

# Civilizations in Crisis:

## The Ottoman Empire (The Sick Man of Europe)

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1588-1908

# Ottoman Decline prior to 1750

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- Battle of Lepanto
- Siege of Vienna
- New rivalries
  - Austria
  - Russia
- Factionalism
  - The Ulama
  - Provincial and regional lords
  - The Janissaries

# Greek Independence



- 1830
- Napoleons invasion sparked the rise of Greek nationalism
- Rose against the Turks in civil war
- Inspirational to other nationalities within the Ottoman Empire (Serbia 1867)



# Economic problems

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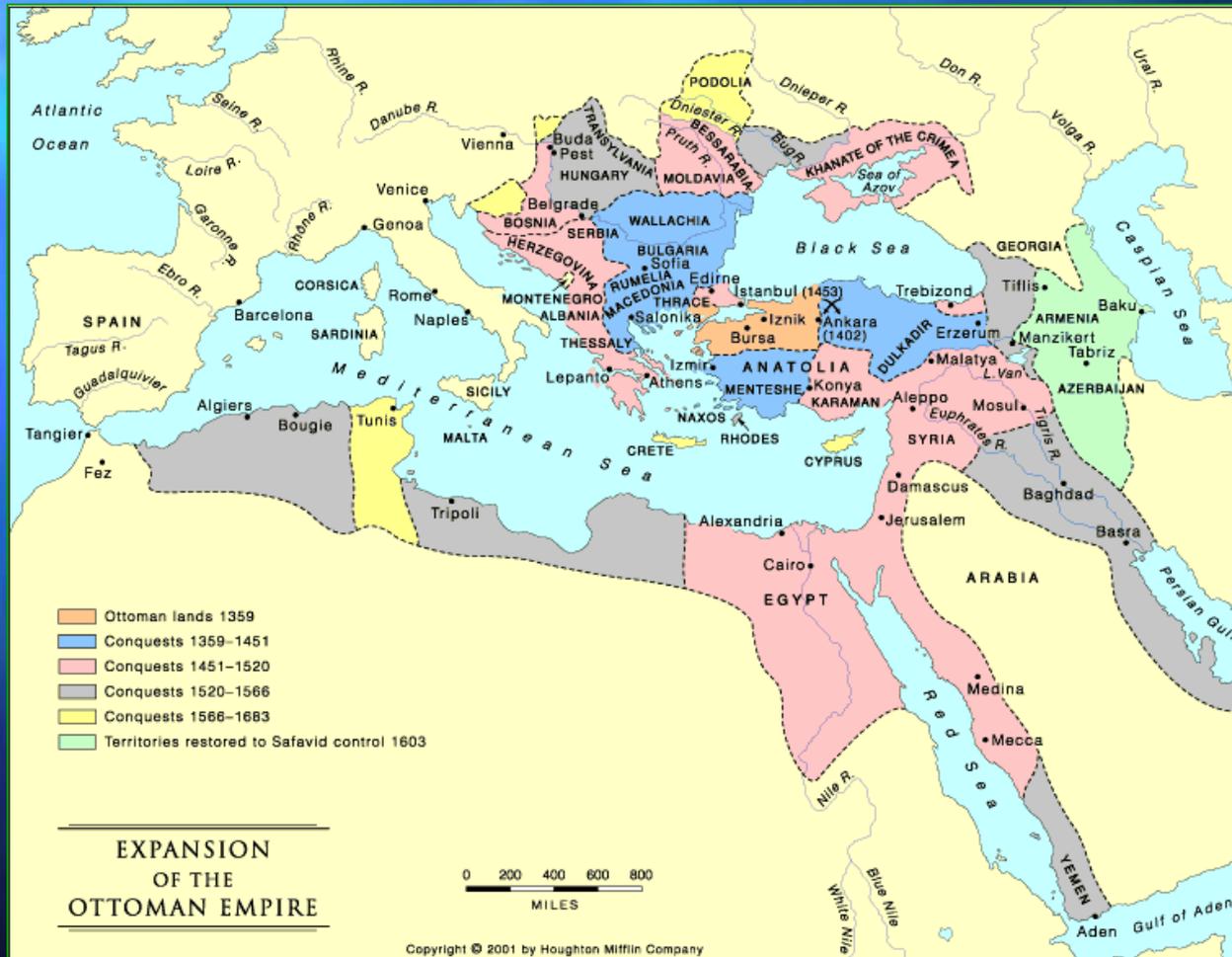
- Ottoman artisans couldn't compete with the products of the industrial west
- The Silk Road no longer existed
- The weakness of the Ottoman navy kept them from both the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean.
- Corrupt bureaucrats and landlords depleted the treasury

# Foreign competition

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- The new Austrian empire gradually conquered land in the Balkans, pushing the Ottomans out
- Russia invaded the Caucasus and the Crimea
- If they weren't directly fighting the Ottomans, they were fanning the flames of nationalist movements within the empire.

