

Islamic Empires

Ottoman

Safavid

Mughal



Age of Gunpowder Empires

1450 - 1800

Changed the balance of power

This term applies to a number of states, all of which rapidly expanded during the late 15th and over the entire 16th century. Most significant were Portugal, Spain, the Ottoman Empire, the Safavid Empire, and the Mughal Empire but also included England, France, Tokugawa (Japan), Romanov Russia, and Ming/Manchu (Qing) China

Varying degrees of impact

- new gunpowder weapons had some impact in most parts of the inhabited world, but each place reacted differently.
- In China & Japan, for example, guns were allowed minimal influence
 - those countries kept themselves isolated, but then paid a high price, in the 19th century, by being vulnerable to the West.
- But while the West's exploitation of gunpowder weapons enabled them to become wealthy & to dominate much of the globe, the effort cost countless lives & helped to keep Europe embroiled in war for much of modern history.

Islamic Gunpowder Empires

- Islam contributed to the systems of legitimacy of the Ottomans, Safvids, and Mughals
- Simply, that was because most of the residents of the areas these governments ruled were Muslims, and they would accept no government as legitimate that was not Muslim.
- However, the steppe culture which all three of these ruling groups came from assisted them in every case in the project of bending Islam to fit state needs.

The Islamic empires, 1500-1800



The Islamic Empires 1500-1800

- Three Islamic Empires dominate from southern Europe to Northern India from 1500-1800
 - Ottoman Empire (Balkans, Middle East, North Africa, & Eastern Europe)
 - Safavid Empire (Persia); Shia Islam
 - Mughal Empire (Northern India)-had lasting Islamic cultural impact





The Ottoman Empire

- Turkic nomads enter Anatolia after Mongols
- Mehmed II (r. 1451-1481)
 - Expanded the Ottoman Empire into southern Europe
 - Conquered Constantinople
 - End of the Byzantine Empire - 1453
 - Becomes the capital of the Ottoman Empire
 - Suleyman the Magnificent (1520-1566)
 - Expanded the Ottoman Empire into the Middle East
 - Moves further into Europe and besieged Vienna in 1529
 - Develops navy
 - Ottoman Empire at the peak of its power



