

**THE  
GUNPOWDER  
EMPIRES**

## Empire Builders, 1683



The Safavid  
Empire (Iran)

The Mughal  
Empire (India)

The Ottoman  
Empire (Turkey)

From 1300 to 1700, three **“Gunpowder Empires”** dominated parts of Europe, Africa, and Asia



These three empires were unique but shared some similarities:





All three empires were able to **conquer** neighboring people by forming strong armies that used **rifles** and **artillery**; this gave them the nickname “Gunpowder Empires”



All three empires  
*blended* their  
*cultures* with  
neighboring  
societies to  
create a high  
point of Islamic  
culture (cultural  
diffusion)

**AN EXAMPLE OF SAFAVID ARCHITECTURE**



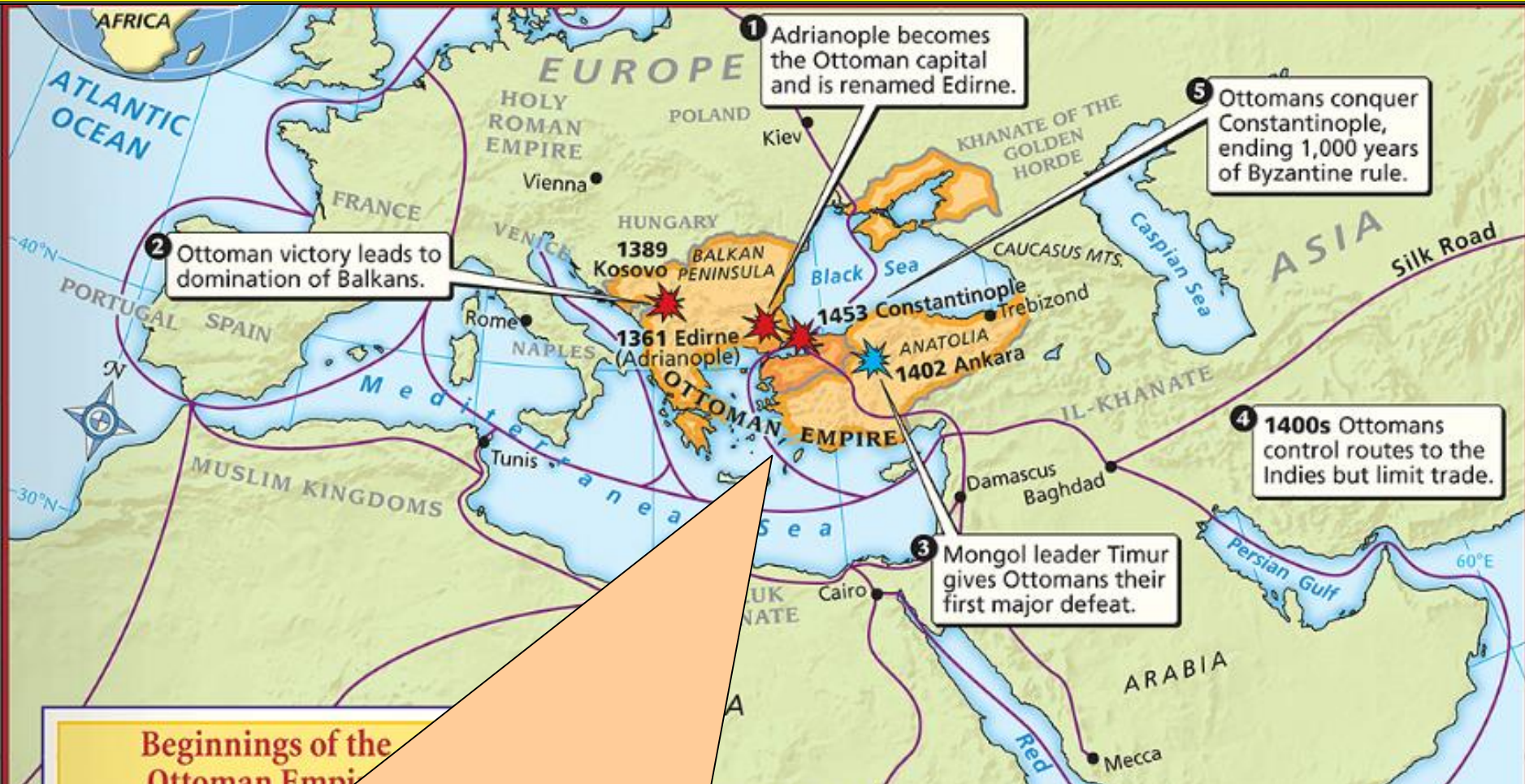
All three empires were *Islamic* and ruled by Muslim leaders, with well-organized governments made up of loyal bureaucrats





# THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

# The Ottoman Empire Begins



## Beginnings of the Ottoman Empire

Around 1300, the **Muslim Turks** of Anatolia were unified and formed the **Ottoman Empire** (the name came from an early leader named Osman)

