

Teacher Overview Objectives: The Ottoman Empire

1

Describe the geographic extent of the Ottoman Empire at the height of their power.

2

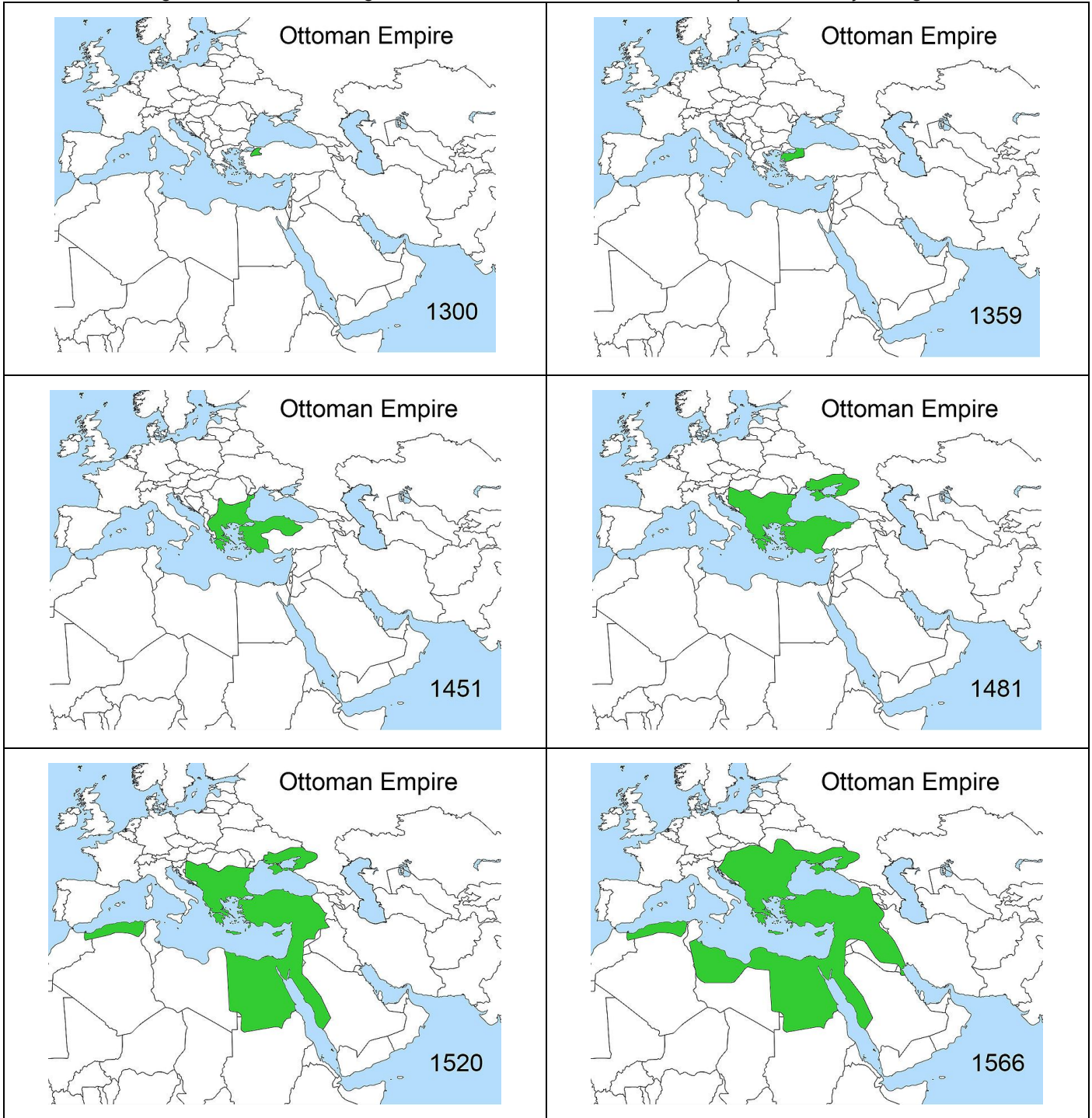
Analyze how the ethnic and religious composition of the Ottoman Empire was reflected in their political and societal organizations.

1

How did the Ottoman Empire's territory change?

Objective: Describe the geographic extent of the Ottoman Empire at the height of its power.

Directions: Using the [PPT](#) and the images below, observe how the Ottoman Empire's territory change over time.



How did the geographic extent of the Ottoman Empire change over time?

