

Have you ever wondered?

🇹🇷 Grandpa's History Lessons that Matter

## Lesson 10:

*The Ottoman Empire (1283–1923 CE)  
Islamic-run Superpower*





# Ottoman Empire (1283–1923 CE)

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## *Islamic-run Superpower*

### **INTRODUCTION:**

- *The Ottoman Empire, created by Turkish tribes in Anatolia (Asia Minor) that grew to be one of the mightiest and longest-lasting dynasties in world history. This Islamic-run superpower ruled most of southeastern Europe to the gates of Vienna, including present-day Hungary, the Balkan region, Greece, and parts of Ukraine; portions of the Middle East now occupied by Iraq, Syria, Israel, and Egypt; North Africa as far west as Algeria; and large parts of the Arabian Peninsula for more than 600 years. The empire came to an end only in 1922, when it was replaced by the Turkish Republic and various successor states in southeastern Europe and the Middle East.. The chief leader, known as the Sultan, was given absolute religious and political authority over his people. While Western Europeans generally viewed them as a threat, many historians regard the Ottoman Empire as a source of great regional stability and security, as well as important achievements in the arts, science, religion and culture.*
- *“It happens in humans, too. Some behaviors that seem harsh to us now ensured the survival of early man in whatever swamp he was in at the time. Without them, we wouldn’t be here. We still store those instincts in our genes, and they express themselves when certain circumstances prevail. Some parts of us will always be what we were, what we had to be to survive – way back yonder.” – From Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens*
- *“No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.” — Nelson Mandela, Long Walk to Freedom*



## EXPANSION OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

- Ottoman Turks, 1300
- Acquisitions, 1300-59
- Acquisitions, 1359-1451
- Acquisitions, 1451-81 (Mehmed II)
- Acquisitions, 1512-20 (Selim I)
- Acquisitions, 1520-66 (Süleyman I the Magnificent)

Ottoman Empire  
(1283-1923 CE)

***Islamic-run Superpower***

# Ottoman Empire (1283–1923 CE)

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# Ottoman Empire (1283–1923 CE)

## *Islamic-run Superpower*

1821: A Greek uprising against Turkish rule is followed by the massacre of several thousand Muslims.

1827: Britain, France and Russia, support Greek independence, defeating the Turkish and Egyptian fleets at Navarino.

1832: Greece wins independence from the Turks.

### Greece Wins Independence

1908: A secret revolutionary group formed on 1885 and later known as the **Young Turks**, organize a successful uprising against the autocracy of the Ottoman sultan.

1912-1913: Numerous principalities declare their independence from the Ottoman Empire including Greece, Bulgaria and Serbia to launch the First and second Balkan Wars. A coup led by **Enver Pasha** brings the Young Turks to power in Istanbul.

### Uprisings and Revolutions

Russia advances on Turkey.

Sharif Hussein, emir of Mecca, proclaims himself the leader of the Muslim world, launching an Arab revolt against the Ottoman empire. British subject, **T.E. Lawrence** was renowned for his role in the Arab Revolt and the Sinai and Palestine Campaign against the Ottoman Empire.

1918: An armistice is signed between Turkey and the Allies.

### World War I

1841-1856 CE

1914-1915 CE

1920-1923 CE

1821-1832 CE

1885-1913 CE

1915-1918 CE

### The Crimean War

1841: European powers support Turkey in their continuing struggle with Russia.

1853: In the expectation of British and French support, the Ottoman sultan declares war on Russia.

1856: The Treaty of Paris ends the Crimean War, limiting Russia's special powers in relation to Turkey.

### World War I

Turkey, launching an attack on Russian ports in the Black Sea, enters the war on the German side. Russia, Britain and France declare war on the Ottoman Empire.

Hundreds of thousands of Armenians die as the Turks forcibly remove them from their homelands.

### Kemal Atatürk

1920-1922: A nationalist government led by Kemal Atatürk, rejects the Treaty of Sèvres, abolishes the sultanate and exiles the last Ottoman emperor, Mehmed VI.

