### OVERVIEW OF LAND BASED EMPIRES

**EUROPE**

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| **In General:** - Monarchies gain power due to end of Medieval Period - We see characteristics like more literacy (due to Gutenberg Printing Press), increase in development economically, and centralization - New monarchies emerge in the 1500s due to desire for centralized power. They controlled taxes, army, and aspects of religion. Includes:  
  - **England:** the Tudors  
  - **France:** the Valois  
  - **Spain:** Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand - These monarchs use their new wealth and power to:  
    - Fund overseas explorations  
    - Establish colonies  
  **We will go into details in later units on exploration and colonization!** | **In General:** - Bureaucracies increase and middle class grows in power  
  - Lords and churches begin to lose power  
  - **England and the Tudors**  
    - **Religion:** divine right of kings  
    - **Bureaucracy:** justices of the peace, Parliament, English Bill of Rights, leads to growing power for middle class and decrease in power for feudalism/lords  
  - **France and Louis XIV (The Sun King)**  
    - **Religion:** divine right of the monarchy  
    - **Centralization** under Louis XIII and Cardinal Richelieu: intendants collected taxes for monarchy, called tax farmers, usually bureaucratic elites  
    - **Absolutism** under Louis XIV: king has complete authority, combines lawmaking and justice system together  
  - **Architecture:** Louis XIV kept nobles at palace in Versailles to intimidate them/prevent them from plotting | **Protestant Reformation:** AKA let’s reform the Church  
  - **Lutheranism:** Martin Luther proposes 95 Theses, or reforms to church due to corruption (ex. indulgences)  
  - **Calvinism:** John Calvin broke with the church, with the idea that simplicity, hard work ethic, obedience was favored by God. Led to several groups based on Calvinism, including Huguenots in France and Puritans in England.  
  - **Anglicanism:** King Henry VIII of England wanted to divorce his wife because she would only bear him daughters. The pope refused to allow him to divorce and marry Anne Boleyn (who BTW the King he ends up executing), so Henry VIII creates his own church free of the pope (Church of England/Anglican Church)  
  - **Counter Reformation:** AKA Catholic Reformation  
  - Response of the Roman Catholic Church to reform and rebellion by Protestant groups, includes:  
    - 1) Inquisition to root out and punish nonbelievers increased (also used torture)  
    - 2) Jesuits created to spread missionary activity into Spanish Empire, Japan, and India  
    - 3) Council of Trent: corrected some of the corrupt practices of the church but also pushed back against protestantism, banning their books  
  - **Scientific Revolution**  
  - Beginning to see world using reason and not blind faith  
  - Empiricism (Francis Bacon), Sir Isaac Newton (gravitational force) |
### RUSSIA

- **Ivan IV/Ivan the Terrible** expands border of Russia eastward, taking more land from Mongol control.
  - Gains control of the Volga River (which connects to Caspian Sea); now can trade with Persia and Ottoman Empire without worrying about Mongols.
  - He did this using a lot of gunpowder and using groups of warrior-peasants called Cossacks (think Russian Cowboys).

- **Post Ivan IV tsars** continued to move east into Siberia, eventually all the way to the Pacific Ocean, using militias and fur traders as well as missionaries.

- **Tsarist Russia (beginning with Ivan III/the Great)**
  - Moved Boyars (nobles) to Moscow to intimidate them/prevent them from plotting.
  - Used secret police called oprichnina.
  - Known to kill those who opposed him.

- **The Romanovs under Peter the Great**
  - At first has support of church, then loses it due to reforms (trying to westernize Russia).
  - Centralization: reorganizes Russia into provinces.
  - Bureaucracy: creates a senate.
  - Taxation.
  - Architecture: moved capital from Moscow to St. Petersburg and had it built in a rectangular grid.

- **Unique because it’s a blend of Mongol influence from Central Asia, and European influence due to Viking invasions and trading early on**

- **Orthodox Church** had been unifying force for Russian people and tsars.

  - To gain more power, Peter the Great abolished the position of patriarch and incorporated the Church into the government, creating the Holy Synod to answer to the tsar.

### EAST ASIA

**China**

- The **Mongol Yuan Dynasty** (1271-1368) in China is overthrown by the **Ming Dynasty** (1368-1644), who expanded into Mongolian territory and restored the Great Wall to protect them. They continued to fight the Mongols until the **Qing Dynasty** took over (1644-1911).

- **Under the Qing Dynasty**
  - Emperor Kangxi expands to Taiwan, Mongolia, and Central Asia (including establishing Tibet as a protectorate of China).
  - Emperor Qianlong expanded west into Xinjiang (brutally, with mass killings), Tibet (again), and then tried (unsuccesfully) to expand to Burma and Vietnam, using all of the Qing Dynasty’s remaining money.