At the height of its power, the Ottoman Empire under Suleiman (1520-1566) controlled large territory in three continents: _____, _____, and _____.

The Rise of the Ottoman Empire

The **OTTOMANS** were a **Muslim** Turkish-speaking **nomadic** people who **migrated** from Central Asia in northwestern Asia Minor. They quickly **conquered** other societies and **expanded** their empire.

Flashback: What other nomadic people migrated throughout Asia and established a large empire? _____ .

1096-1290s: The **Crusades** were fought between Muslims and Christians.

Using your prior knowledge, what sparked the Crusades?

How did the Crusades affect the relationship between Christians and Muslims?



The Battle of Ager Sanguinis, medieval miniature

1326: A leader named Osman and his Turkish warriors (Ottomans) took over areas of Asia Minor and the Balkan Peninsula in Eastern Europe near the Byzantine Empire.

How might Christian leaders of the Byzantine Empire feel about the Muslim Ottomans taking over territory so close to the Byzantine Empire? Explain.



1453: Under the leader, Mehmet II, the Ottomans continue to **expand** and capture the capital of the Byzantine Empire, **Constantinople**. **Constantinople** was renamed **Istanbul** and became the new capital of the Ottoman Empire. **Hagia Sophia**, a church, was turned into a mosque.

Mehmet II is said to have ridden into Constantinople on a white horse. After a 54 days and using a 27-foot cannon hauled by oxen and an advanced army with muskets [guns], Constantinople fell to the Ottomans.

What message did the conquest of the Byzantine Empire send to the rest of Europe?

Why did the Ottomans convert the Hagia Sophia into a mosque?

Why was this conquest a turning point in global history?



Sultan Mehmed II's entry into Constantinople, painting by Fausto Zonaro (1854-1929)



Source: Farah and Karls, World History, The Human Experience, Glencoe/McGraw-Hill (adapted) from the NYS Global History and Geography Regents Examination, August 2007.

Based on this map, why was Constantinople so important to the Ottomans?

1520-1566: The Ottoman Empire had a **golden age** under the **sultan** named **Suleiman**. The Ottomans called Suleiman “The Lawgiver” and Europeans called him “The Magnificent.”

Suleiman also developed laws and enforced the Islamic law of sharia. Suleiman had several accomplishments:

- Took on bold military campaigns that increased the amount of territory controlled by the Ottoman
- Increased naval strength allowed them to conquer parts of North Africa
- Oversaw achievements of Ottoman civilization in the fields of law, literature, art, and architecture
- Built strong fortresses to defend his territories
- Adorned and modernized the cities of the Islamic world (including Mecca, Damascus, and Baghdad) with mosques, bridges, aqueducts, and other public works

1529: Suleiman’s army **besieged** Vienna. This sent fear throughout Europe because Europe learned of the strength of the Ottoman Empire. They were unsuccessful in conquering Vienna, but they continued to be seen as a threatening empire seeking to conquer Europe.

1555: **Ogier Ghiselin de Busbecq** was sent as an ambassador to the Ottoman Empire to negotiate a border treaty between the Holy Roman Emperor and Suleiman over a disputed territory. During his time in the Ottoman Empire, he wrote *The Turkish Letters*. *The Turkish Letters* provided insight on non-Turkish views of the Ottoman Empire.

What are common characteristics of golden ages?

How did Suleiman rule his government?

What were some of Suleiman’s achievements?

How might the siege of Vienna affect how Europe viewed the Ottoman Empire?

2

How did the Ottoman Empire's ethnic and religious composition influence political and social structures?

Objective: Analyze how the ethnic and religious composition of the Ottoman Empire was reflected in their political and societal organizations.

Who are the Ottomans?

Directions: As you observe the image, write down your observations as well as what these observations can help you infer about characteristics of the Ottoman Empire.



Studio Portrait of Models Wearing Traditional Clothing from the Province of Iles d'Archipel (Islands of the Archipelago), Ottoman Empire (1873) Source: <http://www.wdl.org/en/item/337/#q=ottoman>

Observations	What can you infer about the Ottoman Empire from this image?

Directions: As you observe the image, write down your observations as well as what these observations can help you infer about characteristics of the Ottoman Empire.



