthless campaign against Ismail eventually defeating him in 1517 forcing all the tribes of the Turkomans to accept Ottoman rule. Selim secured the possibility of an invasion from the east by creating a buffer zone of the Diyarbakir region and opened the routes to Azerbaijan, the Caucasus and Baghdad for conquest(Inalcik Halil). Then Selim began to conquest further in the Mamluk regions but this time an invasion was welcomed because the Portuguese had moved into the Red Sea in search for colonies(Inalcik Halil). The muslim world was petrified by this invasion; The Arab world called on the greatest gazi warriors, the Ottomans, to protect religious continuity. The Arabs attempted to send a delegate to converse with Selim but the Mamluks prevented these events to transpire. Selim saw this as a golden opportunity and marched into the Mamluk lands under the holy war justification to march onto Aleppo the city governors abandon it and thus the city fell to the Ottomans(Inalcik Halil). Finally in late 1517 defeating the armies of the Mamluks; The Ottomans rode through Damascus and Jerusalem(Inalcik Halil). Then Selim conquered Egypt with the help of the Arabs and further expanded into Hejaz(Inalcik Halil). He also laid the foundation claims for Yemen. Then the Arabs accepted Ottoman rule as they have shown true Islamic prowess and unrivaled military power; giving up Mecca and Medina the supposed holy city of Islam(Inalcik Halil).

Alas, the Ottoman empire now stretched into a transcontinental, interreligious, islamic caliphate having the holy cities of Islam in their pocket, Istanbul and various regions of formerly christian europe the Ottoman empire was seen as true world power. It was rich in both territory and gold, powerful in people and military, all by the workings and conquests of Bayezid, and Selim. Furthermore having encompassed essentially the entirety of the muslim world the Ottomans saw themselves as protectors of the religion (Inalcik Halil). Astonightly enough the conquest of the Arab lands, Venetian lands, and european lands is the that the Ottomans controlled the most richest economic hotbeds of the continents(Inalcik Halil). So much so that the Ottoman state income doubled after Bayezids and Selim's conquests(Inalcik Halil). This was only the beging of the Golden age of the Ottoman empire as these riches and conquest only laid the foundations for the **Suleyman** the Magnificent to transform the Ottoman empire into a world superpower.



In the 1520s the Ottoman empire was a ubiquitous term in Europe, so much so that the **Hapsburg** Charles V and Francis I of France prepared to mobilize their forces in an unholy alliance to contain the Ottoman expansion (Inalcik Halil). However a feud between rival claims to the throne of the Holy Roman Empire made these two rulers start a war with each other in 1521 (Inalcik Halil); Suleyman saw this as a golden opportunity to strike Europe and finish Mehmed II's conquest and marched towards Belgrade, the gateway to Europe, shredding it to pieces with the city falling in August 1521(Inalcik Halil). He then proceeded to capture Rhodes having now full access to the mediterranean in 1522(Inalcik Halil). Meanwhile, in 1525 Charles V took Francis prisoner and thus the French as a last resort sought an alliance with the Ottomans(Inalcik Halil). While this alliance may seem unreasonable; Both the Francis and Suleyman saw that the Hapsburg empire would dominate all of Europe and the Ottomans were the only power that were capable of stopping them(Inalcik Halil). This goes to show how powerful the Ottoman empire was at it's peak capable of singly halting the spread of a autocratic power which sought dominion over all of Europe. The following year Suleyman sought to continue the long standing war with the Hungarians by marching straight into Hungary with an grand army.



Battle of Vienna

The Battle of Mohacs insured on August 1526 with the Ottomans occupying Buda. This battle ended the Ottoman-Hungarian wars and consolidated the Ottomans as a rival to Europe's powerhouse states. Numerous attempts to make Hungary a puppet state was tried and succeeded in 1529. Suleyman then moved towards the gem of the Hapsburg empire, Vienna another addition to a pivotal geostrategic and economic location. However, Suleyman could not annex the city after three weeks of siege (Inalcik Halil). Hungary began to slip away with their former ruler, Ferdinand, entering the region and starting a revolt against the puppet leader(Inalcik Halil). Many lands fluctuated from and to the Ottoman empire in this conflict with Hungary revolting and being suppressed many times. Francis made a formal alliance with Suleyman to rival the power of the Hapsburgs and fight a two front war with Italy (Inalcik Halil). Then the Ottomans finally took Hungary under direct control when Ferdinand entered it once more in 1541 and left Ferdinand a small strip of land. Suleyman would later make peace with Ferdinand in exchange for an annual tribute of 30 thousands ducats(Inalcik Halil). Now Suleyman conquered as far as Venice and had a stable ally in Europe. This goes to show that the Ottoman empire was at it's golden age tearing through territories and winning war thousands of kilometers outside their origin. As well as annexing some of the richest and most strategic and religiously important sites, the Ottoman empire was unmatched in land and sea power.

The French-Ottoman alliance was pivotal as it strengthened the Ottoman presence in Europe and allowed the Ottomans great force and clairvoyance to conquest much of southern Europe (Douglas Howard), as well as making a promising window into all of Europe the Franco-Ottoman alliance was what allowed Suleyman to conquest further into Europe and thus establish a world class empire. Finally, the Ottoman empire rivaled the Russians as their expansion threatened the Ottoman outlets and positions on the Black Sea(Inalcik Halil). Ivan Iv annex the Volga basin an important river outlet to the Black sea. The Russians recognized that they were too weak to challenge the Ottomans and thus decided to use diplomacy and negotiations. The Ottomans were not interested in negotiations but neither were they interested with a full war or armed conflict so they left the struggles against Russia to their puppet states (Inalcik Halil).

In conclusion, the Ottoman empire became a world power by policies and conquests of Mehmed II, Bayezid II, Selim I, Suleiman I all of whom transformed the Ottoman empire territorially, economically, and politically into a power feared and respected in both the Christian and Islamic worlds.



## SECTION 3:

# THE FALL OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE



The Young Turks

## SETTING THE STAGE

In the 17th century, the Ottoman Empire was at the height of its power under the rule of Suleyman, having expanded its territory as far as Southeast and Central Europe, Western Asia, the Caucasus, North Africa, and the Horn of Africa. However, after this period of power and prosperity came the gradual downfall of the Ottomans, with the final straw being World War I.

## KEY TERMS

<a href="#"><u>Crimean War</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Treaty of Sevres</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Armistice of Mudros</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Mustafa Kemal</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Young Turks</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Constitutional Reform</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Arab Revolt</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Treaty of Karlowitz</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Genocide of Armenians</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>CUP (Committee of Union and Progress)</u></a>

**Crimean War:** A military conflict that lasted from October 1853 to March 1856, where the alliance of the Ottoman Empire, France, Britain, and Sardinia defeated the Russian Empire.

**Constitutional Reform:** Reforms made to change how the government governs. An example is of the Ottoman Empire separating the state from their Islamic religion.

**Treaty of Sevres:** One of several treaties signed by the Central Powers after their defeat in World War I, this treaty partitioned the Ottoman Empire and marked its ultimate annihilation.

**Arab Revolt:** Began on June 5, 1916, and was declared on June 8, the Arab Revolt had an aim of independence from the ruling Ottoman Turks to create a single unified Arab state spanning from Aleppo, Syria to Aden, Yemen. Eventually on October 1, 1918, the Ottoman Empire agreed to the armistice and tense negotiations began.

**Armistice of Mudros:** Conducted on the 30th of October 1918, the armistice ended the conflict in the Middle Eastern theatre between the Ottoman Empire and the Allies.

