

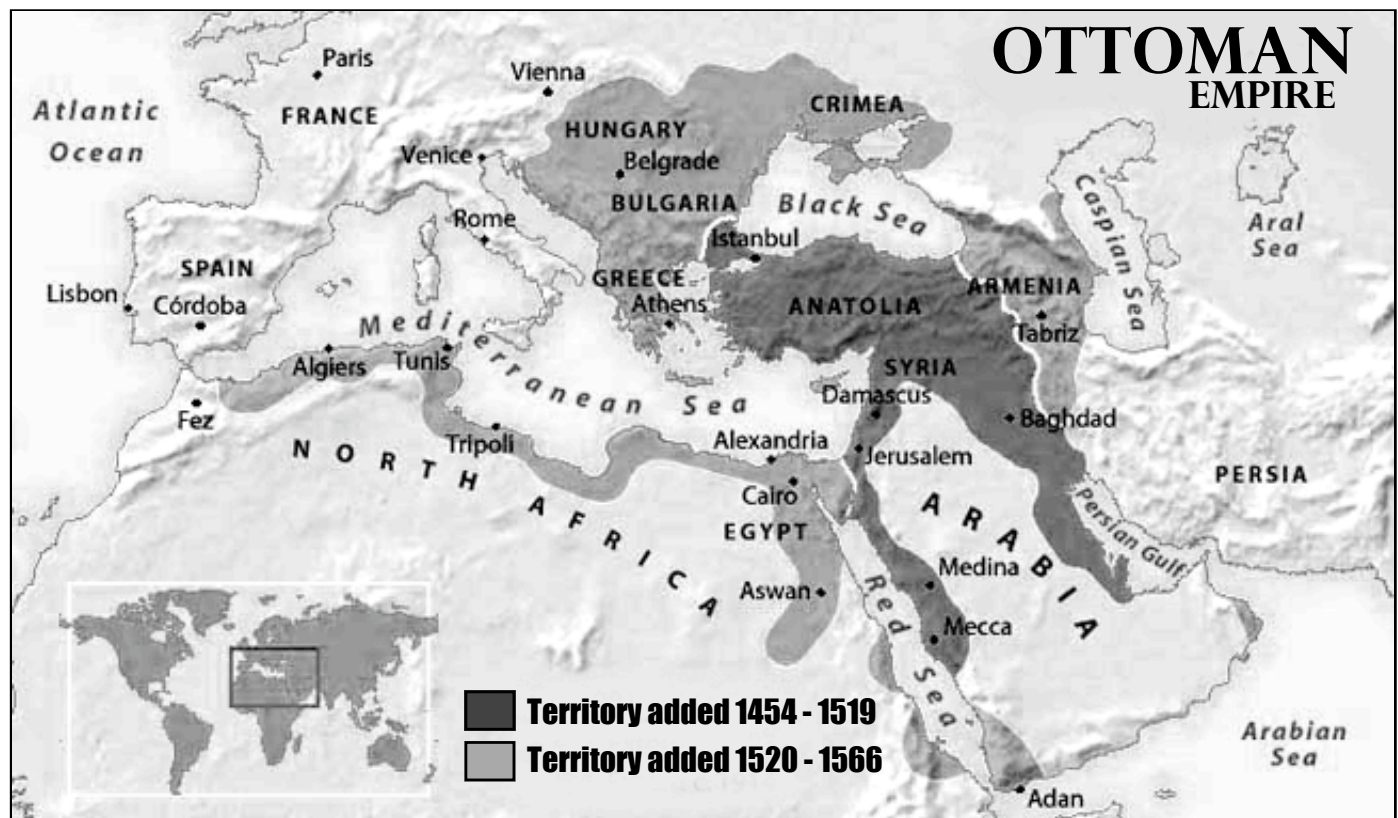
THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

The Ottoman Empire is one of the largest empires in history as well as one of the longest ruling. At the height of its power, the Ottoman Empire was a powerful military force as well as a place of education and religion.

The Ottomans were not Arabs; they were a tribe that lived in southwestern Asia. However, they were Muslims. The Ottoman Empire began in the early 1300's when the Ottoman tribe began to take over large parts of what is now known as the country of Turkey. By 1453 the Ottomans had conquered the city of Constantinople, renamed the city Istanbul, and made it the capital of the empire. The Ottoman Empire had established itself as a powerful force and had begun to expand its borders.

The Ottoman Empire relied on highly trained troops known as **janissaries**. Janissaries were young war captives or Christian slaves from Europe. First they were converted to Islam and then they were trained as special soldiers. Janissaries were loyal only to the ruler, or "Sultan", of the Ottoman Empire. They were important leaders in the military.

The Ottoman Empire continued to rule portions of the Middle East up until the First World War. While they had some successes early in the war they soon faced internal rebellion along with invading British soldiers. Their surrender in the year 1918 finally led to the end of the Ottoman Empire.



Name: _____

Ottoman Empire Assignment

Task: Read the passage and look at the map on the back of this page. Use the information you have learned to answer the following questions. This assignment is worth 10 points.

1. Explain what **janissaries** were AND tell why they were important in the Ottoman Empire.
2. About how many hundreds of years did the Ottoman Empire rule the Middle East?
3. *Map Skills* - At its largest, the Ottoman Empire covered how many continents? ($\frac{1}{2}$ point) AND name each of those continents ($\frac{1}{2}$ point each).
4. *Map Skills* - According to the map, during what time period were Mecca and Medina conquered by the Ottomans?
5. *Map Skills* - According to the map, was Vienna or Venice a part of the Ottoman Empire? Explain how you know.