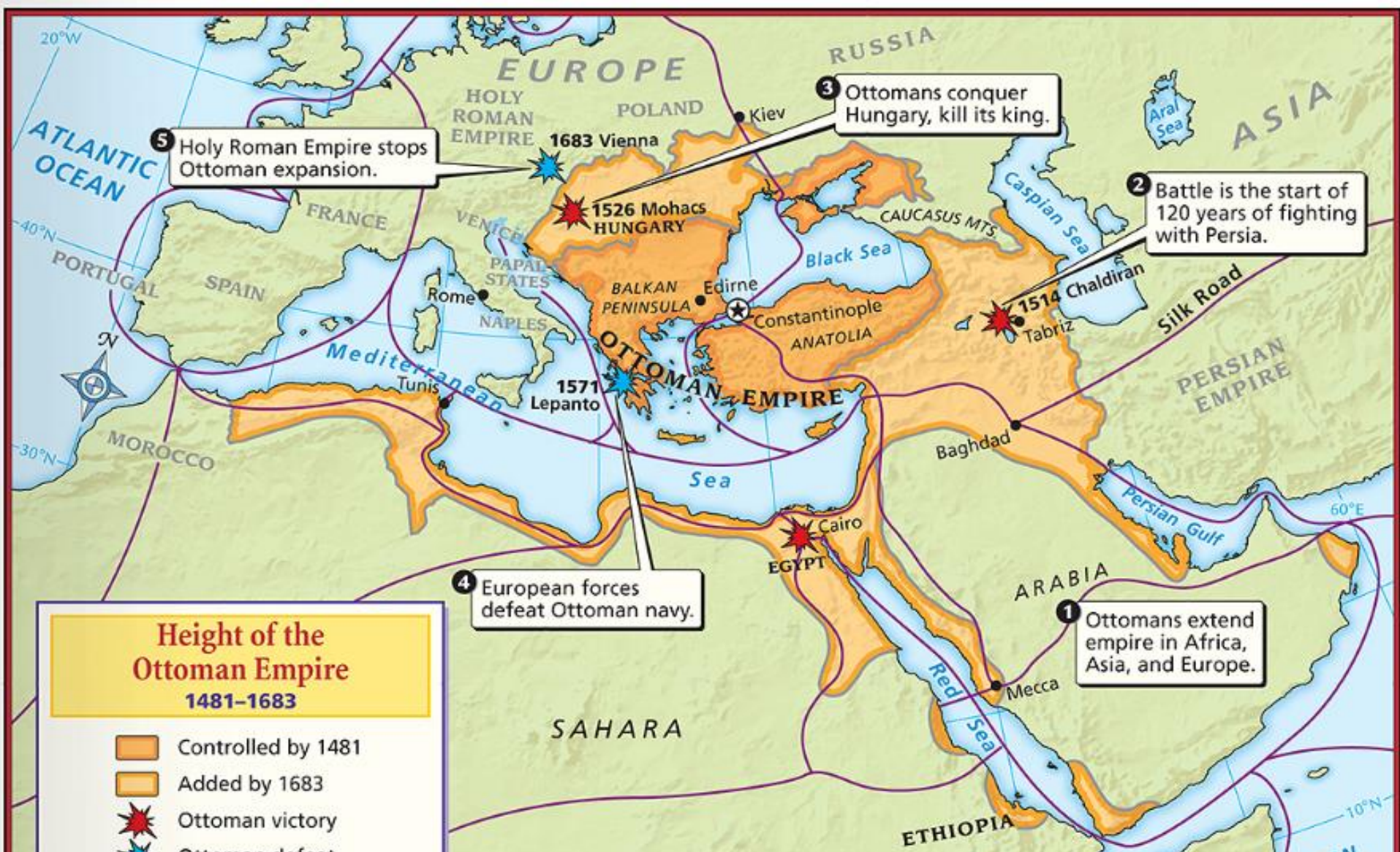
★ Ottoman defeat  
— Trade route





The Ottomans used *muskets* and *cannons* to form a powerful army and expand their territory





By the late 1600s, the Ottomans expanded a great deal, taking over much of the **Middle East**, some of **Northern Africa**, and a large part of **Eastern Europe**

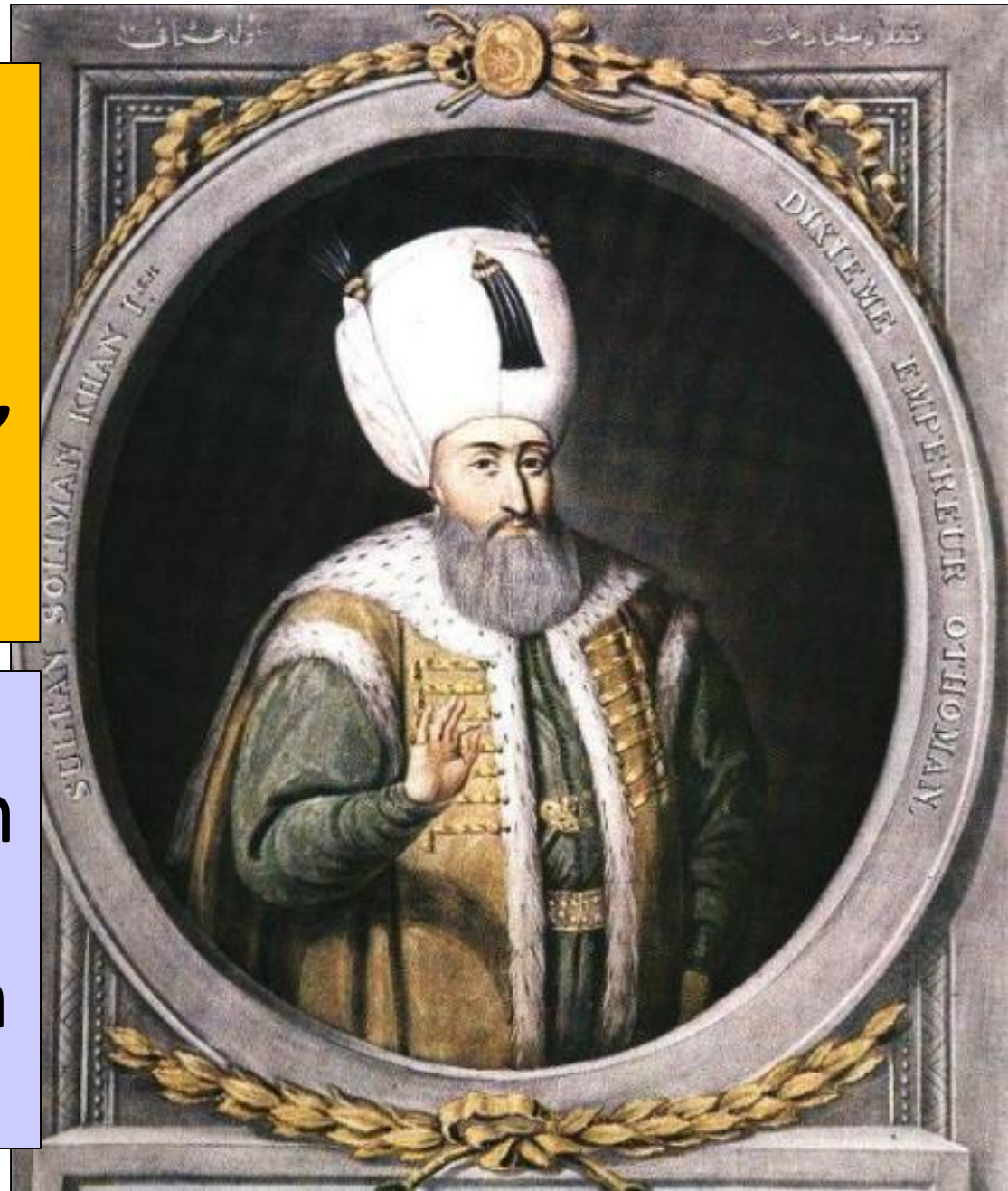




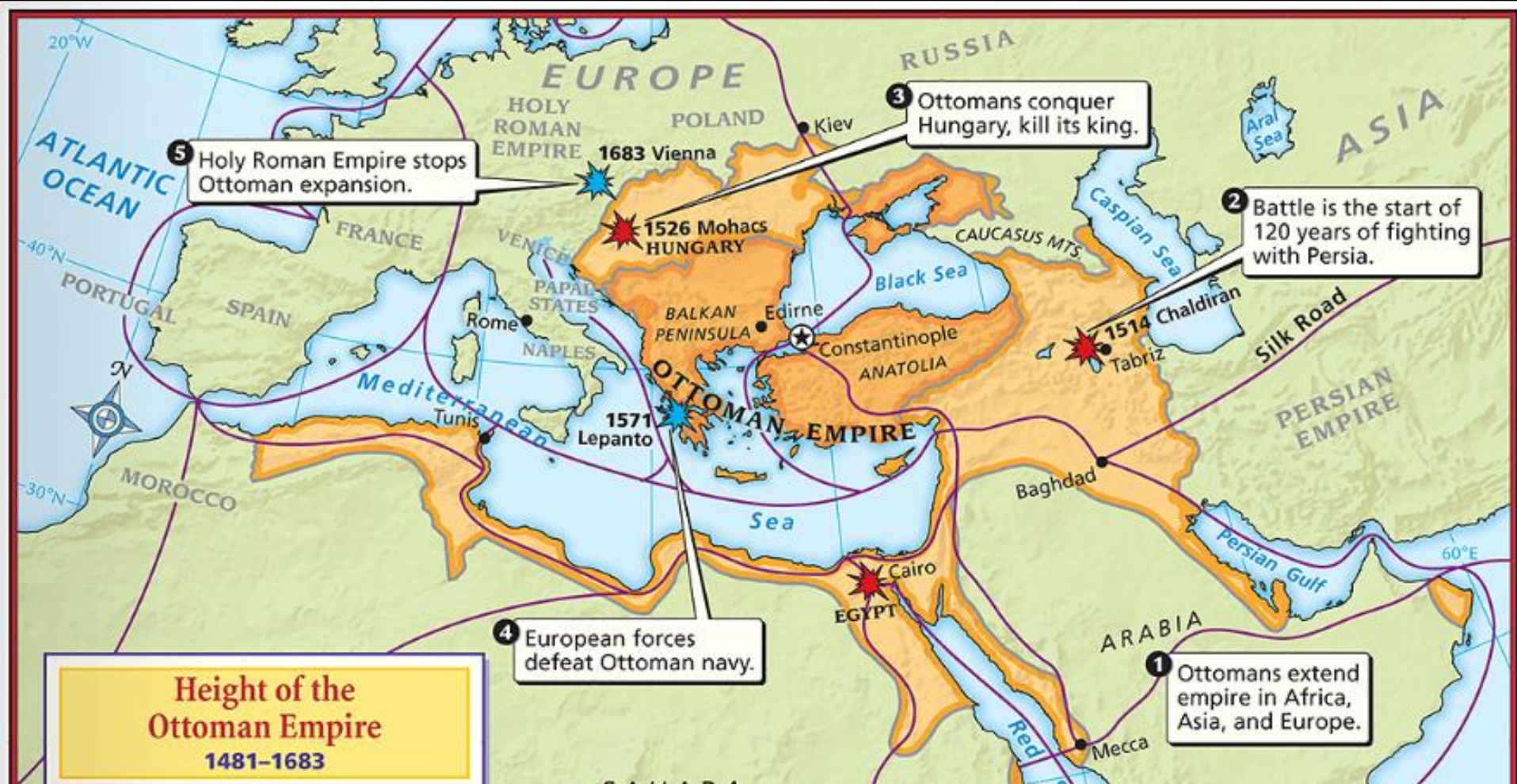
Ottoman  
kings/emperors  
were called  
*sultans* and they  
governed with  
*absolute power*

