

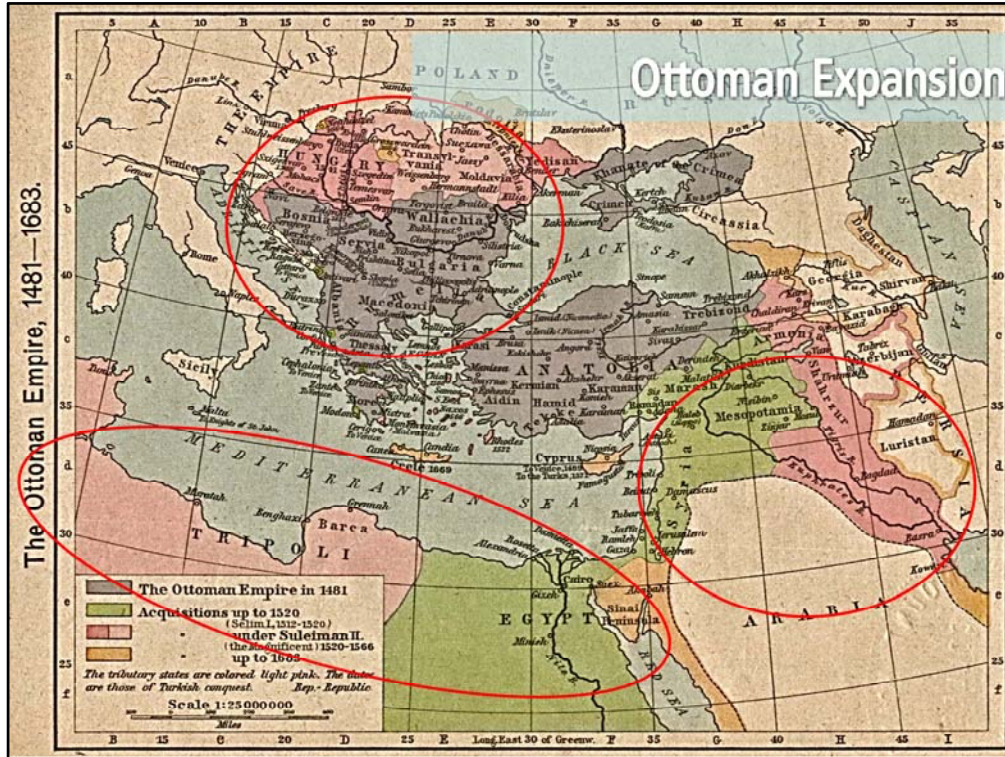
## The Ottoman Turks



The Ottoman Turks were a group of Turkish clans that settled in Asia Minor. They began to conquer other areas in an attempt to build an empire. Over time, they conquered most of Asia Minor as well as the weakened Byzantine Empire.

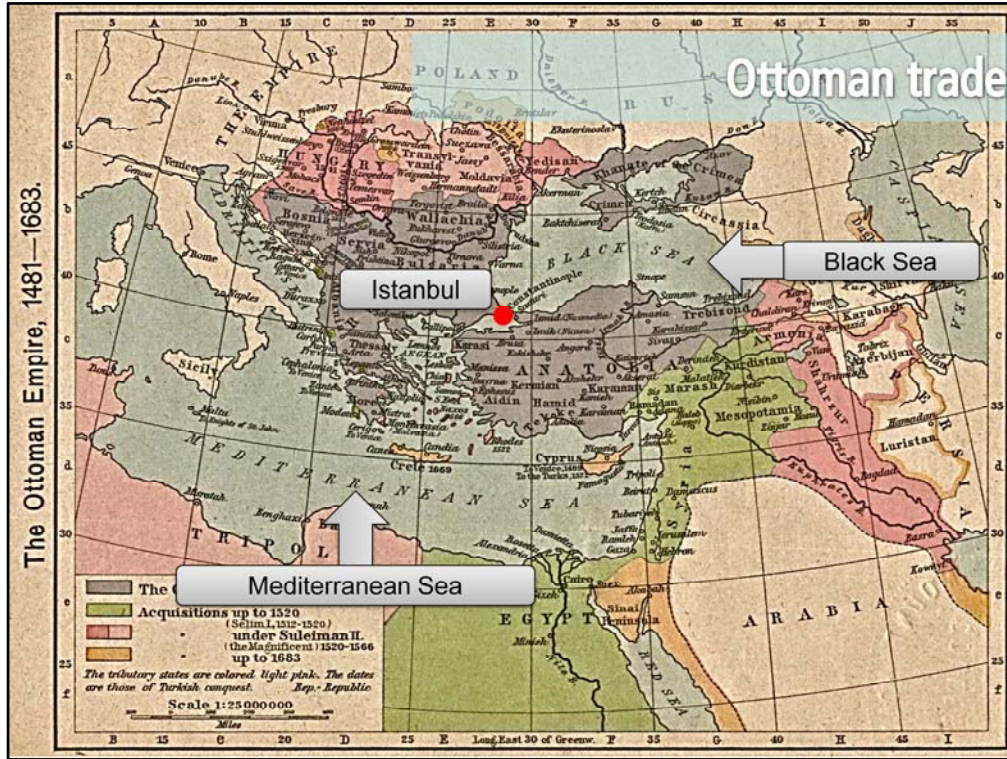
As the capital city of the Byzantine Empire, Constantinople had been an important city for Orthodox Christianity and was a crossroads for trade because the city sat at the tip of Europe, linking it to Africa and Asia. After conquering the city, the Ottoman Turks renamed it Istanbul and made it their capital.

