Guiding Questions

- What empires preceded the Ottoman Empire and when?
- What factors contributed to the rise of Ottoman power in Eurasia?
- Can you trace the path across Asia taken by the Turks, bringing them...
Greek Empire: 8th Century BC – 1st Century BC
Roman Empire: 1st Century BC - 5th Century AD
Byzantine Empire: 6th Century AD - 15th Century AD
The Origins of the Ottomans

Essential Questions: What factors & events contributed to the rise of the Ottoman Empire? What factors and events contributed to the expansion of Sultan rule in Eurasia?
Geographic origin of the "Turks"

- The "Turks" begin in central Asia (Lake Baikal)
Turks Move West

- Turks raid Asian Steppes as overland pirates sustained by the bountiful ecosystems of central Asia, particularly Lake Baikal and its surrounding areas.
- Turks pushed west by similarly sustained Mongol tribes.
- Turks encounter Islam in Persia and gain foothold therein.
- Create the “Turkish Belt” stretching from Lake Baikal to Anatolia/Asia Minor under leadership of the Seljuk Turks.
- Turks seek out territory within the Byzantine Empire and therefore access to the Mediterranean Sea.
- Turks erode Byzantine frontiers in east Anatolia.
- Turks gain foothold in Anatolia/Asia Minor.
Geographic origin of the “Turks”

- Lake Baikal in central Asia
- Turks move west raiding Asian Steppes
- The Seljuks – Become ruling family of the westward nomadic Turks.
- Flee west from Mongol invasion – Turkic nomads follow
- Gain foothold in Persia (modern day Iran)
- Influenced by Islam and convert
- Create “Turkish Belt” across central Asia to Anatolia/Asia Minor
- Disrupt Persian economy (as caravans continue and nomads stream into Persia, sustaining the “Turkish Belt”)
- Retain shamanistic rituals (create special brand of Islam)
- Culture and ambition compels Turks further westward to eastern edge of Byzantium.
Byzantium loses ground to the Turks

- Battle of Manzikert (1071)

By 1087
Byzantium loses ground

- Anatolia (modern Turkey, was now inhabited by groups of nomadic Turks).

- They saw themselves as ghazis, or warriors for Islam, as well as, engendering the enterprise of “nation building.”
Origins of the Ottomans

- The word Ottoman was used by Europeans to describe the followers of the “Turk” Osman I.

- Who was Osman I?

- “Turk” who successfully expanded his principality in Anatolia (modern day Turkey) & triggered the growth of the Ottoman Empire.
Osman Establishes a State

- The most successful ghazi was Osman.
- Western Europeans took his name to be Othman and called his followers Ottomans.
- Between 1300 and 1326, Osman built a strong but small kingdom in Anatolia.
- Osman presents true threat to Byzantine capital – Constantinople
- Osman’s son, Orhan, grows principality and abuts Byzantine capital
- Ottomans are knocking on Byzantium’s door
Who are the Sultans?

- Leaders who came after Osman called themselves sultans, or “ones with power.”
- Monarchs
- Heredity is key to becoming sultan
- Thus, Osman’s son becomes the Sultan Orhan
Ottoman “ghazis” as have immense geopolitical advantages, particularly when coupled with an elite military and trade wealth to finance expansion.
Orhan, son of Osman begins period of Ottoman expansion from Anatolia into Europe
Ottomans begin to occupy the "bridge" between east and west
Global Position of Nascent Ottoman Empire

Make sure you are certain about the global position of the Ottoman Empire at each stage of its history.
Osman’s son = Sultan Orhan

“leftovers” of the Roman Empire (Byzantine Empire) are within the sights of the nascent Ottoman Empire
Leaders in Warfare and Trade

- The military success of the Ottomans was aided by gunpowder—especially as used in cannons.

- See below (canons used to breach walls of Constantinople)

- Many historians have referred to the Ottoman Empire as the “Gunpowder Empire”

- Ottoman territorial placement along the Silk Road provided significant access to such goods

- Ottoman territorial placement at the junction of the Eastern and Western world gave them significant trade wealth to finance expansion
Ottomans to Administer Their Empire

- The Ottomans ruled kindly through local officials appointed by the sultan.