The greatest Ottoman sultan was *Suleyman the Magnificent*, who came to power in 1520

By the mid-1500s, Suleyman was the most *powerful king* in the world







**Height of the Ottoman Empire**  
1481-1683

Under Suleyman, the Ottoman Empire reached its **height**, expanding deep into Eastern Europe

Suleyman's fleet ruled the **Mediterranean Sea** and controlled the **Silk Road** trade routes that connected Europe and Asia



Suleyman was ***stopped*** by the Holy Roman Empire (various German kingdoms) from taking over ALL of Europe. This would be the ***limit*** of ***Ottoman power*** in Europe.





Suleyman's greatest accomplishment was creating a ***stable*** government for the Ottoman Empire

He was known as "***Suleyman the Lawgiver***" because he created a ***law code*** that governed criminal and civil issues within his empire



He created a simplified and fair **tax** system to raise money for his empire

He granted **freedom of worship** to Christians and Jews living in the empire, wisely showing tolerance of his subjects' ways





**Art**, poetry, and **architecture** flourished under Suleyman as the Ottomans experienced a cultural “golden age”



Ottoman miniature painting



Mosque of Suleyman by architect, Sinan

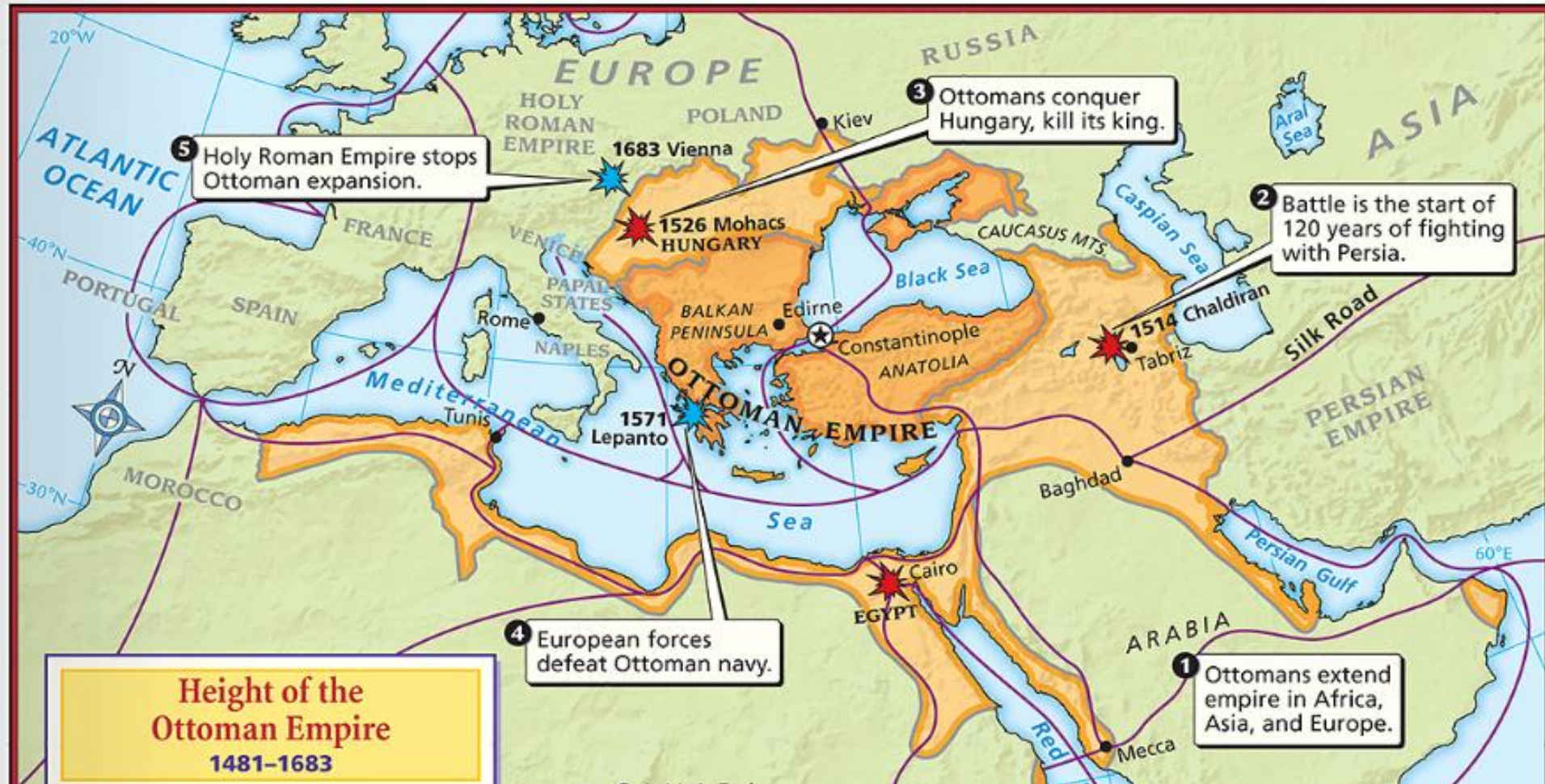


Scene from  
a Turkish  
movie  
about  
Suleyman:  
the sultan  
has his son  
Mustafa  
strangled

To maintain their power against *rivals* within their own families, Suleyman and other Ottoman sultans *executed* and/or jailed their sons and brothers, which led to progressively *weaker* leaders as the most capable sons were eliminated



# The Decline of the Ottoman Empire



By the outbreak of World War I in 1914, the Ottoman Empire was so weak it was known as the ***“Sick Man of Europe”*** and would end in 1922



# **THE SAFAVID EMPIRE**





The ***Safavids*** were Turks living in ***Persia*** who built a powerful gunpowder army and created an empire in modern-day ***Iran***



