

WORLD HISTORY READERS

Level 2 - 0

The Ottomans and Their Empire

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Seed
Learning

Audio CD Included

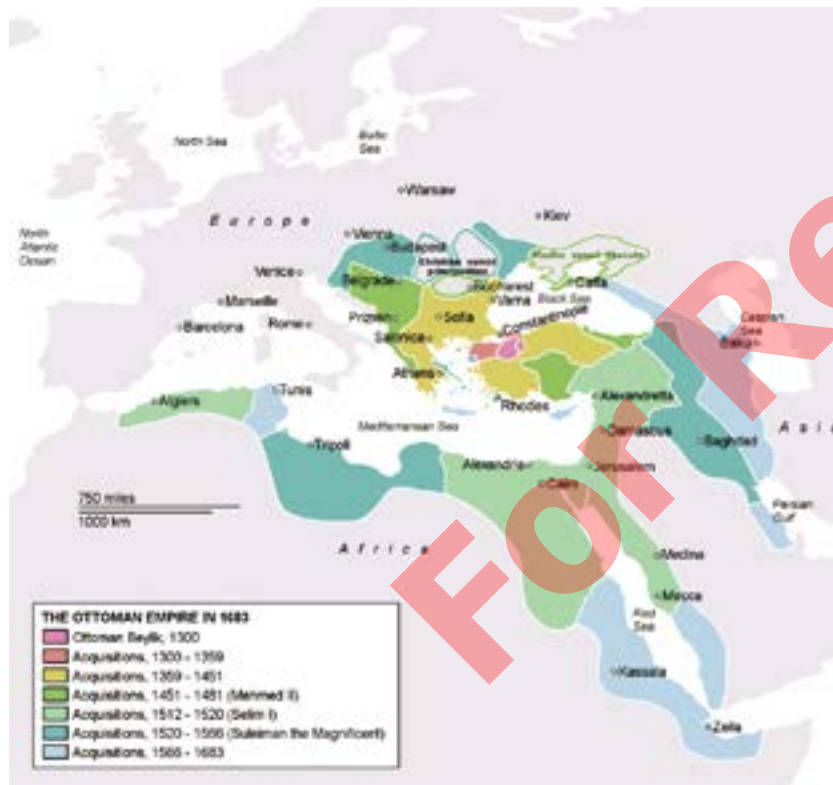


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Introduction

The Ottomans were a family from a small town in Turkey long ago. They became one of the most important families in history. This is the story of how one family made a big empire that lasted about 600 years.



The Start of an Empire

A man called Osman I started the empire. He was the leader of a small town called Sogut. He had big ideas for the future.

One day, Osman had a dream that he would make a great empire and become a powerful leader. In time, Osman's dream came true as he and his family used their power to take over many cities and towns.



Osman I

Sultans

The leader of the Ottoman Empire was called a Sultan. The Sultan had a lot of power, like a king. Osman was the first Sultan.

After Osman died, a new sultan took his place. Then another sultan came after that. Each new sultan used his fast horses to take more towns, and the empire continued to grow.



Sultan Bayezid I
(1389 - 1402)



Sultan Mehmed I
(1413 - 1421)

 Sultan Selim III
1789 - 1807



Constantinople

Long ago, the city of Istanbul was called Constantinople. It was one of the greatest cities in the old world. Hagia Sophia was its greatest church. The Ottomans wanted Constantinople. They wanted to make it their home.



Inside Hagia Sophia



A Christian picture
in Hagia Sophia



Hagia Sophia

Mehmed II

The seventh sultan after Osman was named Mehmed II (1444 - 1446, 1451 - 1481). He decided to take Constantinople. First, he stopped ships from going in



A cannon

or out of the city. Then he attacked. He used a new weapon called a cannon which broke down the city walls. He used many soldiers to finally take the city. The battle took many days.



