

CHAPTER
10
SECTION 5

Note Taking Study Guide

THE OTTOMAN AND SAFAVID EMPIRES

Focus Question: What were the main characteristics of the Ottoman and Safavid empires?

As you read this section in your textbook, complete the following chart to record characteristics of the Ottoman and Safavid empires.

Characteristics	Ottomans	Safavids
Capital		
Dates		
Strongest ruler		
Extent of empire		
Type of Islam		
Relationship with Europe		

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Section Summary

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The **Ottomans** were Turkish-speaking nomads who had expanded into Asia Minor and the Balkan Peninsula by the 1300s. They were successful in capturing Constantinople in 1453. The city was renamed **Istanbul** and became the capital of the Ottoman empire.

The Ottoman empire enjoyed a golden age under **Suleiman**, who ruled from 1520 to 1566. He expanded the empire into Asia, Africa, and Europe. Although he was defeated at Vienna in 1529, the empire remained the largest and most powerful in Europe and the Middle East for centuries. Suleiman had absolute power, but a council helped him govern. He based the justice system on the Sharia, as well as royal edicts.

The top two social classes in Ottoman society—military men and intellectuals, such as scientists and lawyers—were nearly all Muslims. Below them were men involved in trade and production, and then farmers. All people belonged to religious communities, which provided for education and legal matters. The Jewish community, which had been expelled from Spain, possessed international banking connections that benefited the Ottomans.

Ottomans converted some young Christian boys to Islam and trained them for government service. Some were chosen for the **janizaries**, an elite force of the Ottoman army. The brightest became government officials.

Ottoman culture included great poets, painters, and architects. However, after Suleiman's death, the empire declined. By the 1700s, it had lost control of areas in Europe and Africa.

By the early 1500s, the **Safavids** united an empire in Persia (modern Iran). They were Shiite Muslims who fought with Sunni Ottomans to the west and the Mughals in India to the east. Their greatest king, or **shah**, was **Shah Abbas** who ruled from 1588 to 1629. He created a strong military and developed military alliances with Europeans. Abbas lowered taxes and encouraged industry. He tolerated other religions and built a capital at **Isfahan**, which became a center for silk trading.

After Abbas' death, the empire suffered from religious disputes until its end in 1722. In the late 1700s, a new dynasty, the **Qajars**, won control of Iran, made **Tehran** the capital, and ruled until 1925.

Review Questions

1. What social classes existed in the Ottoman empire?

2. What religious difference existed between the Ottoman and Safavid empires?

READING CHECK

Who were the Safavids?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does *edicts* mean in the underlined sentence? Notice that *edicts* were royal and were related to the justice system. Use this context clue to help you figure out the meaning of the word *edicts*.

READING SKILL

Synthesize Information Briefly describe society under the Ottomans.
