Time Period: 1800-1870

Ottoman Empire:
(1798-1840)

Napoleon invaded Egypt and defeated Mamluks
Fifteen months later, Napoleon seized power in France and became Emperor
French troops had tough time holding onto Egypt
1801- France withdrew troops from Egypt
Muhammad Ali emerged as winner
-Used many French techniques
-Established schools and factories for military purposes

1830s: Muhammad Ali’s son Ibrahim invaded Syria
-Similar reform movement

European military pressure forced Muhammad Ali from withdrawing troops in 1841 to present-day borders of Egypt and Israel

Muhammad Ali was Egyptian Ruler until 1849
-Family held power until 1952

Ottoman Reforms: 1807-1853
Sultan Selim III (reigned 1789-1807)
-Strengthened military
-Central government
-Standardized taxation and land tenure
-Women gained more economic rights (control over dowry)

Janissaries opposed reforms
-Revolt in Serbia (1805)
-Serbian peasants helped defeat Janissaries
-Serbia eventually became independent of Ottoman Empire

Selim III’s subjects upset at reforms
Selim was captured and executed before reform forces could reach Istanbul (1807)
-Event showed his successors to be more systematic and forceful in reform movement

Greeks gained independence from Ottoman Empire (1829)
-Great Britain, France, and Russia helped Greece
-Looked upon as triumph for Europe

Sultan Mahmud II (1809-1839)
-Took loss of Greece as military and financial weakness of Ottoman Empire
-Used popular outrage to justify his reforms
-New Army
Eliminated Janissaries
Reduced political power of religious elite
Secularizing society
Religious law still governed marriage, inheritance, and divorce
Mahmud II: Did not like men wearing beards: fire hazard

Tanzimat (restructuring) reforms initiated by Sultan Abdul Mejid (1839)
Military cadets sent to France and Germany – training
Ottoman military education reformed
As a result, general education was reformed:
- Foreign subjects
- Foreign instructors
- French language in science and professional training

Educational reform stimulated growth of wealth and influence of urban elites

Unexpected cultural and social effects of reform movement:
Equal access to courts for all male subjects
Equalization of taxation
Introduction of westernized clothing

Tanzimat Period: 1839-1876
Public rights and political participation restricted to men
Reforms: Decreased women’s influence

Development of cash economy and competitive labor market drove women from the labor force

Crimean War (1853-1856)
Russia’s southern expansion led to war
Great Britain, France, Ottomans defeated Russia
- Blocked Russian expansion into Eastern Europe and Middle East

Result:
Significant changes to combatants
Russia’s government forced to make more reforms
Great Britain and France – propaganda – emphasized their roles in war
French press – promoted sense of unity between Turkish and French society

Transition from traditional warfare to modern warfare
- Percussion caps and breech-loading rifles led to machine guns, railways shipping weapons and soldiers, and trench warfare

After Crimean War, Ottoman Empire continued to establish secular financial and commercial institutions based on European model
Population shifted from rural to urban
Development of professional and wage laborer classes
-Did not solve fiscal problems of Ottoman Empire

Problems with Ottoman Reform:
Dependence on foreign loans
Trade deficit
Inflation
1860s-1870s: Discussion over possibility of all men being able to vote led to violence against Christians, especially in Ottoman territories of Eastern Europe, Armenia, and Middle East

Young Ottomans pushed for Constitutionalism
‘Young Turks’
- Liberal reforms
- Wanted Turkish National State
Constitution (1876)
- However, coup led to conservative ruler on throne

Ottoman Empire kept on weakening until its end in 1922