

Name: _____

Date: _____

Ottoman History: Rise, Achievements, and Decline

Reading Passage

The Ottoman Empire was one of the most powerful states in the world from the late 13th century until the early 20th century. Founded by a nomadic chieftain, Osman I, in 1299, the empire began in Anatolia and expanded to control vast territories in Southeast Europe, Western Asia, and North Africa. The Ottomans conquered Constantinople in 1453 under Sultan Mehmed II, which allowed them to control the Bosphorus, the vital straits connecting the Black Sea to the Sea of Marmara. The conquest also marked the end of the Byzantine Empire and its rule over Turkey and Greece. The Ottomans were known for their strong military, centralised government, and cultural achievements in architecture, art, and science. Important leaders like Suleyman the Magnificent led the empire during its golden age, promoting legal reforms and arts. However, the empire faced challenges in the 17th and 18th centuries, including military defeats and economic troubles, and for a time was held together by a succession of royal women and child sultans. These issues contributed to its slow decline, which was temporarily halted by modernisation efforts called the Tanzimat Reforms from the 1830s-1870s, leading to its eventual dissolution after the Turkish War of Independence in 1923.

Fill in the Blank

Word Bank: Constantinople, Suleyman, 1299, Chieftain, 1923

1. The Ottoman Empire was founded in _____.
2. Osman was a _____, meaning that he ruled over a tribe.
3. The Ottomans conquered _____ in 1453, ending the Byzantine Empire.
4. One of the most influential sultans, known as 'the Magnificent,' was _____.
5. The Ottoman Empire ended in _____.

Multiple Choice Questions

Choose the correct answer from the choices for each question:

1. Who was the founder of the Ottoman Empire?
 - a. Osman I
 - b. Mehmed II
 - c. Suleyman
 - d. Selim III
2. Which city became the capital of the Ottoman Empire after 1453?
 - a. Cairo
 - b. Baghdad
 - c. Constantinople
 - d. Athens
3. What was the "Tanzimat"?
 - a. A war between the Ottomans and Europe
 - b. An imperial decree
 - c. An Ottoman art form
 - d. A series of reforms aiming to modernise the empire along Western lines
4. What event marked the end of the Ottoman Empire?
 - a. The conquest of Egypt
 - b. The Turkish War of Independence
 - c. World War I
 - d. The Renaissance
5. The Ottomans were known for their achievements in all of the following EXCEPT:
 - a. Architecture
 - b. Astronomy
 - c. Sculpture
 - d. Law

Open-Ended Questions

Answer the following questions in complete sentences:

1. What was the impact of Mehmed II's conquest of Constantinople?

2. Discuss one reason for the decline of the Ottoman Empire.

Answer Key

Fill in the Blank Answers

1. 1299
2. chieftain
3. Constantinople
4. Suleyman
5. 1923

Multiple Choice Answers

1. A
2. C
3. D
4. B
5. C

Open-Ended Example Responses

1. The conquest of Constantinople allowed the Ottomans to control the Bosphorus Straits, which was a major trade route. It also marked the end of the Byzantine Empire and changed the balance of power in Europe and Asia.
2. One reason for the decline of the Ottoman Empire was military defeats against European powers, which weakened the empire and reduced its territories.