Sultan Mehmed II entering Constantinople



An Ottoman soldier on a horse

Christianity and Islam

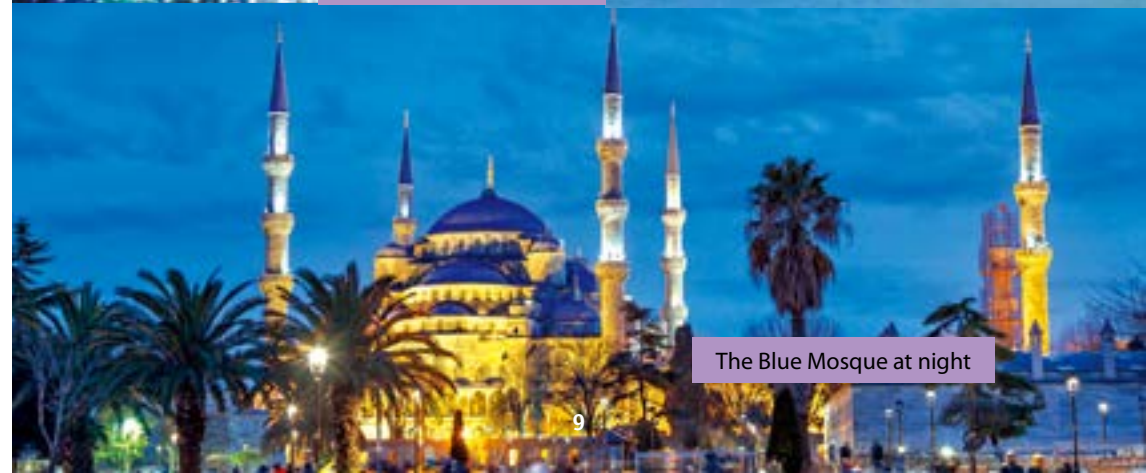
Old Constantinople was Christian, but the Ottomans were Muslim. The Ottomans changed many things. They changed the biggest church called the Hagia Sophia into a mosque, which it still is today. The Blue Mosque was also built by the Ottomans. It is one of the most beautiful mosques ever built.



Inside the Blue Mosque



The Blue Mosque from the water



The Blue Mosque at night

Comprehension Questions

1. Where were the Ottomans from?
 - (a) Constantinople
 - (b) Vienna
 - (c) Sogut
 - (d) Istanbul
2. What was the Ottoman king called?
 - (a) King
 - (b) Prince
 - (c) President
 - (d) Sultan
3. What is the city of Constantinople called now?
 - (a) Cairo
 - (b) Rome
 - (c) Vienna
 - (d) Istanbul
4. What religion did the Ottomans follow?
 - (a) Islam
 - (b) Buddhism
 - (c) Christianity
 - (d) Hinduism
5. About how long did the Ottoman Empire last?
 - (a) 200 years
 - (b) 400 years
 - (c) 600 years
 - (d) 800 years
6. Which country did the Ottomans NOT control?
 - (a) Egypt
 - (b) Iran
 - (c) Austria
 - (d) Turkey
7. How did the Ottomans make their money?
 - (a) By printing it
 - (b) By trade
 - (c) By farming
 - (d) By stealing it
8. Who was the first sultan?
 - (a) Mehmed
 - (b) Ataturk
 - (c) Suleiman
 - (d) Osman
9. What is Hagia Sophia today?
 - (a) A church
 - (b) A mosque
 - (c) A theater
 - (d) A restaurant
10. When was the Ottoman Empire divided up?
 - (a) After World War I
 - (b) During World War II
 - (c) Before Egypt fell
 - (d) When Ataturk became president

Glossary

- **attack** to make a sudden, violent attempt to hurt or damage
- **battle** a big fight between two groups of soldiers
- **cannon** a very large gun
- **Christian** someone whose religion is Christianity
- **Christianity** a religion based on belief in one God and the teachings of Jesus Christ
- **empire** a group of countries ruled by one nation
- **Islam** a religion based on belief in one God and the teachings of Mohammed
- **magnificent** very good
- **mosque** a building used for a worship by Muslims
- **Muslim** someone whose religion is Islam
- **satisfied** happy; pleased
- **slave** a person who is owned by someone else
- **soldier** a fighter in an army
- **sultan** a king or ruler in some Muslim countries
- **tax** money, goods, or services that must be paid to a government