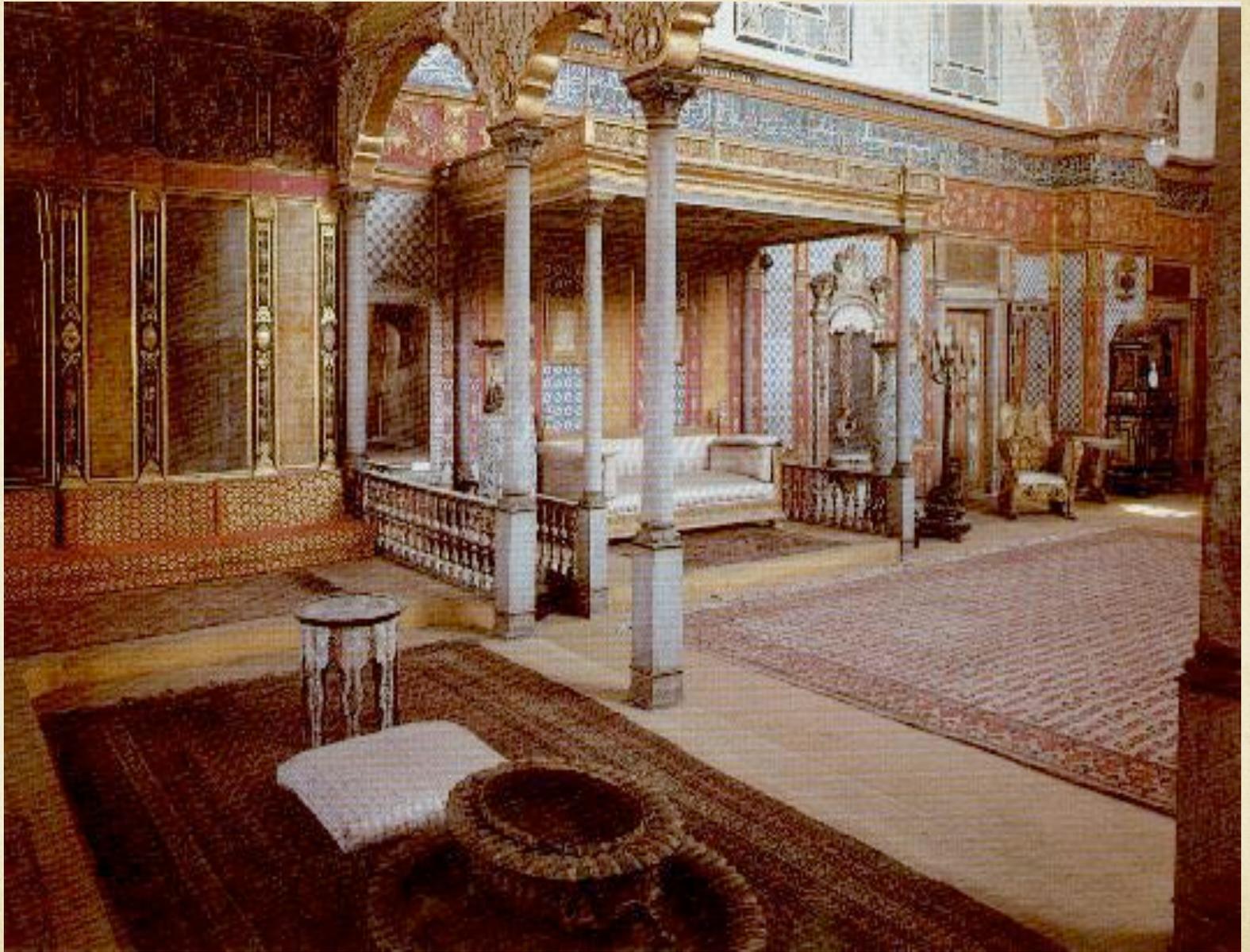
The Ottoman Empire

- 1301-state founded by Osman (Ottoman)
- 1453 - fall of Constantinople to the Ottomans (Mehmed II the Conqueror)
- 1520-1566 - reign of Sulieman I the Magnificent
- 1529- first siege of Vienna
- 1571- Battle of Lepanto, first major defeat of the Ottomans by the Europeans
- 1683- second siege of Vienna
- 1699 - Treaty of C/Karlowitz, beginning of the end for the Ottomans - Austria, Poland, and Venice take major chunks of the Balkans from the Ottomans
- 1918-1924 - collapse of the Empire - political power then religious power (rise of the Young Turks)

Ottoman Janissaries

- Troops raised by the Ottomans from Christian families in the Balkans, used as special shock troops and as palace guard, became most powerful force in the Ottoman Empire, massacred under the orders of Mahmud II in 1826
- Janissaries were non-Muslim boys received by the sultan's government in the *devshirme* – a kind of tax levied mostly on the *Christian* subjects of the empire who lived in the Balkans in Eastern Europe.
- They were slaves, but well paid for their services, well educated by the government, and given everything they had by the sultan from their earliest years.
- They were thus loyal only to the sultan, and so could defend him in the event that the aristocracy revolted.
- The janissaries were the only soldiers given **gunpowder weapons**.





Constantinople - restored



Suleymaniye mosque

commercial center for Asia, Africa & Europe

**combines different cultures
under Ottoman rule**



Hagia Sophia becomes a grand mosque

urban = many artisans & guilds
- government regulates
- guilds important



What were the causes of Ottoman decline in the 17th century?

