MING DYNASTY (1368-1644)

- Ethnic Chinese dynasty - return to Chinese rule
- Drove out the Mongols; sought to rid China of Mongol influence
- Resumed the title of dominant power in Asia
- Wanted to promote China’s power and prosperity - vassal states from Korea to SE Asia paid China regular tribute
- Began reforms to restore agricultural lands devastated by war - increased rice production and irrigation, encouraged fish farming and growing commercial crops (such as cotton and sugarcane)
- Used respected traditions and institutions to bring stability to China (encouraged a return to Confucian moral standards, restored the merit-based civil service examination system)
- Emperor Yongle (Yonglo) moved the capital from the Yuan capital of Nanjing to Beijing, where the Forbidden City was built for the government
- Launched oceanic expeditions led by Zheng He from 1405-1433 (huge ships, large specialized crews) - 7 total expeditions; no trading settlements or colonies, but more outside civilizations engaged in the tribute system
- 1433 - China ended expeditions, returned to relative isolation
- In the 1500s, China’s official trade policy was that only the government was to conduct foreign trade, and only through 3 ports (Canton, Macao, and Ningbo). In reality, merchants still engaged in illegal trade activities with Europeans.
- Silk and porcelain industries increased due to European demand.
- Even though trade with Europeans still increased despite the government’s attempts at restricting it, China did not fully industrialize for two major reasons: Confucian beliefs looked down on merchant activity, and China’s economic policies traditionally favored agriculture (taxes were lower on agriculture).
- European traders brought new technology (such as the clock) as well as Christianity to China; many educated Europeans still opposed Christian and European presence.
- Women largely confined to the home
- Male babies preferred over female babies - resulted in many instances of female infanticide
QING DYNASTY (1644-1912)

- Invaders from Manchuria (a region NE of China), called the Manchus, took over China from the Ming dynasty after its problems grew (ineffective rulers, corrupt officials, lack of money in government, higher taxes, bad harvests, civil strife and rebellion)
- Once again, China was under foreign control for the second time in its history
- Expanded China’s borders to include Taiwan, Chinese Central Asia, Mongolia, and Tibet
- Many Chinese resisted rule by the non-Chinese Manchus; rebellions flared up periodically
- Manchus slowly earned respect by upholding China’s Confucian beliefs and social structures
- Frontiers were made safe, China’s prosperity was restored
- General peace and prosperity in the 1600s and 1700s
- Emperor Kangxi gained the support of intellectuals by offering them government positions
- The Jesuits (European Catholics) were brought into the imperial Qing court by Kangxi, who told him about developments in science, mathematics, and medicine in Europe-helped China modernize
- Continued to restrict trade, requiring tribute and the performance of the kowtow
- The Chinese preferred trading with the Dutch over the British because the Dutch agreed to China’s restrictions whereas the British did not- Dutch brought tea to Europe
- Irrigation and fertilizer use increased
- Farmers grew traditional crops (rice), but also new crops (corn and sweet potatoes)-food production increased, nutrition improved, population increased
- Males continued to be preferred over females- resulted in female infanticide
- Women largely confined to the home
OTTOMAN EMPIRE (1300-1918)

