

Lecture 10: MUGHALS and OTTOMANS

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The MUGHAL EMPIRE

MOGHUL / MONGOL

BABUR (1483 – 1530) / Zahir ud-Din Mohammed Babur  
-conquest of northwestern India (early 1500s)

- the MUGHAL / MOGHUL Aristocracy
  - Central Asian Turkic and Mongol nobility plus Persians
  - Hindu Rajput
    - > Mughal culture: Mongol, Turkic, Persian, Hindu, Moslem

Humayun (r. 1530 – 1540, 1555 – 1556)

AKBAR (1542 / r. 1556 – 1605)

-“universal concord”: “If absolute truth exists, how can it be confined to one religion ?”

Jahangir (1569 / r. 1605 – 1628) and Nur Jahan

SHAH JAHAN (1592 - 1666 / r. 1628 – 1658)

- the Peacock Throne
- Arjumand Bano Begum > MUMTAZ MAHAL (1593 - 1631)
  - “the Chosen One of the Palace”
  - the garden tomb (*pairidaeza*) > the TAJ MAHAL (“the Crown Palace”)

-DARA SHIKOH vs. Aurangzeb

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SUFI (< Arabic “purity”)

- Islamic mysticism
- asceticism and extreme poverty, strict and extensive meditation,
  - and pilgrimages to the graves of Sufi saints
- all of this in order to eliminate one’s ego and to become ONE with GOD

-[ RUMI (Jalal ad-Din Muhammad Rumi / 1207 - 1273 )

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## The SIKH

A religion established in late 1400s in the Punjab by Guru Nanak (1469 - 1539)

-Sikhs consider themselves the disciples (*sikh*) of the Ten Gurus [Nanak and his 9 successors]

-combines Hindi and Muslim elements

-accepts *samsara* (cycle of life, death, and rebirth)  
and karma (nature of one's life is determined by actions in a previous life)

-humans are equal to all other sentient creatures, except that only thru human birth is it possible to escape *samsara* and to attain salvation (a happy and eternal afterlife)

-strict monotheism : *OM* (the Hindu mystic syllable) is the symbol for God

-God the One, the Truth, the Creator, immortal and omnipresent, formless and beyond human comprehension

-There is one God, who cannot be represented by idols or images,

-man should serve him by leading a good life in obedience to God's commands and in prayer

-and especially by repeating God's name until,  
after the person's soul has passed through various existences  
(by transmigration of that soul),  
he ultimately becomes one with God

-Sikh scriptures use both Hindu and Moslem names for God

-Wah Guru ("Hail Guru") as synonym for God

-forbids the representation of God in any images

Guru ARJUN (1563 – 1606), the 5<sup>th</sup> Guru, compiles Sikh teachings in the ADI GRANTH,  
the Sikh sacred book

-he also builds HARIMANDIR (the Golden Temple) in AMRITSAR

-becomes the holiest shrine for Sikhs

-he is executed by the Mughal Emperor Jahangir (father of Shah Jahan) in 1606

Sikhs begin to change from a pacifist to a militant sect, a process culminating under the 10<sup>th</sup> Guru :

GOBIND SINGH (Gobind Rai / 1666 – 1708 )

-Gobind Singh establishes the principle Sikh order > the KHALSA ("Pure")

-the Khalsa is a "chosen race" of soldier-saints committed to an ascetic code of conduct  
(no alcohol; no tobacco; a life devoted to prayer)  
and a crusade for the "battle of righteousness" (*dharmayudha*)

-its members adopt the additional name, SINGH ("lion") or Kaur ("lioness")

-Gobind Singh lost all 4 sons during his lifetime,

and thus declared the succession of the Gurus at an end

-instead, he invested the Holy Book (the *Adi Granth* or *Granth Sahib*)  
as the immortal leader (Guru) of the Sikhs

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## The Mughals / continued:

DARA SHIKOH (1615 - 1659) vs. Aurangzeb

- overthrow of Shah Jahan (1658)
- assassination of Dara Shikoh (1659)

AURANGZEB (1618 / r. 1658 – 1707)

- construction of the MOTI MASJID (“the Pearl Mosque”)
- conquest of southern and eastern India

Disintegration of the Mughal Dynasty after Aurangzeb’s death

Persians, under NADER SHAH, massacre the people of Delhi and carry off the Peacock Throne (1739)

British East India Company expands across India (1700s)

The British East India Company is abolished

- and India falls under the control of the British Crown (1858)
- death of the last of the 17 Mughal rulers, Bahadur Shah II (1862)

The Rajput and the Sikh work with the British throughout the 1800s and early 1900s

British departure from India and the Partition of India (1947) :

- West Pakistan (Muslim), India (Hindu), East Pakistan (Muslim / later Bangladesh)
- the Partition of India (1947) also includes partition of the Punjab
  - a Muslim west and a Hindu east
  - most Sikhs leave the new Muslim Pakistan and move to the eastern Punjab
  - continued Sikh - Muslim violence

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## The ABBASID Dynasty

The SELJUK TURKS > the SELJUK EMPIRE

The CRUSADES (1095 - 1291)

- First Crusade (1096 - 1099)
- Second Crusade (1145 - 1149)
- Third Crusade (1189 - 1192)
- Fourth Crusade (1202 - 1204)