- reached limits of expansive power early on
- too large to be maintained
- High taxes on peasants
- corruption of govt. officials & weak rulers
- Rebellions
- Declining position of women



The Safavid Empire

- The Safavid Empire
 - Ruled Persia
 - Capital at Isfahan
 - Founded by Ismail (r. 1501-1524)
 - Overthrew previous dynasty and declared himself Shah
 - Makes Shia Islam the official religion of the empire
 - Empire called Safavid after Sufi thinker Safi al-Din (1252-1334)

Isfahan, the royal city











The Safavid Empire blended Persian cultural traditions with Shia Islam.

- A conflict arose over who should be caliph.
- Islam split into two groups.
 - The Shia thought that only members of Muhammad's family could become caliphs.
 - The Sunni thought it did not matter as long as they were good Muslims and strong leaders.

workshops created (silk & carpets)

trade encouraged

building mosques in Isfahan

Demise of Safavid Empire

no heirs to Abbas I

**internal strife &
foreign invasions**

1722 fall to Afghani invaders

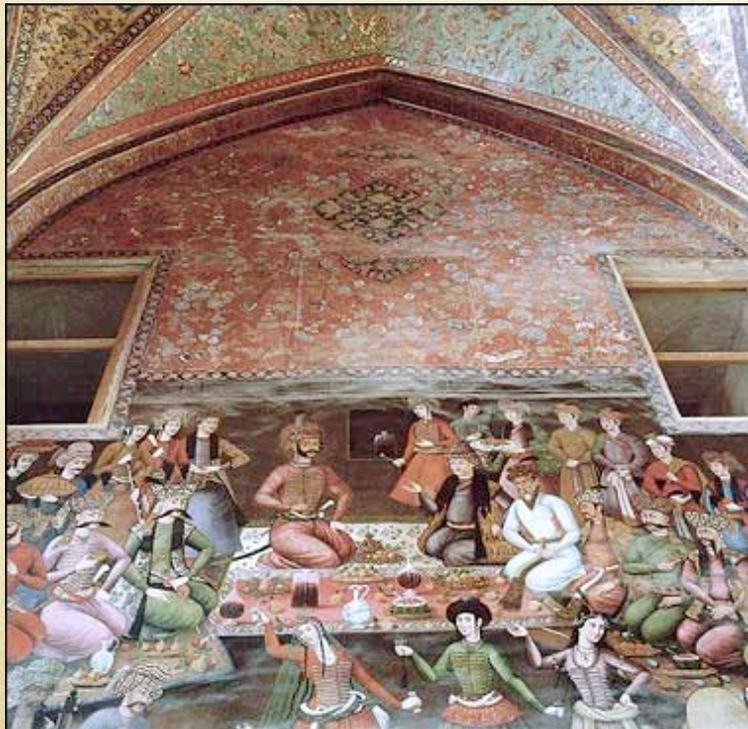


Ottoman vs. Safavid

both dominated by warrior aristocrats who shared power with monarch

warriors gradually leave for estates where they ruled peasants

both encouraged growth of crafts & trade



women socially disadvantaged in both
-sub-ordinate to fathers & husbands
-basically homebound





Continuities in social & economic organization of the Ottomans & Safavids.

