Pre-Islamic Arabia
The Arab empires
The Turko-Persian empires
The decline of the Islamic world
Reformist and renewal movements of the 18th/19th c
Colonization and decolonization
Islamic terrorism
Clash of Civilizations?
The rise of the Quran
Cultural Psychology of the Islamic world
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The Quran is NOT in the bibliography
– This lecture is not about religion or philosophy
– One can always find X and the opposite of X among the verses of the Quran
– 10 Islamic scholars will give 10 different interpretations of the same sentence
– The Quran says what people want it to say
– What the Quran actually meant is often irrelevant
Method

- Lots of notes/slides
- Please hold your questions for the end
- Recommend a book only if you have read dozens of them
The Protagonists

- Arabs: originally, the ethnic groups who lived in the Arabian peninsula; later, all speakers of the Arabic language from Morocco to Syria
- Turks: nomadic people originally from Central Asia who later relocated to the Middle East and eventually to Turkey (today found in western China, Mongolia, former Soviet republics of central Asia, and the Republic of Turkey)
- Persians: the people who spoke Parsi and based between the Tigris/Euphrates rivers (western Iraq) and the Indus river (Pakistan) and Central Asia (historically it included Eastern Iraq and Afghanistan)
- Indians
The Protagonists

- Muslims: anybody (Arab, Persian, Turk, European, Indian) who was raised or converted to the religion of Islam
- Christians: anybody (European, African, American, Arab…) who was raised or converted to Christianity
Ancient Arabia

Statuette from South Arabia, 2,000 BC
(Metropolitan Museum)
Ancient Arabia

• Archaic Nabataeans 1900 BC - 600 BC
  – Arab tribe engaged in trading with the interior of the Arabian peninsula (camel caravans)
    • incense
    • myrrh
    • horses
    • camels (after 11th c BC)
  – Arabian peninsula:
    • Mineans (1200-650 BC) capital Karna
    • Sabeans (1000 BC - 570 AD) capital Marib/Sana
    • Himyarite (1100 BC - 6th c. AD) capital Dhafar
Ancient Arabia

- Nabataean empire
  - 600BC-250BC: sea power and sea trade (main ports at Gaza, Mediterranean, and Aila, Gulf of Aqaba)
  - 250BC-100 BC: small kingdoms in southern Arabia
  - Long-distance trade with India and China
  - 85BC: conquest of Damascus (silk road)
  - Construction of a new capital, Petra

Rock-cut tombs of Meda'in Salih (Al-Hijr, northwest Saudi Arabia)
Ancient Arabia

- Trade sea route 250BC-250AD from Alexandria (Egypt) to Xian (China)
Ancient Arabia

• Roman Arabia
  – Described by both Herodotus (“The Histories”, Book III, 430 BC) and Strabo (“Geography”, Book XVI, 22 AD)
  – 26BC: Roman emperor Augustus orders an invasion of southern Arabia
  – 111AD: Nabataeans join the Roman Empire

Hadrian Stele, (Southern Nabataea 2nd c AD)
Petra
Ancient Arabia

Petra
Ancient Arabia

• Nabataean polytheism
  – Nabataean temples were built in Italy, Egypt, Turkey and throughout Arabia
  – Nabataean gods were worshipped up until the time of Mohammed
  – Supreme god: Dushara
Ancient Arabia

- Nabataean polytheism
  - Also popular:
    - Baal (imported from Phoenicia)
    - El (chief god of the Semites)
    - Allah (native of Arabia)
      - Derived around 300 BC from the western Semitic god Enlil (Il, Ilah, Al Ilah), creator of the earth and water
    - al-Kutba, god of writing and divination
Ancient Arabia

• What is an “Arab”?  
  – Ancient Mesopotamia: “Arab'ya” the land to the west and south of Mesopotamia  
  – Arab and Nabataean used interchangeably in ancient times  
  – Arab then: a native of Arabia (“immigrant” for the Greeks)  
  – Arab today: anybody who speaks the Arabic language (mostly NOT ethnic Arabs)
Ancient Arabia

• Language of the Nabataeans:
  – Aramaic
  – Syriac
  – Nabataean
  – Old Arabic
Arabic

- Arabic
  - A Semitic language
  - Oldest inscription in Arabic: 1st c BC (in Musnad script)
  - Arabic alphabet evolved (4th c) from the Nabataean/Syriac variation of the Aramaic alphabet
  - Oldest Arabic fragment in Nabataean alphabet: epitaph for the Arab poet and warlord Imru'ul-Qays (Syria, 329 AD)
  - Oldest Arabic fragment in the Arabic alphabet: Jabal Ramm, Jordan (4th century AD)
Arabic

- The Nabataean alphabet could represent 22 phonemes, but Arabic has 28 phonemes: 6 Nabataean letters represented two Arabic phonemes each.
- Cursive Nabataean writing evolved into Arabic writing but with more ambiguities (only 17 letters were different in shape, one letter represented 5 phonemes, one represented 3 phonemes and 4 each represented 2 phonemes).
- Disambiguation dots (Quranic era) to disambiguate phonemes.
- Disambiguation vowels (Al Farahidi, 786).
- Kufic script (Arabia for Caliph Umar’s death, 646 AD).
Arabic

- Arabic
  - See islam.ppt
Arabic

• Pre-Islamic Arabia
  – Bedouin life organized around the tribe
  – Endless wars among Bedouin tribes
  – Complex network of alliances
  – Social egalitarianism
  – Shaykh elected as first among equals to keep peace within the tribe and demand respect from other tribes (not hereditary)
  – Hakam plays the role of the judge
  – Decisions made by hakams become the “sunna”, the ethical code of a tribe
  – Different tribes have different sunnas
Arabic

• Pre-Islamic Arabia
  – Communal life of the tribe
    • Women are property of men
    • The harem is the status symbol of a shaykh
    • Both men and women practice polygamy
    • No individual inheritance
    • Paternity is unimportant (matrilineal society)
Ancient Arabia

- Cultural psychology of the tribal world:
  - If X does something that I disagree with
    1. I am the only judge
    2. X is guilty (guilty = offense, X offended me)
    3. No trial is required (a trial is an attempt to defend the offense)
    4. Punishment = revenge (I avenge the offense)
    5. All of the relatives of X are legitimate targets for punishment
    6. All of the neighbors of X are legitimate targets for punishment
    7. The entire tribe of X is a legitimate target for punishment
Ancient Arabia

• Cultural psychology of the tribal world:
  – If X does something that i disagree with
  8. The punishment does not have to be proportional to the offense
  9. Preferred punishment is death because it prevents the cycle of punishment
  10. Therefore i am a man of peace
Ancient Arabia

• Jews
  – Jews expelled from Palestine by the Romans after the 70 and 132 insurrections
  – Yathrib (Medina) originally settled by Jews
  – Jewish merchants
  – Jewish Bedouins
  – Jewish farmers
  – Jewish poets
  – Jewish warriors
  – Symbiotic relationship between Jews and Arabs (Jews heavily Arabized, but Arabs heavily influenced by Jewish beliefs)
Ancient Arabia

• Jews and Persians
  – 525: The Himyarite kingdom converts to Judaism
  – 530: Christian Ethiopia invades south Arabia
  – 575: The Persian Sassanids invade south Arabia
  – 608: A shrine to many Arabian tribal gods is erected in Mecca
Ancient Arabia

• Arabian economy
  – Traders
    • Arabian trade routes to India become strategic to the Romans because of continuous warfare against the Sassanids.
    • Collapse of the western Roman empire cause chaos in the western Mediterranean
  – Drought in Arabia
Ancient Arabia

• Meccan shrine (Kaaba)
  – Sanctuary for many gods
  – Annual pilgrimage (haji) to Mt Arafat
  – Similar to the religion of Palestine in 6th c BC (Yahweh, Bethel, Arat, Harambethel)
  – Only monotheists: the hanif (poets and visionaries)
  – Allah: lord of the kaba
Ancient Arabia

• Meccan shrine (Kaaba)
  – A model of religious tolerance
  – Nabataean gods (e.g., Kutba)
  – Goddess Uzza (Isis, Aphrodites)
  – Jesus and Mary
  – Three daughters of Allah: Allat/Astarte, al-Uzza, Manat
  – Hubal, the Syrian god of the moon, chief god of Mecca
  – Oracles (kahin) interpret the gods through ecstatic poetry (modeled after Delphi’s oracle)
Ancient Arabia