The Ottoman Turks' conquest of Constantinople impacted Europe in two ways. First, it allowed the Turks to increase their trading power in the Mediterranean Sea. Second, it made one of Christianity's most important cities a center for Islam.



The Ottoman Empire continued to expand from Istanbul. As its power increased, so did its territories which expanded into three continents. By the 1600s, Ottoman territories included land in Southwest Asia, or the Middle East, Southeastern Europe, or the Balkan Peninsula, and North Africa.

*[Map courtesy of the University of Texas Libraries, The University of Texas at Austin.]*



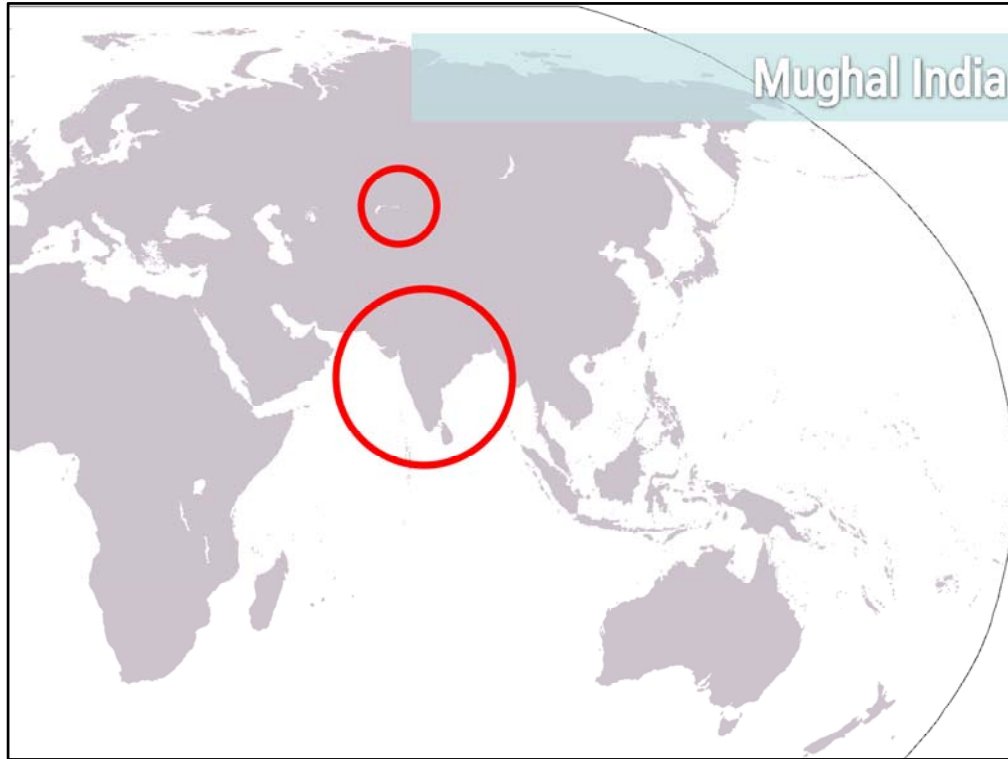
Istanbul is strategically located between the Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea. From this center, the Turks established themselves as great sea traders in the Mediterranean and became very wealthy as a result. Two of the main products the Ottomans traded were coffee and ceramics. An easy way to remember the goods they traded is to think about what most adults drink in the morning to wake up – coffee – and what they put their coffee in – a ceramic mug.