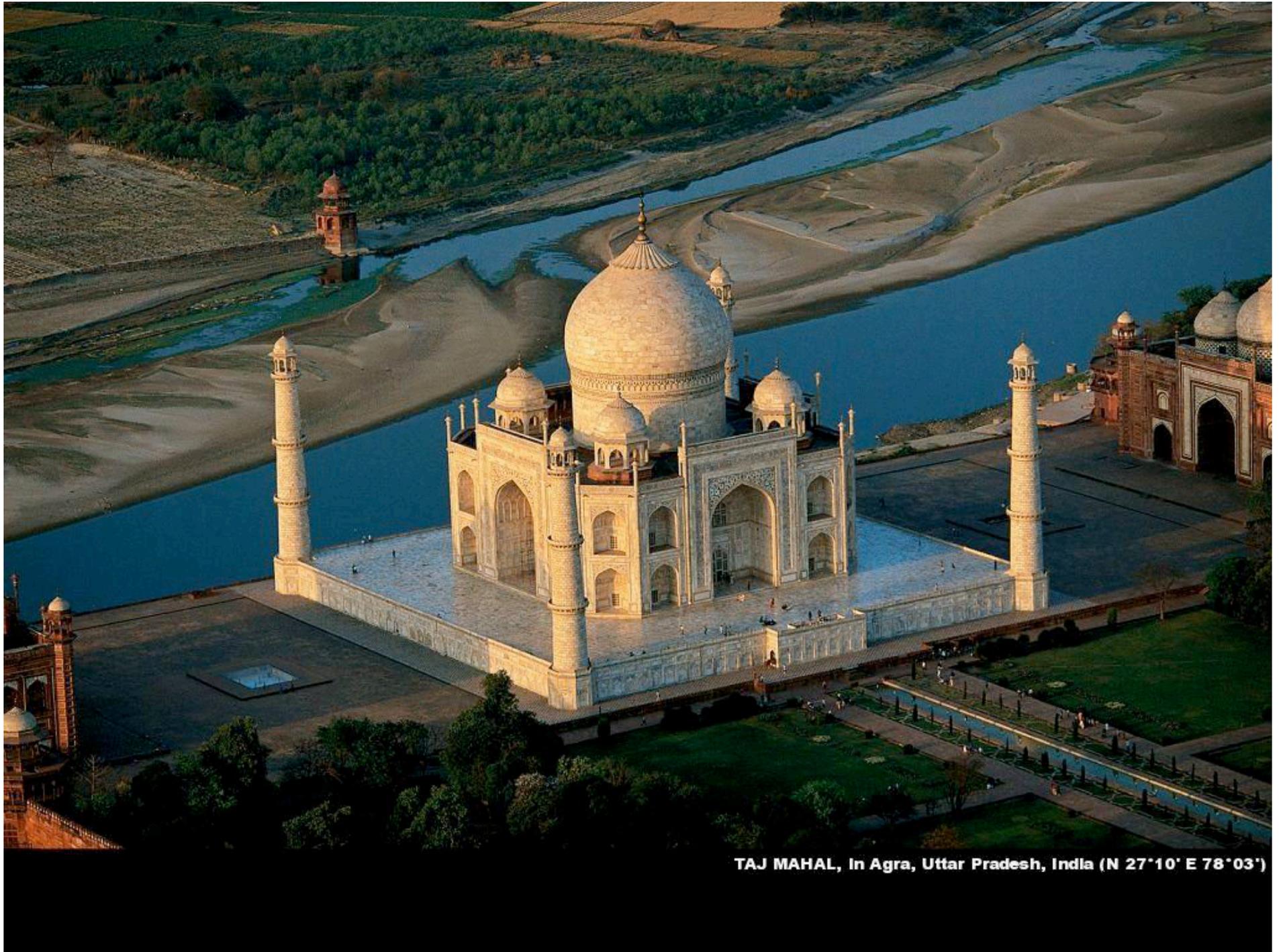
- dominated by warrior aristocracy
- demands of landlord class on peasants grows
- invasion, rebellions, banditry, peasant flight from land
- trade encouraged
- public works projects
- women disadvantaged

- Difference: Ottoman had better trade contacts & were farther ahead in technology



The Mughal Empire

- The Mughal Empire
 - Zahir al-Din Muhammad (Babur) invaded northern India in 1523
 - Descendant of Chinggis Khan
 - Conquered Delhi in 1526
 - Controlled empire extending from Afghanistan to most of India



TAJ MAHAL, In Agra, Uttar Pradesh, India (N 27°10' E 78°03')



