

COMPARING ASIAN EMPIRES BETWEEN 1450-1750



OTTOMAN

LOCATION: Spread from Asian Turkey to include Balkan peninsula and what are today Greece, parts of Austria, Poland, Hungary, Georgia, Armenia, and southern Russia, north Africa, and a large area of Arabian peninsula.

POLITICAL SYSTEM: **Sultan** as ruler of dynasties, 1300s-1923; initially sultan secular ruler, over time claiming title of caliph; **grand vizier**, second most powerful person; civil service, standing army

ECONOMIC SYSTEM: Agriculture, little local manufacturing, Commerce, trade, manufacturing considered not a worthy occupation, therefore controlled by foreigners

SIGNIFICANCE: Muslim empire of Turks; rights established give Europeans many more rights; toleration of other religions; end of Byzantine Empire in 1453 with capture of Constantinople; siege of Vienna failed, end of threatened invasion of Europe; many military defeats in 1700s and 1800s, slow decline

MONGOL (MUGHAL)

Invasied from what is today Afghanistan, took all but southern tip of India

POLITICAL SYSTEM: Emperor of a dynastic empire, 1526-1803; fall of Delhi to **British East India Company**; 1803-1857, British allow “king” to rule Delhi; centralized government, civil service; empire divided into 12 provinces

ECONOMIC SYSTEM: agriculture, trade

SIGNIFICANCE: Muslim dynasty of Turks and Mongols; introduction of **Urdu**, Persian language as official language; initial toleration of Hindu majority but eventual erosion of relations between two religious groups with rise of **Marathas**; attempts to limit Portuguese influence; British takeover as Mughals became corrupt

MING

POLITICAL SYSTEM: **Dynastic empire, 1368-1644**; civil service examinations, based on Confucian thoughts; established tribute system with dependent states

ECONOMIC SYSTEM: Agriculture

SIGNIFICANCE: Had turned inward during **Song Dynasty**; explored as far as Africa and Persian gulf in 1400s but failed to establish external trading network; contact with Europe established in 1500s, trading privileges to Portuguese in limited areas; few Christian converts; numerous peasant rebellions; overrun by Manchu, north of Great Wall

QING (MANCHU)

Pastoral nomadic moved into China; area expanded to include Manchuria, Taiwan, Tibet, Mongolia, Turkistan

POLITICAL SYSTEM: Dynastic empire, 1644-1912; civil service examination, based on Confucian thought

ECONOMIC SYSTEM: Agriculture, introduction of sweet potatoes and corn from Americas; introduction of peanuts from Africa; export of porcelain, silk, tea; money economy

SIGNIFICANCE: Segregation of Manchu from Chinese, all others considered “barbarian”; limited access to Europeans and Americans, insisted on trading for silver; British substitute silver for opium, causing 19th century strain of relations

TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE

(JAPAN)

POLITICAL SYSTEM: Centralized feudalism, 1603-1868; **daimyos** to live in capital of **Edo**, rise of **samurai** administrators

ECONOMIC SYSTEM: Agriculture, almost no foreign trade, local manufacturing, rise of urban merchant class, evolve from barter to money economy

SIGNIFICANCE: adopted a policy of isolation and seclusion, 1633-1853, broken by **Commodore Perry**; no large-scale trade; no travel abroad by Japanese; Christianity banned; Japan imports no western science or technology but also spared consequences of western interference and colonial exploitation