**Treaty of Karlowitz:** When the Ottoman Empire was defeated at the Battle of Zenta, this treaty was signed in modern day-Serbia on 26 January 1699 which was then Sremski Karlovci, concluding the Austro-Ottoman War of 1683–97

**Mustafa Kemal:** The revolutionary and founder of the Republic of Turkey, who served as its first President from 1923 till 1938. Later known as 'Ataturk', meaning "Father of the Turks".

**Genocide of Armenians:** Acted out by the Ottoman government, the Armenian Genocide is a systematic extermination of 1.5 million Armenians.

**Young Turks:** A group consisting of ottoman exiles, students, civil servants, and army officials, the Young Turks was a political reform movement in the early 20th century, which led to a revolution against the authoritarian regime of Ottoman sultan Abdülhamid II.

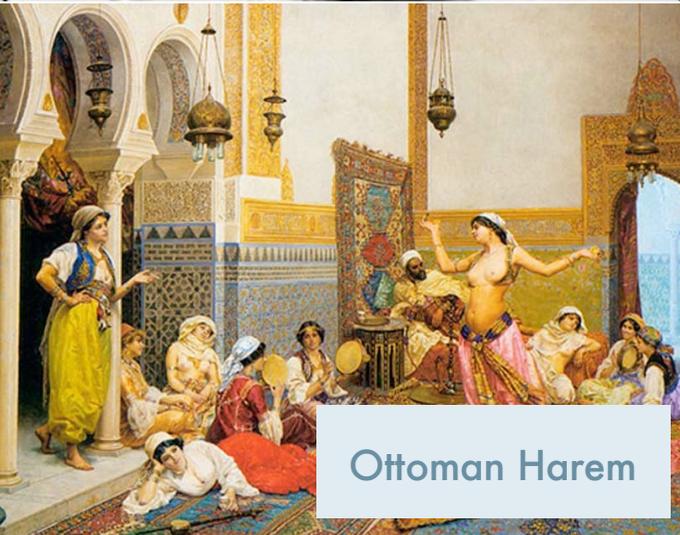
**CUP (Committee of Union and Progress):** With members referred to as unionists, this committee was a secret circle of liberal-minded students who wished to overthrow the autocratic regime of Sultan Abdülhamit II. The CUP were the ones mainly responsible for the Young Turks movement.



Grand Vizier



Chief Janissary Officer



Ottoman Harem

## STAGNATION AND REFORM

During the reign of Suleyman the Magnificent, which was called “Pax Ottomana”, the Ottoman Empire was at its peak in prosperity. It had managed to stabilize social, economic, and political structures and was thriving under the reign of Sultan Suleyman. However, this peace could not be maintained forever and the Ottoman Empire began to face internal issues that led to the stagnation of the empire’s progress.

Suleyman, who became disinterested in political affairs, made an amendment to the political system, which installed the office of grand vizier. Although the grand vizier was able to replace and fulfill the official duties of the sultan, he was not able to gain the trust and support of the various groups and ethnicities in the Ottoman Empire. Therefore, the government was not able to move forward and take action on matters because of the faulty political system set up by Suleyman.

Another issue that rose to deterred the Ottoman Empire was the corruption in the devsirme. The devsirme was the Ottoman government which had eventually gained power over the sultan as he had passed on his duties to the grand vizier. When the devsirme broke off into various parties, this gave leeway to corruption since the leaders sought personal benefit from the government instead of improving the empire. This led to the stagnation of the empire since the government continued to fall to corruption instead of maintaining or contributing to the empire. Eventually, the grand vizier lost his power, which was then passed on in 1570 to the women of the Ottoman Harem (imperial household consisting of wives and female relatives of the sultan). In 1578, the dominant power was passed on to the chief Janisaries, which lasted until 1625 ("Ottoman Empire"). This constant and unstable administration of power in the empire led to misrule in the power, which led Ottoman societies into a period of uncertainty and aggression. This political issue led to further societal problems that ultimately caused the stagnation of the Ottoman Empire.

The Ottoman Empire was also suffering economically during this time period. In the late 1500's the Dutch and British shut down significant trade routes in the Middle East, which caused the economy of the Ottoman province in the region to deteriorate. The empire additionally began to experience inflation, which weakened the major trading industry and thus the economy. Stuck under a deadly loop, the Ottomans experienced issues with exporting and importing goods from foreign countries due to the inflation. This sudden drop in the economy drove many civilians out of business and caused poverty in many communities.

Due to the obvious political, social, and economic difficulties the Ottoman Empire was facing, the government finally made an effort to impose **reforms**. Sultan Osman II, who reigned from 1618 to 1622, first suggested the reforms that would continue in the reigns of Murad IV and Mehmed IV from 1623 to 1687. One of the most significant reforms was the Malikane, which was a reform in tax farming. The previous method of tax farming did not give mutual benefit to both the farmer and the government, which was now granted in the new reform ("Ottoman Empire"). It also raised more revenue for the government, which was effective in stabilizing its deteriorated economy.

Political reforms were also made during this time period in order to prevent further corruption in the government. The empire was now held under central administration, which abolished the various parties in the devsirme. The sultan now had the ultimate power, but provinces were ruled under the administration of the provincial governor and his subjects.

Although the government had attempted to improve the stagnated empire, they were not able to save the Ottoman Empire from its deterioration. It was now further pushed away from sustaining Pax Otto-

## DETERIORATION AND MODERNIZATION

Following the period of stagnation and reform, there came the beginning of the deterioration of the Ottoman Empire. After many centuries of Ottoman power and growth, the empire finally came to a decline due to a number of reasons. Not only were the chosen sultans becoming increasingly incompetent, but there was a great deal of conspiracies and corruption within the government, ultimately leading the Ottoman Empire to its end.

Although Suleyman the Magnificent had brought immense power to the Ottoman Empire, he had set a pattern for incompetent sultans in following years. He had ordered for his ablest son to be killed and his second to be exiled, leaving his third son, Selim II, to rule. However, Sultan Suleyman had neglected Selim II for most of his life, and had not followed through with the Ottoman tradition of raising his son to be sultan. Early engagement and apprenticeship in the government and military would have made him worthy of the Sultanate, but Suleyman had only done this with his first two sons. This could have played a role in Selim's disinterest in ruling, causing him to become immensely incompetent. Rather than fulfilling his duties as sultan, he was known to pass his time in the harem, the female quarters, lounging and drinking excessively, earning him the name "Selim the Sot", or "Selim the Drunk". He is known in history as the first disinterested sultan of the Ottomans, and one of the reasons for the deterioration of the government and empire.



The Devisirme System

Another factor that had weakened the line of heirs to the throne was that in the following years, it had become customary for the new sultan to have assassins strangle his brothers, and any other potential heirs for that matter. In some cases, the sultan would imprison his brothers in the harem, separating them from the outside world and isolating them completely. They would lack education and social skills, and if the time came for them to take the throne, they would lack the basic experience required of every sultan. This weakened and ruined the lineage of Ottoman rulers, another reason for the fall of the empire.

The mother of the sultan, or the valide sultan, would act as the queen and would normally oversee the Imperial Harem. However, over the centuries, the valide sultan had become a more prominent figure in the Ottoman government, which was greatly disadvantageous as she would lack the experience and knowledge required for the role ("Ottoman Empire"). Many times, weak and naive sultans had been hugely influenced and manipulated by their ambitious mothers, resulting in the sultan becoming a mere puppet ruler. These valide sultans usually picked favourites and individuals most loyal to them to be part of high office, no matter their competency. This led to corruption in the Ottoman government.