The Mughal Empire

- Mughal Empire expanded under Akbar the Great (r. 1556-1605)
 - Established Mughal (“Mongol”) Dynasty
 - Ruled with absolute power
 - Established a centralized government
 - Took personal power
 - Expanded empire into southern India
 - Tolerant of many religions
 - Tried to reduce tensions between Hindus and Muslims
 - Encouraged “Divine Faith” which focused on the emperor



The Mughal Empire

- Empire reached peak under Aurangzeb (r. 1659-1707)
 - Expanded Mughal Empire to its greatest extent
 - Almost all of India except southern tip
 - Did not follow Akbar's policy of toleration
 - Imposed Islam on empire
 - Destroyed Hindu temples
 - Taxed Hindus
 - Caused further resentment among Hindus



The Mughal Empire in India left an impressive cultural heritage.

- Babur established the Mughal Empire, but it grew mostly under an emperor named Akbar.
- Akbar's tolerant policies helped unify the empire.
- A conflict of cultures led to the end of this empire, but resulted in a culture unique to the Mughal Empire.
- Cultures that blended in the empire included
 - Muslims
 - Hindus
 - Persians
 - Indians

Akbar (Babur's grandson)

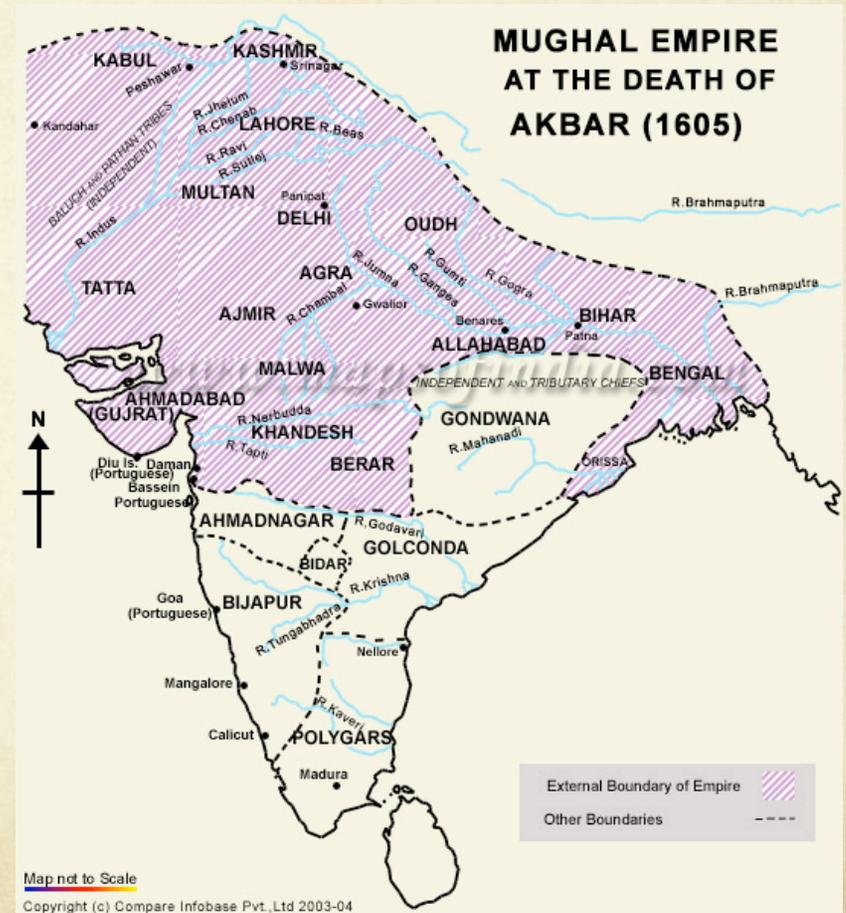
reconciles with Hindu subjects

- encourages intermarriage
- abolishes head taxes
- respects Hindu religious customs