1923: The Treaty of Lausanne brings peace between Turkey and the Allies; Turkey becomes a republic with Atatürk as president and Ankara as its new capital.

# Appendix

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## *Action Links*

**MORE FUN, MORE FACTS  
ABOUT THE MOST SIGNIFICANT  
PEOPLE AND EVENTS  
IN THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE**



# Ottoman Sultans



- Osman I, also known as Osman Gazi (1258-1323 CE), was the founder and first Sultan of the Ottoman Beylik, which would rise to eventually become the Ottoman Empire. He was the ruler of a small Turkic principality among many in the Anatolian region of Bithynia and, through a series of victories against the Byzantine Empire, would lay the foundation for his ancestors to build an empire spanning three continents, lasting centuries, and leaving its influence on the Middle East, Balkans, and the world.
- Mehmed II, (1432-1481 CE), also known as Mehmed the Conqueror, was the seventh and among the greatest sultans of the Ottoman Empire. His conquests consolidated Ottoman rule in Anatolia and the Balkans, and he most famously triumphed in conquering the prized city of Constantinople, transforming it into the administrative center, cultural hub, and capital of his growing empire. His victories would mark the end of the Byzantine Empire and usher a new era of Ottoman dominance in the Eastern Mediterranean.
- Süleyman I the Magnificent, (1494-1566 CE) became a prominent monarch of 16th-century Europe, presiding over the apex of the Ottoman Empire's economic, military and political power. Süleyman personally led Ottoman armies in conquering the Christian strongholds of Belgrade and Rhodes as well as most of Hungary before his conquests were checked at the Siege of Vienna in 1529. He annexed much of the Middle East in his conflict with the Safavids and large areas of North Africa as far west as Algeria. Under his rule, the Ottoman fleet dominated the seas from the Mediterranean to the Red Sea and through the Persian Gulf. He completed the task of transforming the previously Byzantine city of Constantinople into Istanbul, a worthy centre for a great Turkish and Islamic empire.



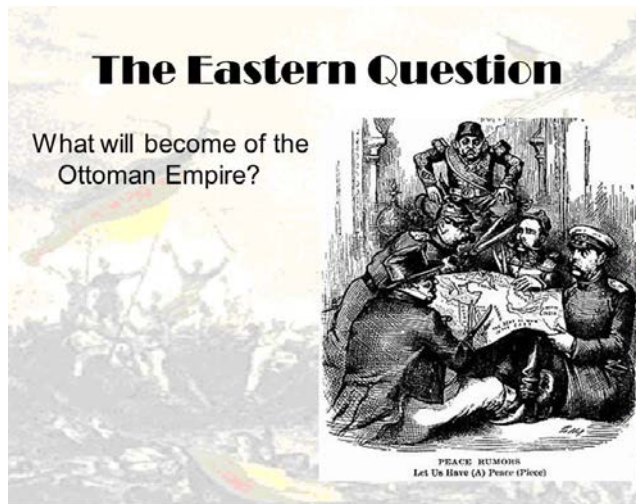
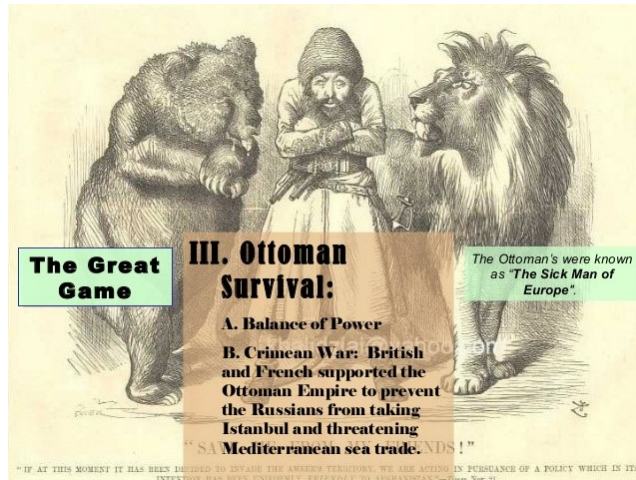
## The Fall of Constantinople (1450-1453 CE)

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- May 29, 1453, the conquest of Constantinople by Sultan Mehmed II of the Ottoman Empire. The dwindling Byzantine Empire came to an end when the Ottomans breached Constantinople's ancient land wall after besieging the city for 55 days. Mehmed surrounded Constantinople from land and sea while employing cannon to maintain a constant barrage of the city's formidable walls. The fall of the city removed what was once a powerful defense for Christian Europe against Muslim invasion, allowing for uninterrupted Ottoman expansion into eastern Europe.