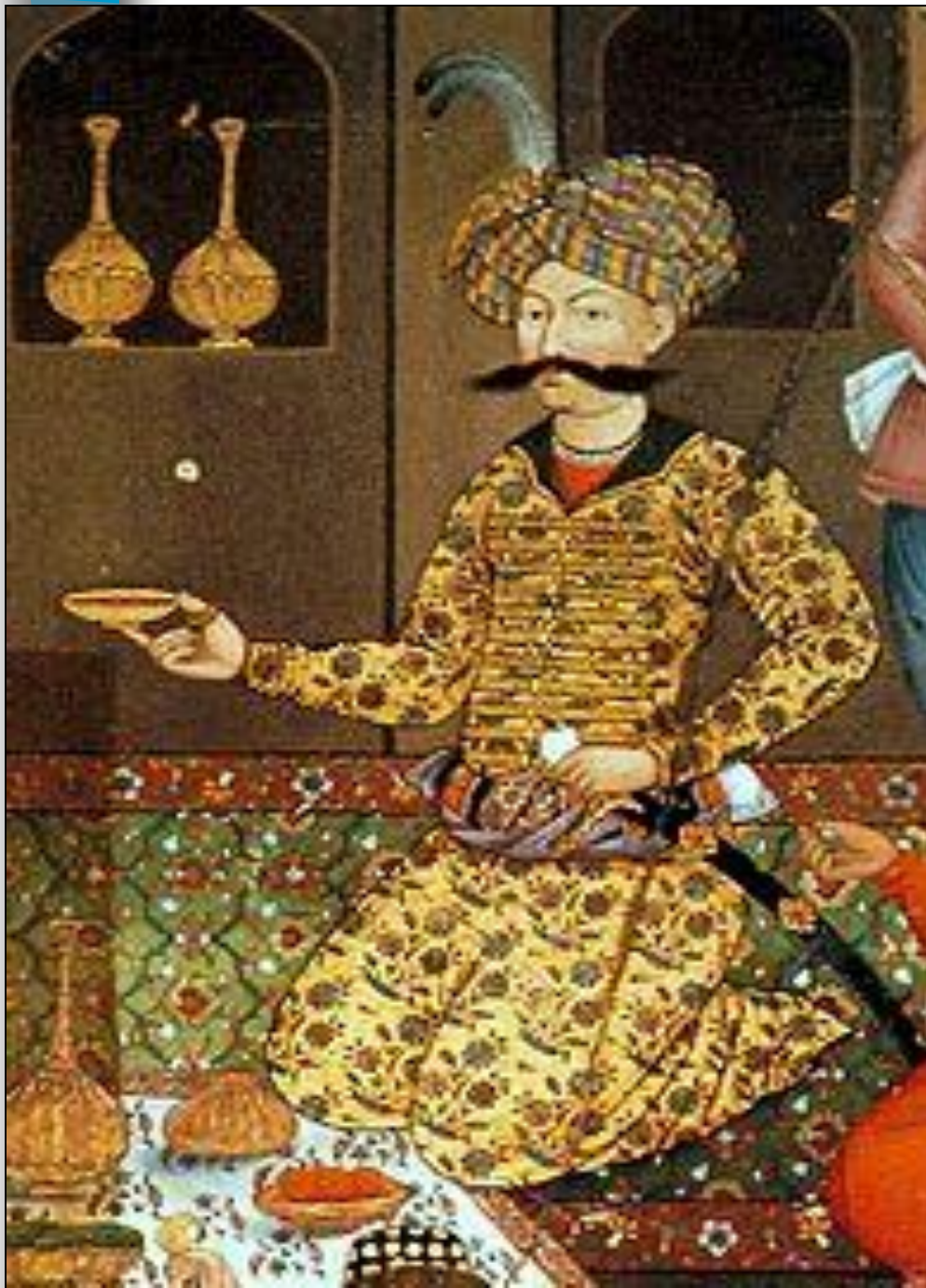
Unlike the Ottomans (who were Sunni Muslims), the rulers of the Safavid Empire believed in *Shi'a* Islam and strictly **converted** the people they conquered





Safavid rulers  
were called  
*shahs*, which  
is the Persian  
title for *king*





The greatest ruler of the Safavid Empire was ***Shah Abbas***, who came to power in 1587

Abbas ***borrowed*** ideas from outside groups to improve the Safavid Empire



He used the Ottoman idea of janissaries, used *merit* to employ government workers, and introduced religious *toleration* (which helped Safavids *trade* with European Christians)







Art flourished, especially *carpets* that blended *Persian* and European designs; these became luxury items highly desired by Europeans



# The Decline of the Safavid Empire

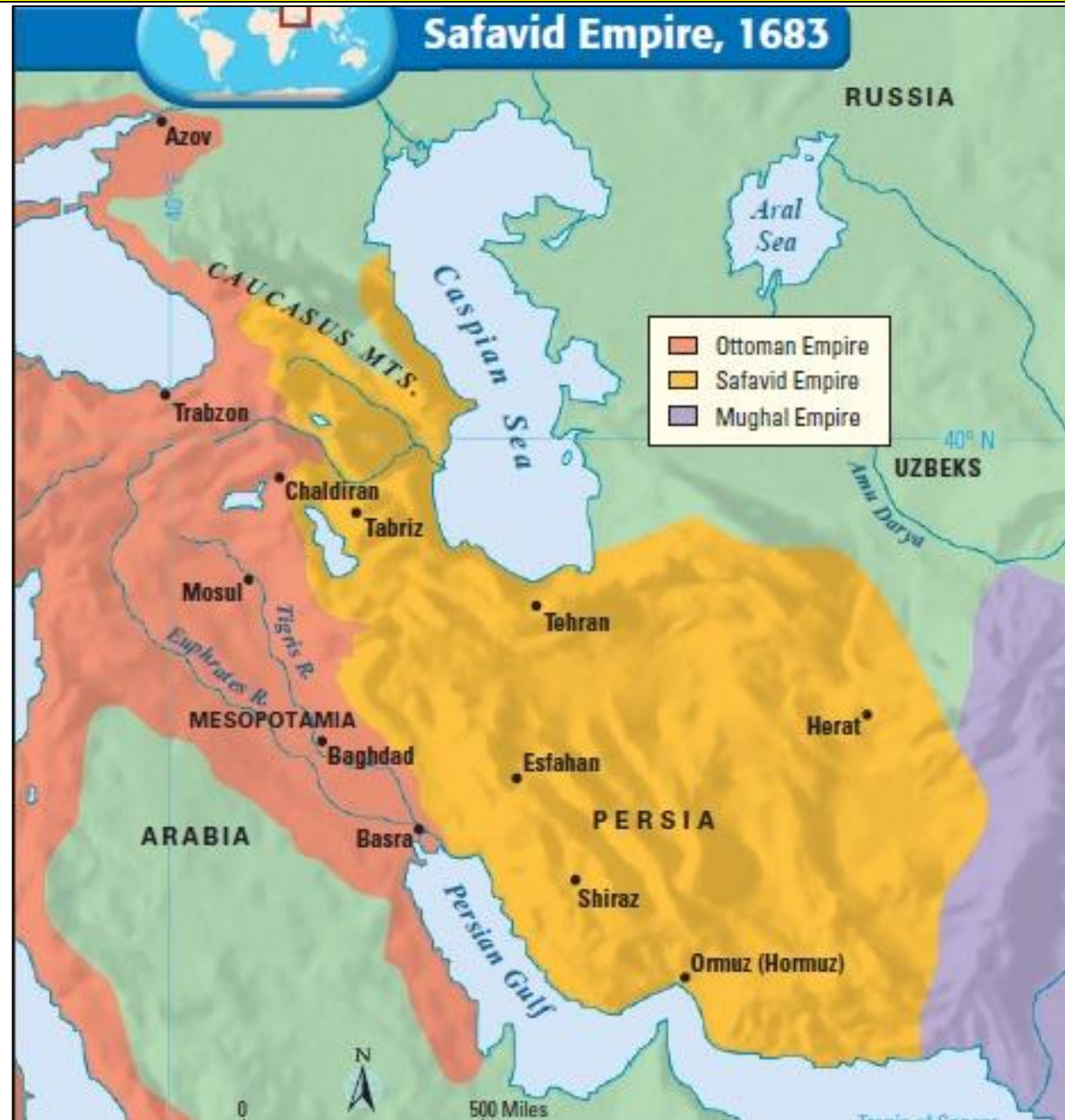
Like the Ottomans, Shah Abbas *blinded* or *killed* his most capable sons in order to keep power