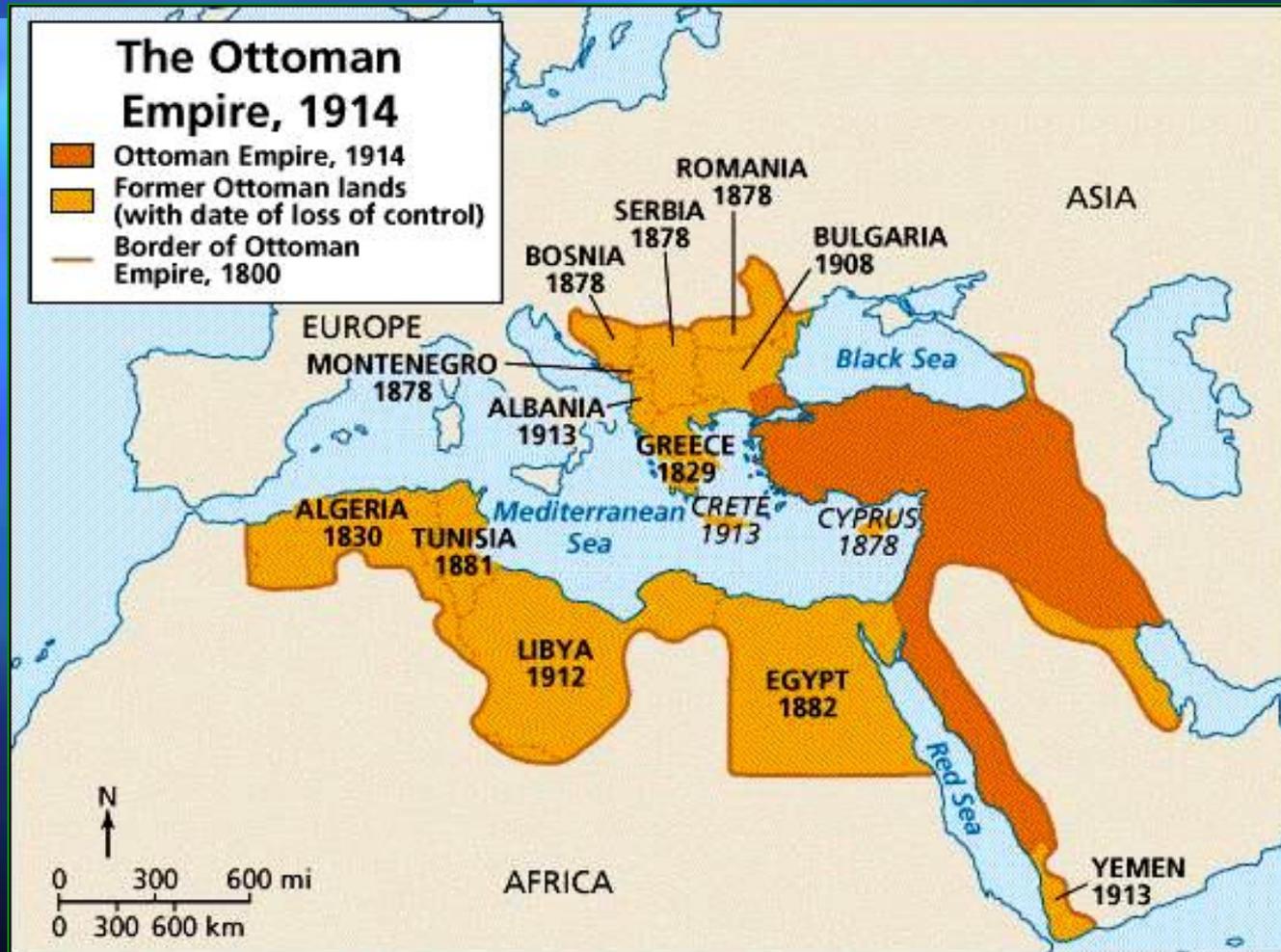
# The Ottoman Empire in 1600



# Ottoman Empire by 1800



# Ottoman Empire by 1914



# Foreign intervention

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- Western powers came to the aid of a declining Ottoman Empire
  - The French feared the growing land power of Austria
  - The British feared the potential of Russian access to the Mediterranean
- They had no interest in strengthening them, just preserving the weak empire