invents a faith incorporating Islam & Hinduism to unify subjects

KNOWN FOR RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE

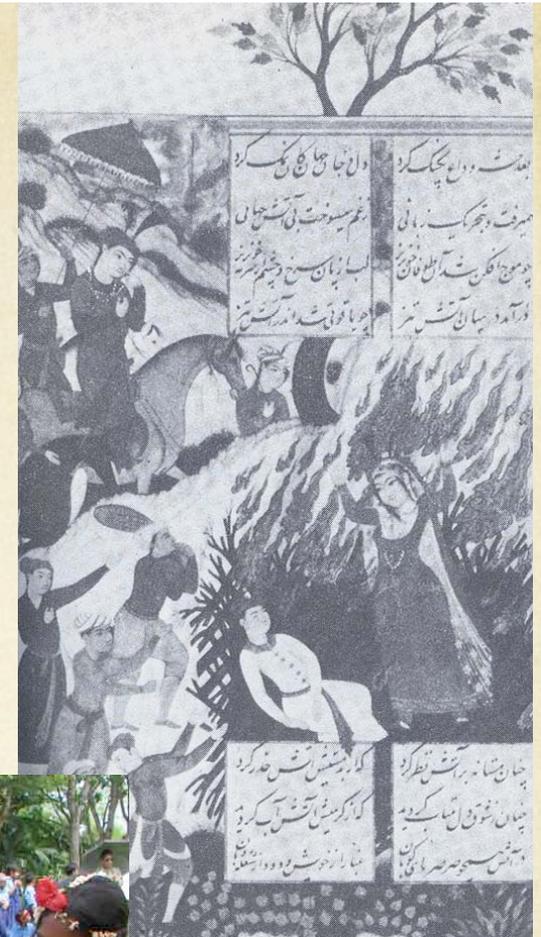


attempts to introduce social changes to benefit

improve position of women

**prohibited sati
encouraged widow remarriage
discouraged child marriages**

most reforms not successful



**powerful empire in 1600s
yet most of population live in poverty**

fall behind Europe in invention & sciences

17th century rulers continued policy of tolerance towards Hindus



cotton textiles world famous

Shah Jahan – Taj Mahal

- blend Persian & Hindu traditions

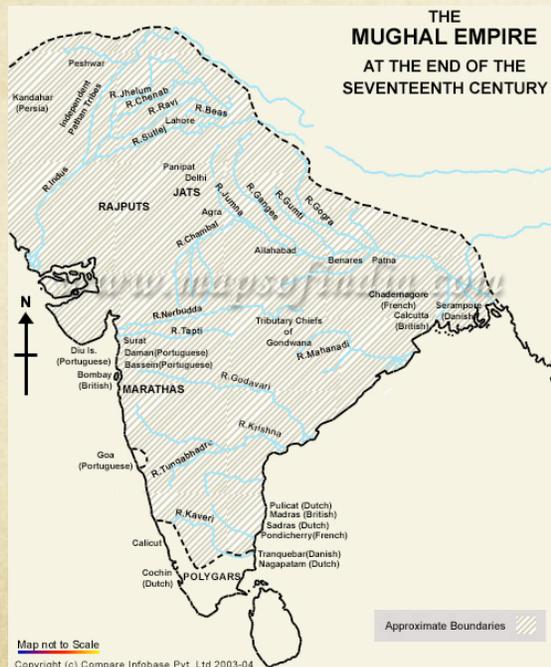
these rulers left daily administration alone
– wives win influence