As a result, *weak leaders* led to a *rapid decline* of the Safavid Empire

# The Decline of the Safavid Empire

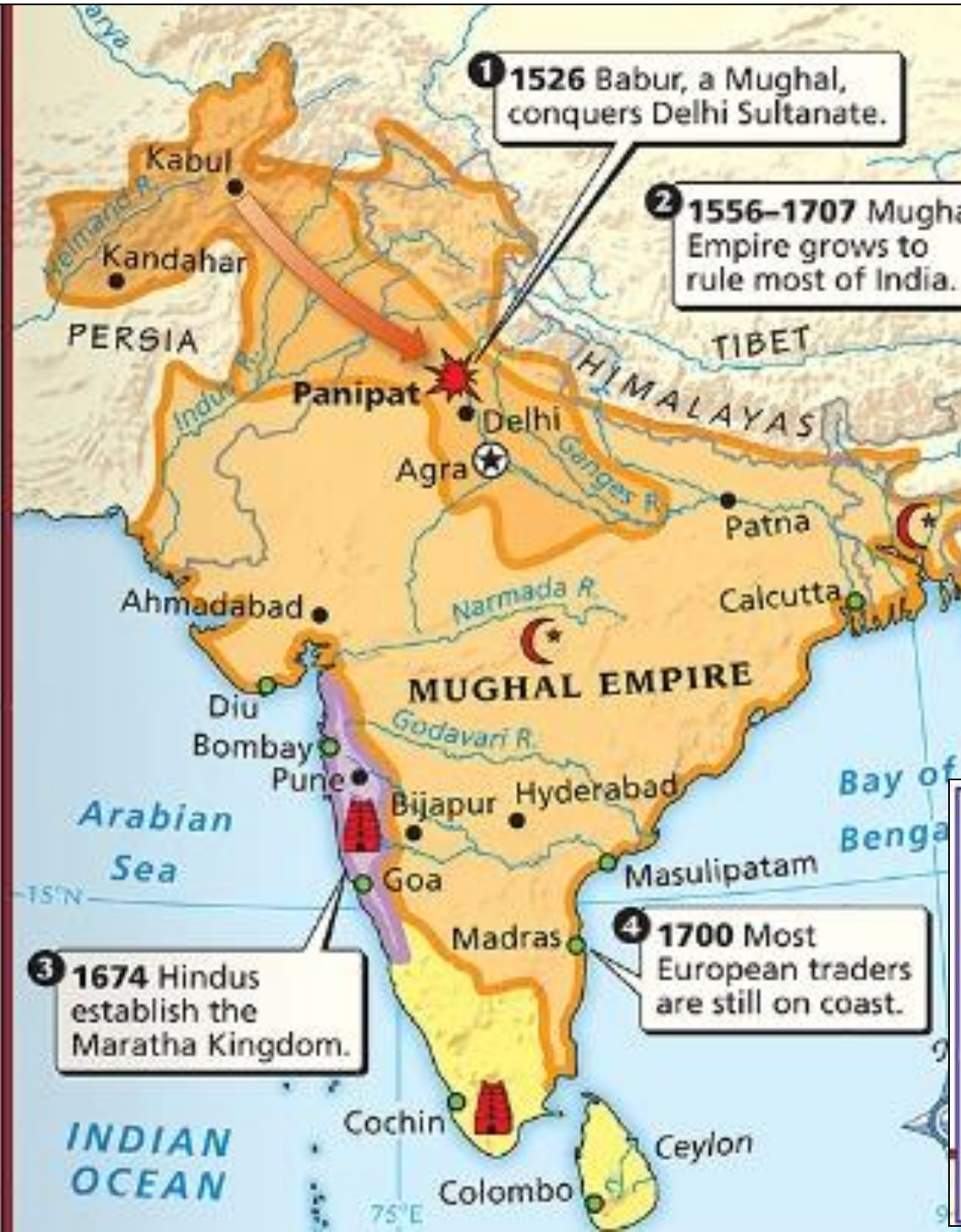
While the Ottoman Empire lasted until 1922, the Safavid Empire fell in **1747**







# THE MUGHAL EMPIRE



The Mughals were **Muslims** who descended from Turks, Afghans, and **Mongols** living in Central Asia

**Rise of the Mughal Empire**  
1526-1707

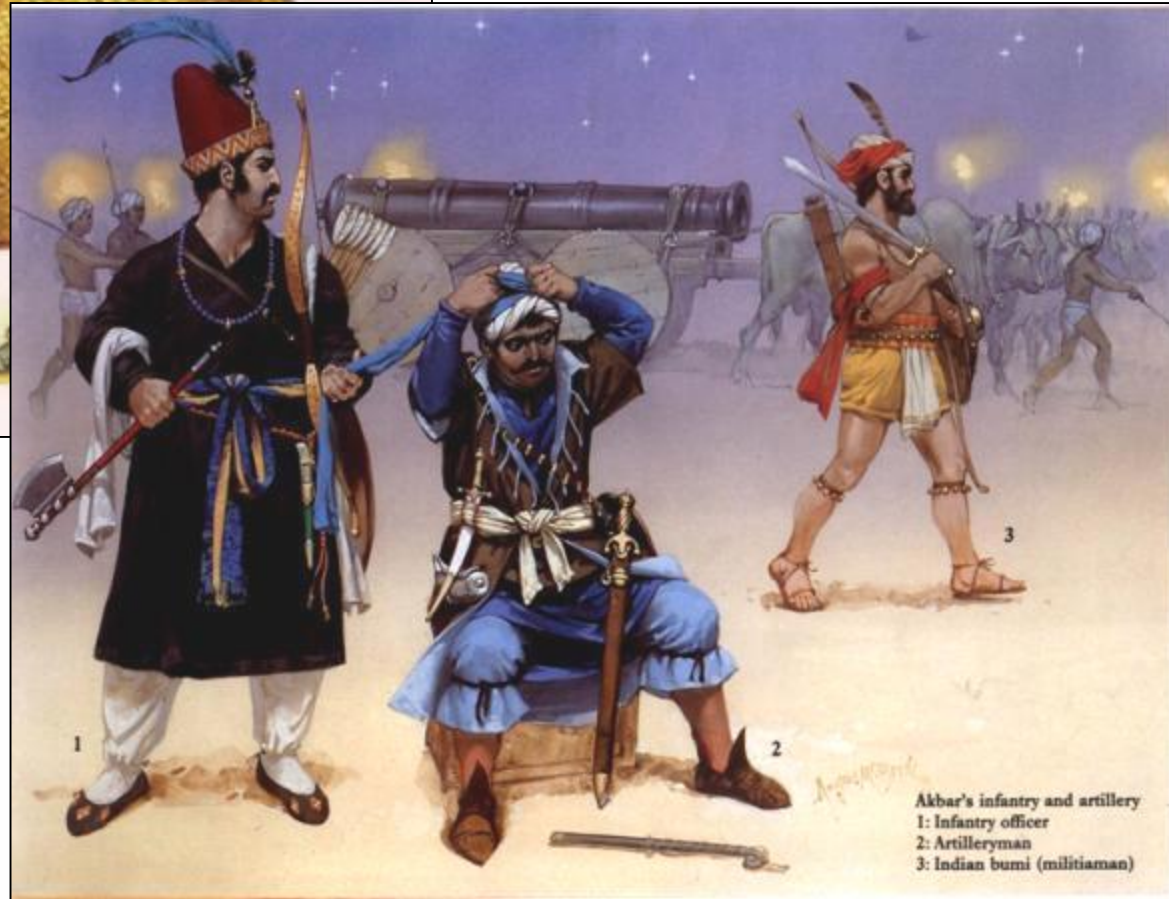
- Mughal Empire at death of Babur, 1530
- Mughal Empire's greatest extent, 1707
- Maratha Kingdom
- European trade settlement