- Meccan shrine (Kaaba)
  - Ancient belief: the Kaba was built by the first man, Adam, destroyed by the flood, rebuilt by Noah, rediscovered by Abraham
  - 360 idols
  - Pilgrims rotate around the kaba seven times
  - Probably a cosmic metaphor (360 days of the year, seven astral bodies)
  - Located near the “zamzam” well, that was probably a popular stop for caravans
Ancient Arabia

- Meccan shrine (Kaaba)
  - 4th century: Qusayy gains control of Mecca, collects nearby idols, creates a monopoly of pilgrimage and establishes the tribe of Quraysh as the wardians of the shrine (“the tribe of god”)
  - Qusayy creates an economic empire based on the lucrative captive market of pilgrims and on the advantages provided by the Kaaba
    - Mecca as a sanctuary is exempt from warfare
    - The great commercial fairs coincide with the pilgrimage cycle
  - But the wealth of the Meccan elite violates the egalitarian spirit of the tribe and creates social layers
Ancient Arabia

- Meccan shrine (Kaaba)
  - Usury
  - Accumulation of individual wealth
  - Individual inheritance
  - Patrilinear society
Ancient Arabia

• Pre-Islamic Arabia
  – Eastern Roman Empire (Byzantium): Christian
  – Sassanid Empire (Persia): Zoroastrian
  – Yemen: Jewish
  – Ethiopia: Christian
  – Arabia is the only place where Zoroastrian, Christian and Jewish religions coexist
  – In the 7th century Arabia surrounded by Christians (Syrians, Mesopotamians, Abyssinians)
  – Ghassanid tribe protects Roman borders of Arabia
  – Lakhmid tribe protects Persian borders of Arabia
Ancient Arabia

• The age of ignorance/ Jabiliyyah
  – Desert
  – Ghazw/ Razzia (Bedouin raid)
  – North Arabian saddle (that turns camels into means of transport and combat animal)
    • Long-distance travel across deserts that had blocked the expansion of Mediterranean powers
    • Camel-breeding nomads control commercial networks
Ancient Arabia

• Poetry
  – Qasida (pre-Islamic desert encampment ode)
    • Exaltation of one's tribe
    • Longing for the loved one
  – Ghazal (love poem)
  – 10th c: Maqamat (epic rhymed prose mixed with religion, politics, geography, written in virtuoso forms)
Mohammed

- Early biographers
  - Ibn Ishaq
  - Ibn Hisham
  - al-Baladhuri
  - al-Tabari
Mohammed
What the Muslims knew

- Mohammed’s formation (622AD)
  - 569: Born in Mecca
  - 575: Orphaned at six, raised by his uncle as a caravan trader
  - 595: marries Khadija, wealthy widow, much older than him
  - 610: visitation from angel Jibril (Gabriel)
  - Lots of wives, but only two sons (dead) and four daughters (all dead except Fatima)
  - Closest advisors: friend Abu Bakr, cousin Ali (Fatima’s husband)
  - Advocates better treatment for slaves and women
  - 621: angel Jibril (Gabriel) transports him to Jerusalem to convene with past prophets
  - 622: expelled from Mecca and hired by Yathrib (Medinat-un-Nabawi = city of the prophet) to provide arbitration
  - 627: wages campaign against caravans to Mecca
  - 629: takes Mecca and restores Kaaba to monotheism
  - 630: instructs general Osama to attack Syria
  - 631: last sermon (no Arab should claim superiority over a non-Arab), his quran (word) and his summah (the way)
What the Muslims knew

• Mohammed’s formation (622AD)
  – Revelation
    • Social reform for restoring an egalitarian society and freeing slaves
    • Kahins are charlatans
What the Muslims knew

• Mohammed’s formation (622AD)
  – First believers in his revelation:
    • His wife Khadija
    • His younger cousin Ali, who was raised with Mohammed
    • Mohammed’s slave Zayd
    • His friend Abu Bakr, wealthy Qurayshi trader
What the Muslims knew

- Mohammed’s formation (622AD)
  - Haram (contract) with Jewish and oasis tribes to provide peace and justice for the community
  - A prophet in the Jewish/Christian tradition
  - Quarrel with the Jews
  - A mission to pacify pagan Arabia
  - A divine mission, as a descendant of Abraham
  - A new religion, that prays towards Mecca
What the Muslims knew

- Mohammed (622AD)
  - True monotheism (no Christian trinity)
  - Adopts the Roman and Sassanid experiments of a monotheistic state religion
  - Adds the concept of religious war
  - Human (not divine) prophet
  - Brotherhood
  - Austere living
  - System of reward based on faith and deeds (as opposed to Augustine's divine omnipotence)
  - Little or no reference to New Testament
  - Manicheist idea of a succession of revelations given to different peoples
What the Muslims knew

• Mohammed (622AD)
  – Threat to the power of the Quraysh tribe
    • Mohammed’s exclusive monotheism (all the other gods are false gods) disrupts the economics of Mecca
    • Mohammed’s egalitarian program disrupts the politics of Mecca
What the Muslims knew

• Mohammed (622AD)
  – The commune in Medina
  • Radical social, religious and economic reforms
  • Mohammed as the shaykh, hakam and kahin
  • The tribe is not defined by genetics but by the shahadah (accepting Allah as the only god and Mohammed as his prophet)
• Any member of any tribe can become a member of Medina’s new tribe (the “ummah”)
• A new political system on top of the Arabian tribal system
What the Muslims knew

• Mohammed (622AD)
  – The commune in Medina
    • Egalitarian society, redistribution of wealth
      – Usury banned
      – Mandatory charity (zakat)
What the Muslims knew

- Mohammed (622AD)
  - The commune in Medina

- Patrilinear society
  - Women cannot marry more than one man
  - Polygyny still required to save the ummah after the war with the Quraysh (hundreds of widows and orphans) but limited to four wives
  - Mohammed marries nine women in Medina, including 9 y.o. Aisha (the power of a shaykh is proportional to his harem)
What the Muslims knew

- Mohammed (622AD)
  - The succession
    - No succession rule for the leader of the ummah
    - The Quraysh still rule in Mecca
    - Abu Bakr is the compromise choice
    - Main goal of Abu Bakr’s caliphate: fighting the “false prophets” (i.e., anyone who tried to rebel) and declaring war on Byzantium and Persia
    - Umar conquers most of Byzantium and all of Sassanid empire
What the Muslims knew

- Mohammed (622AD)
  - The succession
    - Uthman fully restores Quraysh power
    - Ali’s followers see it as a coup by Mohammed’s enemies
    - Uthman assembles the Quran
    - Uprisings against Uthman - Uthman murdered
    - Mu'awiya starts a dynasty (son succeeds father), the Umayyads, who are basically Mohammed’s old enemies, with capital in Damascus (not Arabia)
    - Demise of Mohammed’s egalitarian revolution
    - Mu'awiya models the new empire after the Byzantine and Sassanid empires, with members of his family as governors of the conquered provinces
What the Muslims knew

• Mohammed (622AD)
  – The succession
    • Yazid, Mu'awiya’s son, murders Mohammed’s family, notably his grandson Husayn (son of Ali and Fatima), in Karbala (680 AD)
    • Yazid quells rebellions throughout the empire
    • People who mourn Husayn in Karbala: Shiites (first pilgrimage to Karbala: 684)
The Arab Empire

• Formation of the empire
  – 632: Abu Bakr declares war on the Eastern Roman and Persian (Sassanid) empires
  – 636-42: Jerusalem, Persia, Syria, Egypt
  – Empire of faith: first religious empire
The Arab Empire

- Reasons for the Arab success
  - Byzantine and Sassanid empires exhausted by centuries of warfare
The Arab Empire

• Reasons for the Arab success
  – Deadly combination of
    • tribally-based military units,
    • holy/charismatic leadership,
    • martyrdom-oriented religion
    • and horse-based desert raid
The Arab Empire

• Reasons for the Arab success
  – North-African and Middle-Eastern populations alienated by Byzantine and Persian bureaucracies
  – Egyptian and Syrian opposition to orthodox Byzanthine Church
  – North-African discontent with orthodox Catholic dogmas
  – Large Arab minorities in Syria/Jordan
  – Arab tolerance for Christians and Jews (allowed them to retain their religious and political institutions)
  – Muslims exempt from taxes
The Arab Empire

• Reasons for the Arab success
  – Islam (substantive of aslama) = submission (to Allah) “aslem taslam” (Mohammed)
  – Muslim (active parciple of aslama) = subject
  – Prophet (nabi or rasul) = messenger (nabi has received a revelation from Allah, rasul is also entrusted with writing scriptures)
  – Moses, David, Jesus, Mohammed were rasuls
The Arab Empire