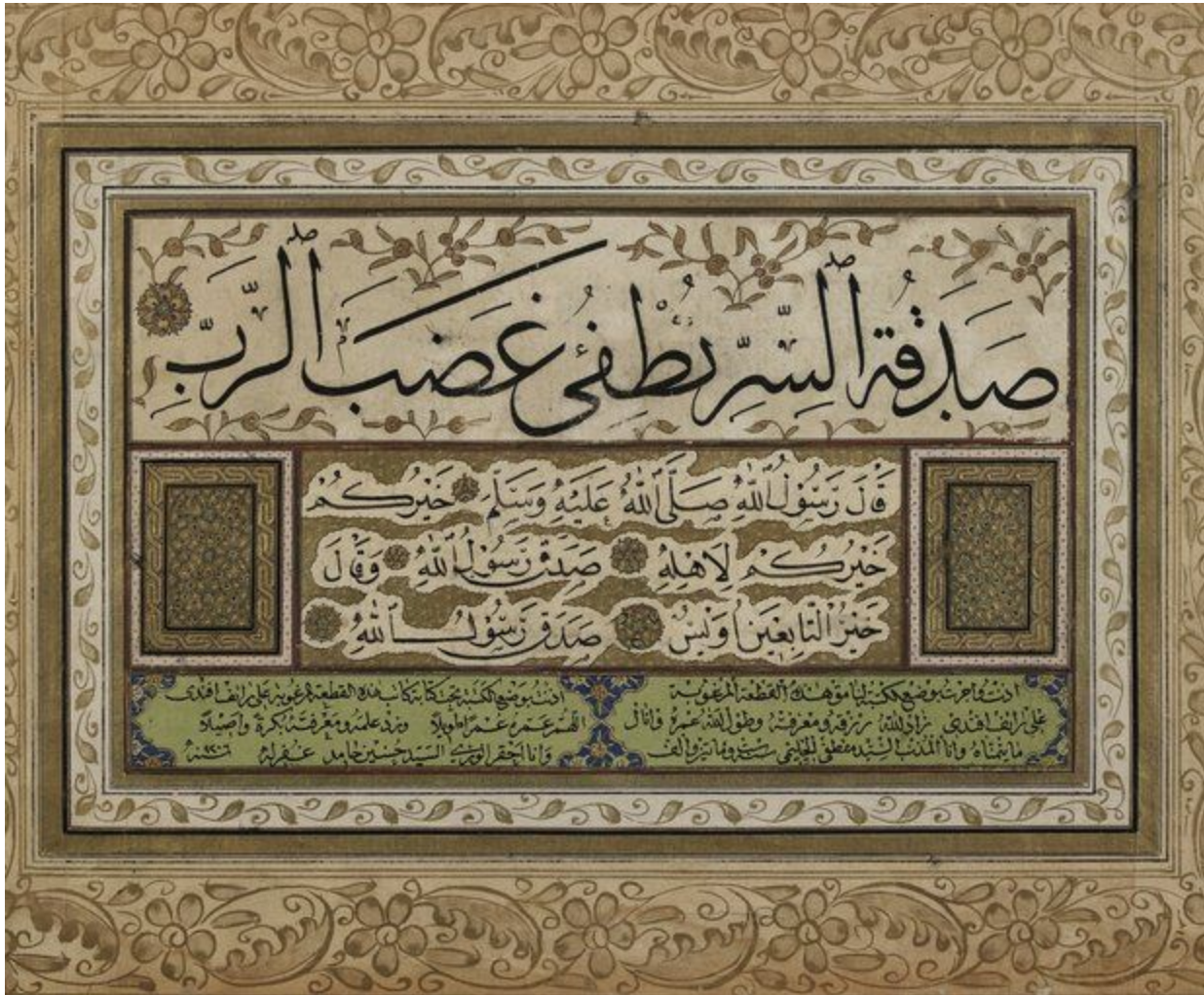
Ottoman Turkish Version of “Sindbād-nāmah”

Description: This work is an Ottoman illustrated and illuminated copy of the *Tuhfet ül-ahyār*, which is an Ottoman Turkish version of the well-known story of Sindbad (Sindbād-nāmah) story written in the Islamic Abbasid Caliphate.. It concerns Sindbad the Wise (not Sindbad the Sailor), who was a tutor to the son of an Asian king. (1500-1600 CE) Source:

<http://www.wdl.org/en/item/9212/#q=ottoman>

Observations	What can you infer about the Ottoman Empire from this image?

Directions: As you observe the image, write down your observations as well what these observations can help you infer about characteristics of the Ottoman Empire.