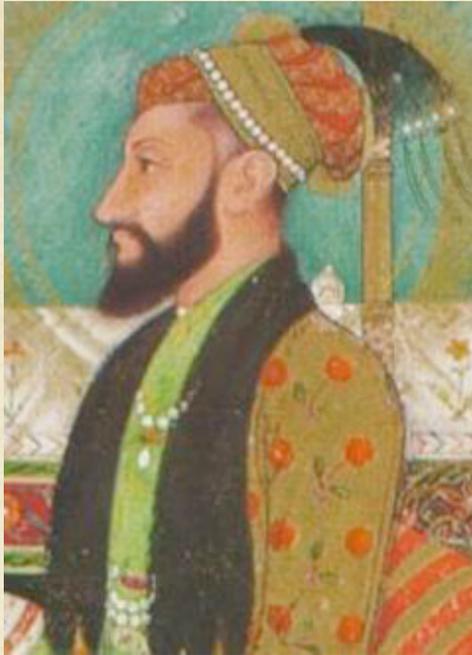


life of court women improves

position of women in the
rest of society declines

lack of opportunity,
burden of dowry
- birth of a girl an
inauspicious event





imperial decline

early 1700s – Aurangzeb

- wants to control all of India
- rid Islam of Hindu influence



warfare drains treasury
ruler spends too much time on war
internal revolt
religious policies increase internal weaknesses

Hindus kept from highest government posts
-head tax restored

state revenues & power passes to regional lords
- previous pattern in South Asia

Discuss the reasons for the failure of the Mughal Dynasty

- after Akbar needed reforms ignored
- Government bureaucracy corrupt
- army behind in weaponry & tactics technology
- too many building projects
- less religious tolerance
- Empire becomes too large
- internal rebellions
- head tax re-instated
- rulers extravagant & pleasure seeking

What were the similarities & differences between the three Muslim empires?

CONTINUITIES

- origins in in Turkic nomadic raiders of Central Asia based on military conquest
- effective use of firearms and siege warfare – “Gunpowder Empires”
- ruled by a succession of absolute monarchs

OTTOMAN

- Anatolia Peninsula, Europe & Nth Africa
- religious fervor & zeal for Islamic conversion
- Sunni Muslim

SAFAVID

- Persia (Iran)
- religious fervor & zeal for Islamic conversion
- mostly Muslim
- Shi'ia (Shiite)Muslim

MUGHAL

- Northern India
- rule pre-dominantly non-Muslim population

DIFFERENCES

- Sunni/Shi'ia enmity (hatred) meant warring over territory & persecuting adherents of rival brand of Islam
- leads to varying religious practices, legal codes & social organization



The Islamic Empires 1500-1800

- Political Continuities among Ottomans, Safavids, and Mughals
 - Based on military leadership of the ruler
 - Devotion to Islam
 - Based on nomadic traditions
 - Indirect influence of wives and concubines