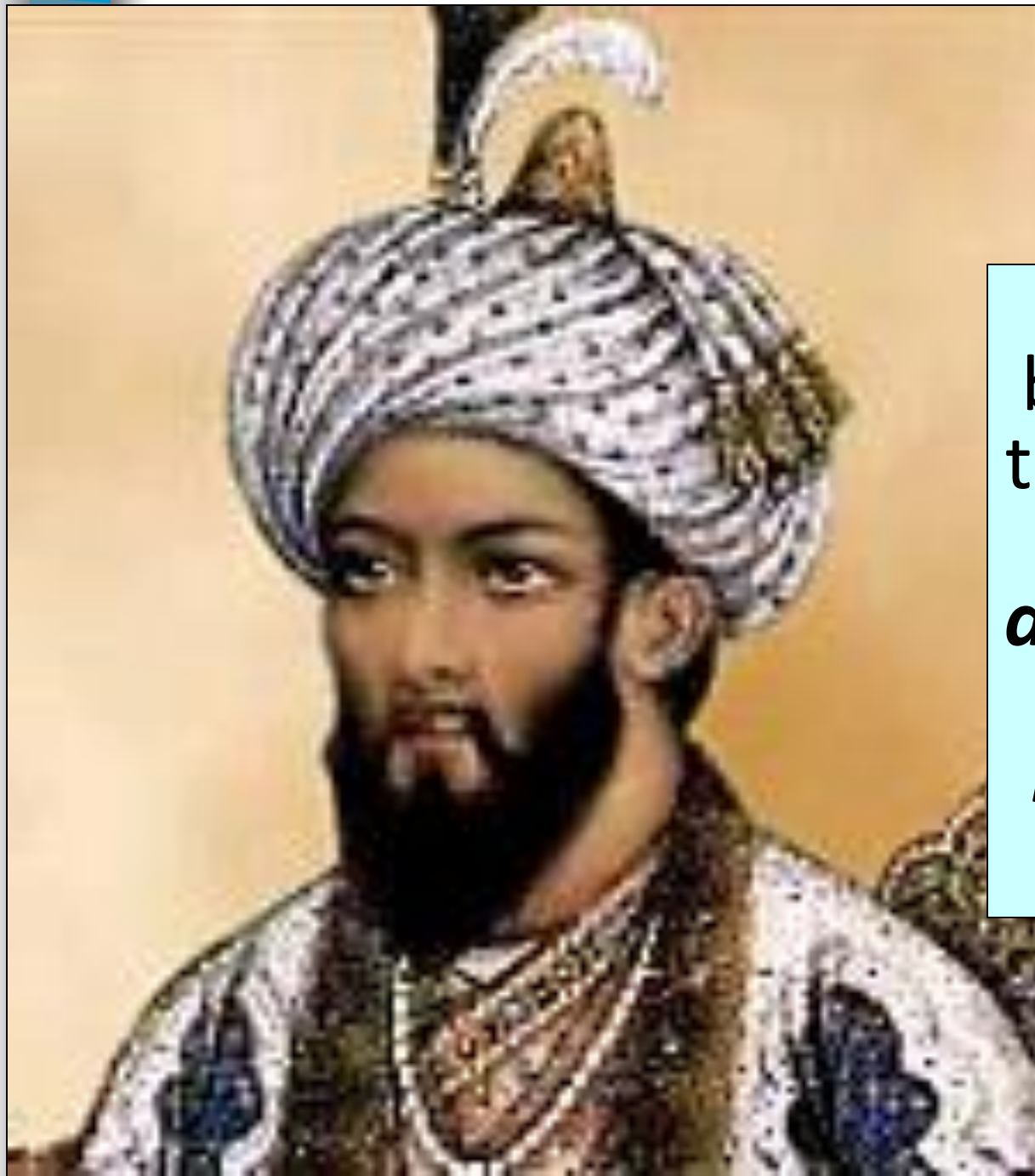
See complete legend at map A.

0 250 500 miles  
0 250 500 kilometers



Like the Ottomans and Safavids, the Mughals built a powerful *army* with guns and cannons





In 1494, **Babur** became king of the Mughals; he expanded the **army** and began invasions into **India** to create his empire





**Rise of the Mughal Empire**  
1526–1707

- Mughal Empire at death of Babur, 1530
- Mughal Empire's greatest extent, 1707
- Maratha Kingdom

In 1556, Babur's grandson **Akbar** became king of the Mughal Empire and expanded the empire into almost all of India

Akbar was the *greatest* of all the Mughal rulers



Akbar's greatest achievement was cultural *blending* and *religious* toleration he instilled in his empire

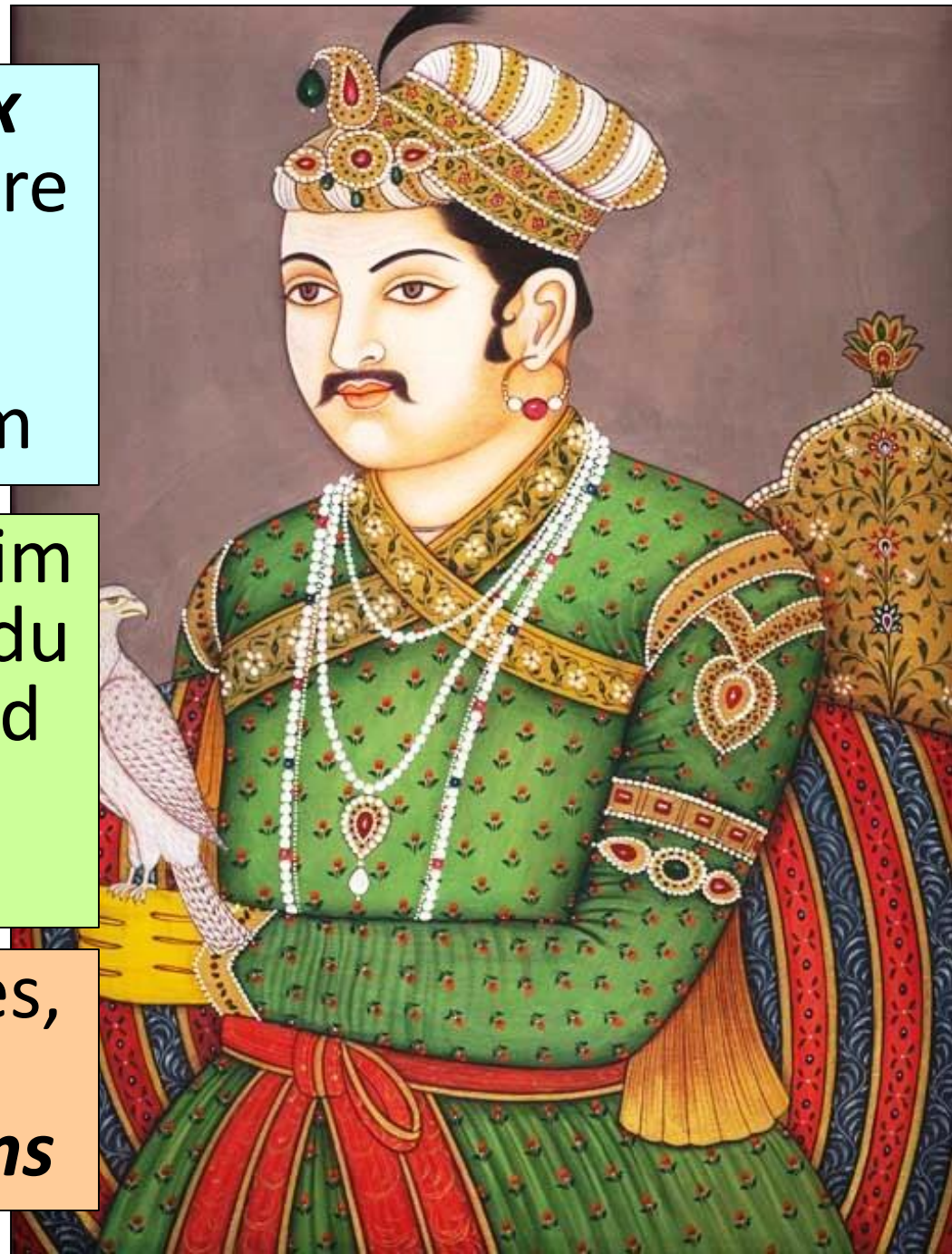
He held religious discussions with *Hindu* and *Muslim* scholars