- Ottomans create “Eyalets” or provinces, (often called “Pashaliks” by Europeans).

- Referred to as “Pashaliks” because they were ruled by what were known as “Pashas” or provincial governors (e.g., Muhammad Ali Pasha of the Eyalet of Egypt).

- Pashas were appointed by “firman” or, royal decree/sultan decree.

- It is in this fashion that the sultan could wield power over a vast amount of territory.

- However, during the decline of the Ottoman Empire, Eyelets began to challenge Sultan authority and attempt independence (e.g., Egypt and Greece).
Ottomans Administer Their Empire

- Muslims had to serve in the army but paid no taxes.

- Non-Muslims paid the tax but did not have to serve in the army. Many joined Islam simply to avoid the tax.

- Most people in their empire adjusted quickly to their easy rule.

- During the empire’s decline, however, many regions sought to create nations of their own – apart from the Ottoman Empire (e.g., Egypt, Greece, Serbia, etc.)

- During the empire’s decline religious, ethnic, and linguistic diversity proves difficult to the concept of “Ottomanism”
Factors contributing to Ottoman Strength

Effective Leadership and Civic Pride
- administrative acumen
- articulate data management (e.g., Census)
- celebrated culture (Turkomania)
- good at the “grunt-work” of running an empire
- shrewd businessmen capitalizing on Eurasian trade routes
- Elite Military forces: The Janissaries (founded circa. 1326)
THE JANISSARIES –
A COMPLICATED LEGACY

PROVIDING SOCIAL ORDER, NATIONAL DEFENSE, OTTOMAN EXPANSION...AND LATER, DISSENT

- Originally a group of soldiers loyal to the sultan
- Began as an army of slaves & kidnapped Christians from Balkans (devshirme)
- Devshirme were converted to Islam and trained as an elite military force
- Helped to expand the empire
- 18th century - become destitute (inflation outgrows income)
- To make a proper living many also become civilian wage earners
- Join trades
- Arguably become an Ottoman version of Mafioso
- As the Janissaries joined the trades they grew to become the protectors thereof.
- They became civic leaders owed tribute (tax, or tithe) for protection of trades
- Argued as providing greatest amount of power to Ottoman masses as Janissaries straddled the classes
- Janissaries formed a military subculture that could execute great power and benefit or complicate sultan rule
- If the Janissaries disagree with Ottoman policy, they become rebellious (e.g., assassination of Selim III in 1808)
The Janissaries
The Janissaries
Mehmet I

Ottoman factions vie for control of growing empire.

Mehmet I won control, and his son and the four following sultans brought the Ottoman Empire to its greatest power.
Mehmet II Attacks Constantinople

- Mehmet II—took power in 1451 and will expand Ottoman territory from Anatolia, well into southeastern Europe

- His goal is to cross the Bosporus Strait, siege Constantinople and sack the Byzantine Empire

- At first, his ships were unable to sail near the city because barriers blocked the way. So he had his soldiers drag the ships over hills so they could be launched on the other side of Constantinople. (see next slide)

- Doing this allows Mehmet II to siege Constantinople, the capital of the Byzantine Empire and become a major European AND Asian power
MEHMET II STRATEGIZES HIS ATTACK OF CONSTANTINOPLE – BYZANTINE CAPITAL
The Walls of Constantinople
Advanced Firepower:
Canons used to breach the immense walls of Constantinople (capital of the Byzantine Empire)
"Nothing will ever equal the horror of this harrowing and terrible spectacle. People frightened by the shouting ran out of their houses and were cut down by the sword before they knew what was happening. And some were massacred in their houses where they tried to hide, and some in churches where they sought refuge."
The Siege of Constantinople (1453)
The Siege of Constantinople (1453)
After several weeks of fighting, the Ottoman force was simply too strong for the tiny army left in the city.

In 1453, Constantinople finally fell to the Ottomans. Mehmet II made the city his capitol, which was renamed Istanbul.

