The Muslim World

Ottomans, Safavids, Mughals
SSWH12 Describe the development and contributions of the Ottoman, Safavid, and Mughal empires.

12a. Describe the development and geographical extent of the Ottoman, Safavid, and the Mughal Empires.

12b. Describe the cultural contributions of the Ottoman, Safavid, and Mughal Empires.
The Ottoman, Safavid & Mughal Empire were Muslim empires extending from Anatolia (Modern Day Turkey) to India.

They were known as “gunpowder empires” because they had learned to weaponize gunpowder by using it in cannons with which they could destroy walls around cities.

These empires also used cavalry and composite bows to increase their military success.
Ottoman Empire: Osman (Othman) (1300-1326)

- Ottoman Empire named for him
- Established small Muslim state in Anatolia
The Turko-Mongol ruler Timur challenged Ottoman expansion when he captured the Sultan and took Ottoman land.

This caused a civil war in the Ottoman Empire and Murad II seized power and continued expansion.
Ottoman Empire: Mehmed II (1444-1446, 1451-1481)

- Conquered Constantinople - 1453
- Opened it to new citizens of many religions and backgrounds
- Rebuilt city – renamed it Istanbul
THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE IN 1683

- **Ottoman Beylik, 1300**
- **Acquisitions, 1300 - 1359**
- **Acquisitions, 1359 - 1451**
- **Acquisitions, 1451 - 1481 (Mehmed II)**
- **Acquisitions, 1512 - 1520 (Selim I)**
- **Acquisitions, 1520 - 1566 (Suleiman the Magnificent)**
- **Acquisitions, 1566 - 1683**

750 miles
1000 km
Ottoman Empire: Selim the Grim (1512-1520)

- Mehmed’s grandson
- Defeated Safavids in 1514 - Battle of Chaldiran
- Swept into Syria, Palestine, & North Africa
- Captured Mecca & Medina
- Finally captured Cairo (intellectual center of Muslim world)
Ottoman Empire: Suleyman the Lawgiver (1520-1566)

- Selim’s son
- Conquered European city of Belgrade in 1521
  - Controlled trade routes in interior
- Given title of “Lawgiver” for simplifying system of taxation, gov’t reform, and cultural achievements
- His rule was the “golden age” of the empire
Ottoman Empire

At its height, the Ottoman Empire included Hungary, most of Eastern Europe west into the Caucasus Mts., Mesopotamia, parts of Arabia, and North Africa along the Mediterranean coast
Ottoman Empire: Religion

- Islam
- Granted freedom of worship to other Christian communities (Christians & Jews)
- Allowed each religious community (millet) to follow its own religion, government, laws, customs, & taxes
  - Head of millets reported to the sultan
  - This kept conflict among people of the various religions to a minimum.
Ottoman Empire: Law

- Followed Islamic law (Sharia)
- Suleyman created a law code to handle criminal & civil actions
Ottoman Empire: The Arts

- Popular subjects – poetry, history, geography, astronomy, math, architecture
- Sinan, an architect, built Mosque of Suleyman
- Also built fortresses, roads, & bridges under Suleyman
- Art and literature flourished – similar to Euro. Renaissance
- Looked to Persia & Arabia for models
  - Combined w/ Turkish style (cultural blending)
Safavid Empire: Isma’il (1501-1524)

- The Safavid had the Ottoman Empire to its west & the Mughal Empire to its east.
- 12 yrs old when he came to power.
- Conquered Persia (modern-day Iran) & parts of Iraq.
- Took title of “shah,” or king, to celebrate.
- Later lost Battle of Chaldiran to Selim the Grim of the Ottoman Empire.
Safavid Empire: Tahmasp (1524-1576)

- Isma’il’s son
- Adopted use of artillery w/ his military forces
- Expanded Safavid up to Caucasus Mtns (NE of Turkey)
Safavid Empire: Shah Abbas the Great (1587-1629)

- Reformed military & civilian life
- Created 2 new armies loyal to him alone to maintain empire (modeled after the Ottoman Army)
  - One army made of Persians
  - One army recruited from Christian N.
  - Both armies equipped w/ artillery
- Moved capital to Isfahan which became an economic, religious & political center
- Empire declined after Abbas’ death; last Safavid rule abdicated in 1722
Safavid Empire: Religion

- Tolerant of other religions
- Ismail switched from Sunni to Shi’a Islam & forced all his subjects to convert; this is why Iran is mostly Shi’a today
- Abbas brought members of Armenian Christians into the empire
  - They were allowed to govern themselves
  - Result: Europeans moved in; industry, trade, & art exchanges grew
Safavid Empire: Law & Economy

- Abbas reformed/centralized government
- Punished corruption severely
- Promoted only officials who proved competence & loyalty
- Hired foreigners from neighboring countries to fill positions in government
- Helped the economy by lowering taxes on farmers & herders
Safavid Empire: The Arts

- Esfahan, new capital, built – beautiful design
- Abbas brought Chinese artisans to work with Safavid artists to produce metalwork, mini paintings, calligraphy, glasswork, tile work, & pottery
- Most Important: Persian carpets
  - Demand from W turned it into an industry
- Cultural blending was everywhere: Abbas welcomed artists, poets, & scholars at court
Mughal Empire: Babur (1494-1530)

- 11 yrs old, inherited kingdom that is now Uzbekistan and Tajikistan
  - Elders took it away & drove him S.
- 1526: Raised army & conquered the Turkish Muslims in Delhi, India
Mughal Empire: Akbar (1556-1605)

- AKA “Great One” b/c he added more territory than any other Mughal emperor
  - Unified land of at least 100 million people
- Equipped army w/ heavy artillery
- Achieved peace & loyalty with Hindu Indian populations by marrying a Rajput (Indian) princess & placing Rajputs in government positions

“A monarch should ever be intent on conquest, otherwise his neighbors rise in arms against him.” - Akbar
Mughal Empire
Shah Jahan (1627-1658)

- Secured almost all of India during his reign except for the far south
Mughal Empire: Aurangzeb (1658-1707)

- Executed older brother, put father (Shah Jahan) in prison
- Master military strategist & aggressive empire builder
- Expanded Mughal holdings to their greatest size
- Ended religious toleration & taxed Hindu’s
- This caused civil wars which drained empire’s wealth & led to peasant revolts & weakening of the Empire
Mughal Empire: Religion

- Akbar was a Muslim – defended religious freedom
- Proved tolerance by marrying 2 Hindus, a Christian, & a Muslim & allowed his wives to practice their faith in the palace
- Abolished tax on Hindu pilgrims & non-Muslims
- Emergence of Sikhism—blending of Islam & Hinduism
Mughal Empire: Law

- Governed through bureaucracy
- Natives & foreigners could hold high office
- Tax policy successful (similar to U.S.)
- Land policies had mixed results
Mughal Empire: The Arts

- Cultural blending common
- Arts flourished, esp. in form of book illustrations. (mini.)
- Hindu literature – *Ramayana* (Indian poem)
- Akbar architecture – unique style
- Shah Jahan – Taj Mahal—best example of Mughal Architecture
  - A tomb in memory of his wife