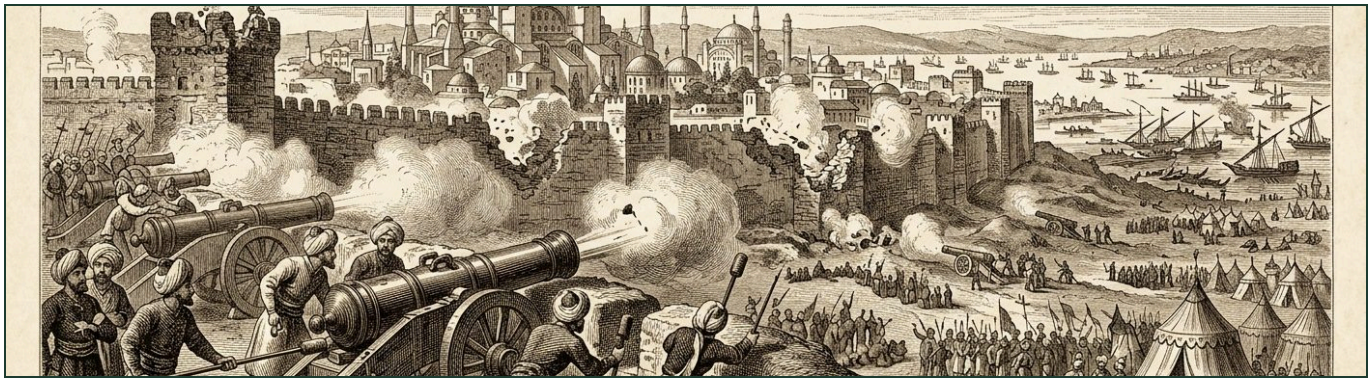


c. 1299 – 1922

Ottoman Empire Timeline

The Ottoman Empire was one of history's greatest empires — a Turkish state that grew from a small principality in Anatolia into a civilization spanning three continents, lasting more than 600 years before collapsing after World War I.

c. 1299

Osman I Founds the Dynasty

A Turkish warrior named Osman I establishes a small principality in northwestern Anatolia and begins raiding the weakening Byzantine Empire.

> **Why it mattered:** *Osman's small state was the seed from which one of history's great empires grew — his successors would expand it into a civilization covering three continents at its height.*

1453

Fall of Constantinople

Ottoman Sultan Mehmed II captures Constantinople — capital of the Byzantine Empire for over a thousand years — using massive cannons that breach its legendary walls; he renames it Istanbul.

> **Why it mattered:** *The fall of Constantinople ended the Byzantine Empire and transformed trade routes between Europe and Asia, helping push European explorers to find sea routes to Asia — directly contributing to the Age of Exploration.*

1520–66

Suleiman the Magnificent

Suleiman I rules at the height of Ottoman power — the empire stretches from Hungary to Baghdad; law, architecture, and the arts flourish; the Ottoman navy dominates the Mediterranean.

> **Why it mattered:** *Suleiman's reign was the Ottoman golden age — the empire was larger and more powerful than any in Europe, and became a center of scholarship, art, and law that rivaled Renaissance Europe.*

Ottoman Empire Timeline *continued*

1571 — **Battle of Lepanto**

A coalition of European Christian powers defeats the Ottoman navy off the coast of Greece — the first major Ottoman military defeat in over a century.

> **Why it mattered:** *Lepanto shattered the myth of Ottoman naval invincibility, though the Ottomans quickly rebuilt their fleet; it marked the beginning of a slow shift in the balance of power between the Ottoman Empire and Europe.*

1683 — **Failed Siege of Vienna**

Ottoman forces surround Vienna in their deepest push into Europe, but are defeated by a combined Polish-Habsburg army — marking the high-water mark of Ottoman expansion westward.

> **Why it mattered:** *Vienna was the turning point: after 1683, the Ottomans were steadily pushed back in Europe, beginning the long decline that would last until the empire's end in 1922.*

1800s — **The 'Sick Man of Europe'**

The Ottoman Empire loses territory in a series of wars and nationalist rebellions; European powers call it the 'Sick Man of Europe' and compete to control its declining lands.

> **Why it mattered:** *Ottoman decline created a dangerous power vacuum — each European power maneuvering for Ottoman territory contributed directly to the instability that caused World War I.*

1914–18 — **World War I**

The Ottomans enter World War I allied with Germany and Austria-Hungary; they fight on multiple fronts and commit genocide against Armenian Christians; they lose the war and their Arab territories are divided by the victorious Allies.

> **Why it mattered:** *World War I destroyed the Ottoman Empire — the Arab lands were split between Britain and France, creating borders whose legitimacy is disputed to this day, while the heartland of Anatolia faced occupation.*

1922–23 — **Republic of Turkey Founded**

Mustafa Kemal (Atatürk) wins a war of independence; the Ottoman sultanate is abolished in 1922, and the modern secular Republic of Turkey is proclaimed in 1923.

> **Why it mattered:** *The Ottoman Empire — lasting over 600 years — was replaced by a modern nation-state; its collapse also created the modern map of the Middle East, drawn by European powers with consequences felt to this day.*