

# CHAPTER 19

## SOUTHWEST ASIA AND THE INDIAN OCEAN, 1500-1750

### BEFORE YOU BEGIN

On the surface, the Ottoman, Safavid, and Mughal Empires all shared several traits in common: geographic location in Asia, Islamic religion, strong armies based on effective use of guns, and strategic use of trade. Yet by 1750, several of these strengths became obsolete, and each of these empires was overthrown and greatly weakened by developments outside their borders. This slow decline raises interesting questions about the long-term effects of change in the post-Columbian world that were first raised in Chapter 15.

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After reading Chapter 19 and completing this study chapter, you should be able to:

- Explain how Islam developed and interacted in three Muslim Empires – the Ottoman, the Safavid, and the Mughal.
- Discuss the ways in which each empire was distinct yet unified to some extent by Islam.
- Discuss how European trading dramatically altered these empires while also changing Europe's role in the world economy.
- Explain the role that the Muslim traders and the Dutch played in the Indian Ocean trade, particularly in Africa and Southeast Asia.

## IDENTIFICATIONS

Define each term and explain why it is significant, including any important dates.

**Ottoman Empire**

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**Suleiman the Magnificent**

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**Janissary**

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*devshirme*

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**tulip period**

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**Safavid Empire**

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**Ismail**

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**Shi'ite Islam**

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**hidden imam**

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**Istanbul**

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**Isfahan**

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**Shah Abbas I**

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**Mughal Empire**

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**Akbar**

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*mansabs*

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**Rajputs**

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**Sikhism**

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**Acheh Sultanate**

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**Oman**

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## Swahili

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## Batavia

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### MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

Read the entire question, including *all* the possible answers. Then choose the *one* answer that best fits the question.

1. Which was the most long-lived of the post-Mongol Muslim Empires?
  - a. The Delhi Sultanate
  - b. The Ottoman Empire
  - c. The Safavid Empire
  - d. The Umayyad caliphate
  - e. The Mughal Empire
  
2. How did the Ottomans' capture of Christian territories in the Balkans late in the fourteenth century enhance Ottoman military strength?
  - a. It gave them the strategic and wealthy city of Constantinople.
  - b. It gave them crossbow technology.
  - c. It gave them gunpowder.
  - d. It gave them Christian prisoners of war to use as military slaves.
  - e. It gave them spies to use against Europe.
  
3. When the Ottoman sultan needed money to support the Janissaries in the sixteenth century, he raised it by
  - a. reducing the number of landholding cavalry so that he could keep their share of the taxes.
  - b. increasing the taxes on peasants.
  - c. raiding neighboring lands and thus spreading Islam.
  - d. firing the grand vizier, who was the best paid official in the empire and was suspected of treason.
  - e. increasing tax on trade.

4. Which of the following best describes the European impact on Ottoman territory?
  - a. The Europeans stopped short of colonial settlement and direct public administration.
  - b. The Europeans made extensive inroads into the Ottoman heartland.
  - c. The Europeans had no impact whatsoever on Ottoman territory.
  - d. The Europeans controlled strategic ports comparable to Malacca and Hormuz.
  - e. The Europeans paid very high tariffs to the Ottomans because of old trade agreements.
  
5. Which of the following statements about the Safavid Empire is *not* true?
  - a. Its founder, Ismail, unlike later shahs, was mostly a secular man, unconcerned with religion.
  - b. The Iranian population was originally Sunni.
  - c. Iran underwent a series of brutal persecutions in the process of accepting Islam.
  - d. Scholars from Lebanon and Bahrain helped in Iran's religious education.
  - e. Many considered it founder Ismail, God incarnate.
  
6. Religious disapproval of homosexuality
  - a. was minimal.
  - b. resulted in complete heterosexuality in Muslim communities.
  - c. obliged homosexuals to hide their sexual orientation.
  - d. did not inhibit artistic references to beardless boys or attachments to members of the same sex.
  - e. was designed to promote higher fertility rates, as was the encouragement that men take four wives.
  