In addition to this, there was also a growing rebellion within the devşirme class. The devşirme system had been introduced in the 1420s, and involved the Ottomans collecting young boys from the Balkans, converting them into Muslims, and making them slaves. Those with potential military talent were recruited in the Ottoman army and trained to become Janissaries. This system had been efficient for many centuries, providing the Ottomans with a large army and many slaves and servants. However, the system had begun to take its toll, becoming yet another factor in the deterioration of the empire. The government and military had lost control over the devşirme, and they broke into multiple factions and parties, pledging loyalty not to the sultan, but to the potential successor ("Ottoman Empire"). Each party supported and allied with one shahzada, or prince, along with his mother, sisters, and wives. These political parties led to a great deal of conspiracy and corruption, with the shahzada acting as a puppet for the devşirme and women of the harem, collectively committing many unlawful acts in order to gain power. The government continued to weaken, and as a result came misrule and anarchy.

Although, one thing remained the same - the Ottoman Empire was still a fearsome enemy to western Europe. These Christian European nations feared the Ottomans' power to overrun them and force Islamic beliefs and Muslim rule upon them. Many European rulers and political figures supported the idea of yet another Crusade, this time against the Ottoman Turks, one of their motives being to liberate Greece, the foundation of European education and civilization. However, defeating the Ottomans seemed an impossible goal as they had for many centuries fought relentlessly and unyieldingly ("Ottoman Empire"). Therefore, when news came of the Battle of Lepanto in 1571, announcing Ottoman defeat, all of western Europe rejoiced. The battle had been between the Turkish fleet and the Christian powers under the military leader, Don John of Austria, and for the first time, the Turks had lost in battle to Christian Europeans.



Pope St. Pius V



Great Turkish War



John III Sobieski

Now that the Europeans had defeated the Turks in a battle, they became more confident and determined to take down their enemy. This caused what came to be known as the Great Turkish War, a series of conflicts and battles between the Ottoman Empire and most of Europe (“Great Turkish War”). These European nations then formed an alliance called the Holy League, arranged by Pope St. Pius us V. One of the most significant battles was the Battle of Vienna in 1683, notable for the Ottoman army’s large-scale defeat (“Ottoman Empire”). The Ottomans had initially attempted to besiege the city of Vienna, one of their primary objectives for a long period of time. Capturing the city would have gained them a great deal of control over significant trade routes, and the Ottomans had almost succeeded in doing so, however, Christian troops lead by the military commander John III Sobieski battled them and won, marking the beginning of Ottoman territorial retreat.

Following several more defeats, majorly on the part of the Ottomans, a peace treaty was proposed to end conflicts and hostilities between the combatants. The **Treaty of Karlowitz** settled that European nations under Ottoman control such as Hungary and Transylvania would be transferred to Austria.

Following several more defeats, majorly on the part of the Ottomans, a peace treaty was proposed to end conflicts and hostilities between the combatants. The Treaty of Karlowitz settled that European nations under Ottoman control such as Hungary and Transylvania would be transferred to Austria. Hence, Ottoman influence was minimized and diminished in Central Europe.

As a result of the war, the Ottoman Empire lost much of its power and control, now negotiating not from strength, but from weakness. The European nations now scrutinized the Ottomans, planning to take advantage of their vulnerability, and soon another country joined them - Russia. For quite some time, Russia's goal was to liberate Greece as well, their fellow Orthodox country. The Russian fleets met the Ottomans at Çeşme, where the Ottomans were defeated yet again, giving the Russians access to the Mediterranean. Russia's next objective was to liberate Crimea from Ottoman rule. They occupied Crimea until the Ottomans agreed to sign a treaty declaring its independence. This was the Treaty of Küçük Kaynarca, signed in 1774, which consisted of several conditions such as that the Ottoman Turks allow Russia to build an Orthodox church in their city, Istanbul. The Ottomans then turned to their once-rivals, the central Europeans. The Turks requested for advisors and support, and were answered with military support from Britain and France, along with the army of Sardinia-Piedmont. Britain and France offered help to the Ottoman Empire out of fear that the Russians would carve out its land and claim it their own, giving them access to at least the Bosphorus, the Dardanelles, and ultimately, the Mediterranean Sea. This would endanger British and French colonies and territories in the Eastern part of the sea such as Cyprus and the Suez Canal. Now that the Turks had a sufficiently large army, they declared war with the Russians, one that would come to be known as the **Crimean War**. Lasting for over two years, the war resulted in many casualties on both sides. From the initial number of 1,650,000 soldiers from all nations, around 900,000 died ("Crimean War"). The Crimean War ended with the defeat of the Russians and the Treaty of Paris, declaring the Ottoman Empire's territorial integrity and independence.

However, the Ottoman Empire continued to deteriorate. With each passing century, the empire faced new issues and enemies. During the absolutist rule of Sultan Abdülhamit II in 1876 to 1909, an uprising group emerged, led by exiled citizens and liberal-minded students. It was a nationalistic reaction to the inefficient and incompetent government at the time. The uprising group, known as the **Young Turks**, held a great number of public demonstrations in the city, in opposition to the suspension of the Ottoman Parliament.



Battle of Gallipoli



The Central Powers

## WORLD WAR I

Noting from the previous sub-topics that the **CUP** (Committee of Union and Progress; İttihad ve Terakki Cemiyeti) rose into a more prominent position in government and that the constitution was amended to transfer real power to the Parliament, we can follow the Ottoman Empire to when they took part in World War I -also known as the First World War, the Great War, or the War to End All Wars- as they joined the Central Powers to form the Triple Alliance with the signing of the 1914 Turco-German Alliance in August. On the 29th of October 1914, the Ottoman Empire formally entered the war by carrying out a surprise attack with bombings on Russia's ports on the Black Sea coast and then was declared war against on November 4th. The Ottoman Empire had essentially sided with Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Bulgaria as the central powers in a global war originating in Europe against the Allies (Britain, France, Russia, Italy and the United States). With the eventual end of the first World War on November 11th 1918, the defeat of the central powers, and the actions of the Ottoman Empire's government, the eventual dissolution of the empire in 1921 was inevitable.



The CUP

During the war, the Ottoman forces fought the Allies in the Balkans and the Middle Eastern theater. Their efforts made a substantial contribution to the Central Powers' war effort. By fighting not only in the European fronts, but in eastern Asia Minor (Anatolia), Azerbaijan, Mesopotamia, Syria and Palestine, and the Dardanelles, the Ottoman forces held down large numbers of Alliance/Entente troops. By September 1918, the Ottoman Empire dominated Transcaucasia (a.k.a. the South Caucasus, "is a geographical region in the vicinity of the southern Caucasus Mountains on the border of Eastern Europe and Western Asia. Transcaucasia roughly corresponds to modern Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan" (Google)). The ongoing success from the Ottoman Forces' war efforts led government officials to wrongly assume triumph with the war as a whole. The Ottoman Empire started army desertions on a massive scale, and economic pressures became acute. Additionally, the government under CUP dominance, took the opportunity of the war to handle their own agenda of attacking internal problems within the empire.

The government abolished Capitulations unilaterally on the September of 1914, ended the autonomous status of Lebanon, executed a number of Arab nationalists in August 1915 and May 1916 in Damascus, and above all committed the atrocity known as the Armenian genocide. Carried out during the years of World War I (1915 ~ 1918), centrally planned and administered by the Ottoman Empire's government, the entire Armenian population within the empire was subjected expropriation of their wealth, deportation, abduction, torture, massacre, and starvation so that any domestic support for the pro-Christian tsarist enemy on the Eastern Front was eliminated in the Eastern Asia Minor and Cilicia areas. This was the Armenian genocide, it is now often referred to the holocaust in modern times as an estimated number of about one and a half million Armenians perished between the time period of the **Armenian genocide**.