# The Crimean War (1854-1856)



# Internal Reform

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- Happened in stages
  - Selim III tried mild reforms
  - Mahmud II went MUCH further
  - Abdul Hamid undid most of the reforms
  - The Young Turks overthrow Abdul Hamid

# Selim III

- Made modest attempts at reform
- Tried some military reforms
  - This angered the Janissary Corps, who overthrew him and killed him



# Mahmoud II

- Started by killing the entire Janissary Corps in 1826.
- Was aided by European advisors
- Embarked on a massive modernization campaign known as the Tanzimat reforms



# The Tanzimat Reforms (1839-1876)

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- Western-style universities
- Postal and telegraph systems
- Railways
- Newspapers
- Enlightenment thinking began to spread among the educated middle class
- Mild industrialization efforts

# Limits of the Tanzimat Reforms

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- Hurt artisans and others through the reliance on foreigners and foreign goods
- Did nothing for women
- Failed to address many of the core problems facing the Ottoman Empire

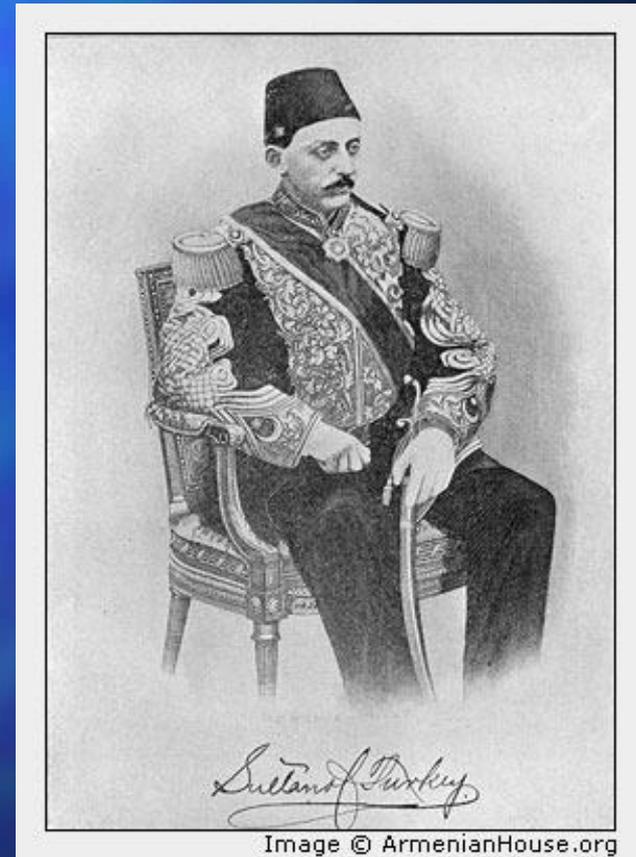
# The Backlash

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- The reforms strengthened the state, but weakened the dynasty
  - Reformers (officials, military officers, professionals) saw the sultanate as a barrier
  - Pissed off the Ulama (religious scholars) and the ayan (landlords)
- Sultan Abdul Hamid fires back

# Sultan Abdul Hamid

- Nullified the constitution
- Suspended civil liberties
- Kept industrial, economic, and military reforms



# The 1908 Coup

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- Groups of reform movements, lead by the Young Turks, sought to restore the constitution.
- Despite severe factionalism, they did in 1908.
  - The Sultan remained, but was reduced to a figurehead.

# The impact of 1908

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- Focused on the Turks, at the expense of the rest of the empire.
  - Lost more territory around the edges
  - Inspired arab nationalism
- Established the military as a key piece of the reform movement
- Created a secular, western (ish) society in the center of the Islamic world
  - Fired up conservative religious movements who opposed the change (like the Wahabis)

# By WWI

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- The Ottoman Empire still technically exists, but functions like it's the nation of Turkey with some extra land.
- Islamic society is HEAVILY divided between liberal, western, modernizing movements and conservative religious traditional movements.
  - The whole middle east (Egypt included) is still reeling from this.