• Reason for the Arab success
  – Boom of Christian churches in Syria
  – Jews allowed to return to Palestine
  – Byzantine and Persian artists welcome at the caliph’s court
The Arab Empire
The Arab Empire

• Still a tribal world
  – Inter-Arab civil wars
  – Three of the four caliphs who succeeded Mohammed were assassinated (Umar, Uthman, Ali)
The Arab Empire

• Mosque
  – Medina, Arabia (622)
  – Al Haram, Arabia (644)
  – Amr Ebn El Aas Mosque, Egypt (642)
  – Early mosques oriented towards Jerusalem
The Umayyad Empire

• Formation of the empire
  661: Umayyad dynasty
    • Power returns to the powerful Banu Ummaya clan of Mecca
    • The capital moves to Damascus (in Syria rather than Arabia)
    • Removal of Mohammed’s family: son-in-law Ali (661) and grandson Husayn (680)
  696: Arabic becomes the official language of the empire
  708: Morocco
  709: Central Asia
  711: Spain
The Umayyad empire in 750
The Umayyad Empire

- A Syrian empire
  - Damascus
  - Byzantine culture
  - Greek and Persian as the official languages (until 696)
  - Byzantine gold coin (until 694)
  - Intellectual awakening due to contact with other civilizations and urban lifestyle (Damascus, Alexandria)
  - Impiety of the Umayyad rulers
  - Continuing tribal wars among nomadic people of the Arabian peninsula
The Umayyad Empire

• Reason for the Arab success
  – The new Arab order (stretching from Persia to Spain (i.e. the strategic routes to India) restores economic order in the western Mediterranean and spawns an economic boom at a time when Christian Europe's economy is collapsing
  – First time ever that the Western Mediterranean, the Middle East and Central Asia are politically and economically united
  – Vast commercial empire
The Umayyad Empire

• Economy
  – Pure capitalism instead of state-controlled economy of the Roman empire
    • Checks, letters of credit, trade associations, joint-stock companies
    • Small farmers (who cultivate the land themselves) greatly improve agriculture
  – New crops (rice, sugarcane, cotton, bananas, etc)
The Umayyad Empire

• Society
  – No separation between church and state (the caliph “is” the church)
  – Top tier: Ruling Arabs
  – Non-Arab Muslims
  – Non-Muslims (majority of population)
    • Dhimmi: Christians, Jews, Zoroastrians
    • Slaves (Christians, African pagans, Central Asians, Hindus)
The Umayyad Empire

- Sunni and Shiite Islam

Imam Hussein, killed in 680
The Umayyad Empire

- Sunni Islam
  - Anyone from Mohammed’s tribe can be elected caliph ("successor")
The Umayyad Empire

• Shiite Islam ("Shiate Ali", follower of Ali)
  – Only members of Mohammed’s family as caliph
  – Ali (husband of Mohammed's only child Fatima) is the legitimate heir to Mohammed
  – Ali was succeeded by 11 more “imam” (descendants of Mohammed)
  – 680: Massacre of Mohammed’s family at Karbala
  – Shiite sense of martyrdom
  – Twelvers: the twelfth imam disappeared and will return as the Mahdi at the end of time
  – Ismailis: contemporay imams simply hiding
  – Twelvers: resignation
  – Ismailis: militant
The Umayyad Empire

- Kharijites
  - Anybody can become a caliph
  - The most pious should become caliph
The Umayyad Empire

• Sufism
  – Possibly predating Islam
  – Love is a projection of the divine essence
  – Dancing ("whirling dervishes"), drumming, chanting and other physical rituals to transcend worldly existence and perceive the divine ("remembrance of Allah")
  – Pantheism: God is the universe, everything is God
  – More Greek philosophy than Quran
  – More Vedanta than Quran
  – All religions are shadows of the true religion
  – Asceticism inspired by Christian hermits of Syria
  – Several orders
The Umayyad Empire

- Mosque
  - Kairouan/Qayrawan, Tunisia (670) with first minaret (703)
  - Dome of the Rock, Jerusalem (692), first massive building complex of Islam
  - Al Aqsa, Jerusalem (709)
  - Damascus, Syria (710)
  - Bukhara (712)
  - Aleppo, Syria (715)
  - Xian, China (742)
• Damascus, Syria (705)
Aanjar (Lebanon), a Umayyad (8th c) city
The Abbasid Empire

- Formation of the empire
  - 749: Abbasid dynasty
  - 756: Umayyad caliphate in Spain
  - 762: the Abbasid caliph moves the capital from Damascus to Baghdad (near the old Persian capital Ctesiphon)
The Abbasid Empire

• Abbasids (750-945)
The Abbasid Empire

• Abbasids (750-945)
  – Baghdad
  – Islamic purity
  – No separation between church and state (the caliph “is” the church)
  – Persian culture
  – Indifference towards Arabian tribal politics
  – Tolerance for non-Muslims (almost all Abbasid rulers were sons of non-Arab slaves)
  – Investment in architecture and translations (Baghdad as the new Alexandria)
The Abbasid Empire

• Abbasids
  – Revolution of the provinces
  – End of Arab monopoly on power: the tribal aristocracy of Arabia is replaced by a cosmopolitan elite
  – Persian Sassanid court traditions replace Arab tribal traditions
  – Army reformed along Persian model
  – Civilian bureaucracy reformed along Persian model
  – Contempt for Arab customs
The Abbasid Empire

• Cultural boom
  – Intellectual heritage of Persia, Syria, Rome and Hellenized Egypt
  – Import intellectual achievements of India (“Arabic” numerals) and China (paper)
The Abbasid Empire

- Age of Translations: 786-825, in Baghdad
- Greek philosophy
  - 840: Islamic philosophy is founded by Al Qindi
  - Al Farabi (Persia, b 878): Platonism
The Abbasid Empire

- **Astronomy**
  - Thabit ibn Qurra (836)
  - Abd al-Rahman al-Sufi (903)
  - Abu al-Hasan Ali ibn Yunus (950)
  - al-Biruni (973)

- **Mathematics**
  - Al-Khwarizmi (780): algebra (Indian numerals)
  - Habash al-Hasib (825): sine, cosine, tangent
The Abbasid Empire

• Medicine
  – Ali ibn Sahl Rabban al-Tabari (783)
  – Abu Bakr al-Razi (850)
  – Ali ibn Abbas al-Majusi (925)
The Abbasid Empire

• Language
  – Sibovayh, a Persian scholar, codifies the Arabic grammar and writes the first Arabic dictionary (840)
  – Farsi, the Arabized form of Parsi (9th c)
The Abbasid Empire

• Islamic society
  – Dhimmi
    • Muslims still a minority in the empire
    • Rights for non-Muslim communities
    • Judicial independence (Christian, Jewish and Zoroastrian laws)
    • Economic independence
    • Military and political dependence
    • Women and slaves also treated independently
    • Forbidden to marry Muslim women (death penalty)
The Abbasid Empire

• Islamic society
  – Slaves: birth of the international slave trade
The Abbasid Empire

• Islamic society
  – Mamluks (9th century)
    • Children of non-Muslim slaves from the steppes (Turks), raised in isolation (Cairo monastic barracks), instructed about Islam and trained as soldiers (mounted warriors)
    • Sons of Mamluks were forbidden to become a Mamluke (not hereditary)
    • The slave army was a remedy to the inefficiency of feudal cavalry (hereditary, politics, etc)
The Abbasid Empire

• Islamic society
  – Trade
    • Mohammed was a businessman
    • The Quran forbids usury but merchants are valued by the community
    • The Muslim code of honor creates solidarity among Muslim businessmen
    • Wealthy businessmen sponsor the Abbasid revolution
    • Widespread capitalism (partnerships and commendas, banking) before the Italians “invented” them
The Abbasid Empire

• Arabian peninsula largely under control of tribal warlords and religious fanatics opposed to Umayyad/Abbasid worldliness
• Tribal warfare in the Arabian peninsula (9th c-19th c)
Decline of the Abbasid Empire

• Fragmentation of the empire
  – Umayyads (Sunni) in Spain (756-1031)
  – Saffarids (Zaranj, 867-903), Samanids (Bukhara, 875-999) and Ghaznavids (Ghazni, 999-1030, military slaves) in Persia
  – Buyids (North Persian Shiite - Twelvers) in Mesopotamia and Persia (932-1055)
Decline of the Abbasid Empire

- Fragmentation of the empire
  - Umayyads (Sunni) in Spain (756-1031)
Decline of the Abbasid Empire