The Ottomans have now successfully sacked the Byzantine Empire.
Mehmet II (also Mehmet the Conqueror) at the doorstep of empire status
Mehmet II Takes Control of the Hagia Sophia Cathedral
The famous and beautiful church of the Hagia Sophia, built by the Byzantine emperor Justinian, became a mosque.

Thus, as Ghazis, Christian landmarks became Muslim, serving as a microcosm of religious history and conflict.

Relics of both faiths still remain therein.

The rebuilt city became home to people from all over the Ottoman Empire.

Sultans worked tirelessly to enhance capital.

Prove to be effective administrators of government.

Bureaucracy grows.

Territorial expansion means more tax revenue.

More tax revenue finances civic development and further expansion.
In 1514, Selim the Grim took Persia (parts of modern day Iraq, Iran, and Syria)

He then captured Arabia, took the Muslim holy cities of Medina and Mecca, and gained control of Egypt.

Sea lanes secured

Ottomans challenge the naval powers of the Mediterranean & Portuguese in the Indian Ocean

Pirate’s like Barbarossa become Admirals in the Ottoman Navy
Can you outline the Ottoman Empire’s borders under Selim the Conqueror/Grim?
Selim’s son, Suleiman I, brought the Ottoman Empire to its greatest size and most impressive achievements. He conquered parts of southeastern Europe by 1525. He won control of the entire eastern Mediterranean Sea (the Levant) and took North Africa as far west as Tripoli (modern day Libya). Suleiman presided over the true Ottoman “Golden Age.”
Suleiman revised the laws of the empire, which won him the name Suleiman the Lawgiver, as well as, Suleiman the Magnificent.

Suleiman also oversaw an empire that was full of accomplished works of art. Using excellent architects, he built many fine buildings in his capital.

Suleiman sees value in western ideals.
Ottoman Conquest: Sea & Land

1453 - 1583
Period Of Growth: 130 Years

1520-1566
Suleiman
The Magnificent

- Athens
- Egypt
- Baghdad
- Persian Gulf

- Belgrade, Hungary,
- Battled Portugal in Indian Ocean
- Siege of Vienna
The Ottoman Empire Under Suleiman I the Magnificent, 1580
Failed siege(s) of Vienna

Many historians mark the beginning of the Ottoman Empire’s decline with the failed siege of Vienna.
Empire at its Limits
Remains Strong

- Although defeated in the battle for Vienna the
  Ottoman Empire remained huge and strong.
- Suleiman ruled his empire with highly structured
  government.
- Proper administration was key.
- Mutually beneficial relationships were key.
- Farmer, merchant, commoner and even slaves were
  provided a modicum of opportunity.
Devshirme Under Suleiman: Janissaries and Bureaucrats

- Serving the royal family and the government were thousands of arguable slaves, namely, the *devshirme*.
- Not all Devshirme became Janissaries.
- They were Christians taken as children and made slaves with personal loyalty to the sultan. They were trained as soldiers and bureaucrats and were fiercely devoted to the sultan.
- Strange brew of slave and “powerbroker,” either as Janissary or administrative official.
- Although, centuries later their ultimate loyalty would be tested.
Proper administration was financed by access to trade and territory, loyalty to Sultan authority and mutual benefit for bureaucracy, commoner, and Sultan alike.
Ottoman Empire at its Height
The empire lasted long after Suleiman but spent the next few hundred years in arguable decline, particularly as their dependence “The Great Powers” grew (Great Britain, France, Italy, Germany, Russia, etc.).

None of the later sultans were as accomplished as Suleiman had been, and the Ottoman Empire’s power began to slip away.
The Decline of the Ottoman Empire

After many centuries of prosperity, the Ottoman Empire begins to decline, particularly in the 19th century as the “Great Powers, namely the “Concert of Europe” and Russia calculated their designs against this most profitable geographic location.

Enter: “The Eastern Question” or, what do we do with this declining and most sought after part of the world...to which the “Concert” answers - Westernize, sometimes stabilize, sometimes divide, and sooner or later, colonize...but how?