These 'criminal' actions taken by the CUP were not exposed until after the war ended and made the support for the government by the empire and the international community to not only plunge, but even go against. With the surrender of Bulgaria that took place on September 28, 1918, the Ottoman empire was out of the war with a loss and severed relations with Germany. Eventually the CUP cabinet resigned on October 7th and by October 30th, the Ottomans signed the **Armistice of Mudros**.

With their loss in the war, the Ottoman empire had to cooperate on the proposals made by the Allies for the partition of Ottoman territories that were formulated in a number of wartime agreements. Notably, the Istanbul Agreements of March 1915 promised Russia Istanbul and the strait's. However, in 1917, Russian withdrawal and postwar bargaining allowed the Ottoman Empire to compromise and follow up to some modifications of agreements regarding themselves. The Ottomans were able to retain Istanbul through the **treaty of Sevres** in August 1920 along with parts of Thrace, but lost the Arab provinces and had to cede a large area of Asia Minor for the newly created Armenian state as compensation for their actions. The Ottoman empire had to also surrender Gökçeada and Bozcaada to Greece along with Izmir. Additionally, the strait's were internationalized, and strict European control of Ottoman finances was established. Eventually, Britain, France, and Italy accompanied a tripartite agreement, defining extensive spheres of influence. These many disadvantages eventually led to the treaty being ratified only by Greece and an abrogation by the 1923 Treaty of Lausanne, thanks to **Mustafa Kemal**, who lead a waged struggle for independance. Mustafa Kemal, was an outstanding and determined Ottoman wartime general who took part in the Gallipoli Campaign.

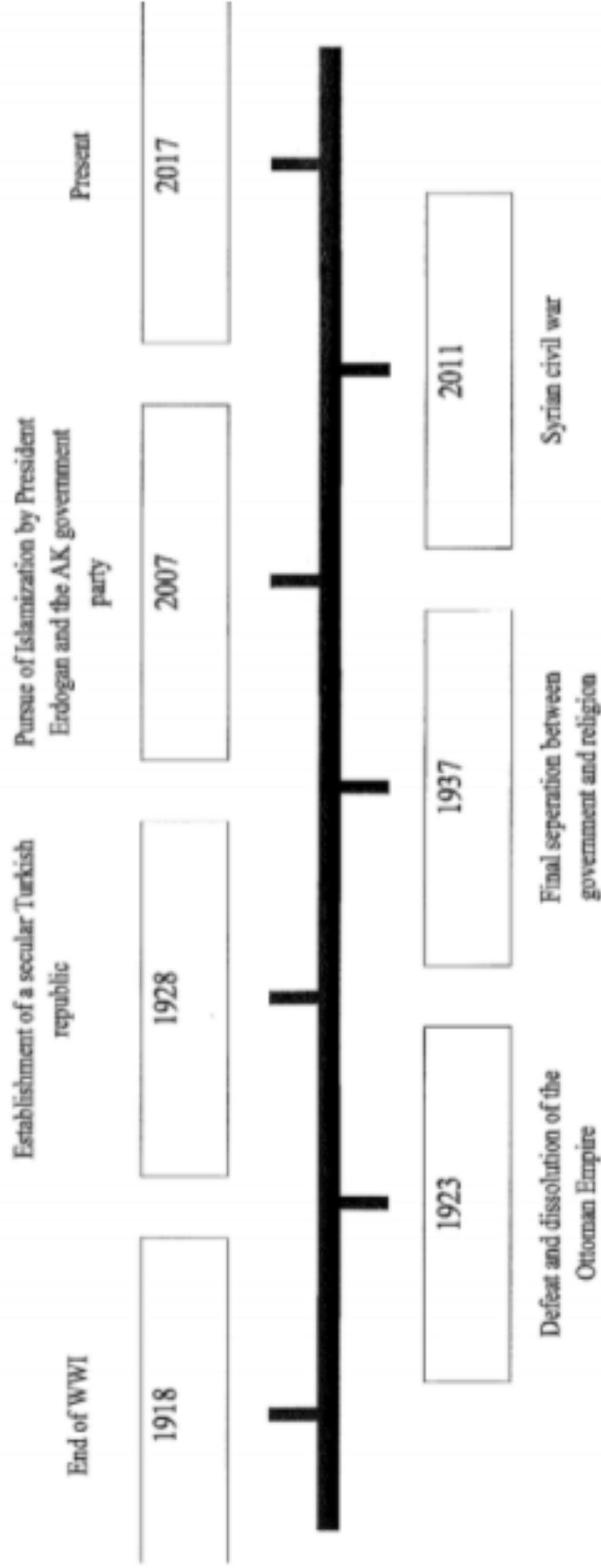


Armenian Genocide



**3.**  
**THE TURKISH**  
**REPUBLIC**

## General Timeline of Chapter 3





## SECTION 1:

# ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TURKISH REPUBLIC



Balkan Wars

## SETTING THE STAGE

During WWI, the Ottoman Empire slowly began to crumble as their loss became definite as the Central Powers began losing their battles. Therefore, their territories were also shrinking as the individual people in the various continents of their empire were seeking independence. Soon, the Ottoman Empire would weaken and fall; and soon becoming a secular Turkish Republic.

## KEY TERMS

<a href="#"><u>Gallipoli Campaign</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Ankara</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Three Pashas</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>3 days of pillage</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Central Power</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>WW1</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Balkan Wars</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Sultan Mehmet VI Vahdettin</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>The Treaty of Lausanne</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Kemal's Revolution</u></a>

**Gallipoli Campaign:** The Gallipoli Campaign, also known as the Dardanelles Campaign, was a campaign that took place on the Gallipoli peninsula between 25 April 1915 and 9 January 1916.

**Ankara:** The capital city of Turkey.

**War of Independence:** The Turkish independence war was a civil war between Turkish National Movement and the proxies of the Allies from 19 May 1919 to 29 Oct 1923. The success of the war proclaimed the founding of the Republic of Turkey.

**WWI:** World War I, also known as the First World War, was a global war between Allies and Center Power lasted from 28 July 1914 to 11 November 1918.

**Kemal's Revolution:** Kemal's Revolution was a bourgeois revolutionary movement that leading by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk after World War I in the Ottoman empire from 1919 till 1923.

**Balkan Wars:** The war between the Balkan states of the Ottoman Empire and the Ottomans that lasted from 1912 to 1913 that was fought for independence in the region.

**Sultan Mehmet VI Vahdettin:** The last sultan of the Ottoman Empire who ruled fro 1918 to 1922.

**The Treaty of Lausanne:** The treaty signed in 1923 by Turkey and the Allies that ended their involvement in World War I.

**Central Power:** The alliance of Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and the Ottoman Empire during World War I.

**Three Pashas:** The triumvirate of senior officials who ruled the Ottoman political party during its downfall.



## THE RISE OF NATIONALISM

In the midst of World War I, the Ottoman Empire found itself as a **Central Power** among Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Bulgaria. However, they also faced internal problems in their own empire, which gave them their nickname, “the sick man of Europe”. As a transcontinental empire with territories stretching across continents, the Ottoman Empire consisted of various ethnicities and religions. Therefore, the different groups wanted to gain independence from the Ottomans - notably the people in the Balkan region. After Suleyman’s reign ended, the economic prosperity and socio-political stabilization began to deteriorate as seen in the previous section. The empire wasn’t the powerful and feared Ottoman Empire anymore, but instead was a weak government that provided opportunities for the Balkan people to begin a movement of nationalism in order to gain independence.

