

# Unit 3: Land Based Empires 1450-1750

## 3.1: Empires Expand 1450-1750 a

- **Gunpowder empires** in SE Asia, Asia, SW Asia
  - States that relied on **gunpowder** to keep power and expand their territories
  - **Ottoman, Safavid, Mughal** all arose from fall of **Tamerlane's** empire
    - **Tamerlane**: military leader from **Samarkand** who took lots of land in **Persia** and **India** area, killing thousands at the gates of Delhi
      - Used military to control merchants on silk roads
      - Large amounts of funding required for military and internal (managing tribes) disputes resulted in its failure
  - **Ottoman Empire (1299-1922)**
    - Largest and greatest of all islamic empires during this time
      - In 1433 under the leadership of **Mehmed II (Mehmed the Conqueror)** sieged and took **Constantinople** from the Byzantine empire using **gunpowder and advanced cannons**
        - Changed name to **Istanbul**
        - Converted **Hagia Sophia** (cathedral) into mosque
        - Benefited from its location because it was at the center of many trade routes
    - **Suleiman the Magnificent (1520-1566)**: was seen as the peak of the Ottoman Empire
      - Conquered more area around the Mediterranean and attempted to push further into europe past **Hungary** but was stopped
        - Regardless still made Europe scared of Ottomans
  - **Safavid Empire (1501-1736)**
    - Ismail I conquered most of Persia, and parts of Iraq using gunpowder
      - Was Islamic, but **Shia Islamic** not **Sunni** like the Ottomans
        - Legitimized power by having a religion for the country but also rejected other countries that weren't Shia, namely, the Ottomans
    - Persian/Iran
  - **Mughal Empire (1526-1761)**
    - Descendent of **Tamerlane** named **Babur** founded **Mughal Empire** when India was in disarray
      - **Babur** completed conquest of **Northern India** using gunpowder and established central government similar to **Suleiman**
    - **Akbar** was an important ruler who led Mughal to be prosperous

- He was **Muslim** but supported other religions in India such as **Hinduism, Sikhism, Zoroastrianism, and Christianity**
    - **Sikhism** started in Punjab India around 1500
    - Sikhism values equality, social justice, service to humanity, and tolerance for other religions
  - Akbar consolidated power by promoting differences, unlike other empires during the time
  - **North India, Pakistan, Bangladesh**
  - Cultural achievements
    - **Taj Mahal**
      - Built by Shah Jahan to honor dead wife but also to display power
  - Fall of Gunpowder Empires
    - Failed to modernize economy and military unlike the Europeans
- Asian Empires:
  - **Russian Empire (1721 to 1917)**
    - Territory stretched from east to west, became wealthy with trade
    - **Ivan IV (Ivan the Terrible)** became **tsar** in 1547
      - Expanded Russia further east into Mongolian territory with gunpowder
  - **Tokugawa Shogunate (1603-1868)**
    - Centralization → peace
- Europe: **Black death** was ending, **Hundred Years' War (1337-1453)** was ending, **Gutenberg Printing Press** spreading ideas
  - Monarchies were coming out of feudal period and wanted to centralize power
    - Methods of consolidating power by kings: control over **taxation, military, and religion**
    - **Bureaucracy** expanded
    - **Tudors in England**
    - **Valois in France**
    - **Isabella and Ferdinand in Spain**
  - **Renaissance (c.1300-c.1600)**
    - Rebirth of Roman and Greek ideals
    - Emphasis on humanism and individualism
    - Funded by Medici family
      - Michaelangelo, Brunelleschi, da Vinci, Donatello
  - Rise of **middle class** arose from these new kingdoms
    - Happened at expense of nobility and clergy
  - **Protestant Reformation** (see unit 4)
- Asia:

- Yuan Dynasty was replaced by Ming Dynasty in **1368** and ruled into 16th century
- 1636 Qing Dynasty established by **Manchu Jurchens** who overtook Ming China for “seven grievances”
  - Restored the **Great Wall of China** against Mongol threat in north
  - **Emperor Kang Xi** expanded Chinese territory into **Taiwan, Mongolia, Central Asia, Tibet** with gunpowder