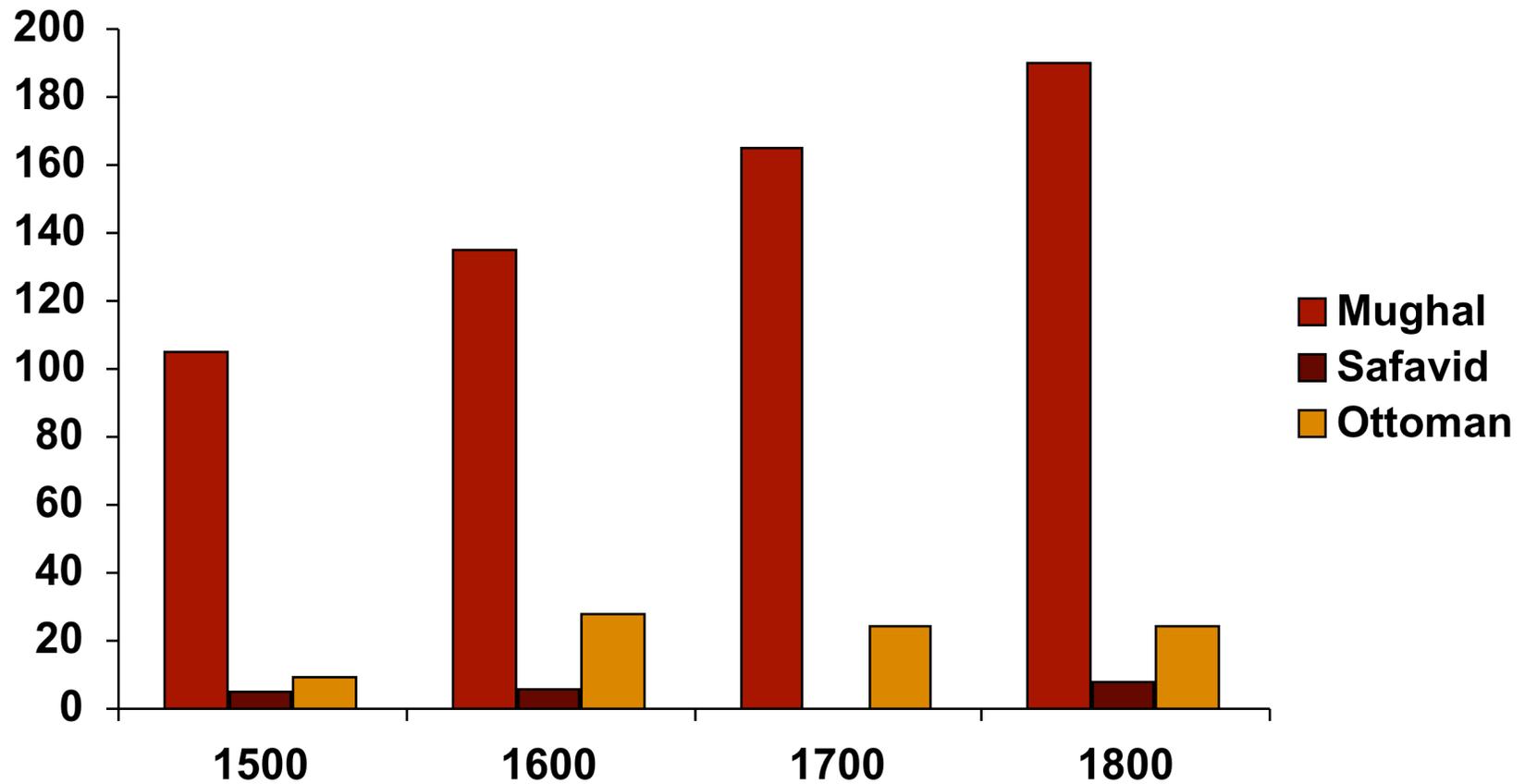


The Islamic Empires

1500-1800

- Economy of the Islamic Empires
 - Affected by the Columbian exchange
 - Crops introduced from the Americas through European merchants
 - Maize, potatoes, tomatoes
 - Introduction of coffee and tobacco from America
 - Sugar grown from Caribbean plantations
 - Introduction of crops led to population growth
 - Trade with English East India Company, French East India Company, and Dutch VOC

Population Growth





The Islamic Empires 1500-1800

- Religion
 - Ottoman, Safavid, and Mughal empires were religiously diverse
 - Gave religious minorities protection, known as *dhimmi*
 - Did not impose Islam, but taxed non-Muslims (*jizya*)
 - Allowed non-Muslims to run their own communities
 - Ottoman Empire
 - Large communities of Christians



What weaknesses were common to all of the Muslim empires?

- succession problems
- imperial central power weakens
- failure to adapt Western military & scientific advances
- rulers better at conquests than administration
- rulers too interested in pleasure seeking
- too much building
- peasants not taken care of-taxes

Discuss the similarities in the causes for decline in all of the Islamic early modern empires & explain how the decline was related to the rise of the West.

- failure of all empires to take the west seriously as an international challenger meant a failure to adopt Western military technology & scientific advances
- all empires vulnerable to Western advances – especially Ottomans (shared land borders)
- all suffered from growing Western dominance of the seas
- by 18th century all reduced to economic dependency on Western powers