Diploma Description: This ijazah, or diploma of competency in Arabic calligraphy, was written by 'Ali Ra'if Efendi in 1791. The top and middle panels contain a saying (hadith) attributed to the Prophet Muhammad. It reads: "Secret charity quenches the wrath of the Lord. / The best of you is the best for his family. / The best of the followers is Uways." (1790 CE) Source: <http://www.wdl.org/en/item/2489/#q=ottoman&page=2>

Observations	What can you learn about the Ottoman Empire from this image?

Directions: As you observe the image, write down your observations as well as what these observations can help you infer about characteristics of the Ottoman Empire.



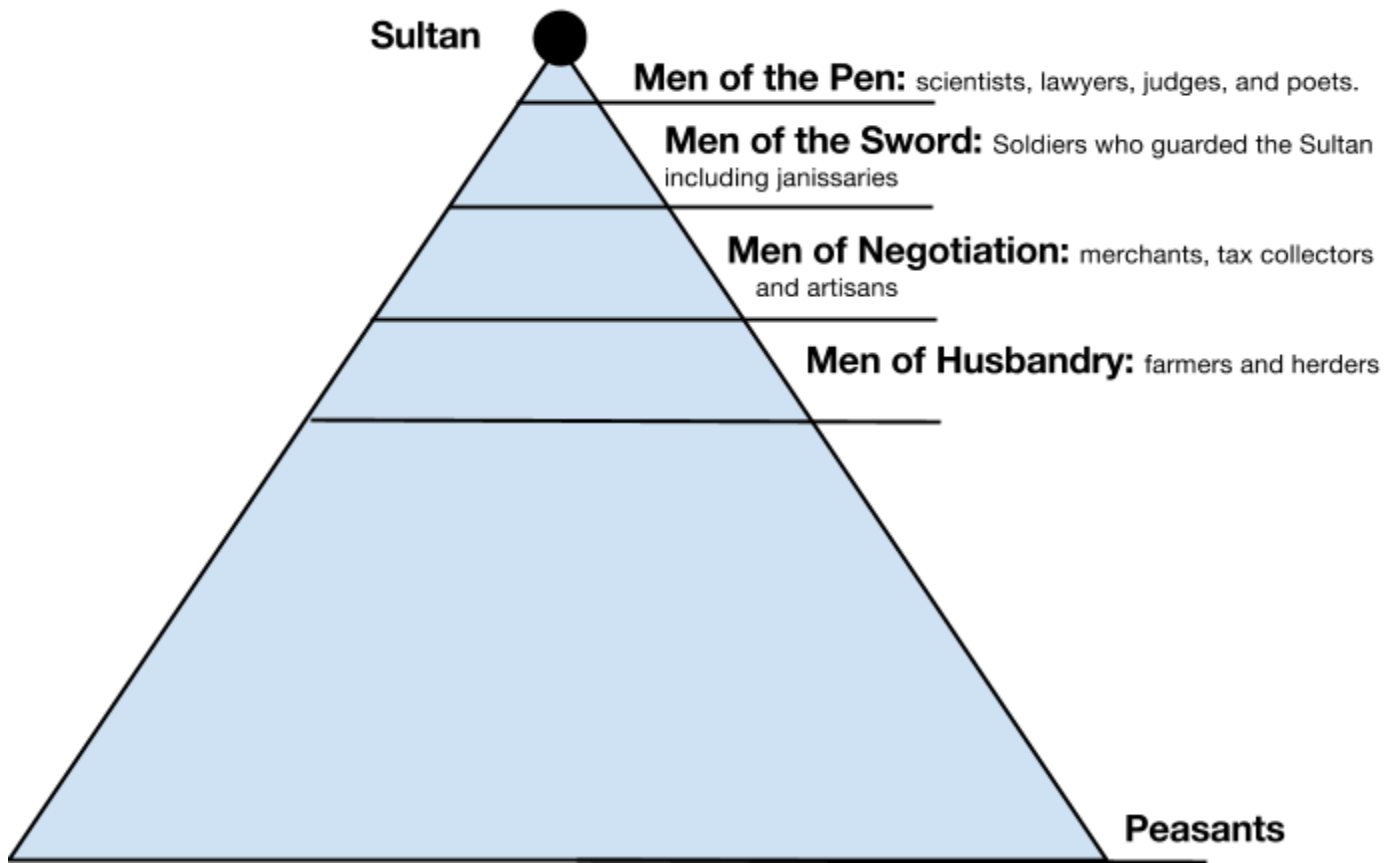
Two Jewish Women Standing, Facing Each Other, in Tunisia.

