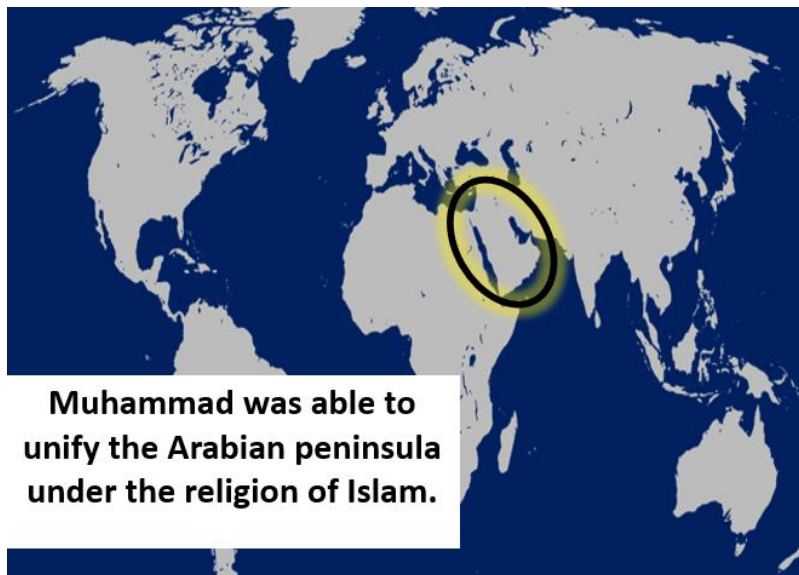


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### The Rise of the Ottoman Empire and the Impact of Islam



**Muhammad was able to unify the Arabian peninsula under the religion of Islam.**

Around 610 CE, a man named Muhammad (570-632 CE), claimed to receive the beginnings of a series of visions to reform monotheistic religion in his era. Monotheism is the belief in one god. He claimed the followers of the monotheistic faiths of Judaism and Christianity, both of which claimed they followed the god of a man named Abraham, who lived centuries earlier, had been corrupted and needed transformed to be in line with God's will. This was the beginning the religion of Islam. Muhammad claimed Allah (the Islamic name for God), had called him to be the greatest and final prophet of Allah's true religion.

Muhammad asserted he was like the prophets and religious leaders of Judaism and Christianity, such as Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and others. Yet, he claimed

the religions of Judaism and Christianity had become corrupted over time and needed reformed to fall in line with his new religious visions. Since Judaism, Christianity, and Islam all hold to belief in one God and view Abraham as a religious leader, these faiths are often called Abrahamic faiths.

Muhammad began to spread his religious message of Islam. "Islam" means "to submit." He claimed to experience a series of visions, which he asserted were from the angel Gabriel. Eventually, the message of these visions were compiled together to create the Koran, the holy book of Islam. Muhammad's people were expelled from Mecca, a city in modern day Saudi Arabia, partially due to causing conflict with followers of polytheism. Polytheism is the belief in many gods. Eventually, Muhammad returned and conquered Mecca. Islamic control of the Middle East began to expand as others embraced the religion of Islam. Muhammad united several distinct tribes and formed an Islamic alliance in Arabia.



**To this day, in Mecca, Muslims march around the Kaaba. It is considered to be a temple like structure for Allah.**

*Question #1: Who was Muhammad? What impact did he have on religious life in the Middle East?*

The following are the five major beliefs of the Islamic faith. Followers of Islam are called Muslims.

- 1: The Shahada: Followers of Islam must confess: "There is no God but Allah. Muhammad is the messenger of Allah."
- 2: Salah: Followers must pray 5 times a day toward Mecca.
- 3: Zakat: The giving of alms. These are charity donations that Muslims must follow.
- 4: Sawm: This requirement is that Muslims fast (refusing to eat or drink) during daylight hours of the Ramadan celebration, which typically lasts 30 days.
- 5: Hajj: All Muslims that are able must make a pilgrimage to Mecca some time in their lives.

In the 1300s, many in Eastern Europe, modern day Turkey, and the Middle East practiced the religion of Islam. Ghazis formed warrior groups that committed themselves to upholding and spreading Islam. They would attack various areas in Eastern Europe, then controlled by the Byzantine Empire (300s-1400s CE), which was a Christian Empire. Othman the 1<sup>st</sup> (1299-1324) founded the Ottoman Dynasty. The dynasty of his ghazi group would experience massive expansion and stay in power all the way to the early 1900s.