- By 1300, the Byzantine Empire was declining- Anatolia mainly had descendants of nomadic Turks (militaristic people with a history of invading other civilizations)
- Many Turks saw themselves as ghazis (warriors for Islam) and formed military societies under the leadership of an emir (chief commander) and followed strict Islamic conduct
- The most successful ghazi was Osman- his followers were called Ottomans
- Osman built a small Muslim state in Anatolia between 1300-1326, his successors expanded it through land purchases, alliances, and conquest.
- Military success built largely on use of gunpowder- replaced archers on horseback with musket-carrying foot soldiers; also were among the first to use cannons
- Osman’s son Orkhan I declared himself sultan, or “overlord/one with power”
- Ottomans ruled through local officials appointed by the sultan
- Most Muslims had to serve in the army; non-Muslims had to pay a small tax for their exemption from military service
- Timur the Lame briefly halted Ottoman expansion in the early 1400s
- Murad II led the Ottoman Empire’s expansion into SE Europe- defeated the Venetians, invaded Hungary, overcame an army of Italian crusaders in the Balkans
- Mehmed II (Murad II’s son) achieved the Ottoman Empire’s biggest victory- taking Constantinople in 1453
- Constantinople was renamed Istanbul and was opened to people of diverse backgrounds, who helped rebuild the city
- By 1526, the Ottoman empire had taken control of Egypt, the holy land, and the North African coast, also pushed farther into Eastern Europe (spreading Islam)
- Control of prosperous trade routes in Eastern Europe/SW Asia enriched the empire
- Suleyman the Lawgiver (Suleyman the Magnificent)- created a law code, simplified and limited taxes, reduced government bureaucracy
- Palace bureaucracy was staffed by slaves acquired through the devshirme system, where the sultan’s army drafted boys from people of conquered Christian territories, educated them, converted them to Islam, and trained them as soldiers
- An elite force of 30,000 soldiers called janissaries was trained to be loyal to the sultan only- superb discipline made them the heart of the Ottoman Empire’s military
- Christian families sometimes bribed officials to take their children, as they could rise in society
- Conquered people of other faiths (Christians, Jews) were granted religious tolerance in accordance with Islamic law- groups of different faiths were organized into millets- each millet had a leader that reported to the sultan (kept conflict to a minimum)
- Art, architecture, literature flourished- used Persian and Arabian influences to express Ottoman ideas (cultural blending)
- Ottoman Empire lasted until the 20th century (participated in WWI), but was weakened by a practice whereby each sultan would have his brothers strangled, and kept his sons
prisoner, cutting them off from education or contact with the outside world (produced a line of weak sultans)

SAFAVID EMPIRE (1499-1747)

- Ruled in Persia between the 16th-18th centuries
- Spoke Persian, not Arabic- however, after the area converted to Islam, many Arabic words appeared in the Persian language
- Shi’a Islam was practiced (becoming the only primarily Shi’a empire in the Muslim world)
- To protect themselves from neighboring Sunni civilizations (Ottomans and Mughals), the Safavids built a powerful army
- Isma’il, after seizing Persia, declared himself Shah (ancient Persian title for king)
- Isma’il became a religious tyrant- any citizen who did not convert to Shi’a Islam was put to death
- Destroyed the Sunni population of Baghdad in confrontation with Ottomans; after this, the Ottoman leader ordered all Shi’a in the Ottoman Empire executed (40,000 died)
- 1514- Ottomans defeated Safavids at the Battle of Chaldiran- the border set between the Ottoman/Safavid empires that resulted is the same border that separates Iran and Iraq today
- Safavids adopted the use of artillery from the Ottomans
- Shah Abbas reformed the military- created two new armies loyal to him- one was an army of Persians, the other was recruited from the Christian north and modeled after the Ottoman janissaries; both were equipped with artillery
- Shah Abbas also reformed government- promoted only officials who proved their competence and loyalty, hired foreigners to fill positions in government
- European Christians were brought in, showing religious tolerance- industry, trade, and art exchanges grew between Safavid Empire and European nations
- Hundreds of Chinese artisans were brought in to work on the capital at Esfahan- gave rise to artwork that blended Chinese and Persian styles in glasswork, tile work, pottery, calligraphy, metalwork, and sculpture
- Western demand for Persian carpets created a national industry- reflected traditional Persian designs; Safavid artists went to Italy during the Renaissance and began incorporating European designs
- Also had the practice of killing or blinding the ablest sons of the Shah
- Empire fell apart in 1747 after the death of Nadir Shah
INDIA

BACKGROUND (700-1500)

- After the collapse of the Gupta Empire in the 400s, Huns from Central Asia invaded, then in the 700s Muslim tribes from Central Asia created many small kingdoms in India- these invaders called themselves **Mughals**, or “Mongols”- their leader was a descendant of Timur and Genghis Khan.
- 700s-1000: Muslims tried advancing into India, for a long time only got to the Indus River, then eventually pushed into India, devastating cities and temples, weakening India; eventually established a loose empire of Turkish warlords called the **Delhi Sultanate**. Sultans treated the Hindus as conquered people.
- 13th-16th centuries: 33 different sultans ruled divided territory from Delhi
- 1398: Timur the Lame destroyed Delhi; eventually it was rebuilt

