Ottoman Empire
1299-1922 CE

The **Ottoman Empire** officially began in 1299 CE (AD) . It started as one of many smaller Turkish states that had gained its independence as result of the break-up of the Seljuk Turk Empire in the late 1200s CE. After that empire broke up the Ottoman Turks began to take control of the other states belonging to the former empire and by the late 1400's all other Turkish dynasties (city states) were controlled by the Ottoman Turks.

Ottoman Empire in 1299 and at its peak in 1566

The map on the left shows where Ottoman Empire started and then the Empire at its peak.

The Empire then grew to include many areas in what is now present-day Europe and it eventually became one of the largest, most powerful and longest-lasting empires in the history of the world. At its peak the Ottoman Empire included the areas of Turkey, Egypt, Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Macedonia, Hungary, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and parts of the Arabian Peninsula and North Africa.

Level 1

Eastern Mediterranean 1450 AD

Venetian Territories
Genoese Territories
Duchy of Naxos
Knights of St John
Byzantine Empire

At the beginning the Empire's primary goal was expansion. Within a 150 years it had captured European lands in the Balkan Peninsula (Serbia and Bulgaria) and much of the Byzantine Empire. By 1450 it had completely surrounded the Byzantine Empire.

In 1453 CE after several unsuccessful attempts the Ottoman Turks were finally able to capture Constantinople, the capital of the Byzantine Empire. The Byzantine Empire fell after over 1,100 years.

Ottoman Empire at its Peak in 1566

The Ottoman Empire continued its expansion after the fall of the Byzantine Empire. . Its armies went as far north in Europe as Hungary, capturing major parts of Hungary including the city of Buda (Budapest) in Hungary. At its peak under **Suleiman the Magnificent the Empire was bigger than the Roman Empire** controlling the entire Middle East, northern Africa, the Balkans and dominated the eastern Mediterranean, Black Sea, Red Sea and the Persian Gulf By the 1600s it was the most powerful Empire in the world.

Level 1

Ottoman Empire at end of WWI
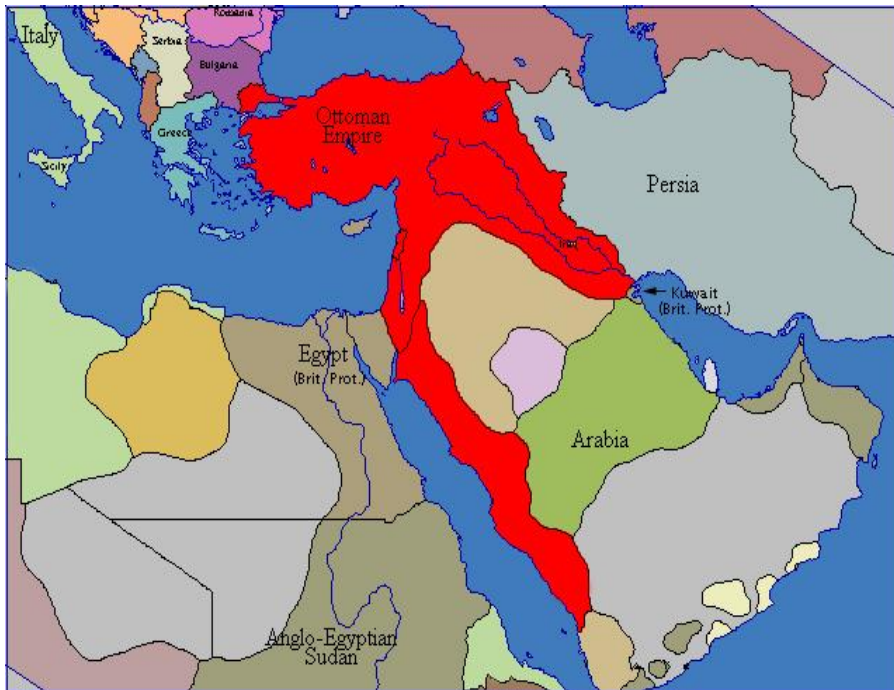
At the end of the 1700s and early 1800s the Empire participated in a series of unsuccessful wars that it lost, losing territory. By the late 1800s the Ottoman Empire was called the **"Sick Man of Europe"**. It was faced rising *nationalism* in its territories and a poor economy. During WWI it sided with the **Central Powers** - Germany and Austria-Hungary. After losing WWI, the Ottoman Empire came to an end after 623 years.

Important Leaders

Sultan Mehmed II- captured Constantinople and ended the Byzantine Empire in 1453 CE.

Suleiman I (Suleiman the Magnificent)- reorganized the Turkish judicial system to included written laws and put an emphasis on the arts, literature and architecture. The empire also reached its peak in size under his rule.

Culture and World Contributions.

Religion – The Ottoman Empire was an Islam state but was tolerant of all religions within its territory. The empire's population was grouped into various 'Millet's' which grouped people according to their religion rather than nationality and each Millet was allowed to take care of its own affairs.

Islam – The Empire spread Islam by making it more favorable to be Muslim. Non- Muslims had to pay additional taxes and were often prevented from taking government jobs.

Education - The Turks valued education and they set up scientific centers of study for medicine, astronomy and mathematics. Scientists of all religions including foreigners were invited to come and study.

Arts and Foods– The Turks were famous for their calligraphy, jewelry, carpet weaving and were responsible for introducing coffee to Eastern Europe.   Level 1