Description: This photograph presents two Jewish women in Tunisia [North Africa], a country that was a French protectorate at the time, although formally a territory of the Ottoman Empire. (1900) Source:

<http://www.wdl.org/en/item/15/#q=ottoman&page=4>

Observations	What can you learn about the Ottoman Empire from this image?



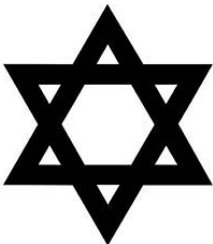
Social Hierarchy in the Ottoman Empire



According to this social ladder, what were the most important professions?

According to this social ladder, what can you infer about the role of women?

As the Ottoman Empire grew, new people, particularly non-Muslims became part of the Ottoman Empire. The Ottoman Empire was **DIVERSE** and composed of **three major religious and ethnic groups**:

<p>Muslims</p> 	<p>Christians</p> 	<p>Jews</p> 
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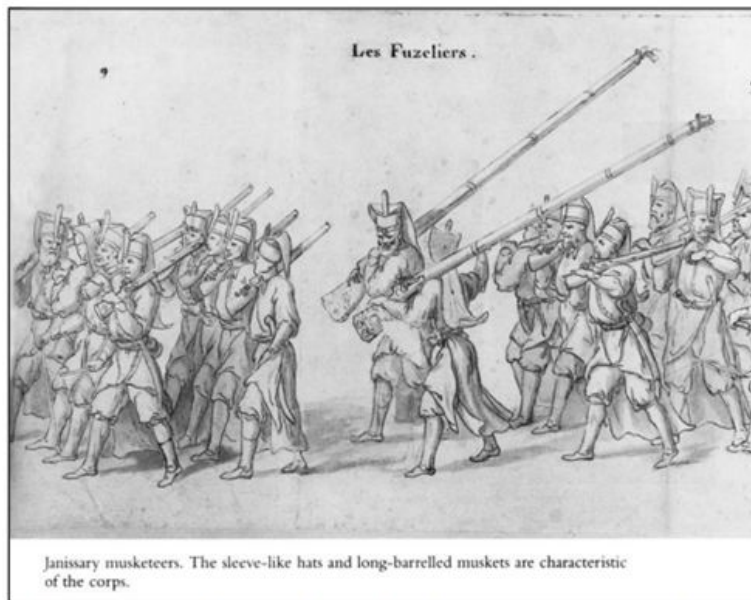
Flashback: What is one similarity between Muslims, Christians and Jews?

_____ .

What about the location of the Ottoman Empire made it culturally diverse?

Tools for Empire Building:

How did the Ottoman Empire successfully hold such a diverse empire together? How did they maintain Muslim influence?



Janissary musketeers. The sleeve-like hats and long-barrelled muskets are characteristic of the corps.

Source: Bernard Lewis, *The Middle East: A Brief History of the Last 2,000 Years*, Touchstone

The Ottomans ruled a vast area that included many diverse peoples with many religions. Nevertheless, the Ottomans held their empire together successfully for hundreds of years, thus making Islam the dominant cultural force throughout the region.

Non-Muslims in the Ottoman Empire were organized into religious communities called **millet**s. Each millet was allowed to maintain its own religious traditions and educate its people – as long as it obeyed Ottoman law.

Ottoman leaders furthered Muslim influence by recruiting military and government officers from conquered groups. Some Christian families in the Balkans were required to turn their young sons over to the government. The boys were raised as Muslims and trained for service [in the Ottoman bureaucracy]. The best soldiers became “**janissaries**,” the elite shock troops in the Ottoman army.

Source: Adapted & Excerpted from Goldberg/Dupre, “2012 Prentice Hall Brief Review: Global History & Geography,” pg 118.

1. According to the document above, what are millets?

a. How did these millets help the Ottoman Empire hold their diverse empire together?

b. If you were a non-Muslim in the Ottoman Empire, would you like or dislike the millets? Explain.

2. According to the document above, what are janissaries?

a. How did the janissaries help the Ottoman Empire maintain Muslim influence?

b. If you were a non-Muslim in the Ottoman Empire, would you like or dislike the janissaries system? Explain.

Interactions with Europe:

How did the Ottoman Empire interact with Europe?



Watch the whole video!

<http://tinyurl.com/johngreenottomans>

But first, a map...



