

Land Empires in the Age of Imperialism

THE EUROPEAN MOMENT (1750 – 1900)



- ***What do I need to do?***

- You will need to take notes from these slides and video clips instead of reading the corresponding sections out of the textbook.

- ***What is the “take away” from this material?***

- There were three major “land empires” during the Age of Imperialism and because the three resisted reforms and innovation they provided no check to the powerful European nations who were colonizing the world.

- The Ottoman, Qing, & Russian empires in Asia / Middle East were all forced to confront the military and economic powers of Industrialized Europe (just like Africa & S.E. Asia).
- In all 3 empires they continued to live & govern by tradition until reforms had to be made. Nonetheless, the industrialized powers will hold the upper hand and shortly into the 20th century the empires / dynasties would be gone.

OTTOMAN EMPIRE

- Since 1750 the empire was in decline (no more good ole days of Suleiman the Magnificent!) with various sections breaking off and exerting independence (ex: Greece was the first to break free; the Saud Family took control of Mecca and ultimately Saudi Arabia).



Map 19-2
Ways of the World, First Edition
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Quick Video 1



Decline of the Ottoman Empire

- This video begins by highlighting past accomplishments of the Ottoman Empire, and then discusses the start of their decline. Most of which you will see in the video occurs before the 1800s, which is a shame since the focus of this PowerPoint is really the Ottomans during the 19th century.
- However, by seeing the trend of decline that existed in the empire prior to the 19th century it allows you to understand the level of corruption and weakness that existed there during the Age of Imperialism and how others were eventually able to take advantage of them.
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T-SUIb4rwls>

- Egypt, which was semi-independent under loose control of the Ottomans, was invaded by Napoleon in 1798 (Napoleon went back to France to become emperor and not long after his generals withdrew in 1801).



- After the French Occupation power was filled by Muhammad Ali who carried out reforms (military conscription, special military schools, etc.) to help Egypt become more independent.
- However, European pressure was too much and ultimately the British exerted economic influence over them.

- The Ottoman Empire as a whole also attempted to make reforms under Sultan Selim III, however changes in tax policy and efforts to centralize political control upset the status quo.
 - The Janissaries who had over the years gained power and were resistant to any change that stripped them from power (As a result, Janissary uprisings took place such as in Serbia).
 - Muslim religious scholars distrusted what they saw as the “secularization” of law & taxation.



- In sum, changes to traditional policies were met with resistance, and thus Ottoman sultans decided to impose changes more forcefully (Ex: A secret military unit bombarded and dissolved the Janissary corps)
- These mid 19th century reforms were known as the Tanzimat:
 - Ended tax farming & the tax on non-Muslims
 - Equal protection under the law, public trials
 - Sharia law was restricted to family law
- Europeans approved of these changes and recognized them as a new “modernizing” Ottoman Empire (especially because tolerance spread for Christians).



- However, despite these changes the status of women did not improve, and perhaps got worse.
 - There was no attempt to give women a political voice
 - No improvement in educational opportunities
 - Less employment opportunities with the introduction of mechanization in textiles
 - The right of a woman to hold on to her property was lost (this was one of the last things to go)
- Furthermore, the Ottoman Empire wasn't getting any stronger, it was a "sick man."

The Crimean War (1853-1856)

- The Russian Empire (which for years had been expanding) tried to take advantage of the vulnerable Ottomans by taking over the Caucasus region (they wanted access to the Mediterranean).
- Europeans (British & French) aided the Ottomans (It wasn't so much that the Europeans cared about Ottomans, they just weren't sure they wanted the Russians to take some of it).
- The Russians are denied the land they want.



Why is it significant?

