China, the Ottoman Empire, and Japan (1800-1914)

Internal Troubles, External Threats
The Ottoman Empire: “Sick Man of Europe”

- In the 1800s, the Ottoman Empire went from being a great power in the world to one of the weakest territories.
- Could no longer keep up with Western Europe.
- Unable to prevent region after region from falling under European control.
Causes of Territorial Losses

- Cause #1 = European aggression
  - Invasions from Russia, Britain, France, and Austria
  - Example: one of the earliest invasions = in 1798 = Napoleon’s invasion of Egypt
- Cause #2 = Nationalism and independence movements by different groups within the Ottoman Empire
  - Independence achieved by: Greece, Serbia, Bulgaria, and Romania (with help of European militaries)
  - Driven by nationalism
The Contraction of the Ottoman Empire

Map 19.2 The Contraction of the Ottoman Empire
Chapter 19, Ways of the World: A Brief Global History with Sources, First Edition
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More Problems for the Ottoman Empire

- Weak central government
- Increasing power of local authorities and rulers
- Unable to effectively raise revenue (taxes)
- Growing technological and military gap with Europe
- Decreasing power of the Janissaries (elite infantry units of the Ottoman Empire)
The economy of the Ottoman Empire weakened for several reasons:

- Europeans achieved direct sea access to Asia = no longer a need for them to go through the Ottoman and Arab land routes to get there = loss of revenue for those groups
- Ottoman artisans and workers hit hard by competition from cheap European manufactured goods
Economic Problems for the Ottoman Empire

- Series of unbalanced agreements between European powers and the Ottoman Empire = allowed Europeans many exemptions from Ottoman law and taxation
  - Allowed these Westerners to easily “infiltrate” the Ottoman economy
- Ottoman Empire came to rely on foreign loans to sustain itself
  - Unable to repay those debts OR the interest on them
  - Led to foreign control of much of its revenue-generating system
The Ottoman Empire: Attempts at Reform

- Ottoman Empire began programs of “defensive modernization”
  - Earlier, more sustained, and more vigorous than the “self-strengthening” policies of China
  - Several factors contributed to this:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Ottoman Empire</th>
<th>China</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No internal upheavals</td>
<td>Taiping Rebellion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only nationalist revolts on edges of empire</td>
<td>Peasant rebellions at the center of the state</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No explosive population growth</td>
<td>Massive population growth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ottoman leaders = Turkic and Muslim (similar to their people)</td>
<td>China’s rulers = Qing rulers = Manchu (considered foreigners &amp; NOT like their people)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reforms began in the late 1700s with Sultan Selim III

- Wanted to reorganize and update the army
- Wanted to draw on European advisors and techniques

Result = opposition from *ulama* (Muslim religious scholars) and the Janissaries

- Believed these reforms would threaten their power and that they conflicted with Islam
- Selim III = overthrown and murdered in 1807
The Ottoman Empire: Attempts at Reform

- Future sultans crushed the Janissaries and brought the ulama under state control
- Started the *Tanzimat* (reorganization) reform:
  - Factories making cloth, paper, and arms
  - Modern mining operations
  - Resettlement of agricultural land
  - Telegraphs, steamships, railroads, modern postal service
  - Western-style law codes and courts
  - New elementary and secondary schools
  - Equal rights (*under law*) for Muslims AND non-Muslims

The Ottoman Constitution, 1895
(Extended equal rights to all)
Supporters of the Ottoman Reforms

- Supporters of these reforms = called the “Young Ottomans”
  - Lower-level officials and military officers, writers, poets, journalists

- Had a new view of the Ottoman Empire = a secular state whose people were loyal to the dynasty that ruled it, rather than a state based on religion

- Wanted a European-style democratic, constitutional government
  - Only way to overcome “backwardness” and stop European aggression
Supporters of Ottoman Reforms

“Islamic modernism” = idea that Muslim societies can embrace Western technical and scientific knowledge, while rejecting its materialism

- Islam can be modern AND maintain its religious character
Supporters of Ottoman Reforms

- The Young Ottomans did not have much success → authoritarian rule continued in the Ottoman Empire
- “Young Turks” = group of military and civilian elites
  - Opposed this tyrannical rule
  - Wanted a completely secular (non-religious) law code
  - Supported continuing modernization based on European achievements
  - Viewed the Ottoman Empire as a “Turkish national state”
    - This antagonized non-Turkic peoples and helped stimulate Arab and other nationalisms → contributed to disintegration of Ottoman Empire after WWI
Supporters of Ottoman Reforms

1908 = successful military coup by the Young Turks

Reforms that they implemented:
- Secularized schools, courts, and law codes
- Allowed elections and political parties
- Established a “Law of Family Rights” for all people
- Opened up modern schools for women
- Allowed women to wear Western clothing
- Restricted polygamy
- Allowed women to get divorces in some situations
- Encouraged Turkish as the official language
Comparing China and the Ottoman Empire

Both shared several similarities by the beginning of the 20th century:

- Both “semi-colonies” within the “informal empires” of Europe
- Both were hurt by a rapidly shifting balance of global power
- Kept formal independence
- Attempted to modernize, but never truly succeeded; no industrial economies
- No restoration of a strong state
- Both gave rise to new nationalist views of society
- Both empires officially collapsed in the early 20th century
Comparing China and the Ottoman Empire

- There were also key differences between China and the Ottoman Empire in the aftermath of European imperialism:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>The Ottoman Empire</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collapse of the Chinese empire in 1911 was</td>
<td>Collapse of the Ottoman Empire was followed by the creation of new,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>followed by a revolutionary upheaval that</td>
<td>smaller nation-states – including Turkey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>led to a communist government by 1949</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rejection of Confucian culture</td>
<td>Islam retained a hold on civilization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Viewed as secular and elitist</td>
<td>- Islamic religious tradition = personally meaningful to its</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Confucianism was always tied to a single</td>
<td>followers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>state (China); not thriving elsewhere</td>
<td>- Islam = never tied to a <em>single</em> state; many independent centers</td>
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