- Fragmentation of the empire
  - Umayyads (Sunni) in Spain (756-1031)
    - Maliki school of Islam
    - Agricultural boom due to Arab irrigation techniques
    - Commercial boom due to Mediterranean trade (now controlled by friendly Arabs, not hostile Byzantium)
- Patronage of poetry, philosophy, science
- Cordoba the cultural capital of the western Arab empire (912-976): palaces, libraries, universities
- Aristoteles and Arab science introduced to Europe via Spain (especially after reconquest of Toleto)
Fragmentation of the Empire

Year 1000
Decline of the Abbasid Empire

- Fragmentation of the empire
  - Fatimids (Shiite - Ismailis) in Tunisia (908) and Egypt (969-1169) and Syria
    - A revolutionary regime that wants to reestablish a unified caliphate
    - Ismaili Shiite: descendants of Ali, the true imams
    - The population is mostly Sunni
    - Turkish and Sudanese slave soldiers, Berber tribal militias
    - Parallel network of missionaries spreading Ismaili insurgency from India to Yemen
    - Most powerful state in the Islamic world
Decline of the Abbasid Empire

- Fragmentation of the empire
  - Fatimids (Shiite - Ismailis) in Tunisia (908) and Egypt (969-1169) and Syria
    - New capital founded at Al-Qahira/Cairo (973): grandeur of palaces, mosques
    - Administration staffed with Christians and Jews
    - Cosmopolitan
    - Gold of Nubia
    - Revival of Egyptian trade network
    - Destroyed by the Seljuqs who restore Sunni Islam
Decline of the Abbasid Empire

- Fragmentation of the empire
  - Fatimid empire at the peak
Decline of the Abbasid Empire

• Fragmentation of the empire
  – Assassins/Hashshashin (1090-1256)
    • Ismaili/Fatimid Muslims based in northwest Persia
    • Mystic secret society terrorizing the Abbasid (and later Seljuq) elite with meticulous killings
    • Targeting Sunni Muslims (not infidels)
The Turkish Era

- Reunification of the Middle East
  - Seljuqs (Sunni) in Persia (1038), Mesopotamia (1055) and Anatolia (1194)
  - Turks from Central Asia
  - Restore orthodox Islamic government against Shia heresy
  - Political stability
  - Persian culture and language
The Turkish Era

• Reunification of the Middle East
  – Salah Al-Din 1138-98
    • Conquers Egypt and Syria and founds the Ayyubid dynasty
    • 1187 Battle of Hittin vs Crusaders (conquers Jerusalem)
    • 1192 Saladin’s peace with Richard III
The Turkish Era

• North African kingdoms
  – Sunni fanatical revival of the Maghreb
  – Muslim zealots create local kingdoms and military movements to unite the vastly fragmented Berber world
  – Tribal coalition regimes unified by Islam
  – Tribal aristocracies backed by Christian and African slaves, Christian and Turkish mercenaries, and allied Berber tribes
  – Most Berbers continue to live in autonomous tribes
The Turkish Era

• North African kingdoms
  – Almoravids (Sunni Berbers) in Morocco (1062-1146), Andalucia, western Africa to Senegal (capital Marrakesh):
    • they link Spain and the Sahara in a trade zone and create a trading and urban society;
    • they promote Sunni Islam of the Maliki school;
    • prohibition of alcohol, destruction of musical instruments
The Turkish Era

• North African kingdoms
  – Almohads (Sunni Berbers) in Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Andalucia (1130-1269):
    • Own radical version of Islam
    • Prohibition of alcohol and music
    • Persecution of dhimmi (end of Christianity in North Africa)
  – Wealth due to trade with Europe (agriculture, textiles), Egypt (ditto) and black Africa (slaves, gold)
North Africa and Spain

Rabat, Morocco, 1200

Alhambra, Granada, Spain, 14th c
The Turkish Era

• North African kingdoms
  – Ayubbid (Sunni Kurds) in Egypt, Syria and western Arabia (1169-1252)
  • Saladin, Crusades
    – Mamluks (Sunni Turkish slaves) in Egypt and western Arabia (1252-1516)
    – Sunni orthodoxy restored in North Africa
The Turkish Era

• North African kingdoms
  – Mamluks (1252-1516)
    • A militia created by Al-Salih Ayub that eventually seizes power and ends the Ayubbid dynasty
    • Baybars allies with the Mongols of the Golden Horde (southern Russia) and defeats the Mongols of the Ilkhanate (Iran)
    • Baybars buys slaves from Genoese traders who buy them from the Golden Horde
    • Baybars destroys the sea ports and forts of the Christians
    • Baybars creates the best postal system (horse riders and pigeons), especially between Cairo and Damascus
    • Baybars perfects the use of the counterweight trebuchet
    • Destroyed by the Ottomans, who adopt a similar system of slave soldiers, the Janissaries
The Turkish Era

- Abu Abd Allah Muhammad al-Idrisi (Morocco, 1100)
  - "Nuzhat al-mushtag Fi Ikhtiraq al-Afaq/ Roger's Book" (1154, Sicily)
    - geographical encyclopedia
    - world map
    - description of various regions of the world
The Turkish Era

• The Turks before 1055
  – GokTurk empire (552-744)
The Turkish Era

- The Turks before 1055
  - Altai mountains
  - Nomadic tribes
  - Shamanic religion (worship of the elements of nature)
  - Transoxania constitutes a natural path from Altai into Iran
  - Collapse of the Abbasids removes the only line of defense
The Turkish Era

• Turkish Islam
  – Adaptation to Middle-Eastern settled life of nomadic Turkic-speaking populations of Central Asia
  – Waves of missionaries cross the Oxus: Zoroastrians, Manicheans, Buddhists, Muslims
  – Muslim missionaries were mostly Sufis
  – 1055: Toghrul Beg deposes the Abbasids but adopts Sunni orthodoxy and the Persian language
  – Sufi Islam used to counter Shiite Islam
The Turkish Era

- Seljuqs
  - The main enemy is the Fatimid empire (Shiite), not the Byzantine empire
  - The second enemy is the nomadic Turks that do not obey the Seljuks, whom the Seljuks push west (Rum Turks, who are Sufi Muslims)
  - The Byzantine empire is an accidental casualty of Turkoman nomads expelled by the Seljuqs (Rum Turks)
  - 1071: Battle of Manzikert
  - Internal enemy: the Ismaili Assassins (1090)
The Turkish Era

• Progressive emancipation from the caliphate
  – Not caliphs but sultans, shahs, khans, etc
  – Implicit separation of church (ulema) and state (sultan, shah, khan)

• Forced conversions to Islam, but mainly to enforce the same law on the whole kingdom and to legitimize the new elite (Turks, slaves)

• Court = patron of science, art and literature (Chinese and Byzantine influence)

• Shift away from the Arab epicenter (and the Arabic language) towards the Turco-Persian axis (and the Turkish and Persian languages)

• Sufi revival

• Salaries army of slaves (mamluks)
The Turkish Era

- Seljuk Empire at the peak
The Turkish Era

• Sufi orders/ tariqas
  – Mevlevi order, followers of Rūmī
  – Qadiri order, named after `Abd al-Qādir al-Jīlānī
  – Chisti order (10th c, Afghanistan), founded by Abu Ishq Shami, most prominent order in South Asia: purely spiritual with no ties to politics, al-Arabi philosophy, acceptance of Hindu spirituality, Sufis adopt Hindu devotional practices like yoga
The Turkish Era

- Sufi orders/ tariqas
  - Naqshbandiyyah order (12th c, Kazakhstan) founded by Yusuf Hamadani (philosopher), his disciple Khawaja Ahmed Yasawi (missionary), his successor Abd al-Khaliq Ghujdavani (in Bukhara) and al-Din Naqshband (14th c): devotion mixed with sociopolitical activism; close ties to rulers and courts; Ubaydallah Ahrar (15th c) believed to possess magical powers

Yasawi mausoleum in Turkistan (Kazakhstan)
The Turkish Era

• Persian philosophy
  – ibn Sina/ Avicenna (Persia, b1023): Aristotle, Plato
  – Abu-Hamid Al-Ghazali (Persia, 1095)

• Spanish philosophy
  – ibn Rushd/ Averroes (Spain, b1126): Aristotle
  – Ibn Arabi (Spain, b1165)

• Jewish philosophy
  – Saadia ben Joseph (Persia, 10th c)
  – Solomon ibn Gabirol/ Avicebron (105x, Spain)
  – Judah Halevi (113x, Spain)
  – Moses ben Maimon/ Maimonides (Egypt, 1190)
The Turkish Era