Akbar ended the **tax** that **non-Muslims** were required to pay, creating a fair and affordable tax system

Because he was Muslim ruling in a largely Hindu region, Akbar allowed non-Muslims to **worship freely**

Akbar had many wives, including **Muslims, Hindus, and Christians**





The best example of Akbar's tolerance was his creation of a new religion called the ***Divine Faith***

The Divine Faith was an example of ***syncretism*** because it ***blended*** ideas from Islam, Hinduism, Christianity, and Zoroastrianism





Akbar hoped the Divine Faith would end *conflicts* between Muslims and Hindus

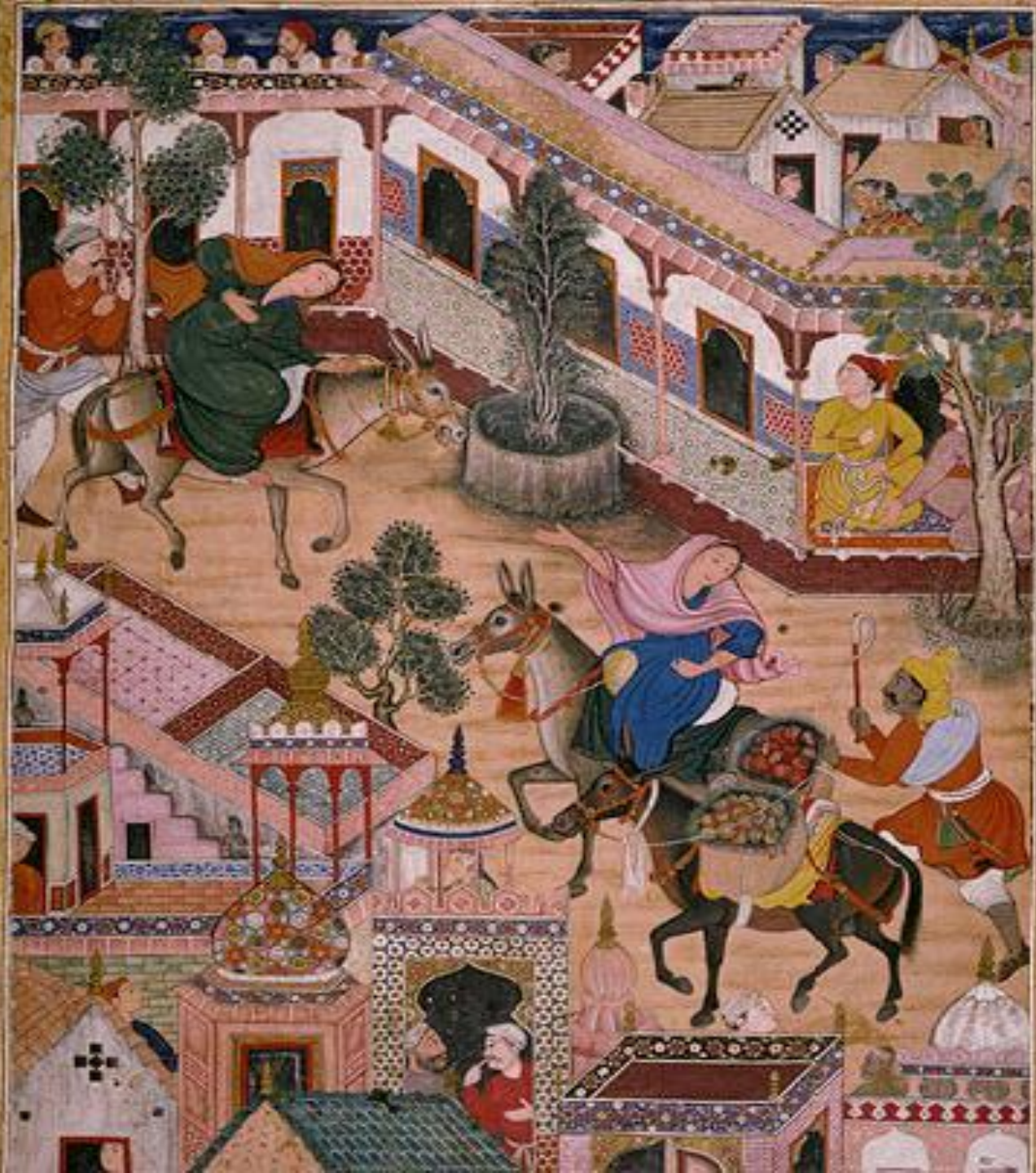
The Divine Faith *never attracted* many Muslim or Hindu converts... when Akbar *died*, so did the Divine Faith



During Akbar's reign, *art* flourished



Mughal  
artists were  
known for  
their colorful  
paintings  
called  
*miniatures*