## 3.2: Empires: Administration 1450-1750

- How rulers of land based empires legitimized and consolidated their power
- Europe: 3 ways
  - 1: **Divine Right of Kings**
    - Similar to **mandate of heaven**
    - In England, King James believed that God put rulers in power and therefore king was vice regent of Jesus himself
      - To oppose king was to oppose Jesus/God
      - Resulted in kings seeing themselves as outside of the law because what the will of God
  - 2: **Justices of the Peace**
    - **Tudor Dynasty (1485-1603)** used them to settle legal disputes and carried out the will of the monarch around England
  - Power was not unchecked
    - **1689 Parliament** passed **English Bill of Rights**
      - Freedom to petition, protections from cruel and unusual punishment
  - 3: Rise of **Absolutism** in France
    - Monarchical system giving absolute power to the king
    - **Henry IV** began process by insisting on **Divine Right of Kings**
    - **Louis XIII** created **intendants**, similar to **Justices of the Peace** because they executed the will of the king and collected taxes (also known as **tax farmers**)
    - **Louis XIV** consolidated so much power he was virtually a dictator
      - Combined **legislative** and **judicial system** for himself
      - Built **Palace at Versailles** to show power
      - Also decreed that nobles must live at palace to keep them close and avoid rebellion
- Ottoman Empire:
  - Ottomans sultans used a system called **Devshirme**
    - Took enslaved people from tribute states of empire (**Balkans**)

- Educated these people and made them serve in military or work as administrators of the empire
  - Typically boys from age 8-20
- Islam teaches that muslim cannot enslave another muslim so the Ottomans took people from the southern European and **Balkan** christian population
- **Janissaries** were the elite military corps of the Ottoman empire from the **Devshirme** system
  - The administrators or janissaries became fiercely loyal to the sultan
- East and SE Asia
  - Ming Rulers overthrew Yuan Dynasty and established **Ming Dynasty (1368–1644)**
    - Wanted to remove all traces of mongols
      - Reintroduced civil service exam and strengthened bureaucracy
  - Japan was organized like feudal europe
    - **Daimyo** were landowning aristocracy who employed **samurai** for protection
    - Japan was fractured among many **daimyo** territories
    - Over time the daimyo grew powerful and unified more of Japan
  - **Tokugawa Shogunate (1603 – 1868)**
    - **Tokugawa Ieyasu** was a daimyo who moved power from daimyo to shogun
    - The emperor remained in his palace in Kyōto chiefly as a symbol of power behind the shogun
    - Similar to Louis XIV, required daimyo to live in capital city of tokyo as well as their home
- India/**Mughal Empire (1526–1761)**
  - **Akbar** known as greatest ruler of Mughal empire
    - Established efficient system for managing
    - **Zamindars** went around india collecting taxes and settling disputes as administrative power
  - 3 main ways rulers legitimized power: **Religion, Art, and Architecture**
    - In Africa in the **Songhai Empire (unit 1)**, Askia the Great claimed **Islam** as official religion and created a sense of cultural unity
    - In India, **Shah Jahan** commissioned the **Taj Mahal** as a tomb for his wife

- The **Ottomans** changed **Constantinople** to **Istanbul** and built magnificent mosques, the most magnificent of them being the **Suleymaniye Mosque**
- **Louis XIV** built **Palace at Versailles** in France
- All these grand gestures made people realize these rulers had power

### 3.3: Empires: Belief Systems 1450-1750 a

- Major belief systems
  - Hinduism
    - Polytheistic, cycle of reincarnation and reaching spiritual liberation
    - Dominant in South Asia (modern day India)
    - **Bhakti Movement**
      - Spiritual and social movement in India
      - Emphasized importance of personal relationship with a deity; less formal, ritualistic, and traditional
      - Influenced Indian music and literature
  - Islam
    - Monotheistic
    - **Five Pillars of Islam**
    - Ottoman Empire, Mughal Empire (1526-1857)
    - **Sufism**
      - Mystic belief system with rituals
      - Closer to God with prayer and meditation
      - Emphasis on “brotherhood”
      - Missionaries spread Islam
    - **Sikhism**
      - **Syncretic religion** combining Islam (monotheism) and Hinduism (karma and reincarnation)
        - Equality of all people; reject caste
        - Social justice
      - Developed in Punjab region, northern South Asia
        - High Islam-Hindu contact
    - Sunni-Shia Split
      - ~700 CE, but conflict intensified between Ottoman (Sunni) and Safavid (Shia)
  - Buddhism
    - Originated in India
    - **Four Noble Truths and Eightfold Path**