- Persian poetry
  - Ferdowsi (Persia 932): "Shah-nameh" (1010)
  - Omar Khayyam (Persia, 1050): "Rubaiyat"
  - Sadi (Persia 1184): "Bustan" (1257)
  - Rumi (Afghanistan/Anatolia, 1207): "Mathnawi" (125#)
  - Hafez (Persia 1324): "Divan"
The Turkish Era

- Mongol sack of Baghdad (1258)
The Turkish Era

• Decline of Mesopotamia and rise of Egypt
  – The Mamluks of Egypt save the Arab world from the Mongols (1260)
  – Military power
  – Cultural power (Alexandria, Cairo)
  – Economic power
    • Trade with the Italian city-states that provide the slaves needed to perpetuate the Mamluk system in exchange for the southern route to the Middle East (bypassing Turkey and Persia)
    • Karimi merchants (12th-14th c) control the Oriental trade in spices
    • Large manufacturing output (mainly textiles)
    • Sugar and sweets
The Turkish Era

• Decline of Mesopotamia and rise of Egypt
  – Mamluk empire (until 1517) will become the longest-lived Islamic state in the Middle East between the Abbasids and the Ottomans
  – The first Middle Eastern regime based entirely on slave soldiers
  – Only foreigners admitted to the military elite (no natives of Egypt or Syria)
  – This removes tribal influences on the government
  – The government’s only goal is to serve the state, not particular regions, tribes, families
The Turkish Era

• Decline of Mesopotamia and rise of Egypt
  – Sunni (Fatimids were Shiite): both schools of law and Sufi brotherhoods act as intermediaries between the Mamluqs and the masses
  – The ulama act as judges, bankers and tax collectors
  – The ulama run schools, hospitals, charities
The Turkish Era

- Ilkhans (Buddhists who convert to Shia Islam) in Persia and Mesopotamia (1265-1335)
The Turkish Era

• North Africa before the Ottomans
  – Hafsid Tunisia (1228-1574)
    • Trade with Italian city-states
    • Maliki school of law
    • Spread of Sufism in 11th-13th centuries
    • Sufis masters believed to have supernatural power
    • Sufis provide order by organizing tribal coalition
    • Sufis are the most powerful force in society
  • Army, bureaucracy and schools filled with Spanish exiles after 1492
  • Spanish immigrants introduce irrigation and new cultivations
The Turkish Era

- North Africa before the Ottomans
  - Marinid and Wattasid Morocco (1244-1549)
    - Economic regression
    - Rise of Sufi power
    - Monarchical state legitimized by descent from the founder of Islam
    - Bedouin invasions harm rural life and destroy settled agriculture
  - Algeria
    - Fragmented and ruled by Berber tribes
    - Economy originally based on piracy
The Turkish Era

• North Africa before the Ottomans
  – The Islamization of North Africa spreads state organization, monotheistic religion, urban commerce and sedentary agriculture from the coastal regions (where Romans and Phoenicians had started it) into the interior
  – Emergence of states: Tunisia (8th c), Morocco (11th), Algeria (16th)
  – Maliki school of law in the urban world + Sufi brotherhoods in the rural world
  – Berbers still dominate southern areas with their own language and institutions
The Turkish Era

• North Africa before the Ottomans
  – Morocco: strong territorial identity but weak state
  – Tunisia: strong state and territorial identity
  – Algeria: strong state (after Ottoman conquest) but no territorial identity
The Turkish Era

- **Ottoman Empire (Sunni Turks)**
  - **Military assets**
    - Turkoman cavalry
    - Timur’s conquests send waves of fleeing Turkoman warriors to Anatolia, where they are recruited into the Ottoman army
    - The early sultans marry Christian Greek wives (Byzantine and Bulgarian princesses), so their sons and subsequent sultans are half-Greek and can easily make alliances with Balkan princes
The Turkish Era

- Ottoman Empire
  - Orkhan (1324-59), married to a Christian Greek
    - Turkoman nomads to raid inaccessible areas in return for booty
    - Regular salaried army for sieges (both Christians and Muslims), also rewarded with fiefs (timars)
    - Religious fanatics (jihadists)
    - Janissary corps (non-Turkish children, mostly Balkan Christians, taken as booty and raised as Muslim Turks, similar to Baybars’ Mamluks), rewarded with lands
  - Troops of the Balkan vassals
The Turkish Era

- Ottoman Empire
  - Murad (1360-89), son of a Christian Greek woman
    - Tax structure inherited from the Byzantine empire
    - Justice administered by kadis (Muslim religious judges) appointed by the imperial kadi of Bursa
    - Rise of a class of Turkish aristocrats in the conquered lands, hostile to the Christian troops and to the Byzantine advisors of the court (Greek is the official language of the government)
The Turkish Era

- Ottoman Empire
  - Bayazid (1389-1402), son of a Christian and married to a Christian
    - Fights more the Turkomans in Anatonia than the Christians in the Balkans
    - Personal body guard of Christian slaves
    - Timur’s conquests send waves of refugees from Iran, Mesopotamia and Transoxania to Anatolia (soldiers, administrators and merchants)
    - Dervshirme tax: Christians of the Balkans must provide slaves for the army
    - The infantry is mostly Christian slaves (janissaries), the cavalry is free Turks
The Turkish Era

- **Ottoman Empire**
  - Mehmet I (1413-1420)
    - Expels the Christians from palace
    - Restores power of the Turkish aristocracy (led by the Candarli family)
    - Large-scale settlement of Turkish nomads in the Balkans
    - Persian and Turkish instead of Greece for official documents
  - Murad II (1421-51)
    - Aristocratic cavalry armed with bows, arrows, spears
    - Janissary infantry armed with muskets and cannons
The Turkish Era

- **Ottoman Empire**
  - Weakness of the enemy/14th c
    - Civil war in Byzantium (John VI Cantacuzene allies with Ottomans vs John V Paleologues allied with Serbs and Bulgars, 1352)
    - Rivalry between Italian city states (alliance with Genoa, 1354; with Venezia, 1388; wars between Genoa and Venezia and other cities)
  - Weak Balkan states
  - Aegean islands ruled by Greeks, Venetians, Genoese and Knights of Rhodes who are enemies of each other
The Turkish Era

• Ottoman Empire
  – Weakness of the enemy/15th c
    • The powerful Hungarian kingdom is run by a Catholic dynasty disliked by the Christian Orthodox population
    • Powerless Pope who has to rely on Hungary to lead Crusades (1442, 1448)
    • Byzantium is isolated, depopulated and poor
    • Peasants of the Balkans welcome Ottoman domination because it is more humane than their oppressive feudal masters
    • Byzantine population would rather become Muslim (tolerant) than Catholic (fanatical)
The Turkish Era

• Ottoman Empire
  – Mehmet II (1451-81)
    • Turkish nobility removed from power in favor of slave soldiers
    • Central bureaucracy and Janissary command are reserved for the slaves of the sultan
    • Millet system: non-Muslims (Christians, Jews) govern themselves with their own laws
    • Ottoman conquests indirectly reunite the Christians of the East under the Greek patriarchate who rules the Christian millet
The Turkish Era

- **Ottoman Empire**
  - Mehmet II (1451-81)
    - Conquest of Byzantium makes him the most prestigious Muslim leader in the world
    - Attracts persecuted Jews to Byzantium/Istanbul
    - Cultivates Persian poetry and European painting
    - Nakkashhane: court studio with calligraphers and painters to design manuscripts, ceramics, carpets, etc
The Turkish Era

• Ottoman Empire
  – Bayezit II (1481-1512)
    • Economic and population boom
    • Modernization of fleet
    • Overthrown by the Janissaries who install one of his sons
    • Jewish and Arab immigration from Spain
  – Selim (1512-20)
    • Kills all his brothers, nephews and even his own sons except for Suleyman
    • Wars with both Mamluks, who are fellow Sunnis, and Iranians (Safavids), who are heretic Shiites
    • Terminates both Mamluk and Abbasid dynasties
The Turkish Era

- Ottoman Empire
  - 1354: Gallipoli, first outpost in Europe
  - 1361-93: Balkans (Ottomans become a European power)
  - 1453: Constantinople / Istanbul (Ottoman sultan becomes the most prestigious Muslim leader)
  - 1462: Wallachia (gate to the Black Sea and the Danube, and main suppliers of grains and meat to Byzantium/Istanbul)
  - 1499: The Black Sea becomes an Ottoman lake
  - 1502: Venetian trade posts (Ottomans gain control of the eastern trade routes)
The Turkish Era

