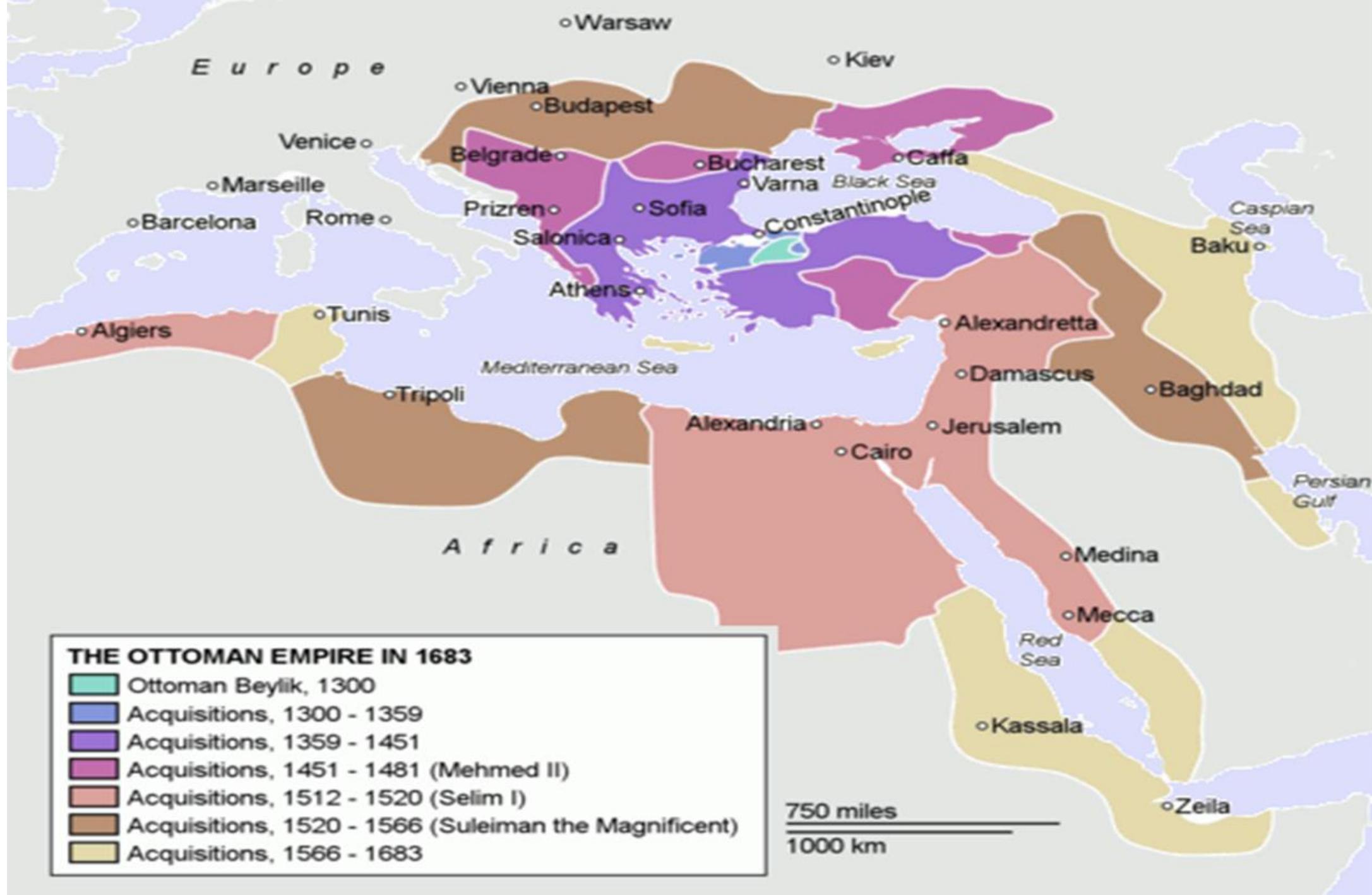


GUNPOWDER EMPIRES: THE OTTOMANS







RISE OF THE OTTOMANS

Ottoman Empire (ca. 1300 to 1922 CE)

Kayi Turks → Turkic group originally allied with the Seljuk Turks

- Sunni Muslims
- Given territory in Anatolia as a reward for help fighting against the Byzantines

First major leader Osman I (r. 1280 to 1326 CE)

- “Ottoman” → “House of Osman”
- Settled down, adopted agriculture in addition to herding, began expanding territory





EARLY EXPANSION

Ottoman territory expands as the Byzantines and Seljuk Turks weaken

- Conquer territory in the Balkan Peninsula by the mid-to-late 1300s, establish permanent settlements

Control of Balkan territory managed by sipahi (Turkish knights)

- Responsible for collecting local taxes, replace Byzantine and Slavic lords

Murad I (r. 1360-1389 CE) develops a stronger, professional army

- Elite fighting force known as the janissaries
- (Mostly) Christian boys taken from Balkan regions, brought up by Muslim families and raised as slaves of the sultan
- Most went into either the janissaries or the bureaucracy
- Trained in modern infantry tactics, used muskets and cannons





FURTHER CONQUEST

Ottomans take Constantinople in 1453 CE, ending the Byzantine empire once and for all

- Rename the city “Istanbul,” make it their capital and use existing trade networks

Expansion into Middle East and North Africa under Selim I (r. 1512 – 1520 CE)

- Defeat the Safavid forces (Persia) in 1514, take over Mesopotamia
- Defeat the Mamluk (Egyptian) forces in Syria (1516) and Cairo (1517)

Attempts expansion into Europe under Suleiman I “The Magnificent” (r. 1520 to 1566 CE)