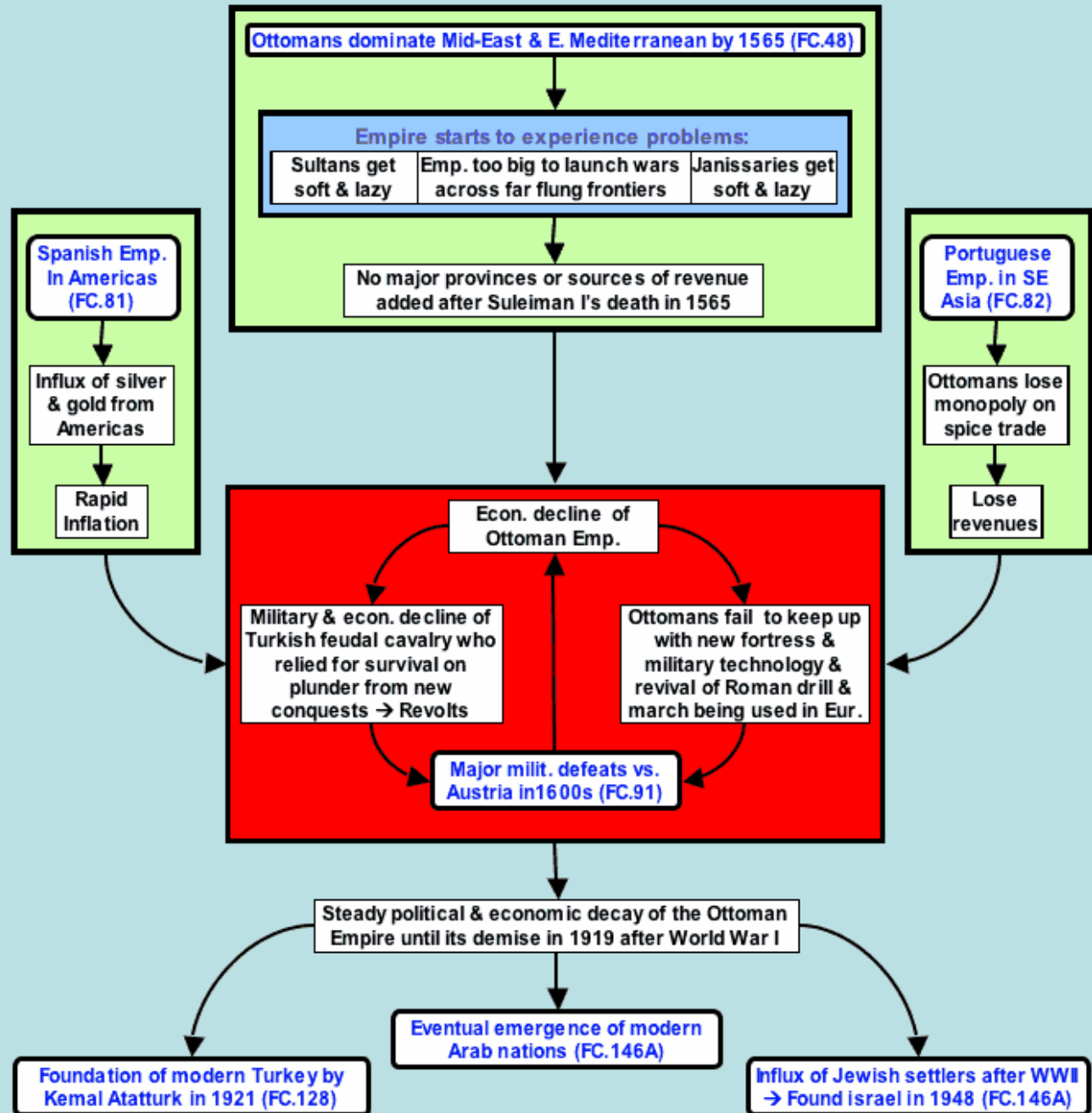
- A first for newspaper propaganda & effective nursing
- Traditional warfare was replaced with “modern warfare” (rifles were more important than cavalry)
- It reflects imperialism

Effects on the Ottomans:

- The Ottoman government will become dependent on foreign assistance
- Turks moved to urban areas to look for work
- Few exports will leave Turkey
- Young Ottomans lead liberal reforms

FC.49 THE DECLINE OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE (c.1565-1918)

Let this flowchart help you further understand the decline of the Ottomans.



RUSSIAN EMPIRE

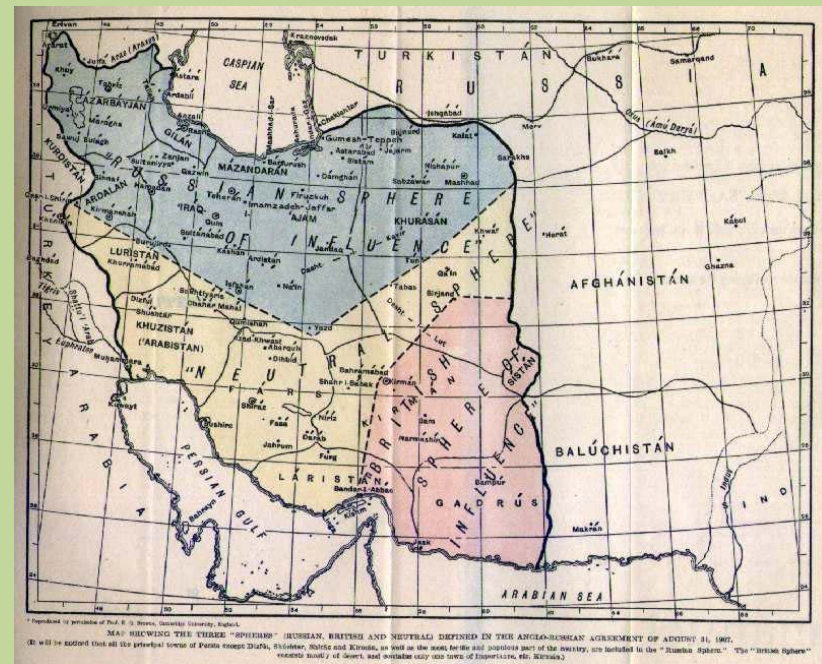
- In 1812 Napoleon invaded Russia and was forced to withdraw. Similar to Egypt, this propelled a reform effort from the top down by Tsar Alexander I (i.e. not a grass roots efforts, but orders from the top).
- At the time Russia had no middle class – serfdom was a major feature of Russian society, the tsar ruled as an absolute ruler, and most people lived in rural areas.



