

Lecture 9: The MUGHAL EMPIRE

The RISE of the SELJUK TURKS within the ABBASID CALIPHATE

Oghuz tribes from Central Asia brought into Abbasid service (late 800s)

TOGHRUL BEG (c. 990 / r. 1037 – 1063)

- captures Bagdad (1055)
- proclaims himself
 - sultan* (“holder of power” / prince) and *shahan-shah* (“king of kings” / emperor)
- proclaims the SELJUK Dynasty (named after his grandfather)
 - > hence: the SELJUK TURKS

MALIK SHAH (1055 / r. 1079 – 1092)

- capture of Jerusalem -- and the Holy Land (1079)
- which precipitates:

The CRUSADES (1096 – 1272)

- > the response of Europe to the Seljuk capture of the Holy Land

FINAL COLLAPSE of the ABBASID CALIPHATE

- invasion of Central Asia and Europe by the Mongols (mid 1200s)
 - Genghis Khan or Jenghiz Khan (Temujin / c. 1167 – 1227)
 - grandsons:
 - Khublai Khan (c. 1215 – 1294) / conquest of Song China
 - Hulagu Khan (c. 1256 - 1265)
- siege of Bagdad (1258) and destruction
- the end of the Abbasid Dynasty

The great MONGOL EMPIRE / the 4 KHANATES

- gradual spread of Islam into Southeast Asia
- the SULTANATES

Timur > Timur-i-Leng > TAMERLANE (1336 - 1405)

Timurlenk / Tamerlane / Tamburlaine

- the FERGHANA Valley

-SAMARKAND

- the REGISTAN (“the place or the land of the king”)
-

INDIA

The RAJPUT (“king’s son”)

- the RATHOR
 - Marwar
 - Jodha > JODHPUR

-MEHERANGARH (“Majestic Fort”)
- *Sati* (and the god Shiva)

The MUGHAL EMPIRE

BABUR (r. 1483 – 1530) / Zahir ud-Din Mohammed Babur

- Ferghana
- battle over Samarkand
 - Shaybani

- KABUL
 - the Hindu Kush mountain range (an extension of the Himalaya)
 - the KHYBER PASS

- the PASHTUN
- Afghanistan

-DELHI (1526)

-AGRA on the Yamuna River

-the *Baburnama*

- the MUGHAL / MOGHUL Aristocracy
 - Central Asian Turkic and Mongol nobility
 - Persians
 - Hindu Rajput

-Mughal culture: Mongol, Turkic, Persian, Hindu, Moslem

Son of Babur:

Humayun (r. 1530 – 1540, 1555 – 1556)

AKBAR (r. 1556 – 1605)

-“universal concord”:

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

-Fatehpur Sikri

Jahangir (r. 1605 – 1628) and Nur Jahan

SHAH JAHAN (r. 1628 – 1658 / d. 1666)

-AGRA

-Shahjahanabad

-DELHI

-the RED FORT

-the Hall of the Public Audience

-the Hall of the Private Audience

-the Peacock Throne

“If there is a Paradise on Earth,
It is here, it is here, oh it is here.”

-Mahal-i-Kas (the Private Palace)

-SHALIMAR Gardens in Lahore

-Arjumand Bano Begum > MUMTAZ MAHAL (1593 - 1631)

“the Chosen One of the Palace”

-the garden tomb (*pairidaeza*):

“The builder could not have been of this earth

For it is evident that the design was given to him by Heaven.”

-Dara Shikoh vs. Aurangzeb

AURANGZEB (r. 1658 – 1707)

-construction of the MOTI MASJID (“the Pearl Mosque”)

-death of Shah Jahan (1666)

-the Jizya (the tax on non-Muslims) is re-imposed

-Aurangzeb departs for the attacks upon the Deccan regions (1681)

-remains there for 20 years

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

Death of the last of the 17 Mughal rulers, Bahadur Shah II (1862)

The SIKH

A religion established in late 1400s in the Punjab by Nanak

-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 the opportunity presented
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

-also 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

Sikh writings compiled by ARJUN (1563 – 1606), the 5th Guru

in the ADI GRANTH, the Sikh sacred book

-Guru Arjun also builds HARIMANDIR (the Golden Temple)

in AMRITSAR

-becomes holiest shrine for Sikhs

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

Sikhs begin to change from a pacifist to a militant sect
-this process culminates under the 10th Guru :

GOBIND SINGH (Gobind Rai / 1666 – 1708)

- Gobind Singh establishes the fraternity known as the Khalsa (“Pure”)
 - this remains the principal Sikh order
- the Khalsa is a concept of 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”)
- 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

Formation of a Sikh state under Ranjit Singh (1780 – 1839)

- rebuilds the HARIMANDIR (the Golden Temple) in AMRITSAR

Sikhs work with British throughout the 1800s and early 1900s

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

MATINÉE

Come to the movies!

Films based on Prof. Hohmann's Islam class
courtesy of Maxine Einhorn and Frances Pinnock

Screening Schedule

Theeb (2014) 100 minutes

****especially brought to you from the UK ahead of its release here on DVD in May****

Thursday, January 28, 3pm

Directed by Naji Abu Nowar. In the Ottoman province of Hijaz during World War I, a young Bedouin boy experiences a greatly hastened coming of age as he embarks on a perilous desert journey to guide a British officer to his secret destination.

Timbuktu (2015) 1 hr. 37 min

Thursday, February 11, 3pm

Directed by Abderrahmane Sissako. Near the ancient Malian city of Timbuktu, a cattle herder and his family who reside in the dunes of the Sahara find their quiet lives -- which are typically free of the Jihadists determined to control their faith -- abruptly disturbed.

Wadjda (2012) 98 minutes

Thursday, February 18, 3pm

Directed by Haifaa al-Mansour. An enterprising Saudi girl signs on for her school's Koran recitation competition as a way to raise the remaining funds she needs in order to buy the green bicycle that has captured her interest. It was the first feature film shot entirely in Saudi Arabia and the first feature-length film made by a female Saudi director.