The Ottoman Empire and its Legacy in the Middle East

Introduction to Middle East Politics: Change, Continuity, Conflict, and Cooperation
Overview

• The Religious and Imperial Heritage of the Middle East
  − The Religious Heritage of the Middle East
  − The pre-Ottoman Imperial History of the Middle East: from Byzantium to the Caliphates

• The Ottoman Empire
  − The People of the Ottoman Empire
  − The Millet System
  − The Emergence of National Identities
  − Origins of Turkish National Identity
  − Origins of Arab National Identity

• The Legacy of Ottoman Rule in the Middle East
  − The Institutions of Ottoman Rule
  − The Tanzimat

• The Decline of the Ottoman Empire
  − The Military and Political Authority
  − European Intervention in the Ottoman Empire
  − The Capitulations Treaties and the Entrenchment of Economic Dependency
  − Europe and ‘Sponsorship’ of non-Muslim communities in the Late Ottoman Empire
The Religious and Imperial Heritage of the Middle East

- The Religious Heritage of the Middle East
  - The People of the Book: Jews, Christians, & Zoroastrians

- The pre-Ottoman Imperial History of the Middle East: from Byzantium to the Caliphates
  - The Caliphate and the Spread of Islam
    - The Umayyads
    - The ‘Abbasids
    - The Mamluks
The Expansion of Islamic Rule to the end of 750 CE

Source: Boston Public Library
The Ottoman Empire

• The People of the Ottoman Empire
  – The Ottoman Empire, for the majority of its existence, had a Muslim-minority population

• The Millet System
  – The Millet System and the Relationship between Religious and Political Authority
    • A system designed to ensure the representation of officially recognised non-Muslim (dhimmi) communities (Greek Orthodox, Armenian [Armenian Catholic, Evangelical, Apostolic], Syrian Orthodox, and Jewish), with each exercising their own personal status law
    • Institutionalised preferential treatment for the Muslim community
Expansion of the Ottoman Empire

Source: Naqshbandi.org
The Legacy of Ottoman Rule in the Middle East

• The Institutions of Ottoman Rule
  – The Sultan, Grand Vizier, the Grand Mufti, and the saray

• The Tanzimat
  – Tax standardisation, enshrinement of private property rights, centralisation of the bureaucracy, conscription, and the vilayets
  – Introduction of a Constitution and a Parliament
  – Power drifting to the major urban areas, and fraying Ottoman authority in the rural areas
    • This impacted on future political dynamics, particularly in the Arab east
Decline of the Ottoman Empire

Source: historyandcivilization.com
The Decline of the Ottoman Empire

- The Military and Political Authority
  - Muhammad ‘Ali’s Egypt
- European Intervention in the Ottoman Empire
- The Capitulations Treaties and the Entrenchment of Economic Dependency
  - The OPDA
- Europe and ‘Sponsorship’ of non-Muslim communities in the Late Ottoman Empire

Source: Public Domain