THE MUGHAL EMPIRE (1500-1748)

- 1494-1530: **Babur** built up an army (brilliant military general), swept into India, built the foundation for the Mughal Empire
- Babur’s son was incompetent, but his grandson, **Akbar**, led the Mughal Empire to its golden age
- 1556-1605: Akbar’s rule- equipped armies with heavy artillery (including cannons), appointed Rajputs as officers (turning potential enemies into allies); this military strength helped unify almost all of India; continued religious tolerance (showed this by marrying Hindu princesses without forcing them to convert), also abolished the tax on Hindu pilgrims and the **jizya** (tax on non-Muslims); governed through a bureaucracy based on merit- anyone could rise to high office; successful tax policies (basically a graduated tax based on the size of crop yields); gave lands to bureaucrats, redistributed it upon their deaths- prevented aristocracies, but might have reduced incentive for bureaucrats to work hard and maintain the land (since it wouldn't pass to their families)
- Cultural blending- Persian was the language of Akbar’s court, but most people spoke **Hindi** (derived from **Sanskrit**). **Urdu** was formed, which was a blend of Arabic, Persian, and Hindi- today it is the official language of Pakistan.
- Culture flourished, especially in the form of book illustrations called **miniatures**- combined Persian and Hindu influences. These were perfected in the Safavid Empire. Hindu literature was also revived.
- Art, literature, architecture blended Islamic and Hindu themes
MUGHAL EMPIRE, CONTINUED.

- Akbar's son Jahangir let his wife, Persian princess Nur Jahan, do most of the ruling. She made her father prime minister of the Mughal court. She saw her son Khusrau as her ticket to future power; when Khusrau rebelled against his father, Nur Jahan removed him and shifted favor to another son. Jahangir tried to promote Islam, but was tolerant of other religions. When Khusrau rebelled, he turned to the Sikhs; Sikhism had emerged as a major religion because of its message of equality between beings regardless of their religion, gender or caste- this message drew Khusrau to the Sikhs. Their prophet, Guru Arjun, sheltered Khusrau and defended him. Mughal rulers had Guru Arjun arrested and tortured to death, and the Sikhs became targets of Mughal hatred.

- Jahangir's son and successor Shah Jahan had great passion for beautiful buildings and his wife, Mumtaz Mahal, a Persian princess. He loved her very much. When she died delivering her 14th child, he ordered a beautiful tomb be built in her memory- this was called the Taj Mahal.

- Meanwhile, as great monuments were being built, the people were suffering from famine and lack of needed tools and supplies for irrigation. Instead, they were given more taxes to help support the rulers’ extravagant living and war.

- Shah Jahan’s sons engaged in a violent civil war- Aurangzeb emerged victorious, put his father (Shah Jahan) in prison for the rest of his life. Aurangzeb expanded the Mughal Empire to its greatest extent.

- The empire was weakened during Aurangzeb’s rule mainly because he oppressed the Indian people- he enforced Islamic laws, outlawed drinking and other vices, appointed censors to police subjects’ morals, made sure they prayed at certain times, and tried to erase any gains Hindus had made under Akbar (brought back the jizya, dismissed non-Muslims from government, banned the construction of new Hindu monuments)- these actions outraged the Hindus.

- The Hindu Rajputs rebelled- Aurangzeb defeated them, but never completely. In SW India, a Hindu warrior community called Marathas founded their own state and was never conquered by the Mughals. The Sikhs also transformed themselves into a brotherhood of warriors concentrated in the Punjab region (NW India).

- Aurangzeb levied higher taxes to pay for wars against these groups. He increased taxes on Hindus. Meanwhile, 2 million people died from famine by the end of Aurangzeb’s reign.

- Aurangzeb had drained the empire of its resources by the time of his death in 1707. The empire was no longer unified but rather a patchwork of independent states- Mughal emperor was just a figurehead by the early 1700s. Local rulers grew in power.

- Later, European influence in India grew, and would eventually pave the way for colonization.