7. What single factor distinguished the Mughal Empire from the Ottoman and Safavid Empires?
  - a. India had never been unified under one government before.
  - b. India had never been exposed to Islam before.
  - c. India was a much more sophisticated society than those of the Ottoman and Safavid Empires.
  - d. India was more active in trade than either the Ottomans or Safavids.
  - e. The majority of Indian society was non-Muslim.
  
8. What obstacle did the rulers of Mughal India face that Ottoman and Safavid rulers did not have to confront?
  - a. A geographic location along established long-distance trade routes.
  - b. Increasing contact with European merchants.
  - c. Rule by a religious minority over a predominantly non-Muslim population.
  - d. The expense of a navy to police Indian Ocean trade routes.
  - e. Constant harassment by nomadic groups in central Asia.

9. Akbar's religious attitude can be best described as
- tolerant and inquisitive.
  - tolerant but disinterested.
  - intolerant and hostile.
  - intolerant and disinterested.
  - undeveloped and secular.
10. Which of the following statements is **not** true about the decline of Mughal India?
- The decline of the central government and the rise of regional states benefitted from the removal of the sultan's heavy hand.
  - Linguistic and religious communities gained more freedom when the power of central government declined.
  - The disintegration of central power favored the intrusion of European powers.
  - The decline of the Mughal Empire allowed yet another Muslim Sultanate to reunify India.
  - The land grant system was a major element of decline.
11. Which of the following did not contribute to the success of the European maritime empires?
- Improvements in ship design.
  - Improved accuracy in navigation.
  - The use of cannon.
  - The development of joint-stock companies.
  - The complex system of Western philosophy, Protestantism, and Progressivism applied to the method of conquest.
12. Which if the following did **not** contribute to the decline of the Ottomans, Safavid, and Mughal Empires by 1750 C.E.?
- The lack of new military technology and innovation.
  - The growth of European merchant navies.
  - A stagnation of Muslim cultural and artistic achievements.
  - The development of new economic instruments like joint-stock companies.
  - A lack of interest in the outside world beyond their empires' borders.
13. What cemented the Muslim's trading network?
- They all came from the same merchant family.
  - Islam was a proselytizing religion.
  - Muslim merchants had the same legal traditions and similar religious practices.
  - They had more firepower and used it.
  - They had superior naval technology.

14. Why did women lose the right to be leaders in the Aceh Sultanate?
- They were poor rulers.
  - They tended to not have children, and so no heirs were produced.
  - They were too easily corruptible.
  - Scholars in Mecca and Medina said that Islam did not approve of female rulers.
  - Women tended to marry and turn their thrones over to their husbands anyway.
15. What obstacle did the rulers of Mughal India face that Ottoman and Safavid rulers did not have to confront?
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  - Increasing contact with European merchants.
  - Rule by a religious minority over a predominantly non-Muslim population.
  - The expense of a navy to police Indian Ocean trade routes.
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## COMPARISON CHARTS

Using information gathered from the text; fill in the blank areas of each chart with the relevant data pertaining to regions and categories listed. (Not all blank areas will necessarily be equally complete.)

## DIVERSITY AND DOMINANCE

After reading “Diversity and Dominance: Islamic Law and Ottoman Rule” in your text, answer the following additional questions.

1. What do you think of Ebu’s – su’ud the Mufti’s assertion that it was reasonable to break treaties with “infidels” if it was considered beneficial to all Muslims? How about his contention that it was acceptable, and indeed holy war, to fight the Safavids?

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2. Do you think that these fatwas were religiously or politically motivated? Even though war against the Safavids was acceptable, why was it unacceptable to enslave Safavid children?