• Ottoman Empire
  – Weakness of the enemy/16th c
    • Safavids: hostility of the Sunni world towards the Shiite heresy
    • Mamluks: Portugal’s bases in the Indian Ocean (helped by Safavids) cause the decline of overland trade routes
The Turkish Era

- Ottoman Empire
  - Istanbul
    - 1453: After many wars (mainly the 1204 crusade) Byzantium is reduced to 50 thousand people
    - Local Greeks
    - Galata is a Genoese (Catholic) suburb
    - Forcible emigration of Turks
    - Forcible emigration of Armenians
    - Jews encouraged to immigrate from Europe
    - Christian Slavic slaves imported in devshirme (most soldiers in the capital were Slavs)
    - Most grand viziers of the future will be non-Turks (43 out of 48)
The Turkish Era

- **Ottoman Empire**
  - **Istanbul**
    - **1477**: Istanbul has 80 thousand inhabitants of which 9486 Muslim households, 3743 Christian Greek households, 1647 Jewish households, 818 Christian Armenian households, 267 Christian Slavic households
    - Most cosmopolitan city in the world
    - Almost 50% of the inhabitants will remain non-Muslim until the 19th century
    - **1530**: 400 thousand inhabitants
The Turkish Era

- Ottoman Empire
  - Istanbul
    - Bazaar: market, stock exchange and bank
The Turkish Era

- Ottoman Empire
  - 1514: First major Sunni campaign to destroy Shiite heresy (i.e. Safavids)
  - 1516: Mamluk empire (Syria, Palestine, Egypt)
  - 1520-66: Suleyman: Belgrade from Austria (1521), Rhodes (1522), Hungary (1526), Siege of Vienna (1529), Algiers (1529), Baghdad (1534), Mesopotamia (1555)
  - 1571: Cyprus
  - 1574: Tunis
  - 1580: Treaty with Spain
The Turkish Era

• Ottoman Empire
  – Suleyman (1520-66)
    • First sultan who does not have to fight a succession war (his father killed all his brothers)
    • Marries a Christian Ukrainian slave, the first sultan to get married
    • Appoints a Christian Greek as grand vizier, thus weakening the Turkish aristocracy and empowering the slave class
    • Rising influence of the women of the court (mother and wives of the sultan) and of the eunuchs (usually from the Caucasus)
The Turkish Era

• Ottoman Empire
  – Suleyman (1520-66)
    • New Ottoman enemy: the Habsburgs (conquers Hungary)
    • More war with the Safavids (conquers Yemen and Iraq)
The Turkish Era

• Ottoman Empire
  – Suleyman (1520-66)
    – The Ottomans control both the holy cities (Mecca and Jerusalem) and both the cultural capitals (Baghdad, Byzantium)
  – Western influence
    » Fleet inspired by Venezia
    » Firearms imported from Europe
    » Alliance with France
The Turkish Era

- **Ottoman Empire**
  - **Suleyman (1520-66)**
    - Alliance with pirates of Tunis expands Ottoman influence to western Mediterranean
    - The Ottomans become a major maritime power
    - Grand admirals: a pirate (Hizir Reis), a captured Croat (Piyale Pasha)
    - Venezia becomes dependent on trade with the Ottoman provinces
    - Conquest of Yemen and southern Iraq (establishment of Persian Gulf fleet) but Portugal maintains control of the sea trade
The Turkish Era

- Ottoman Empire
  - Suleyman (1520-66)
    - The population doubles from 12 million to 22 million
    - Increased taxes to support the court
    - Widespread poverty
    - Exodus from the countryside to the cities
    - Feudal cavalry turns to banditry
    - Janissaries turn from warriors into businessmen (artisans and merchants)
    - Palace intrigues
    - Grand vizier Sokullu Mehmet (1565-79) creates a system of nepotism and corruption
The Turkish Era

- Ottoman Empire
  - Suleyman (1520-66)
    - Imperial council
      - Viziers (governors)
      - The scribes (finances)
      - Grand admiral and general of the Janissaries
      - The ulema (the learned ones)
    - But power increasingly wielded by mothers, wives and eunuchs of the imperial harem
  - 1535 Alliance with France
  - Suleymaniye: most craftsmen are Christian
The Turkish Era

• Ottoman Empire
  – Suleyman (1520-66)
• Education
  – Madrasas: logic, philosophy, astronomy, Islamic theology, Arabic language, rhetoric
  – The ulema are the graduates of the madrasas
• Law
  – Muftis interpret the (Islamic) law and kadis enforce it (both are ulema)
The Turkish Era

• Ottoman Empire
  – Multi-ethnic multi-lingual empire
  – Gunpowder empire based on infantry (as opposed to the traditional reliance on elite cavalry)
  – Hierarchical bureaucracy for education, judiciary and even religion
The Turkish Era

- Ottoman Empire
  - Balance of fanaticism (defenders of Sunni orthodoxy against the Shiites and the Christians) and tolerance (melting pot of ethnic/religious groups, strong Sufi influence)
  - The ulema organized in a hierarchical organized institution (equivalent of the Catholic Church), led by a grand mufti (1433)
  - Leading Sufi orders also coopted by the state
The Turkish Era

• Ottoman Empire
  – Islam
    • Ulema: sheiks deliver sermons, imams lead prayers, muezzins chant the call to prayer
    • The Ulema organized in an organized institution (equivalent of the Church) under the Mufti of Istanbul (equivalent to the Pope)
    • The mufti of Istanbul is the third most powerful man in the Empire (after the sultan and the grand vizier)
    • Dervishes, organized in brotherhoods, practice Sufism
    • Dervish lodges similar to Christian monasteries
The Turkish Era

• Ottoman Empire
  – Kanun (Sultanic laws): an entire code of laws independent of shari'ah
    • Laws about the organization of government and the military
    • Laws about the taxation and treatment of the peasantry
The Turkish Era

• Ottoman Empire
  – Social division along religious rather than ethnic lines
  – Millets: separate, autonomous and self-governed non-Muslim communities
    • Muslims, Greeks, Armenians, Jews
  – Muslims (notably Arabs) also segregated
The Turkish Era

• Ottoman empire/ Slavery
  – Slave system key to preventing the accumulation of power
  – Bureaucracy (even the Grand Vizier himself) and infantry (e.g. Janissaries) assigned to the kullars, personal slaves of the Sultan (Christians who had been forced to convert to Islam, mainly by devshirme or child tribute, with no civil rights)
  – Only newly recruited slaves can be inducted into positions of power
The Turkish Era

- Ottoman empire/ Slavery
  - The chief eunuch of the harem (usually a black slave bought from and castrated in Sudan) is more has access to the sultan more often than Turkish aristocrats
  - Both government and army are efficient and faithful and neutral to political, religious or ethnic strife
  - Brothers of the Sultan killed to avoid competition for the throne (from Mehemmed I till end of 16th c)
The Turkish Era

• Ottoman empire
  – Culmination of the century-old Turkish process of
    • centralization of political power
    • assimilation of religious authority
    • destruction of tribal autonomy
The Turkish Era

• Ottoman Empire
  – Cult of pleasure in Istanbul
    • Coffee houses
    • Tobacco
    • Alcohol
    • Lascivious Jewish and Christian women
    • Tolerance for homosexuals
    • “Tulip Period” (1719-30)
The Turkish Era

- Ottoman Empire
  - Gunpowder
    - Christian corporations manufactured and sold the weapons that Muslims used to defeat the Christian armies
  - Spices
    - Christian demand for spices caused the Islamic world to get wealthy, and the Islamic world used that wealth to wage war against the Christian world and attack its moral capital, Constantinople (Istanbul)
The Turkish Era

- **Ottoman Empire/ Trade**
  - **Egypt**: rice, coffee, lentils, incense, spices (yearly ship caravan)
  - **Anatolia**: meat, fruit
  - **Balkans**: meat
  - **Crimea**: salt
  - **Cyprus**: sugar
  - **Slave trade**
  - **Slaves from Poland, Caucasus and Sudan**
  - **Christians and Jews are not allowed to keep slaves**
The Turkish Era

• Ottoman Empire/ Trade
  – No Ottoman ambassadors in Europe
  – The sultan receives news of the world from Christian and Jewish merchants, from the princes of his Balkan vassal states, and from the foreign ambassadors in Istanbul
The Turkish Era