Suleyman's conquest of the Balkans had caused the region to be annexed by the Ottoman Empire for several decades. To seek a sense of individuality from the rest of the empire, the different ethnic and religious groups in the Balkans began an upsurge of nationalism. Before World War I, Greece and Serbia had already declared independence from the Ottoman Empire respectively in 1815 and 1829.

This sudden rise in nationalism was significant in igniting the **Balkan Wars**, which were a series of battles from 1912 to 1913 that resulted in the extreme loss of territory for the Ottoman Empire. Ultimately, this peak of nationalism among the various ethnic and religious groups in the Balkan region was significant in the fall of the Ottoman Empire in the early 20th century, because it began the revolutions that weakened and eventually destroyed the empire.



Balkan Wars

Roger-V



Ataturk



ANZAC soldier

## BATTLE OF GALLIPOLI

As we mentioned before, the Ottoman Empire defeat Britain in the Gallipoli Campaign by Kemal's leading. There was a well known saying came from Kemal during the campaign, which was "I don't order you to attack, I order you to die." The **Gallipoli Campaign** brought a lot of consequences to the Ottoman Empire. First of all, the Ottoman Campaign successfully beat off Britain and destroyed their plan which was to take over the control of Dardanelles and Bo's Luce Strait. Second, it's the most important effect for the entire Turkish history, because of Kemal's strong command ability and powerful leader ability, the Ottoman Empire successfully defended their capital Istanbul and fought off the Allies, the Ottoman Empire awarded him the "The Saviour of Istanbul" and the General position. Therefore, Mustafa Kemal came to power. His rise to power symbolized the founding of The Republic of Turkey. After **World War I**, on October 1918, the Ottoman Empire have forced to sign the Armistice Agreement because they were the defeated nation. The agreement caused many territories of the Ottoman Empire have been controlled by other countries. Britain even inspired the countries that close to the Ottoman Empire to dismember the Ottoman Empire.



## Paris Peace Accords

On January 18th 1919, the Paris Peace Conference has been held. At the conference, the allies forced the defeated nations (Central Powers: Germany, the Ottoman Empire, Hungary, Austria and Bulgaria) to sign a series of treaties. These treaties formed the well-known system—the Versailles System. Among them, the Versailles Treaty was particularly famous. It greatly weakened Germany's strength and it was one of the most important causes of World War II.

The **Treaty of Lausanne** that the Ottoman Empire was forced to sign brought them into a really serious situation. They not only lost the territories that they took over from other nations or countries since the fifteenth century, but also lost their innate territories. In this terrible and special situation, Mustafa Kemal stood out. He led many national sports leaders and advocates of patriotism to the citizens. His advocacy of territorial integrity cheered many people up. He grabbed their hearts together and fought for his country. Later on, he resigned his military appointment and devoted himself wholeheartedly to save his country.



President Erdogan

## THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SECULAR REPUBLIC

Reviewing the previous chapters, after being forced to deal with many internal issues and getting involved in the global conflict of World War 1, the inevitable fall of the Ottoman Empire came true and old establishing structures were adapting towards modern times. Until the 1928 amendment of the Constitution of 1924, the Ottoman Empire had a provision declaring that the "Religion of the State is Islam" and it was an Islamic State with the head of the state being the Sultan. After the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire, when the Republic of Turkey was established in 1923 with its first president **Mustafa Kemal through his revolution**, reforms and changes replaced the dynastic and theocratic Ottoman system, with its Sultanate and Caliphate into a new secular republic based on democracy and a parliamentary system.

The previous Ottoman state had a social system which was organized around the Sultan. This meant that the laws that bound the Ottoman people and the Sultans were Muslim and based around the Sharia - the body of Islamic law. Although by 1516, the Sultan was also a Caliph -the leader of all the Sunni Muslims in the world-, however by the 19th century, its European neighbors were exceeding and the Ottoman ruling elite recognized the need to modify their old legislative, military and judiciary systems to cope with the European nations as rivals. The Ottoman Empire began to explore new ways of governing its territory composed of diverse populations. During its downfall, the Ottoman Empire was ruled by a system called the **Three Pashas**, which was a triumvirate of senior officials that handled the parliament of the empire.

During the establishment of the Turkish Republic through the **war of independence** from 1919 to 1923, the Islamist Reformers and the Westerners were the two sections of the elite group at the helm of the discussions for the future who shared the common goal of modernizing the new state. The last sultan, **Mehmet VI Vahdettin**, was dethroned. President Mustafa Kemal also wished to amplify this common goal, but with a dif-

Everyone worked towards the first act of giving the Turkish nation the right to exercise popular sovereignty via representative democracy. The The Turkish Grand National Assembly quickly followed with actions such as abolishing the constitutional monarchy on November 1, 1922, replacing the old Islamic law structure with new laws passed during the Turkish War of Independence, beginning in 1919. While Islam was the officially declared religion of the Turkish Republic, the institution of the Caliphate remained until it's powers within the republic was transferred to the national assembly.

After these many reforms of secularization that resulted in the separation between religion and state, a number of social reforms followed that affected aspects of Turkish life. On March 3, 1924, education was unified with the installation of a secular education system, and the closure of many religious orders took place. Then, on November 30, 1925, the closure of religious convents and dervish lodges occurred. All of these reforms eventually led to the inclusion of reference to 'secularity' into the constitution on February 5, 1937 through an amendment that was regarded as the final movement in the act of instituting complete separation between governmental and religious affairs in Turkey.

Ever since then, Turkey has remained as a democratic country and a secular, unitary, parliamentary republic with a diverse cultural heritage. Nevertheless, an ongoing change has been apparent since 2007 when the Islamic Justice and Development Party (AKP) government of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan began to pursue Islamization. Hundreds of secularist officers and their civilian allies were jailed, non-religious citizens of Turkey lost jobs and opportunities for education. From the Ottoman Empire to the Turkish Republic, up till the present day, modern Turkey, with its political capital in **Ankara**, has and is still ongoing changes.



## **SECTION 2: MODERN TURKEY**



## SETTING THE STAGE

As the Ottoman Empire fell to pieces in World War II, the new Turkish Republic rose with Ataturk at its lead. This new Turkish Republic would be a nationalistic country that bonded its people together with its rich culture. Turkey would have all of the strengths of their ancestors from the Selcuk and Ottoman times. They would have armies that were powerful enough that nobody would mess with, architecture, art, and culture that drove other people in to admire, glorious leaders, painful losses and glorious victories. However, the Selcuk and Ottoman empires did not get to where they got overnight, it took them time. The same is to be expected of the Turkish Republic right after its establishment.

## KEY TERMS

<u>Cold War</u>	<u>NATO</u>	<u>World War II</u>	<u>Arms Race</u>	<u>Democratic Party</u>
<u>Cuban Missile Crisis</u>	<u>Kurds</u>	<u>Coup</u>	<u>Adnan Menderes</u>	<u>Right Wing Groups</u>

**Cold War:** A state of geopolitical tension after World War II that lasted from 1947 – 1991 with the principle participants being the United States and the U.S.S.R. (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics).

**Cuban Missile Crisis:** a.k.a the October Crisis, was a 13 - day political and military stand-off between the United States and the Soviet Union.

**NATO:** a.k.a. the North Atlantic Treaty Organization is an intergovernmental military alliance based on the North Atlantic Treaty that was signed on 4 April 1949, with its members being several North American and European.

**Democratic Party:** Is a major political party that exists in most countries, it aims to provide government intervention and regulation in the economy with a philosophy of modern liberalism advocates social and economic equality, along with the welfare state.

**Kurds:** An ethnic group in the Middle East living in parts of eastern Turkey, northern Iraq, western Iran, and eastern Syria.