## Role Of Islam

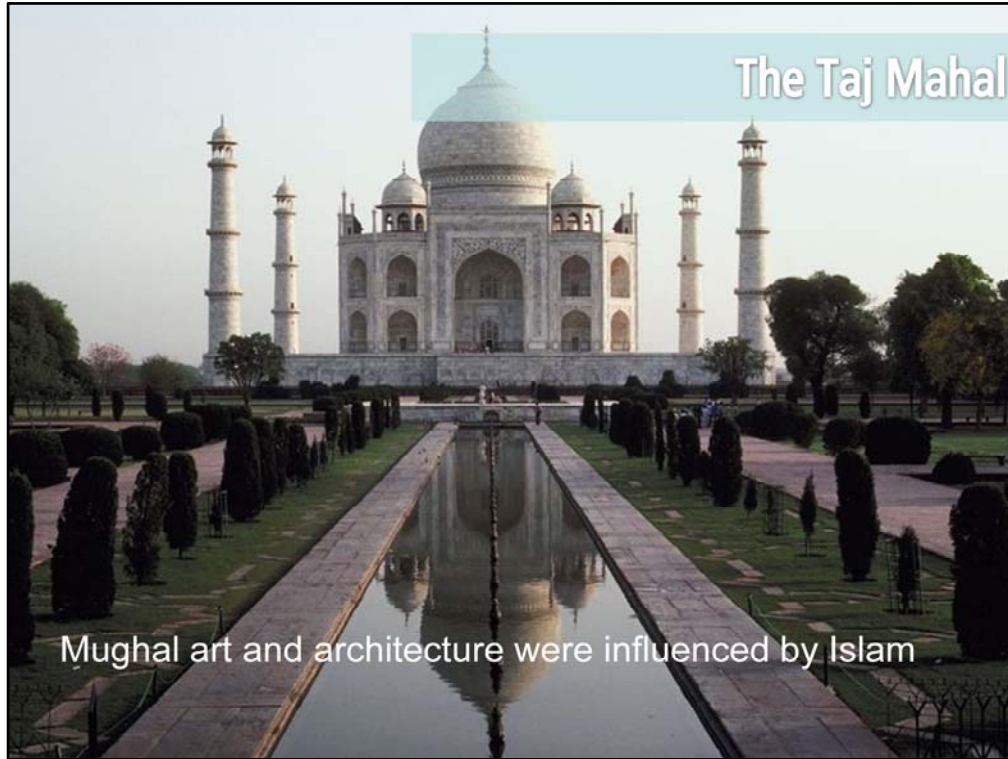
Islam is the unifying force of the empire  
Empire accepted other religions



Islam was declared the official religion of the Ottoman Empire and was its unifying element. The Sultans who led the empire were both the political and religious leaders. However, the Ottoman Empire was accepting of other religions and non-Muslims weren't expelled or exterminated the way non-Catholics had been in Spain during the Spanish Inquisition.



In the 1500s, a man named Babur established the Mughal empire in Northern India. Descended from rulers that were under the control of the Mongol Empire, the Mughal leaders centered their empire around the city of Delhi. The Mughals played an instrumental role in helping Islam spread to India. This caused conflict as Islam was a relatively new religion to India compared with Hinduism which had been centered in India for over a thousand years.



The Mughals became an extremely wealthy empire. Under their leader, Akbar, the Mughal empire reached its height as Akbar promoted religious tolerance towards Hindus who made up a great majority of his subjects.

Art and architecture flourished under Mughal rule. The Taj Mahal, the greatest example of a Mughal architecture, was built by the Mughal Monarch Shah Jahan as a tomb for his wife. Select the building to learn more about this architectural masterpiece on the PBS website.

## Trading Posts and Mughal Textiles

- Influence of Indian textiles on British textile industry
- Portugal, England, and the Netherlands competed for the Indian Ocean trade by establishing coastal ports on the Indian Sub-continent.
- Europeans established trading outposts in the Indian Subcontinent.
- Southern India traded silks, spices and gems.
- Cashmere, Calico, and Indian Silk were all valuable trade items

As European countries continued to explore India and the Mughal Empire, they found many products that interested them. The most impressive items to many Europeans were Indian textiles. The Indians had long been making decorative cloth that sold well in Europe. Later on, the British textile industry imitated many of the Indian textile techniques such as the use of cotton, which eventually sparked the Industrial Revolution in England.

Also, as the European sailing techniques improved, they looked to get heavily involved in all types of trade along the Indian Ocean Maritime Trade Route. During the Mughals' rule, Portugal, England and The Netherlands competed for trade in northern and southern India. In northern India, the Mughals allowed the Europeans to establish ports along India's coast. While not initially a threat to the Mughals, these ports would ultimately lead to England's dominance and colonization of the Indian subcontinent which began in the 1700s and lasted until after World War II. In both northern and southern India, European merchants again set up trading posts to exchange products such as cottons, silks, gems, manufactured goods from Europe and raw materials such as timber, spices, and gold.



**Test Your Knowledge**

Question 1 of 5 Point Value: 10

What was the unifying religion of the Ottoman Empire?

- Hinduism
- Eastern Orthodoxy
- Islam
- Catholicism

**PROPERTIES**

On passing, 'Finish' button:	<a href="#">Goes to Next Slide</a>	 Properties...	 Edit in Quizmaker
On failing, 'Finish' button:	<a href="#">Goes to Next Slide</a>		
Allow user to leave quiz:	<a href="#">After user has completed quiz</a>		
User may view slides after quiz:	<a href="#">At any time</a>		
User may attempt quiz:	<a href="#">Unlimited times</a>		