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Ways of the World: A Brief Global History

First Edition

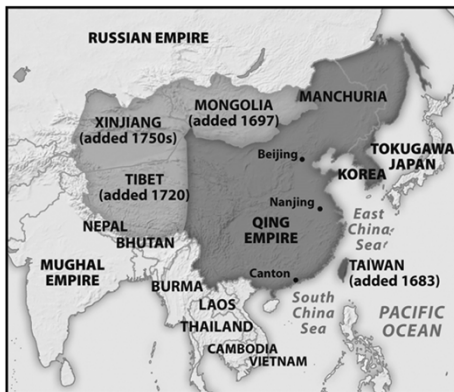
CHAPTER XIV

Empires and Encounters
1450–1750

Asian Empires

Asian Empires

- A. Asian empires were regional, not global.
- 1. Creation of Asian empires did not include massive epidemics
- 2. Did not fundamentally transform their homelands like interaction with the Americas and Siberia did for European powers



Asian Empires
Making China an Empire

- The Chinese vastly enlarged the territorial size of the country and incorporated a number of non-Chinese people
- A great military effort was undertaken to provide security for the huge region.

Asian Empires
Making China an Empire

- Conquered regions were ruled separately from the rest of *China through a new office called the Court of Colonial Affairs*
- Chinese or Qing officials didn't seek to assimilate local people into Chinese culture and showed considerable respect for the Mongolian, Tibetan, and Muslim cultures of the region. However, *Political independence and economic prosperity came to an end.*

B. Making China an Empire

1. Qing dynasty (1644–1912) launched enormous imperial expansion to the north and west
2. Nomads of the north and west were very familiar to the Chinese
 - a. 80-year-long Chinese conquest (1680–1760)
 - b. Motivated by security fears; reaction to Zunghar state

Muslims and Hindus in the Mughal Empire

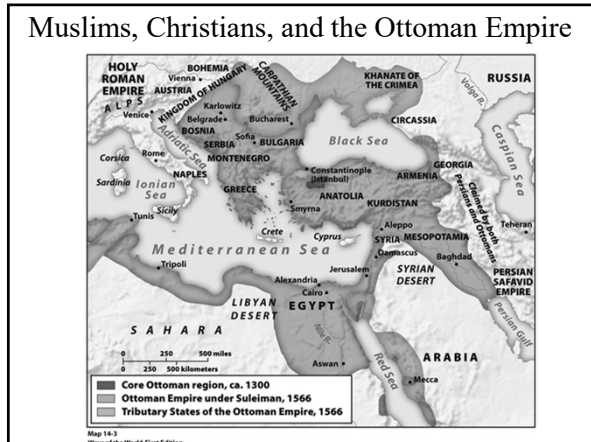
- 1. Mughals united much of India between 1526 and 1707
- 2. The Mughal Empire's most important divide was religious: 20 percent of the population were Muslims, while most of the rest were Hindus

Muslims and Hindus in the Mughal Empire

- 3. Emperor Akbar (r. 1556–1605) *attempted serious accommodation of the Hindu majority*
- 4. Mughal toleration provoked reaction among some Muslims
- 5. Aurangzeb's policy provoked Hindu reaction



Muslims, Christians, and the Ottoman Empire



Muslims, Christians, and the Ottoman Empire

1. The Ottoman Empire was the Islamic world's most important empire in the early modern period
2. Long conflict (1534–1639) between Sunni Ottomans and Shia Safavids
3. The Ottoman Empire was the site of a significant cross-cultural encounter

Muslims, Christians, and the Ottoman Empire

5. Jewish refugees from Spain had more opportunities in the Ottoman Empire
6. *Devshirme*: tribute of boys paid by Christian Balkan communities
7. The Ottoman state threatened Christendom
8. Some Europeans admired Ottoman rule

Ottoman Empire



Balkan Christian communities were required to hand over a quota of young boys, who were then removed from their families, required to learn Turkish, usually converted to Islam, and trained for either civil administration or military service in elite Janissary units.

Ottoman Empire

The empire itself represented an enormous threat to Christendom in general.

- The seizure of Constantinople,
- The conquest of the Balkans,
- Ottoman naval power in the Mediterranean
- Siege of Vienna in 1529 and 1683

Raised anew “the specter of a Muslim takeover of all of Europe.”

The last Ottoman incursion into the Austrian Empire was pushed back with French and Polish help, marking the end of a serious Muslim threat to Christian Europe.



Comparison

How did Western European empires in the Americas differ from empires elsewhere in the world during the early modern era?

- a. Only Western European empire building in the Americas produced empires that featured the mixing of diverse peoples.
- b. Only Western European empire building in the Americas was facilitated by collapse or displacement of indigenous populations.
- c. Only Western European empires in the Americas conquered substantial new lands instead of increasing their effective control over lands already under their control.
- d. Only Western European empires in the Americas were initiated by maritime expansion.

Colonies of Sugar V. Settler Colonies in North America

<i>Brazil/Caribbean</i>	<i>British North America</i>
Sugar plantation economy	Plantation economy- tobacco, cotton, rice, indigo
Slave labor/harsh	Slave labor/less harsh
Racial mixing took place; In Brazil, a person of African or non-African ancestry was not considered "black," but some other mixed-race category. The perception of <i>color</i> in Brazil changed with the educational or economic standing of individuals.	A sharply defined racial system (with Black Africans, red Native Americans, and white Europeans) In North America, any African ancestry, no matter how small or distant, made a person "black."

Chinese conquests, together with the expansion of the Russian Empire, transformed Central Asia.

<i>Eurasia Before</i>	<i>After under Russian or Chinese Rule</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The region had been the cosmopolitan crossroads, hosting the Silk Road trade network. • Welcomed all of the major world religions. • Generated an enduring encounter between the nomads of the steppes and farmers of settled agricultural regions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Became the backward and impoverished region known to 19th and 20th century observers. • Land-based commerce took a backseat to oceanic trade. • Indebted Mongolian nobles lost their land to Chinese merchants. • Nomads no longer were able to herd their animals freely and fled to urban areas where many were reduced to begging. • The incorporation of the heartland of Eurasian nomads into the Russian and Chinese empires eliminated the nomadic pastoralists who had been the strongest alternative to settled agricultural society since 200 B.C.E.