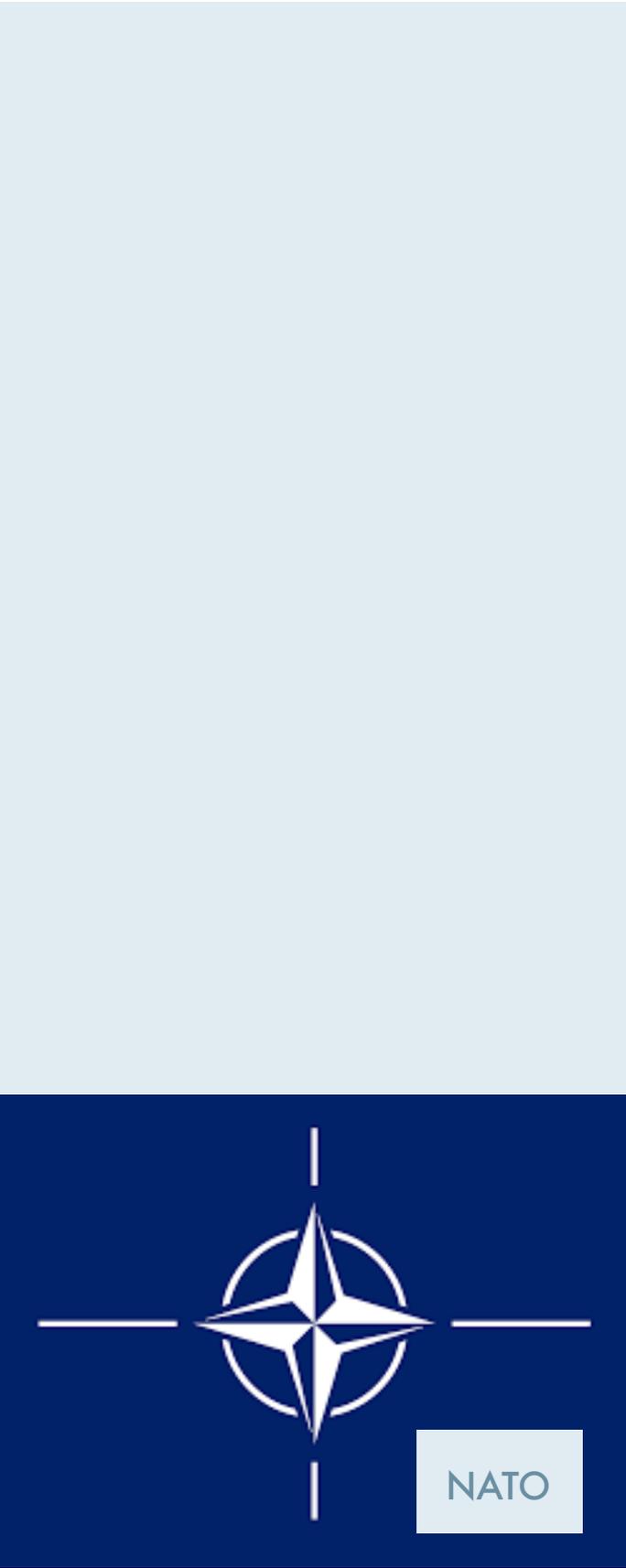
**Coup:** a.k.a. coup d'état is a sudden, illegal seizure of power and state from either the government.

**Adnan Menderes:** or Ali Adnan Ertekin Menderes, is the Former Prime Minister of Turkey who took office between 1950 - 1960, he was also one of the founders of the Democrat Party in 1946, the fourth legal opposition party of Turkey.

**World War II:** Lasted from 1939 to 1945, World War II, also known as the Second World War, was a global war with related conflicts that began earlier.

**Arms Race:** a competition between the United States and the Soviet Union for superiority in the development and accumulation of weapons, also applies for other nations.

**Right-wing Groups:** Including conservatives, Christian democrats, classical liberals, nationalists and, on the far Right, racists and fascists. Right-wing groups are a political side opposing socialism and social democracy in liberal democracies.



چ	ج	ث	ت	پ	ب	ء
چیم	جیم	ثیه	تیه	پیه	بیه	همزة
çim	cim	se	te	pe	be	hemze
ç	c	s	t	p	b	
[tʃ]	[dʒ/tʃ]	[s]	[t]	[p]	[b/p]	
د	س	ژ	ز	ر	ذ	د
دال	سین	ژیہ	زیہ	ریہ	ذال	دال
ad	şin	sin	je	ze	re	zal
	ş	s	j	z	r	z
	[ʃ]	[s]	[ʒ]	[z]	[r]	[z]
ط	ظ	ع	غ	ف	ق	ک
ط	ظ	ع	غ	ف	ق	ک
kef	kaf	fe	gayın	ayın	zı	tı
k/g/ğ/n	k	f	g/ğ	'	z	t
[k/j]	[k]	[f]	[ɣ/g/k/h]	[∅]	[z]	[t/d]
	ی	ه	و	ن	م	ل
	یہ	ہیہ	واو	نون	میم	لام
	ve	he	vav	nun	mim	lam
		v/e/a	v/o/ö/u/ü	n	m	l
		[v/y/e/ɛ/ɯ]	[a/e]	[v/u/y/o/œ]	[n]	[m]
				[n]	[m]	[l]

Change in Turkish alphabet

### TURKEY'S INVOLVEMENT IN WORLD WAR II & THE COLD WAR

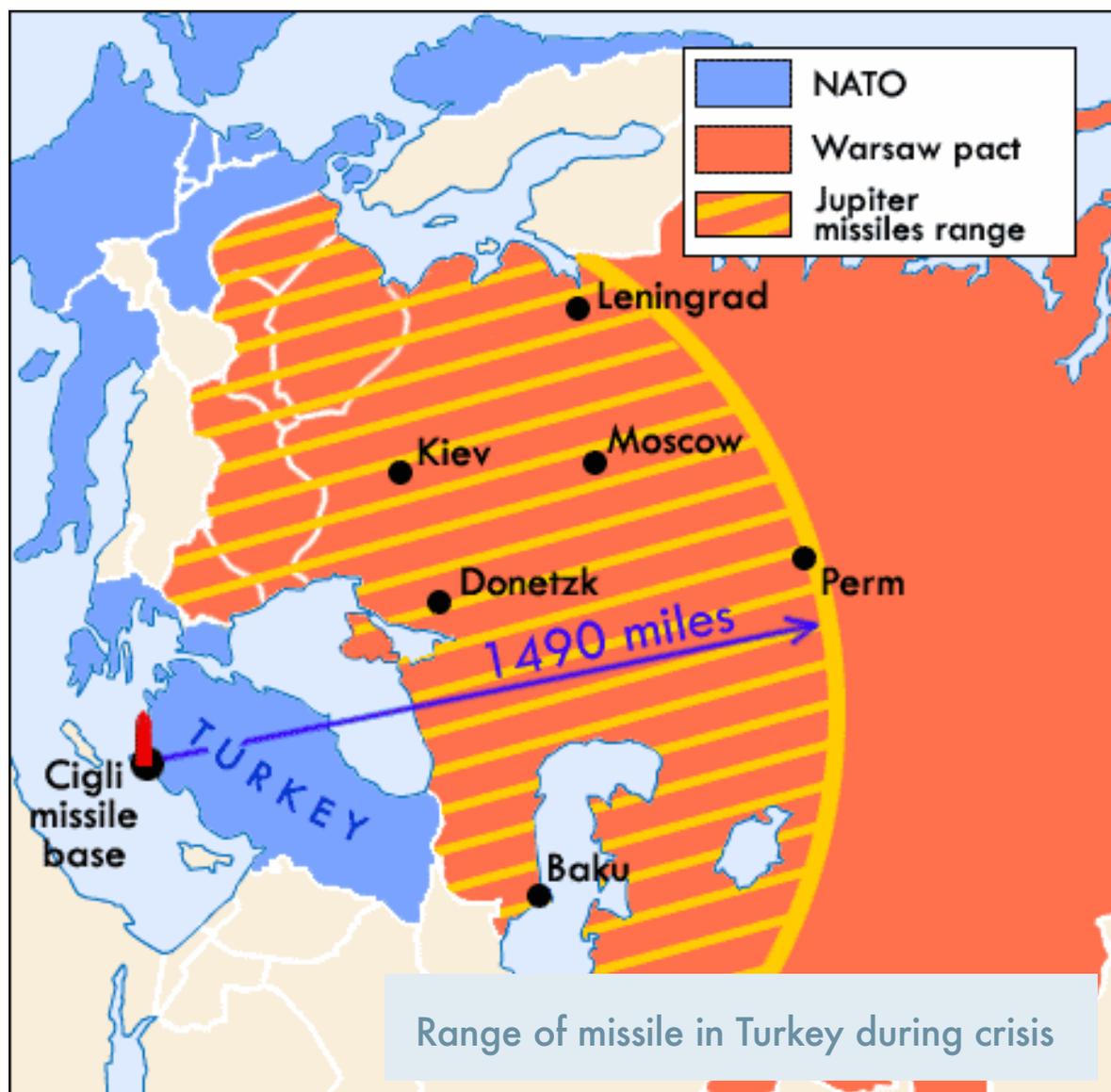
After the establishment of the Turkish republic and the change of the alphabet, separation of religion and state, and the many more reforms that came with the new republic and Ataturk, the newly formed country, Turkey was in no state to fight. The country was going through a time period of self development and did not have the resources for or want to get involved in any war.