• Ottoman Empire/ Immigration
  – Istanbul was one of the few cities in the world (before the USA) that attracted immigrants from all over the world (Europe, Asia, Africa)
    • Conquered Greeks
    • African, European and Central Asian slaves
    • Jews fleeing persecution in Europe
    • Armenians fleeing racism/poverty in Anatolia
    • Slavs fleeing from Catholic Austria
    • Slavs fleeing from Russia
    • Arabs looking for better life
    • Western merchants looking for opportunities
    • Muslims from Central Asia fleeing Russian expansion
The Turkish Era

- Ottoman Empire
  - Matrakci Nasuh (1537)
The Turkish Era

- North Africa during the Ottoman Empire
  - Tunisia (1574)
    - De facto autonomous
    - Economic decline after Portuguese discovery of Atlantic route to the Indies
  - Algeria (1529)
    - De facto autonomous
The Turkish Era

• North Africa during the Ottoman Empire
  – Morocco
    • A peace treaty between the Ottomans and Spain (1580) allows Morocco to remain independent as a buffer state
    • Sugar industry (managed by Jews and Christians, operated by African slaves, main export to Europe)
    • Monopolizes the Saharan trade routes after capturing Timbuktu (1591)
The Turkish Era

• North Africa during the Ottoman Empire
  – Decline of North Africa:
    • Suez canal (1869)
    • Railroads and steamships bypass traditional trade routes
    • French expansion
    • Only the textile industry of Fez in Morocco survives
The Turkish Era

• Ottoman Empire/Culture
  – Ottomans influenced by Persian culture
  – North Africans influenced by Arabian culture
The Turkish Era

- Selim Sinan, Ottoman architect
  - Tekiya, Damascus (1554)
  - Selimiye, Edirne (1574)
  - Suleymanye, Istanbul (1587)
  - Blue Mosque, Istanbul (1619)
The Turkish Era

• Ottoman empire
  – Causes of decline
    • Uneducated sultans (kept in isolation during childhood from 1617 on)
    • Ossified bureaucracy
    • Nepotism and corruption
The Turkish Era

• **Ottoman empire**
  – **Causes of decline**
    • The end of Ottoman expansion (hence of war booty) turns the janissaries into feudal lords, merchants, artisans
    • Breakdown of the discipline and loyalty of janissaries (revolts of 1622 and 1631)
    • The demographic boom of the 16th century and the return of unemployed soldiers breaks down the social order of the provinces
    • Surplus of peasant labor
The Turkish Era

- Ottoman empire
  - Causes of decline
    - Silver from the Americas cause inflation
    - Poverty, inflation, banditry
    - The provinces (that now count on large towns trading directly with the world) demand greater autonomy
    - Commercialization reinforces decentralization
    - Uprisings (Celali, 1519-1608; false Mustafa, 1555; Sunullah Efendi, 1603)
  - By 1800 most of the empire is controlled by independent officials (notables in Anatolia, regional lords in the Balkans, autonomous governments in North Africa, powerful governors in the Middle East)
The Turkish Era

- **Ottoman empire**
  - Causes of decline
    - Western naval routes to the Far East that bypass the Ottoman empire (Portugal, Holland, Britain) and cripple the Arab economies
    - Increased commerce with Europe (treaties with Venezia 1454, France 1535, England 1590, Austria 1615) opens the doors to European merchants at the expense of Turkish artisans
    - Discovery of America
    - Russian expansion
The Turkish Era

- Ottoman empire
  - Causes of decline
    - 1699: Peace treaty of Karlowitz, the first time that the Ottomans lose territory to European powers
    - 1774: Russia reaches the Black Sea, the first time that the Ottomans lose Muslim subjects to a Christian power
The Turkish Era

• Ottoman empire
  – Causes of decline
    • Lengthy inconclusive wars with Safavids (1576-
    • Wars against Austria in the Balkans, Poland in Ukraine, Venezia in Dalmatia and Russia in Crimea
    • Frequent plague epidemics (the Ottoman population does not increase in the 19th century)
The Turkish Era

• Ottoman empire
  – Causes of decline
    • Islam
      – Belief that everything in the Islamic world is superior to anything in the non-Muslim world
      – Western technology anathema
        » 1580: A fanatical mob destroys the astronomical observatory of Istanbul (the next one will be built only in 1868)
      – Western books anathema
      – The Quran is a transcendent book that exists in the heavens and can only be transmitted by being copied by hand like it was done since the beginning
The Turkish Era

• Ottoman empire
  – Causes of decline
    • The printing press anathema (calligraphy is a mystical practice and cannot be replaced by printing)
      – Only millets are allowed to print books within the Ottoman empire (Jewish press 1493, Armenian press 1567, Christian press 1627)
      – 1530: First printed copy of the Quran in Venezia (destroyed by the Pope)
      – 1542: Latin translation of the Quran
      – 1694: First widely-available printed copy of the original Quran (Germany)
      – 1874: First printed Quran in the Islamic world (Turkey)
The Turkish Era

• Ottoman empire
  – Causes of decline
    • No scientific revolution
    • No industrial revolution
    • The empire mainly exports raw materials and imports manufactured goods
The Turkish Era

• Ottoman empire
  – The final blow
    • Nationalism: the nationalist movements of the 19th century spread to the Ottoman empire and inspire revolts by Armenians, Bulgarians, Greeks, etc
The Turkish Era

- Ottoman empire
  - Effects of decline
    - The Grand Vizier becomes more important than the sultan (1649 revolution)
    - Peace of Carlowitz (1699): the Ottoman Empire becomes a defensive (instead of offensive) state
    - Western-style military reforms of grand vizier Huseyn Pasha (1700)
    - Damat Ibrahim’s 12 years of peace with extravagant palaces, pavilions and gardens, as well as adoption of Western customs and manners, translation of Western books, Western-style technical schools, and reports from the West by imperial emissaries
The Turkish Era

- Ottoman empire
  - Effects of decline
    - The first printing press opens in Istanbul (1729, by Ibrahim Muteferrika, a Hungarian convert) and prints books of history and science
    - Writers and libraries
The Turkish Era

• Ottoman empire
  – Effects of decline
    • Fragmentation of the empire
      – Mehmet Ali in Egypt
      – Ali Pasha in Greece
      – Karaosmanoglu in Anatolia
      – Pasvanoglu in Bulgaria
      – Kara George in Serbia
      – The Wahhabis in Arabia
The Turkish Era

• The Turkic empires
  – Gunpowder empires of Turkic descent
    • Ottoman Empire (Edirne, later Istanbul)
    • Safavid Empire (Isfahan in Persia)
    • Moghul Empire (Fatehpur Sikri in north India)
The Turkish Era

• Persia
  – 1258 - 1365: Mongols (Ilkhanate, Tabriz)
  – 1365 - 1413: Timurids (Samarkand)
  – 1501 - 1722: Safavids (Isfahan)
  • Roots in Turkic-speaking Sufis of Azerbaijan
  • Transformation into militant Shiite theocracy (Twelvers)
  • First major Shiite kingdom since the Fatimids
  • 1501 Tabriz, 1503 Hamadan, 1504 Shiraz, 1507 Karbala, 1509 Baghdad, 1510 Herat, 1511 Merv
  • Continuous warfare against Ottomans
  • 1587: gunpowder empire (Shah Abbas I)
The Turkish Era

• Persian Art
  – Timurid art (1389-1501)
    • Architecture (Samarqand, Herat)
    • Painting and calligraphy (Shiraz)
  – Jahanshah Qara-Quyunlu (1439-67)
    • Darb-i Imam in Isfahan (1454)
    • Blue Mosque in Tabriz (1465)
  – Safavid (1501-1722)
    • Isfahan
The Turkish Era

• Persia
  – Persians ruled for centuries by non-Persian dynasties of lower cultural development and lower political expertise (Arabs, Seljuqs, Mongols, Azers, Qajars)
The Turkish Era

• Transoxania
  – Persian influence
  – Wealth from long-distance international trade
  – Trade brings Buddhist and Christian influences in a Muslim region
  – Manufacturing: silk, cotton, leather, rug, jewelry, metal, paper
  – Decline caused by Safavid expansion (that closes the routes to the Indian ocean), Russian expansion (that closes the Volga region and opens new routes to China via Siberia), sea routes between Europe and East Asia
The Turkish Era

- India
  - 1192-1526: Delhi sultanate (Ghurid Turks)
  - 1526-1707: Moghul (Timurid Turks)
Monumental art of the Moghul Empire

Tomb of Hamayun, Delhi, 1564

Mausoleum for wife of the shah

Taj Mahal, 1653

Hyderabad (1589)