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## MAP EXERCISES

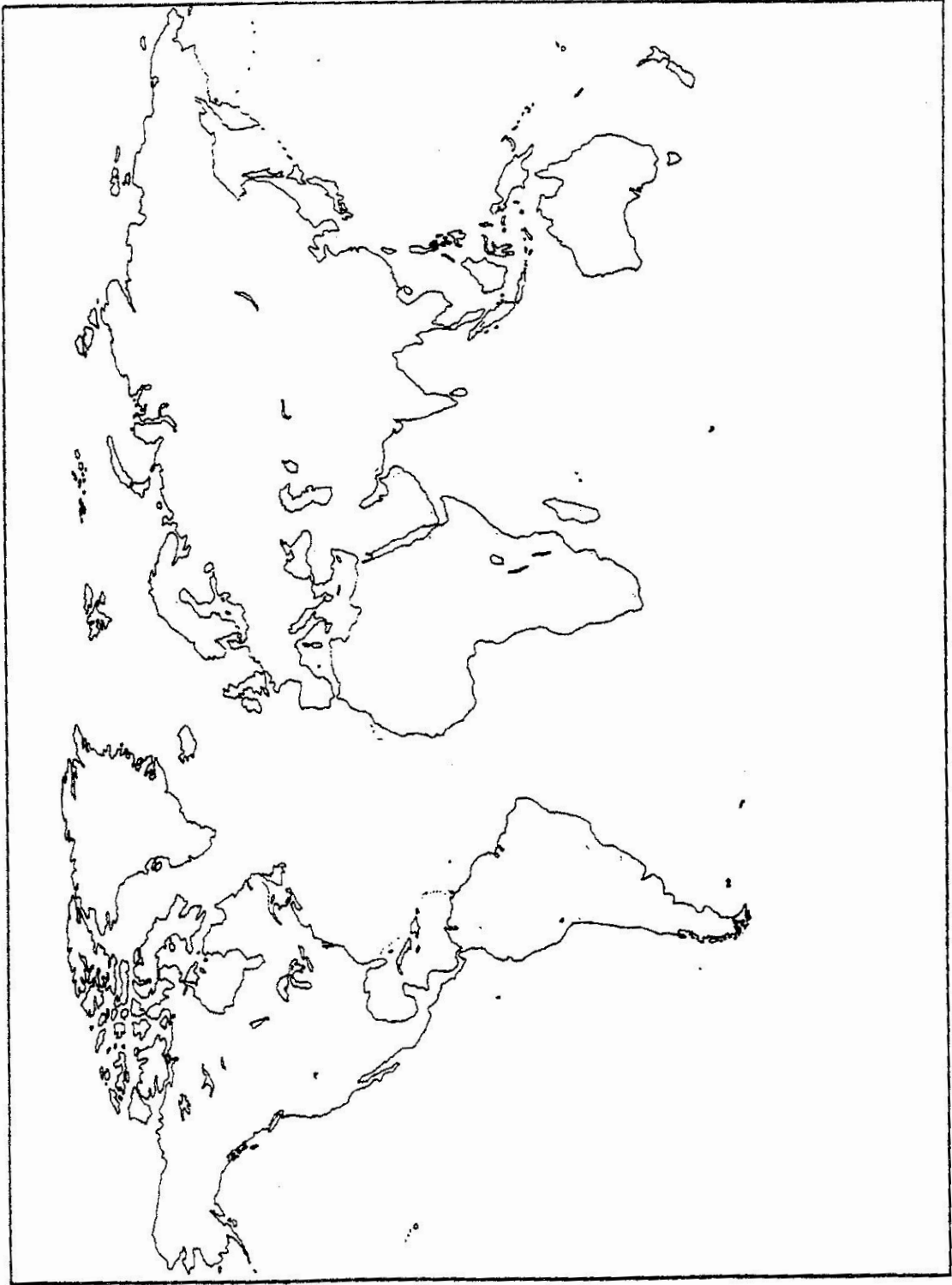
On Outline Map 19.1, label these empires:

- Ottoman Empire, 1520
- Ottoman Empire, 1566
- Safavid Empire, 1600
- Mughal Empire, 1530
- Mughal Empire, 1656

On Outline Map 19.2, mark the colonial possessions of the following:

- British
- Portuguese
- French
- Dutch
- Spanish

OUTLINE MAP 19.1



OUTLINE MAP 19.2



## FOCUS QUESTIONS

1. What technological innovations changed the balance of power between European and Asian Muslim states from 1500 to 1750 C.E.?

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2. What role did women play in the Ottoman, Safavid, and Mughal Empires?

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3. To what degree did Europe and the West dominate the world economy by 1750?

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4. How did the Ottoman Empire and Mughal India interact with the West (Europe)?

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