In 1939, almost 20 years after the formation of the new and secular Turkish Republic the world once again broke out into a world war. This second world war was fought between the Axis Powers, consisting of Germany, Italy, and Japan, and the Allies, consisting of Britain, Soviet Union, and USA.

For the most part of this war turkey stayed neutral and out of the war until the very end in 1945 when Turkey finally did join the war on the side of the allies to prove themselves to the United Nations as fit to join. Soon after this World War II ended, in the aftermath of the war, the turkey joined and was now apart of the UN along with the US and the USSR.

At one point after being allies in **WWII** the US and USSR's relationship began to go south. And soon these two world superpowers were apart of a cold war. During this time period both nations were fighting for world dominance with different ideals, a huge **arms race**, and many proxy wars. Some of the strategies US for obtaining world dominance was to get ahead economically. The united states decided that if they helped some destroyed countries from ww2 and some developing countries build up their economy, that these countries would owe the US. So the US began to provide financial aid to the US and Greece, helping the US by now having countries that have democratic systems, as the us would like, having **NATO** allies close to the USSR, and have two new countries that relied on them ultimately giving the US the most economic gain from these deals. Turkey, who was allied with the US for the duration of the cold war always played a part in most of the USA's plans. Turkey was once used to threaten the soviet union that the US would not be afraid to use nuclear warfare against the USSR, while the USSR used Cuba to do the same to the US in the **Cuban Missile Crisis**.

Even after the end of the **Cold War**, the help and financial aid given by the US to Turkey had a huge impact on the improvement of the country. It also helped Turkey militarily since they were apart of NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, a group of allies in support of the US, which protected them from most outside attacks and invasions.





## CONFLICT WITHIN THE REPUBLIC AND THE KURDISH WAR

Turkey, the newly established state radicalized and modernized by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, endured two global conflicts, having been born from WWI. These conflicts would have a large effect on Turkey's internal ethnic structure. Although no more external conflict loomed over it, Turkey was about to face internal conflict which would put under fire the definitions of Turkish identity, divide the country ethnically, and would eventually lead to an all out war in her streets.

It is pivotal to understand that the Turkish state (both Ottoman and modernized) is a clumping of ethnicities and groups of people that before had an identity of their own. This is seen through all of the textbook especially in the chapter on the Ottoman empire which conquered both Christian and Muslim territories. The Ottoman empire declined and eventually ceased to exist in the aftermath of WWI. WWI, however, would stir the world's nations and Turkey was, by all means, not an exception. WWI gave opportunity for ethnicities clumped together by empires, or bureaucratic mishaps break free and separate into autonomous states, such as seen in the subsequent breakup of Yugoslavia and the Austro-Hungarian empire. To the Kurds, whose origins traced to the early Ottoman times, (Ozoglu Hakan) this was a crowning opportunity to break free from Turkish control.

The **Kurds** are a gathering of peoples living in the Kurdistan region of eastern Turkey; while they did have consciousness of their separate identity for decades (some sources tracing back as far as the sixteenth century) (Ozoglu Hakan) their true national consciousness came with the establishment of the PKK. The first signs of a national consciousness of the Kurds traced back to the 1960s when the military forces of Turkey staged a **coup d'etat** seizing control of the government and 'dethroning' the former prime minister, **Adnan Menderes**, who was leaning so far right increasing becoming an autocrat (Ozoglu Hakan).

This coup was fundamental to not only the Kurdish national consciousness but to Turkish politics as the military hierarchies instituted a democratic constitution and, while not being leftist in nature, brought with them many leftist ideals which would seep into Turkey (Ozoglu Hakan). The lead of these leftist ideals allowed more breathing room for the previously persecuted intellectuals and stirred up the population even further to the point of another coup in 1971. These coups also granted the Kurds developments in both guerrilla tactics - which were popular with leftists due to the famous strategies of Che Guevara and Fidel Castro in the Cuban Revolution (Ozoglu Hakan) - and ignited a want for a revolution furthering their dream for independence.

The tinder was set, the fuel added, all that was required was to organize and spark the mixture into ignition. This came with Abdullah Ocalan, Ocalan was born in Omerli, a small poor village in Kurdistan, and had a horrific upbringing being beaten, poor, and failing to live up to family standards of strength (Ozoglu Hakan, Marcus Aliza). Following his conflict with his family he also was conflicted on the matter of his identity and affected by the suppression of the Kurds by the Turkish officials. Ocalan saw the severe economic and political underdevelopment of Kurdistan and thought it was high time for a change (Marcus Aliza). He was influenced greatly by the leftist ideals spreading in Turkey as they promised economic equality to the peasants of Kurdistan (Marcus Aliza). Ocalan was first part of the Turkish Socialist Party (TIP) which many Kurds supported but in time due to external pressures from the Iraqi Kurds, Ocalan went underground with the new Kurdistan **Democratic Party** of Turkey (TKDP) (Marcus Aliza). The TKDP was not as popular as the TIP because it prepared conservative traditionalist ideals which much of the youth resented (Marcus Aliza). Another group of strictly Kurdish youth leaning far left was created named the DDKO joined the cause of the fight for Kurdish Identity (Marcus Aliza). The state was suspicious of all the groups forming and fearing that a powerful revolt would be on the horizon and much land would be taken away from Turkey, the state allocated heavy censors on Kurdish activism.



Ocalan was soon arrested in 1972 for violent protesting and was placed in a cell where he met Ibrahim Aydin, who too was a Kurdish activist and both began to further their ideologies in prison. Both of them in 1973 would reunite free from prison as healthy radical political activists. Finally in 1977 Aydin and Ocalan would secretly meet and form the PKK a violent party fighting for Kurdish independence (Marcus Aliza). While this party was not formally introduced and consolidated until 1978 due to internal fighting between Kurdish leftist groups the PKK came to formal definition with the association of Bucak.