**Japan**

- Different daimyo leaders will expand within Japan to try to unify most of it, see governing section.

**As discussed in Unit 1/2:**

- Mostly mix of Buddhism and Confucianism in China and tributary states.
- Shintoism included in Japan.

**Japan**

- Military leaders first ruled under shoguns (military representing emperor).
- Then conflict between daimyo (landowning aristocrats) and their samurai armies led to instability.
- Unification begins with Oda Nobunaga (daimyo leader who takes over 1/3 of Japan).
- Continues under Toyotomi Hideyoshi (who unifies almost all of what is Japan today).
- Then Tokugawa Ieyasu leads (Period of Great Peace) and Tokugawa Shogunate (turned daimyo into landlords rather than independent leaders).
- All this to say: evolves from military sponsored families to central governing.

**China**

- Under Yuan Dynasty, lots of Mongol influence.
- Trying to undo this influence, Ming Dynasty brings back civil service exam.
- In Qing Dynasty, the bureaucracy becomes corrupt, leading to rebellion; government turns to harsh military control.
### GUNPOWDER EMPIRES

**Overall:** Expansion by Tamerlane (Mongol-Turkic ruler) into Central Asia and Middle East using gunpowder, ghazi ideal, and brutal conquest led to the emergence of the Ottoman, Safavid, and Mughal Empires.

**Ottoman Empire (Turkey, 1300-1918)**
- Mehmed II: Takes Constantinople, renames it Istanbul. Then focused on areas around Black Sea and Balkans, using cannons and navy. Almost take Venice, but establish a sort of tribute with taxes paid from Italy to them.
- Suleiman I: Took parts of Hungary and almost Austria (causing W. Europe a lot of fear), took parts of Greece in Mediterranean and Tripoli in North Africa.

**Safavid Empire (Persia, 1501-1760)**
- Had no real navy and lacked natural defenses, so difficult to expand.
- Shah Abbas I: Used imported weapons from Europe, trying to expand farther in Persia toward Ottoman Empire, armies clash.

**Mughal Empire (India, 1520s-1800s)**
- Babur's: conquests in Northern India and expansion lead to creation of empire
- Akbar: Expansion of trade leads to wealth and golden age of empire
- Aurangzeb: Attempts to expand to southern India become expensive, weaken empire

**Ottoman Empire:**
- Devshirme system (staffed military and government); these were "recruits" of Christian boys aged 8-20 who were taught to be scribes, diplomats, bodyguards, militia, for the sultan. Seems shady, but parents often wanted their sons selected as it was an opportunity for social mobility.
- Janissaries: elite forces in Ottoman Empire
- Tax collection
- Arts/architecture also used: mosques (ex. Suleymaniye Mosque), forts, other arts (ex. poetry)

**Safavid Empire:**
- Shi'a Islam used as unifying force, allowing shahs to control religion and political structure
- Strict adherence to Shi'a policies = law
- Also used architecture to showcase power

**Mughal Empire:**
- Akbar: Great ruler, extended empire and defeated competing militias
- Used centralized government and civil service
- Paid government officials called zamindars represented duties like taxation, construction, and water supply maintenance
- Shah Jahan: Used architectural accomplishments like Taj Mahal and other buildings (combining Islamic and local styles) to show their power

**Ottoman Empire:**
- Sunni Islam
- Mostly tolerant of other groups under Suleiman, less under later rulers

**Safavid Empire:**
- Mostly Shi'a Islam
- No tolerance (ex. Ismail I made conversion mandatory for Sunni population)

**Mughal Empire:**
- Tolerance under Akbar, who tried to blend Islam and Hinduism together (did not work)
- Less tolerance under later rulers
**OTHER FACTORS OF NOTE**

- 1450 is the end of the medieval period, which means moving away from feudalism, plague, and moving into exploration, expansion, and new thought.

- If you look past these groups, you can also point out the pattern of tribute for governing control.
  - The Aztec do it with Tribute System, China does it with Tributary States, Songhai Empire (Africa) had tributary states.

- Religious systems also led to many conflicts on the battlefield, not just in policy:
  - Ex. In Germany the Peace of Augsburg allowed German states to choose whether its leader would be Catholic or Lutheran.
  - Ex. In France the Edict of Nantes allowed Huguenots to practice their faith (until King Louis XIV revoked it).
  - Ex. The Thirty Years’ War between the Catholics and Protestants led to economic catastrophe for most of Europe, resulting in famine, starvation, and disease. The war ends with the Peace of Westphalia, allowing each area of the Holy Roman Empire to be either Catholic, Lutheran, or Calvinist.
  - France, Spain, and Italy chose Catholicism, Northern Europe was Lutheran or Calvinist, England was Protestant with a state church.