Time	Transcript	Question / Notes
0:00-0:15	We're gonna talk about the relationship between a city, Venice, and an empire, the Ottomans.	
0:48-0:58	I'm hoping you'll understand how one mutually beneficial relationship, between the Venetians and the Ottomans, led to two really big deals: The European Renaissance and Christopher Columbus.	<i>John Green says the relationship between Venice [Europeans] and Ottomans was "mutually beneficial". What does "mutually beneficial" mean?</i>

1:02-1:11 Venice is a city made up of hundreds of **islands** at the northern tip of the Adriatic Sea, but walking around it, you can't help but feel that the city is essentially a collection of floating buildings tied together by some **canals**.

1:11-1:25 If ever there was a place where **geography was destiny**, it was Venice. Venice was literally built for ocean-going **trade**. As you can imagine, they didn't have a lot of **natural resources**— except for fish and mustaches— [sweet!] so if they wanted to grow, they'd have to rely on trade.

1:26-2:00 First, Venetians became experts in **shipbuilding**. Remember that when the **Crusaders** needed ships for their crazy Fourth Crusade they headed to Venice, because the Venetians were famous for merchant ships like the Galley and the Cog. Not only could they build ships; they could also sail them to pleasant locales like **Constantinople** and the Levant, so the Venetians formed trade treaties, sometimes called concessions, with the **Byzantines**, and then when Constantinople fell to the Ottomans and became Istanbul, the Venetians were quick to make trade treaties with their new neighbors...

2:00-2:12 Even before the Ottomans, Venice had experience trading with the Islamic world: It initially established itself as the biggest European power in the Mediterranean thanks to its trade with Egypt's sultan in the outlandishly lucrative pepper business....Due to some awkward Crusades the Egyptian **merchants** were not so welcome in Europe. But they had all the pepper, because the Egyptians imported it from India and controlled both the overland and oversea access to the Mediterranean. And when others cited moral or

You will later learn that Venice was a trading town. How does being an island near many canals help them trade?

Why did Venice have to trade?

In what did the Venetians become experts?

How did this expertise benefit them?

What major event changed who the Venetians traded with?

Before the Ottomans, why was Venice considered the "biggest European power in the Mediterranean"?

When others in Europe were hesitant to trade with Muslims in

religious opposition to trade, the Venetians usually found a way...which is why the whole freaking town is [so wealthy].

3:45 What did Venice **import**? Lots, but notable for us, they imported a lot of grain, because if you have ever been to Venice, Then you might have noticed that it is basically made out of marble and therefore difficult to farm. The Ottomans, on the other hand, had abundant grain, even before they conquered Egypt and its oh-so-fertile Nile River in 1517.

4:00 Also, while trade was certainly the lynchpin of Venice's economic success, they had a diverse economy. They also produced things like **textiles** and glass. And in fact Venice is still known for its glass, but they couldn't produce it without a special ash that they used to make the colors. And you'll never guess where the ash came from. The Ottomans.

4:46 [T]he Ottomans were an empire that lasted from around 1300 CE until 1919, making it one of the longest-lasting and **richest empires** in world history. The Ottomans managed to blend their pastoral nomadic roots with some very un-nomadic empire building, and some really impressive architecture[.]

5:21 The Ottomans were greatest in the 15th and 16th centuries under two famous sultans: First, **Mehmet the Conqueror** ruled from 1451 to 1481 and expanded Ottoman control to the Balkans, which is why there are Bosnian Muslims today. But Ottoman expansion reached its greatest extent under **Suleiman the Magnificent**, who ruled from 1520-1566. He took valuable territory in Mesopotamia and Egypt, thus securing control over the western parts of the Asian trade – both overland and oversea. He also defeated the king of Hungary and laid siege to Vienna in 1526. And he turned the Ottomans into a huge naval power.

5:57 The Ottomans basically controlled about half of what the Romans controlled, but it was much more valuable because of all the **Indian Ocean trade**.

Egypt, what did Venice decide to do? Why?

What did Venice import?

What did the Ottomans export?

In addition to trade, how else did Venice make money?

Under which leader did the Ottomans reach its greatest extent?

In comparison to Rome, how much land did the Ottomans control?

What made this land more valuable?

8:14 After the Ottomans captured Egypt, they pretty much controlled the flow of trade through the Mediterranean, but the Venetians had and centuries of experience as mariners, and also lots of boats. The Ottomans were content to let the Venetians do all the like, trading and carrying of goods, and they just made their money from taxes. And that worked because both Venice and the Ottomans added value to the other.

After the Ottomans captures Egypt, what did they control?

What power did this give them?

Venice did the trading so how did the Ottomans gain most of their wealth?