

The Ottomans



The Ottoman Empire also historically known in Western Europe as the Turkish. The Ottoman Empire was founded by Osman I. As sultan Mehmed II conquered Constantinople (today named Istanbul) in 1453, the state grew into a mighty empire. The Ottoman Turks were the Turkish-speaking population of the Ottoman Empire who formed the base of the state's military. Ottoman Empire, empire created by Turkish tribes in Anatolia (Asia Minor) that grew to be one of the most powerful states in the world during the 15th and 16th centuries. The Ottoman Empire is one of the largest empires in history. In existence for over 600 years, at its peak it included what is now Bulgaria, Egypt. The Ottoman Empire was one of the mightiest dynasties in world history, ruling large areas of the Middle East, Eastern Europe and North Africa for more than 600 years. The Ottoman Empire occupies a special place in the collective consciousness of the West, at once a dark star on the eastern horizon, threatening the very heart of Europe. Throughout the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, the Venetian and Ottoman empires were trading partners—a mutually beneficial relationship providing a bridge between the East and the West. While the Ottoman Empire is now long gone, its rule once spanned across three continents. So how did the ancient empire rise to power? Although the Ottoman Empire was dominated by the Turks, it also included Arabs, Kurds, Greeks, Armenians and other ethnic minorities. In the past few weeks, a conflict between Ankara and Baghdad over Turkey's role in the liberation of Mosul has precipitated an alarming burst of violence. The Ottoman Empire was an imperial state that was founded in 1299 after growing out of the break-down of several Turkish tribes. The empire reached its peak in the ever-increasing series of highs in Suleiman's later years. Through an uneventful war with the Safavids, both sides decided to make peace. When a Serb gunman shot an Austrian archduke in the summer of 1526, the nations of Europe tumbled into war with all the grace of bowling. The Ottoman state rose to become a world empire, which lasted from the late 13th century to the late 19th century. Like that of the Habsburgs, its eventual rival, the Ottoman Empire. From the 14th century onwards, the Ottoman armies penetrated the different European states. After the fall of Constantinople in 1453, the Republic of Venice understood that the Ottoman Empire was a threat. Taking on Britain and Russia led to the collapse of Ottoman rule, and its consequences. This book focuses on the western Balkans in the period 1800-1918, in particular on the peoples and social groups that the later national history would claim to be. For centuries, the Ottoman Empire peaceably ruled much of the civilised world. Now, its former lands are up in flames. As the BBC launches a new series, Invoking jihad (holy war), the Ottomans expanded their holdings into Byzantine Anatolia and soon also occupied large parts of the Balkans. Only the Byzantine Empire. A timely history of the Ottoman war that, refreshingly, places Turks, Arabs and the Armenian genocide at its centre. The four centuries of Ottoman rule (1299-1918 CE) were a period of general stagnation in the Middle East. The Ottomans were primarily interested in the Middle East in terms of trade and resources.

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