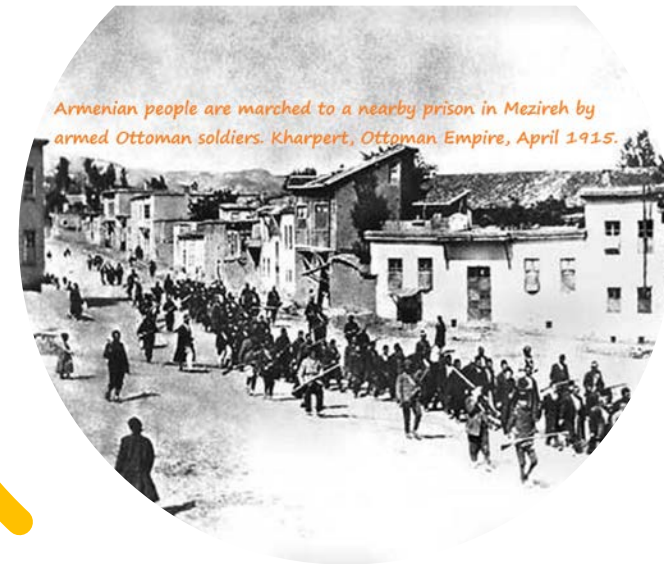
# The “Eastern Question”



- Eastern Question, diplomatic problem posed in the 19th and early 20th centuries by the disintegration of the Ottoman Empire, centring on the contest for control of former Ottoman territories. Any internal change in the Turkish domains caused tension among the European powers, each of which feared that one of the others might take advantage of the political disarray to increase its own influence.
- The eventual distribution of the Ottoman territories was as follows: the Balkan provinces emerged in the course of the century as independent states, often under the influence of Russia or one of the other great powers; Britain occupied Cyprus in 1878 and Egypt in 1882 and acquired Palestine and Iraq as mandates after World War I; and France took over Syria and Lebanon in 1920. Turkey, the heart of the Ottoman state, won recognition as an independent republic in 1923.

# WWI, Enver Pasha and the “Young Turks”

- Enver Pasha was born on 22 November 1881 in Constantinople, Ottoman Empire (present-day Istanbul, Turkey) to a family of Sunni Muslim Turks. Enver joined the Ottoman Army and served as a military officer. In 1908, Enver Pasha was one of the leaders of the Young Turk Revolution against Abdulrahman II of Turkey, leading the nationalist Young Turks in an uprising against the government. The Young Turks embraced pan-Turkism (a movement whose aim was the cultural and political unification of all Turkic peoples) and secularism. In 1914, he was appointed Minister of War of the Ottoman Empire shortly before World War I began, and he was the man responsible for the Ottoman Empire's entry into a large war as an ally of the German Empire and Austria-Hungary against the Russian Empire, France, and the United Kingdom. While World War I may have been a major feature of Enver Pasha's tenure as Minister of War from 1914 to 1918, another major feature was the Armenian Genocide and several associated atrocities. The Ottomans persecuted Armenians, Greeks, Assyrians, and other minority groups in the empire, massacring or deporting hundreds of thousands of them and converting many of them to Islam. Most of the refugees from Armenia fled to the Russian Empire, which was the guardian of Christianity in the region, while most of the Pontic Greeks would later flee to the Kingdom of Greece in a population exchange with Thracian Turks. These atrocities helped to turn the public opinions of the Allied Powers against the Ottomans, who were seen as genocidal and ultranationalist. World War I was another disaster for the Ottomans, as the war led to the Arab Revolt in 1916 by the Bedouin of the Middle East and the Levant. The Turks mauled the ANZAC forces at the Battle of Gallipoli and the British and Indians at the Battle of Kut, but they were ultimately defeated as the Arab irregular cavalry of [T.E. Lawrence](#) and the British armored cars of General Edmund Allenby moved north and captured the cities of Jerusalem and Damascus. In October 1918, the Ottoman Empire surrendered to the Allies, ending their role in World War I. Pasha was no longer the minister of war, with his predecessor Ahmet Izzet Pasha returning to this title after his resignation. The role of Turkey in World War I resulted in the division of Turkey into zones of occupation that were occupied by Greeks, British, French, and other forces.
- Enver Pasha is one of the most important symbols of Turkic nationalism and of the Armenian Genocide alike, and Turkish ultranationalist organizations such as the Grey Wolves believe that he is their ideal leader.