- Reform efforts faltered under Alex's brother Tsar Nicholas I, he was hesitant to change and thus reforms were limited.
 - He was suspicious of modern ideas
 - The Decembrist revolt that wanted reforms only turned him off
 - He feared any rise of a middle class as a threat to his power therefore he kept peasants in serfdom
 - He distrusted the governments of Western Europe (who in turn began to see Russia as a threat, although still "backward" in nature) despite having diplomatic relations



- The British were concerned about Russia's expansionary policies – more specifically for the safety of India, which was viewed as the “Jewel of the Crown” of the British Empire.
- As a result Afghanistan became a buffer and Persia was essentially divided up in the name of Russian & British economic interests. (Persia still had some degree of independence).
- To the east Russia had also been expanding, but the middle of Central & East Asia were even further behind than Russia in terms of industrialization.



- Tsar Alexander II (following the death of his father Nicholas) oversaw major reforms and changes in Russia:
 - The end of serfdom in 1861
 - Authorized new joint stock companies
 - Increased railroads throughout Russia
 - A flourishing of intellectual & artistic work (Leo Tolstoy)



Quick Video 2



Russia - Land Of The Tsars 16

- This video highlights the reluctance on the part of some Russian tsars to bring about political reforms. As a result, the Russian government is setting the stage for an eventual revolution – one for which we will discuss in the **PINK** unit.
- In class I often refer to Russia as backward or always a few steps behind the rest of Europe. As you watch this video, you will see that when they discuss the Crimean War.
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rXPP1j1yahg>

THE QING EMPIRE / DYNASTY

- The Chinese were not invaded by Napoleon, therefore they never felt the urgency to “reform” because of an external threat.
- Despite the openness of Kangxi (1662-1722) before, China did not have a great deal of contact with “Industrialized” Europe.



- However, action or reform was needed:
 - Substantial population growth during the height of the empire had put a strain on resources, hence internal conflict was erupting.
 - Most Chinese viewed the government as corrupt.
 - In some parts of China the Qing were hated because they were seen as “foreigners” (The dynasty was started by the Manchus).
- The Qing simply suppressed any who rebelled from within against the status quo system.



Qing Dynasty Empire (1644–1911)



- The British had long viewed China as a vast market for its goods, only to be restrained because China could be self-sufficient. However, now that they were vulnerable the British made a move.



Opium Wars (1839-1850)

- The British took opium from India and smuggled it into China hoping that after people got hooked, the Chinese would buy it in mass quantities.



- By 1835, the British were able to have as many 12 million Chinese people of various social classes addicted to the drug (Chinese officials were not happy).

“By what right do they [British merchants] use the poisonous drug to injure the Chinese people?” - Chinese emperor
Lin Zexu



- The British viewed China's ban on opium importation as a threat to their economy and war broke out.

Why is this significant? What were the effects?

- The conflict revealed European military superiority (The Chinese were still using muskets, sometimes swords).
- Treaty of Nanking: allowed British access to Chinese ports so they could trade; Hong Kong became a British colony.
- As time went on pieces of the great Qing Empire were either breaking free or becoming “spheres of influence” for European nations.



Taiping Rebellion (1850 – 1864)

- The mix of foreign intrusions (Manchu & British), economic problems, and general disorder resulted in a bloody civil war (close to 30 million people died – compared to 600,000 in the US Civil War).
- The rebel Taipings were anti-Manchu, held cult like religious views (Heavenly Kingdom of Great Peace), and waged war against the Qing government.