- End suffering and achieve enlightenment
- **Theravada Buddhism**
  - Meditation and simplicity
- **Mahayana Buddhism**
  - Spread more because of mission to spread
  - East Asia
- Christianity
  - **Protestant Reformation**
    - 16th century
    - Challenged authority and corruption of Pope
      - Sold **indulgences**
    - Led by Martin Luther, German monk
      - 1517: Published the Ninety-Five Theses
      - Translated bible to German, making it more accessible to public
      - Lutheran church created
    - Calvinism
      - John Calvin from France → God already chose future
      - Also influential
    - Results
      - Created protestant churches
      - Contributed to the development of nation-states and democratization
  - **Counter-Reformation**
    - Catholics' attempt to gain back followers
    - **Jesuits**
      - Focusing on the teachings of Jesus
      - Self-control and moderation
      - Missionaries
    - **Council of Trent (1545-1563)**
      - Clarify Catholic stance on religious questions
      - Punished "heretics"
- Confucianism
  - Philosophical system, not religious
  - Social harmony, filial piety, authority, tradition
  - Chinese empires
- Americas
  - Aztec and Inca used previously existing religions
    - Aztecs → Mayan
    - Incas → Moche and Chavin

- Worship sun and moon
- Human sacrifice
  - Aztecs especially more prevalent

### 3.4: Comparisons in Land Based Empires 1450-1750 t

- <https://library.fiveable.me/ap-world/unit-3/comparison-land-based-empires/study-guide/2Rn32kOkbYrFiBFILoBh>
- **Land-Based Empires**
  - **Mughal Empire (1526–1761)**
    - Ruled South Asia
      - Founded by Muslim dynasty of Chagatai Turco-Mongol origin
      - Claimed direct descent from **Timur (Tamerlane)** and **Ghenghis Khan**
    - Period of economic, cultural, and architectural (and artistic) prosperity
  - **Ottoman Empire (c.1300-1923)**
    - At peak in 1500s, 1600s, they ruled much of **SE Europe, West Africa, North Africa**
    - Ruled by **(Sunni) Islamic** Turks
    - Centralized, autocratic government, diverse population of Muslims, Christians, and Jews
    - Dissolved in 1923 after their defeat in WWI
  - **Safavid Empire (1501-1722)**
    - Eastern **(Shia) Islamic** State founded by **Ismail I**
      - Centered in modern-day Iran and surrounding areas
      - Contributed to Persian art, literature, and culture
    - Fought with Ottoman empires through border disputes and **Shia vs. Sunni** Muslim divide
    - Fell in late 18th century, dissolved in early 19th
  - **Songhai Empire (1375-1591)**
    - Ruled over a large part of West Africa
      - Capital was city of **Gao** on **Niger River**
      - Known for strong military which led it to expand
    - Had an advanced government system
      - **Well-organized bureaucracy**, highly centralized administration
    - Declined in late 16th century as a result of internal conflicts and Moroccan invasions
  - **Russian Empire (1721 to 1917)**
    - World's largest country by land area and third most populous
    - Ruled by **Romanov dynasty**