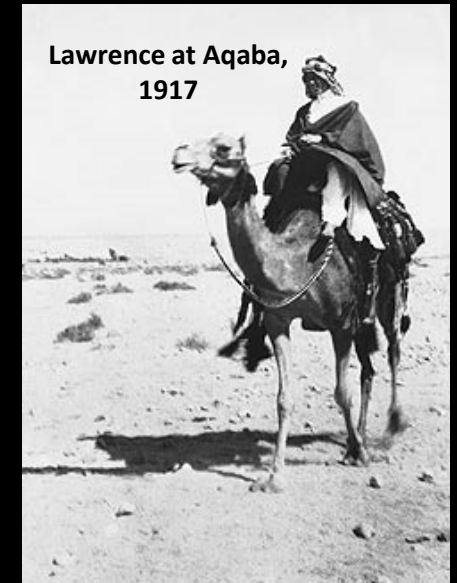
Lawrence in 1919



14 Barton Street, London SW1, where Lawrence lived while writing Seven Pillars



The Lawrence family lived at 2, Polstead Road, Oxford from 1896 to 1921



Lawrence at Aqaba, 1917



Lawrence in 1918

## T.E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia)

- Thomas Edward Lawrence, CB, DSO (16 August 1888 – 19 May 1935), was a British archaeologist, army officer, diplomat, and writer. He was renowned for his role in the Arab Revolt and the Sinai and Palestine Campaign against the Ottoman Empire during the First World War. The breadth and variety of his activities and associations, and his ability to describe them vividly in writing, earned him international fame as Lawrence of Arabia, a title used for the 1962 film based on his wartime activities.
- Soon after the outbreak of war, he volunteered for the British Army and was stationed in Egypt. In 1916, he was sent to Arabia on an intelligence mission and quickly became involved with the Arab Revolt as a liaison to the Arab forces, along with other British officers. He worked closely with Emir Faisal, a leader of the revolt, and he participated, sometimes as leader, in military actions against the Ottoman armed forces, culminating in the capture of Damascus in October 1918.
- After the war, Lawrence joined the Foreign Office, working with the British government and with Faisal. In 1922 he retreated from public life and spent the years until 1935 serving as an enlisted man, mostly in the Royal Air Force, with a brief period in the Army. During this time, he published his best-known work *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, an autobiographical account of his participation in the Arab Revolt.
- In 1935, Lawrence was fatally injured in a motorcycle accident in Dorset.



# Mustafa Kemal Atatürk

- Turkish field marshal, revolutionary statesman, author, and the founder of the Republic of Turkey, serving as its first President from 1923 until his death in 1938. His benevolent dictatorship undertook sweeping progressive reforms, which modernized Turkey into a secular, industrial nation. Ideologically a secularist and nationalist, his policies and theories became known as Kemalism. Due to his military and political accomplishments, Atatürk is regarded according to studies as one of the greatest leaders of the 20th century. Here are some of his quotes.

- Men, I am not ordering you to attack. I am ordering you to die.
- Unless a nation's life faces peril, war is murder.
- My people are going to learn the principles of democracy, the dictates of truth and the teachings of science. Superstition must go.
- Peace at Home, Peace in the World.
- Everything we see in the world is the creative work of women.