The MONGOL INVASIONS

- sack of Bagdad and end of the Abbasid Dynasty (1258)

## The BYZANTINE EMPIRE

### ANATOLIA

### CONSTANTINOPLE

- the BOSPORUS
  - the straits between the Black Sea and the Sea of Marmara
- c. 20 miles long and ½ mile wide at its narrowest



- the GOLDEN HORN -bay off the Bosphorus and the harbor of Constantinople
- the DARDANELLES
  - [from Dardanoi: a people allied with the Trojans during the Trojan War]
  - straits between the Sea of Marmara and the Aegean Sea
  - c. 40 miles long and between 1 to 4 miles wide

## The OTTOMANS

OSMAN (1259 / r. 1299 – 1326)

ATMAN / ATAMAN > OTTOMAN

- capture of Bursa (1326)
- the *ghazi* ("border warrior") and the *jihād* ("the holy war")
  - the ghazi is "the instrument of God's religion ... God's scourge who cleanses the earth from the of filth of polytheism ... God's pure sword."
- the principle of the *jihād* was the cornerstone of Ottoman political theory, and of the Ottoman state, and Europe was the frontier of the Moslem crusade = "a gunpowder empire"

Orhan I (1281 / r. 1326 – 1362)

- Gallipoli [Gallipolis] / Gelibolu / Canakkae
- Turkic Ottoman governors = *bey* / *beg* ("dignitary")

Sultan Murad I (1326 / r. 1362 – 1389)

-EDIRNE (Adrianople)

-Janissaries (*yeni cheri*) and the *Devshirme* system

-Kosovo Field (1389) / Ottomans defeat combined Serbian, Bosnian & Bulgarian forces

Sultan BAYEZID (1360 - 1403 / r. 1389 – 1402) / or Bayasid I, “The Thunderbolt”

Sultan MURAD II (1404 / r. 1421 – 1451)

-reconquest of the Balkan regions

Sultan MEHMET II (1432 / r. 1451 – 1481)

-Byzantine Emperor Constantine XI (1405 / r. 1449 – 1453)

-the “Marble Emperor”

-conquest of Constantinople (May 29, 1453)

-the famous Ottoman historian, Sa'd ed'Din (1536 – 1599)

"That wide region, that strong & lofty city ... [once the nest of the owl of error] was turned into the capital of glory and honor. Through the noble efforts of the Mohammedan sultan, for the evil-voiced clash of the bells of the shameless misbelievers was substituted the Muslim call to prayer, the sweet five-times repeated chant of the Faith of glorious rites, and the ears of the people of the Holy War were filled with the melody of the call to prayer. The churches which were within the city were emptied of their vile idols, and cleansed from their filthy and idolatrous impurities; and by the defacement of their images, and the erection of the Islamic prayer niches and pulpits, many monasteries and chapels became the envy of the Gardens of Paradise ... "

-Mehmet II re-names himself *Sultan-I Rum* ("Sultan in Rome")

-renames city *Istambul* ("City of Islam")

(name of city not officially changed until 1930)

-portrait by Gentile Bellini (1479)

- “the law of fratricide”

Sultan Bayezid II (1447 / r. 1481 - 1512)

-birth of Süleyman (1494)

-Vasco daGama reaches India around Africa (1498)

-outflanks Islam to get to one heart of the spice trade

-establishment of the SAFAVID dynasty in Persia (1501)

Sultan SELIM the GRIM (r. 1512 – 1520)

- first victories against perennial enemy, Safavid Iran (1514)
- Süleyman is provincial governor in Greece (1514)
  - wife Gülbarhar bears him a son, Mustafa

- Selim the Grim conquers Syria and Egypt (1516-1517)
  - Portuguese bombard Jiddah (Mecca's port city)
- Selim proclaims himself the NEW CALIPH

Sultan SÜLEYMAN (1494 / r. 1520 – 1566)

-Süleyman becomes Sultan (1520)

*“Sultan Süleyman Khan Ghazi, Commander of the Faithful,  
Shadow of God on Earth, Protector of the Holy Cities of Mecca,  
Medina and Jerusalem, Lord of the Lords of the World, East and West”*

-Charles V is installed as Holy Roman Emperor 22 days later

-Süleyman seizes Belgrade (1521)

-Charles V outlaws Martin Luther

-Süleyman conquers Rhodes and expels the Knights Hospitaller (1522)

-Magellan's ship, *Victoria*, is the first to circle the globe

-Ibrahim made Grand Vizier (chief executive officer / 1523)

-Süleyman triumphs at the Battle of Mohacs (Aug. 29, 1526)

-Hungary's King Louis II dies. Buda is burned

-crown of Hungary and crown of Bohemia fall to the Habsburg family

-First siege of Vienna (1529)

-height of Ottoman surge into Europe; the siege fails

-Barbarossa, with Süleyman's guns, drives Spanish out of Algiers

-his Turkish fleet is the terror of the Mediterranean

but ultimately cannot subdue either the Spanish (Charles V) or Venice

-Süleyman again tries to attack Vienna (1532)

-subdues Güns; but fails in siege;

-revenge: ravages Austria