Monumental art of the Moghul Empire
The Turkish Era

• Arabian peninsula
  – Largely forgotten by the Islamic world
  – Indifference of the Ottoman empire towards the Arabian peninsula
  – Warlords guarantee safe passage to pilgrims
  – Ancestral pre-Islamic lifestyle prevails
  – Minimal contact with non-Islamic world
  – Minimal western influence
Summarizing

- 622-660: Early expansion
- 661-748: Umayyad empire
- 749-9th c: Abbasid empire
- 9th c-10th c: Separation of North Africa and Middle East
- 10th c-17th c: Turko-Persian Middle East (notably Ottoman, Safavid, Mogul expansion)
- 17th c-...: Decline of Ottoman, Safavid and Mogul empires
BREAK

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The Decline and Fall

• Islamic Reformism
  – Selim III (1789-1807), reformist sultan of the Ottoman Empire
  – Napoleon’s invasion of Egypt (1798) begins the colonization of the Islamic world by the West (the dream/nightmare of the Crusades comes true)
  – Qajar dynasty (Turkic tribe) in Iran (1794)
  – The Islamic world finally realizes how weak it is compared with the Europeans/Christians and reforms are inaugurated
  – Saudi dynasty is the exception: they view the modernizing Ottomans as their main enemy
The Decline and Fall

• Islamic Reformism
  – Ottomans
  • Help from France to train a new army
  • Destruction of Janissaries (1826) and emargination of ulema
  • Influx of Western visitors (first steamship arrives at Istanbul from Europe in 1828)
  • Greek nationalism (1821-32)
  • Egyptian independence (1811)
  • Russian expansionism (multiple wars)
  • Wars with Russia and Egypt bankrupt the empire
  • Straits Convention (1841): Ottoman survival depends on British and French protection from Russia
The Decline and Fall

• Islamic Reformism
  – Ottomans
    • Tanzimat (1839-76): Westernizing reforms that turn Turkey into a European state, integrated in European trade and controlled by European interests (especially Britain, chief trading partner after 1838 trade treaty)
    • Austria wants to conquer the Balkans (mostly dynastic ambitions)
    • Russia sides with Slavic people and Orthodox Christians (mostly religious mission and ethnic brotherhood)
    • Britain and France fight over Ottoman routes for their geopolitical imperial policies
    • Religious minorities side with the foreign powers
The Decline and Fall

• Islamic Reformism
  – Iran
  • Russia is a natural enemy in the Caucasus (war 1804-13) but a natural ally against British expansionism (from India)
  • Britain is both a natural enemy (expansion) and a natural ally against Russian expansionism (1814 treaty)
  • France is a natural ally because of its rivalry with Britain in India
  • Help from Russia, France (1808) and Britain (1814) to train a new army
The Decline and Fall

• Islamic Reformism
  – Iran
  • Boom of exports of cotton, opium, silk, produce to Britain and Russia (1830s)
  • Landed aristocracy, ulema and new rich cosmopolitan merchants compete for power
  • Failure to Westernize but territorial integrity (unlike the Ottomans) and independence (unlike Egypt)
  • Democratic revolution (1909) but bankruptcy, “strangling” by Britain and Russia, poverty and anarchy
  • No major railway until 1916
The Decline and Fall

• **Islamic Reformism**
  - Egypt
    • Napoleon’s invasion of Egypt (1798) brings Western civilization (e.g., first printing press)
    • Mehmet I (1805) establishes de facto independence of Egypt from Ottomans
    • Huge exports of grain to Britain
    • Egypt begins growing cotton (1821)
    • Takes control of Red Sea trade by occupying Arabia (1818) and of overland routes to India by invading Syria (1833) but restrained by Britain in 1840
The Decline and Fall

• Islamic Reformism
  – Egypt
    • Irrigation projects
    • Alexandria becomes a metropolis
    • Attempts at industrialization
    • Western instructors
    • Polytechnic school (1833)
    • Printing presses mainly print translations of European technical books
    • Egypt becomes the leader of Arab intellectual life
    • But Turkish is still the language of the political elite
The Decline and Fall

- Islamic Reformism
  - Egypt
    - First railway (1854), built by a British firm, which is also the first railway in the Ottoman Empire, in the Middle East and in Africa
    - Egyptian Museum (1863)
    - Cairo Opera House (1869)
    - Suez Canal (1869), built by a French firm
    - First school for girls (1873)
    - Financial bankruptcy of the regime (1876), Egypt controlled by France and Britain
    - 100,000 Europeans live in Egypt (1880) and rich Egyptians send their sons to schools in Europe
The Decline and Fall

- Islamic Reformism
  - Egypt
    - Suez becomes more strategic than Istanbul for the Europeans’ geopolitics and trade
    - Britain (1882-1914) forces military, economic, political, judicial reforms in Egypt that lead to economic growth
    - Shift to cotton and population boom cause Egypt to become a net importer of food
    - Emergence of a wealthy European-educated middle class
    - Education remains mostly limited to Islam
    - Egyptian nationalism: Jamal al-Din, Muhammad Abduh, Mustafa Kamil, Saad Zaghlul
The Decline and Fall

• Islamic Reformism
  – Economy
    • Britain forces Ottomans, Egyptians and Iranians to stop the slave trade (1840s/50s)
    • The Middle East is still mostly agricultural while Europe is rapidly industrializing
    • Alliance Israélite Universelle (1860) promotes the education of Jews in the Islamic world
    • Religious minorities run most of the industry, finance and commerce, and leave when nationalist movements prevail
The Decline and Fall

- Islamic Reformism
  - 1850s: During the Crimean War an Islamic country (Turkey) is allied with Christian countries (Britain, France)
  - Tanzimat movement in Turkey: Namik Kemal and his newspaper “Freedom”
  - Malkom Khan, Iran, and his newspaper “Law”
  - 1860s, India: Sayed Ahmad Khan calls for western-style reform of Islam, Islamic-Hindu unity
  - 1879s. Egypt: Jamal al-Afghani founds the Salafyyah movement
  - 1882, Iran: Al-Afghani preaches science and law
  - Egypt, Muhammad Rida: criticizes the Quran
The decline and fall

• Wahabi sect
  – 1760: Abd Wahab allies with Muhammad Ibn Saud of Diriyya and founds the Saudi state in Arabia
  – 1804: Wahabis of the Saudi state capture Mecca and Medina
  – 1818: Failure of Wahabi mission (Ottomans recapture Saudi kingdom)
  – Most literalist of the renewal movements
  – 1902: Abdul al-Aziz conquers Riyadh and unites Arabia under the puritanical Wahabi Islamic order
The decline and fall

- Renewal movement
  - India, 18th c: Shah Wali Ullah (decline of Mogul empire due to ignorance of the Quran, friend of Wahab)
  - Uzbekistan: Naqshbandiyyah order
  - Algeria, 1774: Ahmad al-Tijani (militant Sufism)
  - Nigeria, 1774: Uthman dan Fodio (strict adherence to Islamic practices)
  - Persia, 1790s: Ursuli school of legal thought (increases influence of the ulema on the Qajar state)
  - Mecca, 1798: Moroccan-born Ahmad Ibn Idris (opposing legal schools)
  - Sumatra, 1803: Padri movement (anti-Dutch resistance)
  - Bengal, 180x: Hajji Shariat Allah and Faraidi movement (strict adherence to religious practices)
The decline and fall

• Renewal movement
  – Kurdistan, 1813: Shaykh Khalid al-Baghdadi of the Naqshbandiyyah order (establish Islamic law, resist European expansion) Wave of conversions and jihads from West Africa to Central Asia
  – Senegal, 1826: Al-Hajj Umar Tal (jihad state)
  – Persia, 19th c: Sayyid Ali Muhammad Shirazi “Bab” (messianic message, later Bahai faith)
  – Jihad against foreign imperialism within the organizational framework of Sufi orders
  – Almost all of them formed after a pilgrimage to Mecca
  – Pilgrimage to Mecca plays the role of marketing for the renewal movements
The decline and fall

• Renewal movement/ causes
  – New patterns of trade (seatrede vs land trade)
  – Rise of Christian empires in Islamic lands
  – Echoes of the scientific/industrial revolution
  – The multi-ethnic Ottoman empire tries to stem its decline by focusing on its Muslim population
The decline and fall

• Renewal movement/ effects
  – 18th-19th century: two overlapping phenomena
  – Massive political expansion of the Christian powers (and retreat of the Ulema’s power)
  – Massive religious expansion of the Islamic faith
  – Reformist movement (either by colonial Europeans or European-inspired rulers)
  – vs Renewal movement
  – Two tectonic plaques on a collision route
The decline and fall

see Logos10