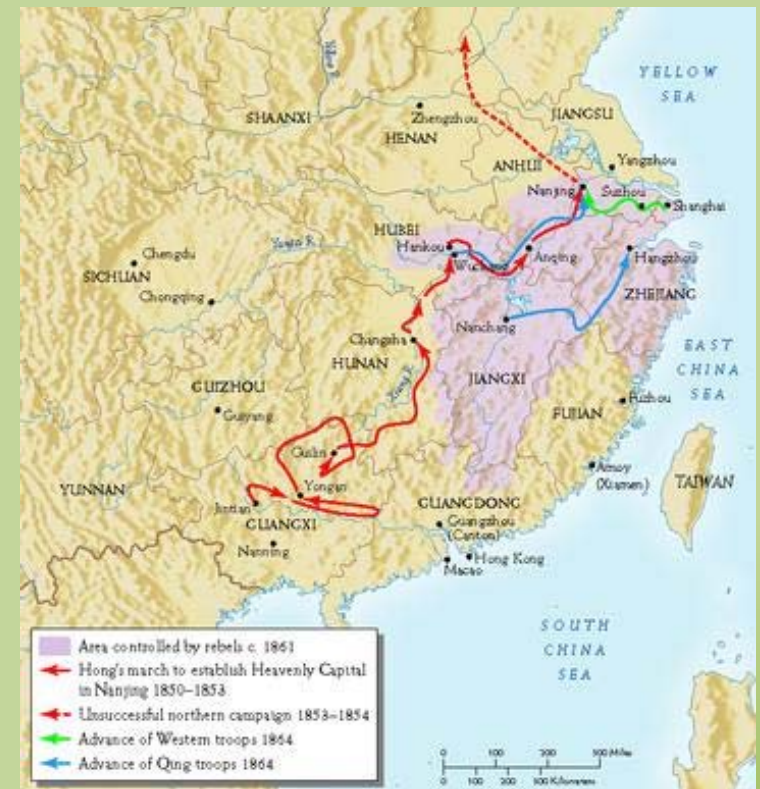


- However, a number of sieges “starved out” Taiping rebels from fortified cities. The Qing were also eventually aided by the French & British.



What is the significance?

- The Qing can't control China
- The government is in great debt
- Agricultural centers were ruined
- Large numbers of refugees



- **The 19th century (1800s) is a terrible time for China.**

They go from:

- A large expansive empire, self sufficient enough to tell the British “no” to their goods, running trade surpluses in order to receive silver (*remember mercantilism?*)

To:

- Being in debt (*annual expenditures were 10x revenues*); fighting in bloody civil wars, forced to confront the effects of opium in their society, the British taking over Hong Kong.



Map 19-1
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- After the Taiping Rebellion reform efforts were finally made during a period of decentralization.

- The provisional governor Zeng Guofan is an example of these changes:

- Agriculture was restored
 - Americans were brought in to advise weapons factories
 - Education expanded (even for women)



- Nevertheless, the Chinese peasantry continued to face hardships. Many immigrated to other places for employment opportunities – the west coast of the U.S., Malaysia, & Indonesia.

Quick Video 3



Lecture Decline of the Qing Dynasty

- This video is fantastic. It is an online lecture on China at this time. It goes into a little more depth than what is necessary and discusses a few things (i.e. Boxer Rebellion) we won't touch on until the **PINK** unit, but nonetheless it is very good.
- No you don't have to answer the "Knowledge Check" questions in the video – however you should be able to.
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bx4oLH-6kco&index=14&list=PLxpnmfM1IVvKR3CoE1MA_vpRUKjZuLyCY4

SIMILARITIES & DIFFERENCES

Similarities

- Reform came from people in charge in all 3.
- R & O start reform efforts because of foreign threats ([Napoleon](#)).
- R, O, & Q Empires were reluctant to make reforms and change the status quo because people in power feared losing power.
- R & O consisted of people from different cultures & languages (in part because of their size).

Similarities continued . . .

- R, O, & Q eventually all sent people to either Europe or the U.S. for education.
- Reform comes too late, all of their governments will *eventually* fall.

Differences

- R is growing, O & Q are shrinking.
- R has something in common with Europe (Christianity, languages) Q & O seem too “foreign” for Europeans.

Land Empires in the Age of Imperialism

THE EUROPEAN MOMENT (1750–1900)



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- Although Britain was the world's major sea power and Western European nations were starting to imperialize the unindustrialized world, there were three remaining “land empires” – the Ottomans, Russians, & Qing.
- Friction between them and Western Europe ([Napoleonic invasions](#), [Crimean War](#), [Opium Wars](#)) as well as internal struggles ([regions breaking free](#), [White Lotus Rebellion](#), [Taiping Rebellion](#)) shook their very existence.
- The 3 land empires were reluctant to make reforms ([Nicholas, the Manchu / Qing govt.](#)) and when they did there was usually resistance ([Janissaries & ulama](#)), some thought reform was too slow ([Young Ottomans](#), [Decembrist Revolt](#), [Taipings](#)).
- Ultimately, the governments in all 3 would fall in the early 1900s.