Persian Empire (Safavid Persia)

- East of Ottoman Empire
- Modern-day Iran
- Lasted from 1501 to 1722
General Characteristics

- Ismail = Turkic founder of Safavid Dynasty
- Defining characteristic = followed Shia version of Islam
- Introduced sharp divide between Sunni and Shi’ite Muslims to the heartland of Islam
Decline

- Incompetent Safavid rulers weakened the empire
- Poor leadership and misuse of money
- Territory was lost & empire divided up when Afghans seized Persia in 1722
Mughal Empire

- Located in India
- Kingdom center = Delhi
- Established by Muslim Turks
Both Hindu and Islamic civilizations

- Muslim rulers
- Hindu subjects
Accomplishments under Babur

- Orderly government
- Expanded the arts
Accomplishments under Akbar the Great

- Brought peace and order to India
- Encouraged religious tolerance with both Hindus and Muslims
- Created a new religion called “Divine Faith” = combined Hinduism, Islam, and Christianity
- Repealed taxes on Hindus
Mughal Civilization

- Arts = music, literature, painting
- Lavish courts
- Large libraries
- Built the Taj Mahal
- Increased trade
- Muslim architects introduced the dome and the arch
- Brought porcelain, paper, and gunpowder from China to India
The Taj Mahal
The Taj Mahal

- Built by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan
- Mausoleum for his 3rd wife
- She died giving birth to their 14th child
Mughal Decline

- Rulers eventually abandoned religious tolerance and the Hindu minority was persecuted, which weakened the empire.
- Empire officially ended when Great Britain took over India.
- Sepoy Mutiny in 1857 = Mughal’s last stand.
Founded by Turks
Started in Anatolia
Controlled Balkan Peninsula and parts of eastern Europe
Acquired much of the Middle East, North Africa, and region between the Black and Caspian Seas
General Characteristics

- Maintained strong navy in Mediterranean region to protect trade routes they controlled there
- Conquered much of the Byzantine’s territory -- captured capital of Constantinople in 1453 & renamed it Istanbul
- Remained a significant sea power until the 1700s
Accomplishments under Suleiman I

- Organized Ottoman law
- Strengthened military
- Converted young Christian boys to Islam & drafted them into the military = called Devshirme
- Janissaries = elite infantry force
Accomplishments under Suleiman I

- Islamic religious leader = caliph
- Political ruler = called a sultan
- “Right-hand man” to the sultan = grand vizier
Ottomans (Muslims) ruled diverse people: Arabs, Greeks, Slavs, Armenians, Jews, etc.

Millets = separate communities of non-Muslims --> each millet controlled its own affairs

Population divided into different classes
- 1st class = ruling class made up of sultan, his family & high government officials
- 2nd class = nobility
- 3rd class (largest) = peasants
Borrowed many elements from the Byzantine, Persian, and Arab cultures
Bridges, mosques, and aqueducts reflect this blend of culture
Turned Christian church of Hagia Sophia into a mosque
Decline of the Ottomans

- By 1600, empire had reached its peak and started to decline
- Faced constant attacks from enemies on its borders
- Finally collapsed after its loss in WWI (it fought with the Central Powers)