**War, Diplomacy, and Balance of Power, Part One**

Key Terms, Events, and People: The Qajar Dynasty (1785-1925), Russian Empire and ambitions in MENA; “Eastern Question;” “Great Game”

Lesson Goals: Students will learn about the factors that led to increased competition between the Ottomans and different European powers over spheres of influence as well as among European powers for slices of the Ottoman Empire’s markets and territories.

Lesson Outline:

1. Introduction to European “Balance of Power” between states in the 17th century and why it mattered to the Ottoman Empire
2. The capitulation system- advantages and disadvantages for the Ottoman Empire
3. “The Eastern Question” (Mediterranean) and the “Great Game” (Central Asia)
4. Three reasons Europeans have to start confronting question of future control over MENA- A- Rise of Russian Empire and expansionism B-British/French rivalries spread to Mediterranean and Asia C- rise of nationalism/secessionist sentiment in the Balkans

Questions you should be able to answer by the end of class:

What did Ottoman-European rivalry look like in the 17th century versus the 18th and 19th centuries? What measures did the Ottomans adopt to shore up their power against European states?

What were the “Eastern Question” and the “Great Game”?

What were the respective interests of Russia, France, and Great Britain in the Middle East and North Africa from the 18th century onwards?