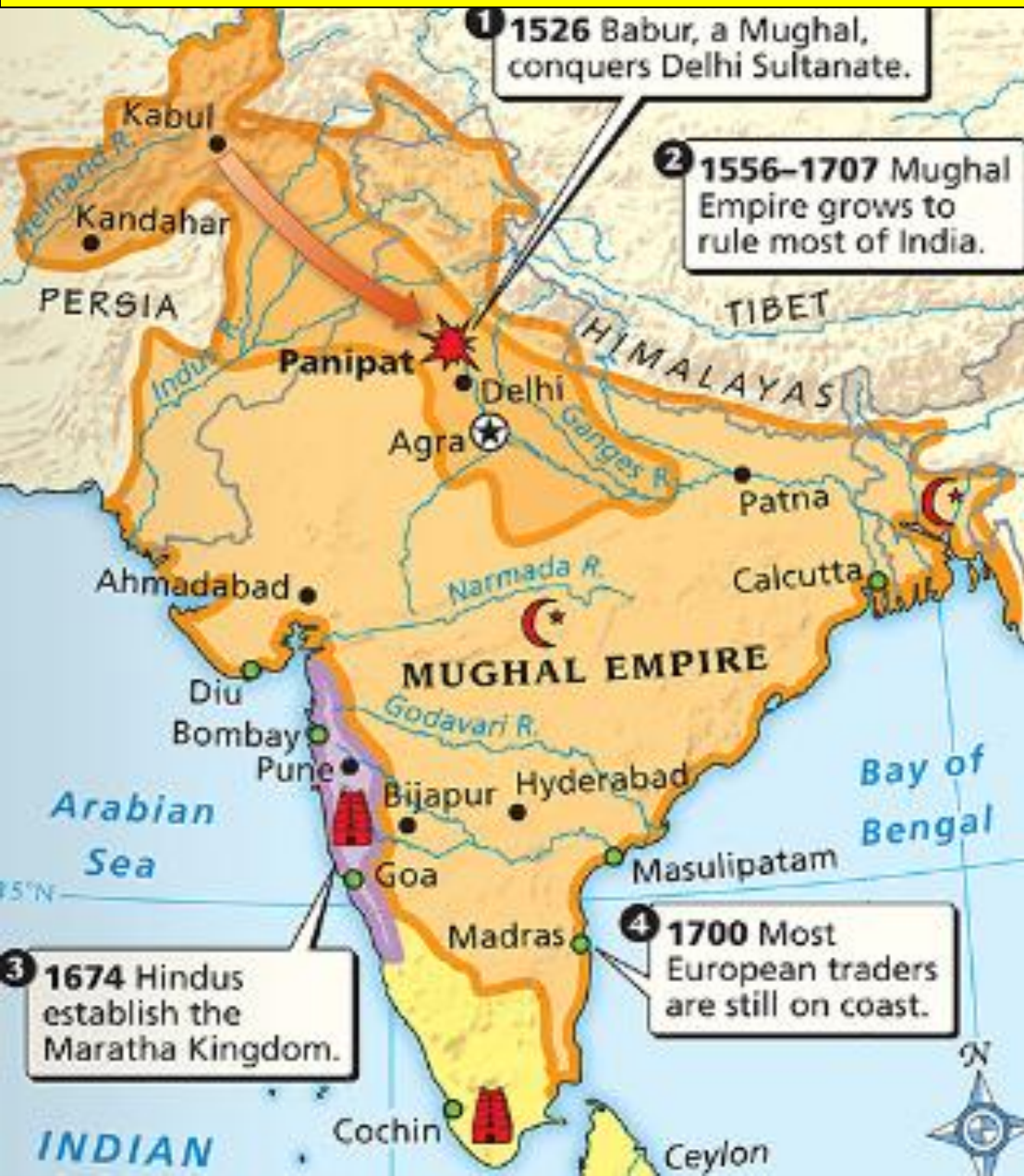
Mughal *architecture* was known for blending of Hindu and Islamic designs





The greatest example of Mughal architecture is the ***Taj Mahal***, which was built in 1631 by Jahan

# The Decline of the Mughal Empire



The Mughal Empire grew weak by 1700, as rulers spent too much money on *palaces* and *war* while *famine* brought *starvation* to millions



# The Decline of the Mughal Empire

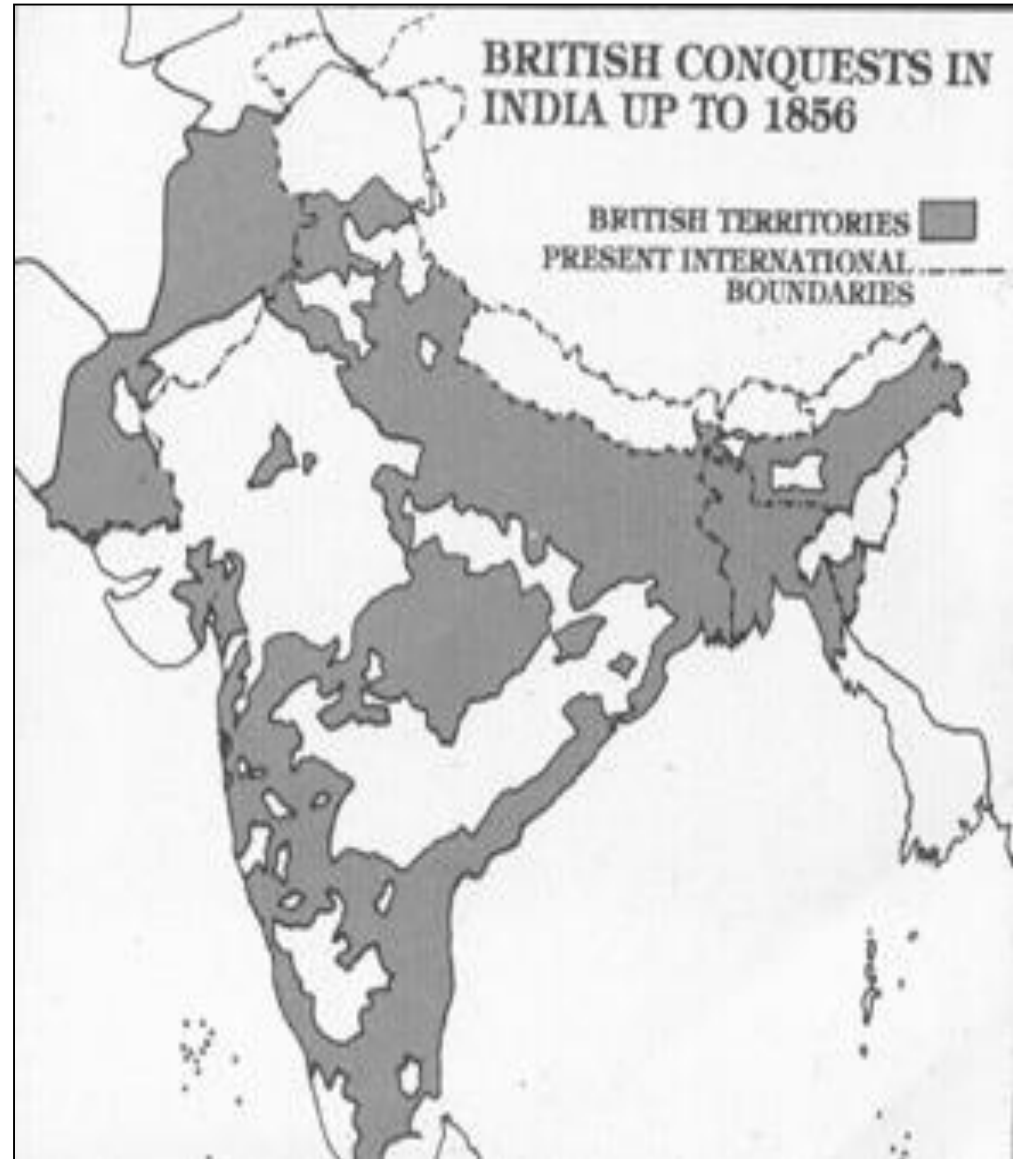


Also, the large population of *Hindus* in India began to *revolt* against their Muslim rulers

# The Decline of the Mughal Empire



**Great Britain** took advantage of this weakness, **conquered** India, and removed the last Mughal emperor from power in 1858





# CONCLUSIONS

The Ottomans, Safavids, and Mughals built large *Islamic* empires using *gunpowder* militaries



These empires provided new contributions in *law, art, and religion*

Their decline by the 1800s allowed newly *industrialized* European nations to *dominate* Asia



**Revamped and redone by**

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