Chapter 10
Empires on the Edge of the West, 1453–c. 1750

People
Osman: early leader of a Turkish tribe named for him (Osmanlis, or Ottomans as the Europeans called them).
Avicenna: Ibn Sina (Arabic name), known as “the Master” for his important medical knowledge and the medical encyclopedia he produced.
Sulayman: a powerful sultan of the Ottoman Empire, “the Magnificent,” who codified the laws of his people, was a poet and patron of arts and sciences.
Genghis Khan: Mongol ruler invaded Russia and conquered vast territory in 1223 CE.
Timur: Turkish conqueror who destroyed Mongol Empire to establish his own short-lived empire.
Ivan III: the Grand Duke of Muscovy, expanded his kingdom in a “gathering of the Russian lands.”
Ivan IV: “Ivan the Terrible,” took the title Czar of Russia, and continued expansion, subordinating the nobility.
Fernand Braudel: Twentieth-century historian who wrote a study of Philip II and the Mediterranean world; he described three kinds of historical time.
Peter I: “Peter the Great,” the Czar of Russia famous for defeating the Swedes and attempting to westernize his empire.
Alexander Pushkin: Russian poet who wrote of the glory days of Peter I.

Terms
ghazi: religious war against non-Muslims to purify the earth for Allah.
Muslim: one who submits to the will of Allah (God) and belongs to the community of believers.
Sunni: the majority group of Muslims, they stressed importance of the community’s leaders and did not accept Ali as the proper successor to Muhammed.
Arabic numerals: symbols representing numbers, which initially came from India.
gunpowder empires: the three major Islamic states of the sixteenth century, which overcame local resistance to achieve great wealth and success.
Janissary: military recruits who became loyal slaves of the Ottoman sultan and a key part of his army.
millet: semi-autonomous religious communities in the Ottoman empire which were allowed to administer their own internal affairs.
Third Rome: new centre of the Orthodox religion, Moscow, defender of the Christian tradition.
The Annales: a type (school) of historical writing that developed in France in the 1920s to study “total history,” not just stories of politicians.
window onto the west: the new capital city of Russia, St. Petersburg, which was a symbol of Russia’s attempt to become more European.
• attracted by prospect of capturing Byzantine riches.
• inspired by religious war against polytheism.
• proud of expansion into non-Muslim territory.
• motivated to conquer Constantinople and thus to rule the world.

2.
• Allah: central belief — the all-powerful, all-knowing, just and merciful God; Creator and Judge.
• revelation: messages given to Muhammed from Allah, and written down in the Qur’an.
• ummah: Islamic community spreading God’s true religion, as understood by its scholars.
• Ramadan: one of “5 Pillars” (essential practices) of Islam — the month of daylight fasting.
• hajj: the pilgrimage to Makkah (Mecca) and holy shrine, to be made at least once by each Muslim, if possible.

3.
• Preserved ancient Greek knowledge lost by the West.
• Continued learning astronomy, math, medicine, and science.
• Passed on concepts of zero and Arabic numerals.
• Practiced the most advanced medicine of the time.
• Stimulated scholarship and artistic developments.

4.
• Ottomans, led by Sulayman, had conquered Hungary and made a daring attack on Vienna.
• Habsburg dynasty defended their rule of Austrian Empire.
**Importance:**
• Ottoman advance stopped.
• Europe free of Islamic control.
• Turks obviously powerful.

5.
• Strong military core was elite force of Sultan’s loyal servants.
• Administrative checks and balances kept commanders loyal.
• Power of Sultan was limited by shar’ia, tribal traditions, and power of aristocracy.
6. • Struggle for control of the Mediterranean brought Ottomans into conflict with Europeans.
• The Papacy, Venice, and Spain formed defensive Holy League.
• League won naval battle and claimed it as a major victory in Europe.
• But Ottomans re-built navy and renewed conquests — little actual impact.

7. • Ottoman forces began to suffer a series of defeats.
• Beaten by Habsburgs and Russia, signed Treaty of Karlowitz, and the Capitulations. The Capitulations gave Europeans:
  – Right to trade freely in Ottoman lands.
  – Tax exemptions.
  – Extraterritoriality privileges.
• Signing these documents illustrated Ottoman weakness.

8. • In the fifteenth century, Moscow emerged as most powerful Russian city.
• Rulers consciously expanded its influence.
• Moscow claimed leadership after Constantinople fell.
• Russia was an Empire as rulers take supreme power (Ivan IV).
• Expansion continues, defeating Swedes and Ottomans (Peter I).

9. • Europeans thought Russia were more Asian than European in politics, etc.
• An alien place; fundamentally a different society.
• Unimportant; could be ignored.
• Viewed as culturally backward people; “savages”.

10. • Nobles were made state servants.
• The society was modernized with the newest European techniques.
• Peasants were conscripted for a permanent, standing army.
• Monopoly companies were organized in new areas.
• Social mobility created, with opportunities for commoners.
• Russian alphabet was simplified.
• Rules of etiquette were published.
• Men ordered to cut off beards to break hold of tradition.
• Many were taught the French language.
• Most reforms mainly affected society’s élite, all were done to make Russia more modern and Western.