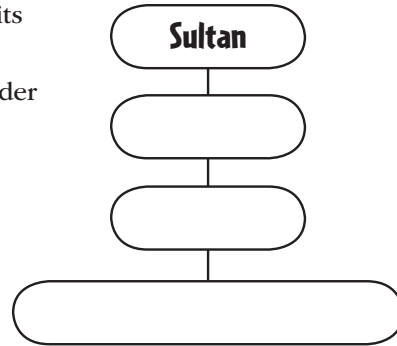


Chapter 15, Section 1 (Pages 484–489)

The Ottoman Empire

Big Idea

The Ottoman Empire grew strong as it expanded its borders. As you read, create a chart to show the structure of the Ottoman society. List groups in order of importance.



Read to Learn

Rise of the Ottoman Turks (page 484)

Synthesizing Information

Selim I conquered Arabia. What cities did he then control that helped him in his claim to be caliph?

In the early fourteenth century, the Osman Turks began to expand and build the Ottoman dynasty. First, the Ottomans expanded westward to control two straits, the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles. These straits connect the Black Sea and the Aegean Sea, which leads to the Mediterranean. Then the Ottomans expanded into the Balkans. The Ottoman rulers, called **sultans**, created a strong military led by **janissaries** recruited from the local Christian population and converted to Islam.

Under the leadership of Mehmed II, the Ottomans bombarded Constantinople with cannons. The Ottomans took the city and made Constantinople their new capital. They renamed it Istanbul.

By 1517, Sultan Selim I had taken control of Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Arabia. Selim now controlled several of Islam's holy cities, including Jerusalem, Makkah, and Madinah. He declared himself the new caliph—the successor to Muhammad. Where possible, the Ottomans administered their conquests through local rulers. They appointed officials called **pashas** to collect taxes and maintain law and order.

The Turks eventually moved into Austria and the western Mediterranean until the Spanish defeated a large Ottoman fleet in 1571. The Ottomans laid siege to Vienna, but were repulsed by a European army and were then pushed out of Hungary. They retained the core of their empire, but would never again threaten central Europe.



Read to Learn

The Ottoman World (page 486)

Predicting

How did the conversion of many Bosnians affect the twentieth century?

The Ottoman Empire was one of the empires often called a “**gunpowder empire**.” Gunpowder empires were formed by outside conquerors who unified the regions they conquered. A gunpowder empire’s success was largely based on its mastery of firearm technology. At the head of the Ottoman system was the **sultan**, who was the supreme authority both politically and militarily.

The private domain of the sultan was the **harem**, where he and his wives resided. When a son became sultan, his mother became queen mother and often had power as an adviser. An imperial council helped govern. It was led by the **grand vizier**.

The Ottomans were Sunni Muslims. Ottoman sultans began claiming the title of caliph in the sixteenth century. They gave part of their religious duties to a group of religious advisers called the **ulema**. This group administered the legal system and the schools. The Ottomans were generally tolerant of non-Muslims, who made up a significant minority. Non-Muslims paid a tax, but were allowed to practice their religion or convert to Islam. In some areas, such as present-day Bosnia, many converted.

In addition to the ruling class, there were four main occupational groups: peasants, artisans, merchants, and pastoral peoples. Merchants were the most privileged class. All land was ultimately owned by the sultan.

Under the Ottomans, women had a somewhat better position than other Muslim women. Women were allowed to own and inherit property. They could not be forced into marriage and were sometimes allowed to divorce.

Problems in the Ottoman Empire (page 489)

Making Inferences

What drink that Americans use heavily today was introduced through the Ottoman Empire?

The Ottoman Empire reached its height under Süleyman I, called Süleyman the Magnificent. After Süleyman’s death, sultans became less involved in government, ministers exercised more power, and corruption grew.

Change in the empire was also brought about by the exchange of Western and Ottoman ideas and customs. Officials and merchants began to imitate Europeans in their clothes, furniture, and art. Some sultans attempted to outlaw certain Western goods, such as coffee and tobacco.

The economy was troubled by inflation and the imbalance of trade between the empire and Europe. The Ottomans did not invest in manufacturing and could not compete with European manufactured goods. The declining economy left little money for military expansion.

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Section Wrap-up

Answer these questions to check your understanding of the entire section.

1. What steps did the Ottomans take to build a strong military?

2. How did the Ottomans treat non-Muslims in their empire?

Expository Writing

What problems caused the weakening of the Ottoman Empire?