- Strong government, rigid hierarchy
  - **Tsar** had absolute power in this autocracy
- Multiethnic state with over 100 ethnic groups in its borders
- Major player in world affairs
- Dissolved after **Russian Revolution of 1917** and establishing of **USSR**
- **Ming Empire (China) (1368–1644)**
  - **Han Chinese** established **Ming Dynasty** after overthrowing Mongolian **Yuan Dynasty**
    - Known for strong government, cultural achievements, economic growth
  - Period of relative peace and prosperity in China
  - Finished **Great Wall of China** and constructed **Forbidden City** in **Beijing**
    - Economy based on agriculture, trade, and manufacturing
  - Fell after it was deposed by the Qing Dynasty
- **Qing Empire (China) (1644–1911)**
  - China's final imperial dynasty founded by **Manchu** people
  - Centralized government, social hierarchy, bureaucratic rule system
  - Multicultural state with **Han Chinese, Manchus, Mongols**, other ethnic groups
  - Experienced significant economic, social, and cultural development
  - Major player in **Industrial Revolution** and global power in 18th and early 19th centuries
  - **Xinhai Revolution (1911 Revolution)** ended imperial rule in China
- **Incan Empire (c.1200–1533)**
  - South American Empire by **Andes Mountains**
    - Largest empire in pre-columbian americas
  - Had an advanced system of government
    - Well-organized bureaucracy, strong centralized administration
  - Known for impressive architectural achievements
    - **Roads, aqueducts, terraced agriculture**
  - Conquered by spanish in early 16th century
- **Aztec (Mexica Empire) (c.1300 to 1521)**
  - **Native American** civilization in central **Mexico**
    - Established **Aztec** empire known for its sophisticated government system
      - Organized bureaucracy, strong centralized administration
      - Architectural and artistic accomplishments
      - Military prowess
  - Religion based on worship of a pantheon of gods



- Known for elaborate ceremonies and human sacrifices
  - Conquered by Spanish in early 16th century
- **Tokugawa Japan (1603-1868)**
  - Tokugawa shogunate was a feudal government led by the Tokugawa family
    - Rule led to a period of political stability and economic growth
    - Used strong, centralized government to keep control
    - Isolated Japan and had strict trade regulations to maintain control
  - Time of cultural and artistic flourishing
  - Meiji restoration ended feudal rule and Tokugawa shogunate was deposed in 1868
- **Maritime Empires**
  - **British Empire (c.1500-c.2000)**
    - Centered on British Isles
      - Largest empire in history with territories on every continent
      - Categorized by global trade network and system of colonies
    - Major player in world affairs, helping to shape the modern world
    - Declined in 20th century
  - **Spanish Empire (1492 - 1968)**
    - Global empire centered in Spain that ruled over a large portion of the world
      - Territories in **Europe, Americas, Africa, Asia**
    - Distinguished by powerful centralized government and a vast network of trade and colonization
    - Began to decline in 18th century
  - **Portuguese Empire (1415 - 1999)**
    - Ruled over significant portion of world with territories in **Africa, Asia, Americas**
      - Strong centralized government, global trade and colonization network
    - Declined in 19th century
  - **French Empire (1534–1980)**
    - Centered in France, ruled over the majority of the world with many colonies in **Africa**, and others in **Europe, the Americas, Africa, Asia**
    - Characterized by centralized government and a vast network of trade and colonization
    - **French revolution 1789-1799**
    - Declined in 19th century
  - **Dutch Empire (1595 - 1975)**
    - Empire centered in Netherlands

- Had territories in **Americas, Africa, Asia**
  - Strong centralized government and global network of trade and colonization
  - Declined in 19th century
- Differences between Land-Based and Maritime Empires
  - Land based had most of power and wealth come from the land
    - Rich agriculture, profitable trade routes
  - Maritime based had most of power and wealth come from trade overseas
    - Colonies overseas, controlling overseas trade routes
  - Administrative systems
    - Religious Justification: **French/English (Divine Right of Kings), China (Mandate of Heaven), Songhai (Songhai Islam)**
      - Claiming connection to the divine as the right to rule
    - Military elites: **Ottoman (Devshirme), Japan (Samurai)**
      - System of warriors loyal to ruler which helps them maintain power
    - Both were often linked to gain more legitimacy
  - Social Hierarchies
    - Based on Race/Culture: **Qing Dynasty (restrictive policy on Han Chinese), Spanish Empire (casta system)**
    - Based on Religion: **Ottoman (Millet System), Mughal (Zamindar/Rajput system)**
    - Millet system gave each religion its own political zone
      - Islamic zone highest, other zones free to practice their own religion
  - Maritime Empires
    - Trading Post Empires: **Portuguese in Africa/India, Dutch in Southeast Asia (Dutch East India Company)**
    - Colonial Empires: **French, British, Spanish in North America; Spanish in South America**
    - Europeans were often trading posts while colonial empires were some European countries that set up their own populations in conquered land