Let’s review the three “Gunpowder Empires” of the Islamic World during the Early Modern Era (1450-1750)!
India
3 continents: SE Europe, N. Africa, SW Asia
Persia (Iran today)
Longest lasting existed until the end of World War I
Ended when Europeans (specifically the British) gained control
Had a powerful army with artillery (muskets and cannons)
Defeated the Safavids at the Battle of Chaldiran- set the Iran/Iraq boundary today
Established by Turkish Muslim warriors
Claimed descent from Mongols
Ruled over a largely Hindu population
Ruled over a diverse population with many Christians and Jews
Leader called a sultan
Leader called a shah
Had emperors
Religiously tolerant
New syncretic belief: Sikhism
Shi’a
Sunni
Defeated the Byzantine Empire—seized Constantinople
The Persian spoken began to incorporate Arabic words
Followed after the Delhi Sultanate
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1520-1566: **Suleiman the Magnificent (Suleiman the Lawgiver)** brought the empire to its height
- Many in SE Europe converted to Islam
- Controlled trade routes in the region
- Created a law code that dealt with criminal and civil matters, sought to reduce corruption, no imprisonment w/o trial
- Promoted based on merit
- Art & literature flourished- golden age of the Ottoman Empire
OTTOMAN EMPIRE

- **Devshirme** - Ottoman army drafted boys from conquered Christian lands - educated them, converted them to Islam, trained them as soldiers; served as personal servants to the sultan.

  Q: Many Christian parents actually wanted their sons to be taken - why?
OTTOMAN EMPIRE

- Janissaries - elite soldiers in the Ottoman army; known for their discipline and loyalty to the sultan
“Great Scott, Ingrey, it’s the Ottoman Empire!”
SAFAVID EMPIRE

- Cultural blending- Chinese artisans brought to Esfahan (the Safavid capital)- artwork shows blended Persian/Chinese styles

- Carpet making (rugs) became a national industry
MUGHAL EMPIRE

- **Akbar**- ruled over the Mughal golden age (1556-1605)
  - Appointed some Rajputs (Hindu warriors) as officers
  - Unified the empire through tolerance
  - Abolished the jizya
  - Promoted based on merit- Hindus could rise to high office
  - Golden age- thriving arts w/ Persian, Hindu influences (such as **miniatures**); revival of Hindu literature (such as the **Ramayana**)

![Portrait of Akbar](image)
Miniature paintings during Akbar’s reign
MUGHAL EMPIRE

- **Sikhism** - a new syncretic religion
  - Blend of Islam and Hinduism
  - 5th largest religion in the world
  - Most live in the Punjab region of NW India
  - Founded by spiritual teacher Guru Nanak
  - Monothesistic
  - View that all people are equal (regardless of gender, race, social class)
  - Encourages charity
MUGHAL EMPIRE

- Mughal ruler Shah Jahan lost his wife Mumtaz Mahal during childbirth- had the Taj Mahal built to honor her.

Q: While beautiful, this was controversial among the people. Why?
MUGHAL EMPIRE

- **Aurangzeb** - harsh ruler (ruled from 1658-1707) - began Mughal empire’s decline
  - Strictly enforced Islamic laws - oppressed Hindu majority
  - Ordered all pre-Mughal Hindu monuments torn down
  - Brought back the jizya - doubled taxes on Hindus
  - Dismissed Hindus from high government positions
  - Sikhs, Rajputs rebelled
  - Wars against enemies was costly-raised taxes
  - Weakened empire led to local leaders gaining more power