Orhan (1324-1362), Othman's son, declared himself to be Sultan of the Ottoman Empire. This Muslim, ghazi group had now started to build a powerful empire and expand. As they expanded, Islam, the religion of Muhammad, played a crucial role in their realm. The Ottoman Empire treated citizens differently. Muslims were required to serve in the military and follow strict Islamic codes. Nonbelievers had to pay higher taxes than their Muslim counterparts. However, the Ottomans often did allow people to follow other monotheistic religions.



Othman

Orhan Son of Othman

**The Ottoman Empire started with these two leaders.**

*Question #2: Describe the historical impact of Othman the 1<sup>st</sup> and Orhan Son of Othman. What role did Islam have during their reigns?*



**The Ottoman Empire and Tamerlane's empire clashed in the early 1400s.**

The Ottoman Empire expanded and controlled various areas in modern day Turkey and other surrounding areas. Yet, the Ottoman Empire experienced an obstacle when a warrior leader named Tamerlane (1336-1405) challenged the expansion of the empire. Tamerlane's Timurid Empire extended from a region stretching east of the Ottoman Empire into Asia and modern day Iran. His realm posed a threat to the Ottomans as he sought to invade them multiple times.

The Ottomans were able to halt the attacks of Tamerlane. This confirmed the rule of the empire in the areas they had already conquered. However, an inside threat developed in the empire. Sultan Bayezid (1354-1403) had sons who fought each other in the Ottoman Civil War for control of the realm. Mehmed the 1<sup>st</sup>

(1381-1421), Sultan of the Empire from 1413-1421, struggled against his siblings to take full control. At The Battle of Camurlu, on July 5, 1413, Mehmed emerged victorious and solidified his reign.

*Question #3: Explain some obstacles the Ottoman Empire faced in dealing with Tamerlane and with its own internal struggles.*

The grandson of Mehmed the 1st, Mehmed the 2nd, wanted to invade the Christian Byzantine Empire and take their capital, Constantinople. In 1453, he utilized cannons and gunpowder to attack the fortified walls of the city. Constantinople had been under the Christian Byzantine Empire since the 300s. Now, it fell under the Muslim control of the Ottoman Empire. This victory gained him the name Mehmed the Conqueror. The city was renamed Istanbul and the empire now had control of the Bosphorus Strait, a significant trade harbor connecting Europe and the Middle East.



**Suleiman the Law Giver, depicted above, reigned in what many consider to be the peak power and golden age of the Ottoman Empire.**

Selim the Grim (1470-1520), grandson of Mehmed the Conqueror, achieved rapid expansion of the Ottoman Empire. He conquered areas in the Middle East and in North Africa. This radically increased the size of the Ottoman Empire. One culturally and religiously significant area Selim conquered was Mecca in Arabia. This was the most holy site of Islam. Suleiman the Lawgiver (1494-1566) expanded the empire to its peak control. He cultivated a powerful navy and controlled various areas in the Mediterranean Sea. His title, the Lawgiver, came from his work establishing clear civil and criminal codes in his realm. Suleiman, for the most part, tolerated other religious traditions in his realm, such as followers of Judaism and Christianity. Suleiman was the longest reigning emperor of the empire, which is why many refer to his reign as

the Golden Age of the empire, lasting from 1520-1566. The Ottoman Empire lasted all the way until the 1900s, when, after World War I, the Ottoman Empire collapsed.

*Question #4: What impact did Selim the Grim and Suleiman the Lawgiver have on the Ottoman Empire?*



**At its peak, the Ottoman Empire stretched from Europe, the Middle East, and into Africa.**

**Answers:**

**Question #1: Who was Muhammad? What impact did he have on religious life in the Middle East?**

Muhammad asserted he was like the prophets and religious leaders of Judaism and Christianity, such as Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and others. Yet, he claimed the religions of Judaism and Christianity had become corrupted over time and needed reformed to fall in line with his new religious visions. He Spread Islam through the Middle East and implemented it in his rule and control of Arabia.

**Question #2: Describe the historical impact of Othman the 1<sup>st</sup> and Orhan Son of Othman. What role did Islam have during their reigns?**

Othman started the Ottoman Empire. His son, Orhan, expanded the empire and made Islam the official religion of the empire.

**Question #3: Explain some obstacles the Ottoman Empire faced in dealing with Tamerlane and with its own internal struggles.**

Tamerlane had a rival realm east of the Ottoman Empire, the Timurid Empire. These two empires clashed in military engagements. After Tamerlane, a Civil War broke out among various heirs in the Ottoman Empire.

**Question #4: What impact did Selim the Grim and Suleiman the Lawgiver have on the Ottoman Empire?**

Selim the Grim achieved rapid expansion of the Ottoman Empire. He expanded the realm into the Middle East and North Africa. He even took Mecca. Suleiman had the longest reign of the Ottoman leaders. He also established clear civil and criminal codes for the empire.