The PKK was accentuated by the fact that Turkey faced economic and somewhat political turmoil at these times having increased inflation to 90% (Marcus Aliza). The PKK's ideology was a violent overthrow of the state, with some notable member advocating for full war and institution of a Kurdish mono-party state. The real armed conflicts began in 1982 when the PKK supplied 300 guerrillas to further Kurdish agent on the borders of Iraq (White Paul). The PKK's initial targets were landlords who operated in Kurdistan allied with the Turkish 'colonialists' (White Paul). Then the PKK began to move forward into Turkish Kurdistan as no severe suppression was encountered from the Turkish authorities; the PKK attacked several Jandarma units in Erzurum, Semsinli, and Colemerg (White Paul). This provoked Turkish officials and thus started the Kurdish wars. The Turkish officials went into Kurdistan and decimated over 3000 villages created an estimated number of two million Kurdish refugees (White Paul). By 1985 a militaristic law core was in place for the region of Kurdistan. The PKK used this fact to install a mandatory conscription for Kurdish families further strengthening their numbers (White Paul). By the year 2000 the militaristic aspect of the situation was at stalemate neither side could outmatch the other (White Paul). Ocalan signed a cease fire on 1999, however, it was not to last, by 2004 fighting broke out again now reaching all over Turkey with terrorist attack such as the bombing of Ankara's parliament. Through years of fighting and devastation to both sides, in 2012 President Erdogan detained Ocalan and formally ended the Kurdish war. The Kurdish war is a significant part of the modern history of Turkey. It is an ultimate internal struggle of ethnicity and identity which has escalated so far that it resulted in an internal conflict comparable to a guerilla civil wars. This sequence of events would develop prejudice, divide, and even hatred between Turks and Kurds; ethnicities who literally share the same door step. This is evidently dangerous not only to Turkish people but also to any other residents of Turkey. Ultimately these events did not fail to destabilize the homogeneous mixture of ethnicities of Turkey and further it into conflict.



Turkish tanks in Syria

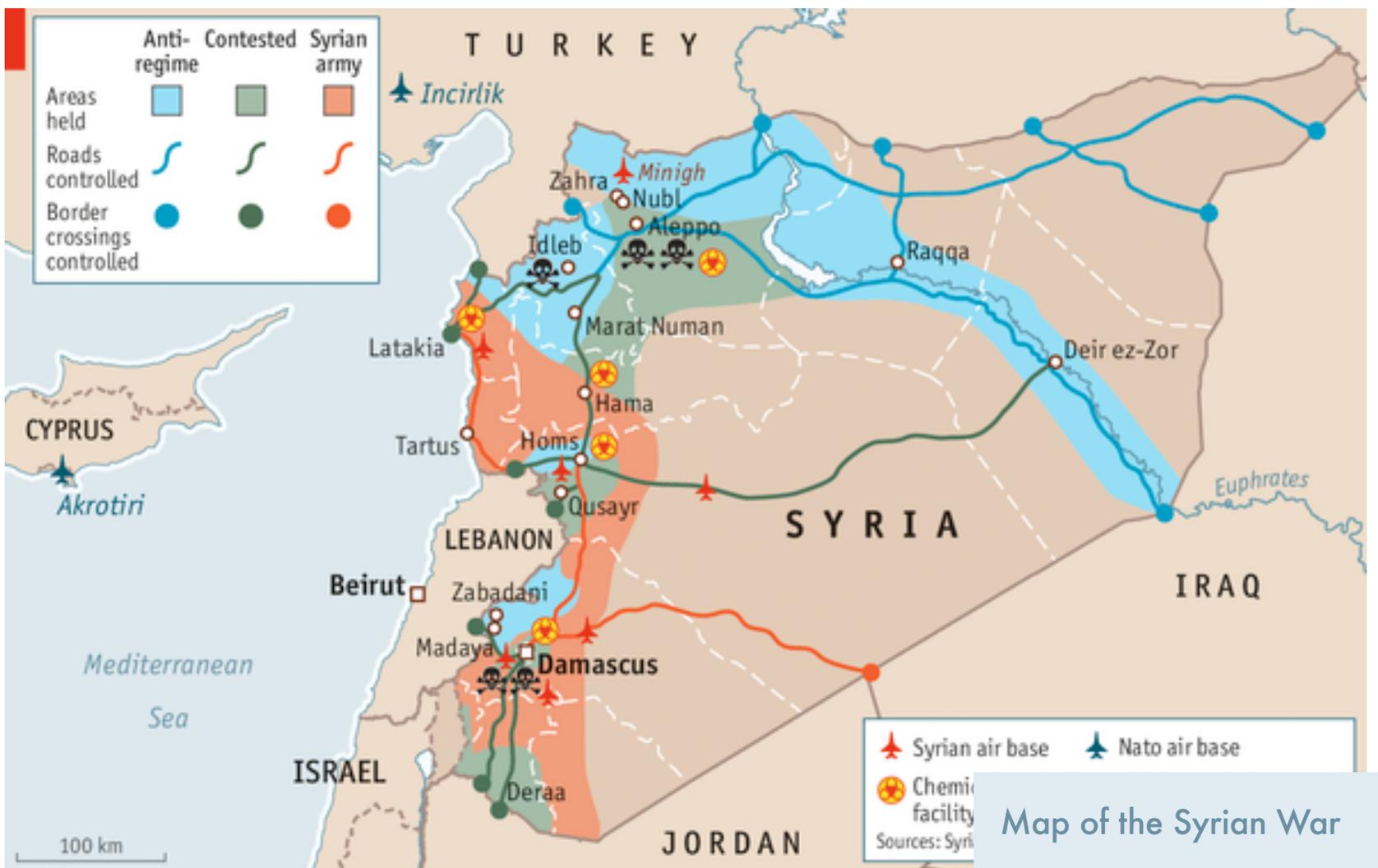
## TURKISH INVOLVEMENT IN THE SYRIAN CIVIL WAR

The Syrian Civil War was caused by the citizens' resentment towards the Syrian government. This hatred was caused by lack of freedom and economic depression, as well as the harsh repression of the protesters. Ever since its neighboring country, Syria, has been having a civil war since 2011, Turkey has been involved in the conflict.

The Turks have been supporting the Free Syrian Army against the **right wing** Syrian Government under Bashar al-Assad. They have been supporting the rebels by offering safety zones and arms, as well as military personnel. In November 2016, the President of the Republic of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, sent Turkish military to Syria, to launch operations that would help those in need and put an end to the rule of the malevolent Syrian leader ("Syria Crisis"). President Erdoğan believes that Syria could never accept a ruler who had caused over 300,000 deaths of his own people. Therefore, Turkey's involvement and aid to the Syrian citizens has a great impact on the future outcome of the war.

Their involvement in the war is extremely significant as one of the belligerents in the war include the Kurds in Northern Syria. The war in Syria has disrupted the Kurdish territory in Southern Turkey and Northern Syria, which has triggered their join in the war. As mentioned previously, their goal is to achieve a self defined state independent from Turkey (BBC). Therefore, the Turks are preventing the Kurds from declaring independence by interfering in the Syrian Civil War on the side of the Syrian rebels. Thus, the Turkish and Kurdish involvement in the war is important because the results will define whether the Kurds will achieve independence or if the Turkish territory will remain as before.

Due to their opposition to ISIL, another belligerent of the war, Turkey has had multiple terrorist attacks against civilians over the years. This has disrupted the lives of many and has become a recent socio political issue. Since it is obvious that the end of the Syrian Civil War is not near, we do not know exactly what the final impacts of the war will be on the government, people, and the territory.



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