- Conquers Hungary and Austria, only stopped by naval defeat by Spain and combined forces of Austria, Bavaria, Poland, and Saxony at Battle of Vienna in 1683 CE









GOVERNMENT IN THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

Government Structure

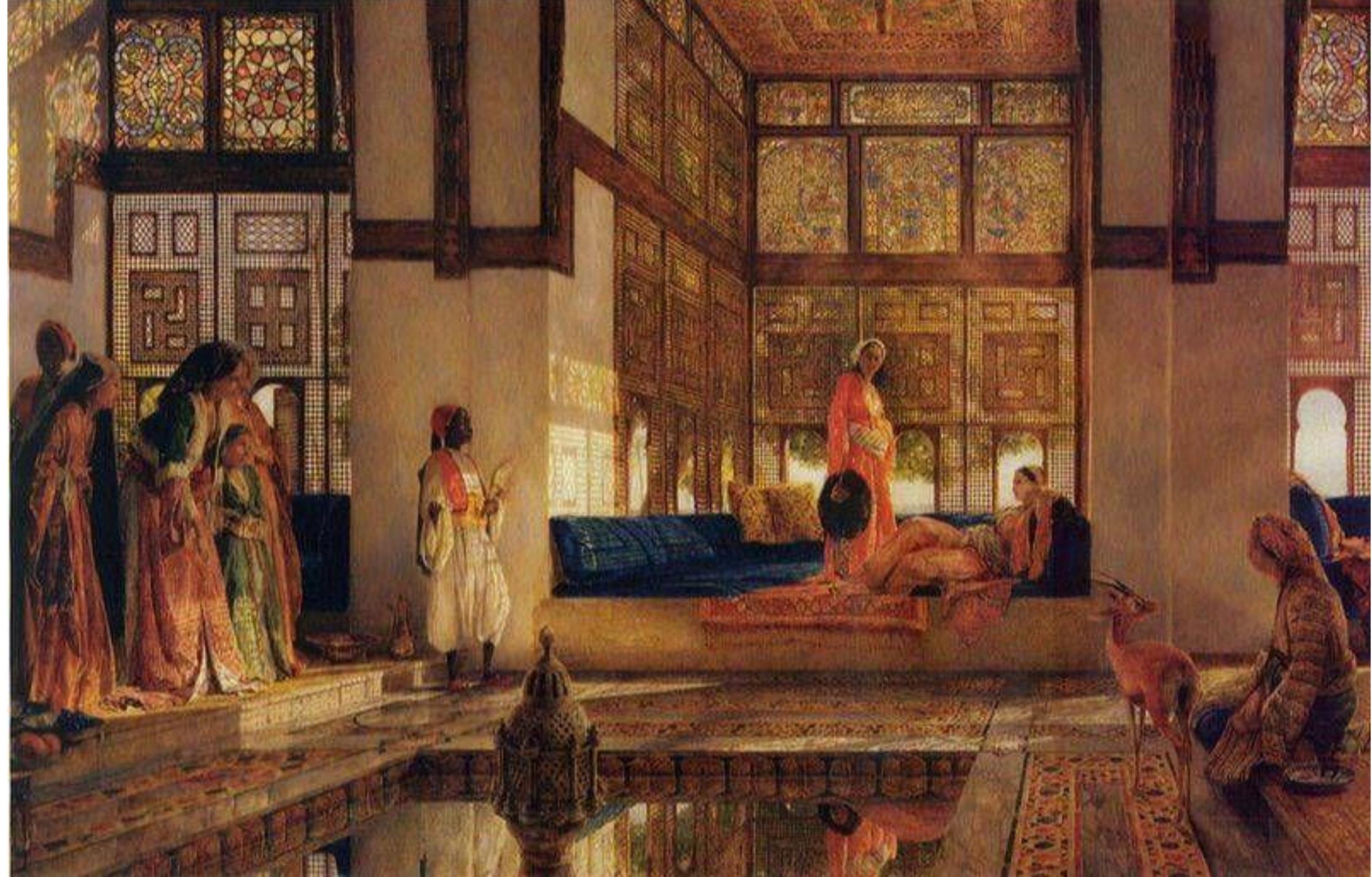
- Sultan is the ultimate ruler of the empire
- Inherited position

Traditionally, sultans did not marry— instead had many concubines

- Harem → private portion of the palace structure for the sultan's family (including concubines and children)
- Concubines often exerted significant political influence, attempted to put their own son's in line for succession
- Traditionally, when a new sultan succeeded to the throne, all his half-brothers would be killed (no rivals)

Sultan met with advisors 4 times a week:

- Chief minister → Grand Vizier (sometimes a slave), head of imperial bureaucracy





GOVERNMENT IN THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

Bureaucrats trained in a school in Istanbul

- Created stronger ties to the center of the empire

Empire divided into provinces (pashaliks) in a roughly feudal system

- Royal governors (Pashas) given estates by the sultan, ruled pashaliks
- Responsible for collecting taxes and creating a provincial government

RELIGION IN THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

Most Ottoman Turks were Sunni Muslims

- Sultans considered themselves to be the Islamic caliphs

Relative tolerance towards Christians and Jews

- Non-Muslim groups divided into administrative units called millets (Confessional communities)
- Led by religious leader, responsible for making sure its citizens followed Ottoman and local laws
- Paid a special tax (jizya)— sometimes heavier or lighter, depending on the sultan
- Exempt from military service

SOCIETY IN THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

Status of women— relatively better off than other contemporary cultures

- Women could own property, seek divorce, and could not be forced into marriage
- Some women in the harem (also, the Queen Mother) had considerable political influence
- Non-Muslim women had whatever rights afforded to them by their millet

Still, intensely patriarchal with the beginnings of purdah (isolation of women from wider society)

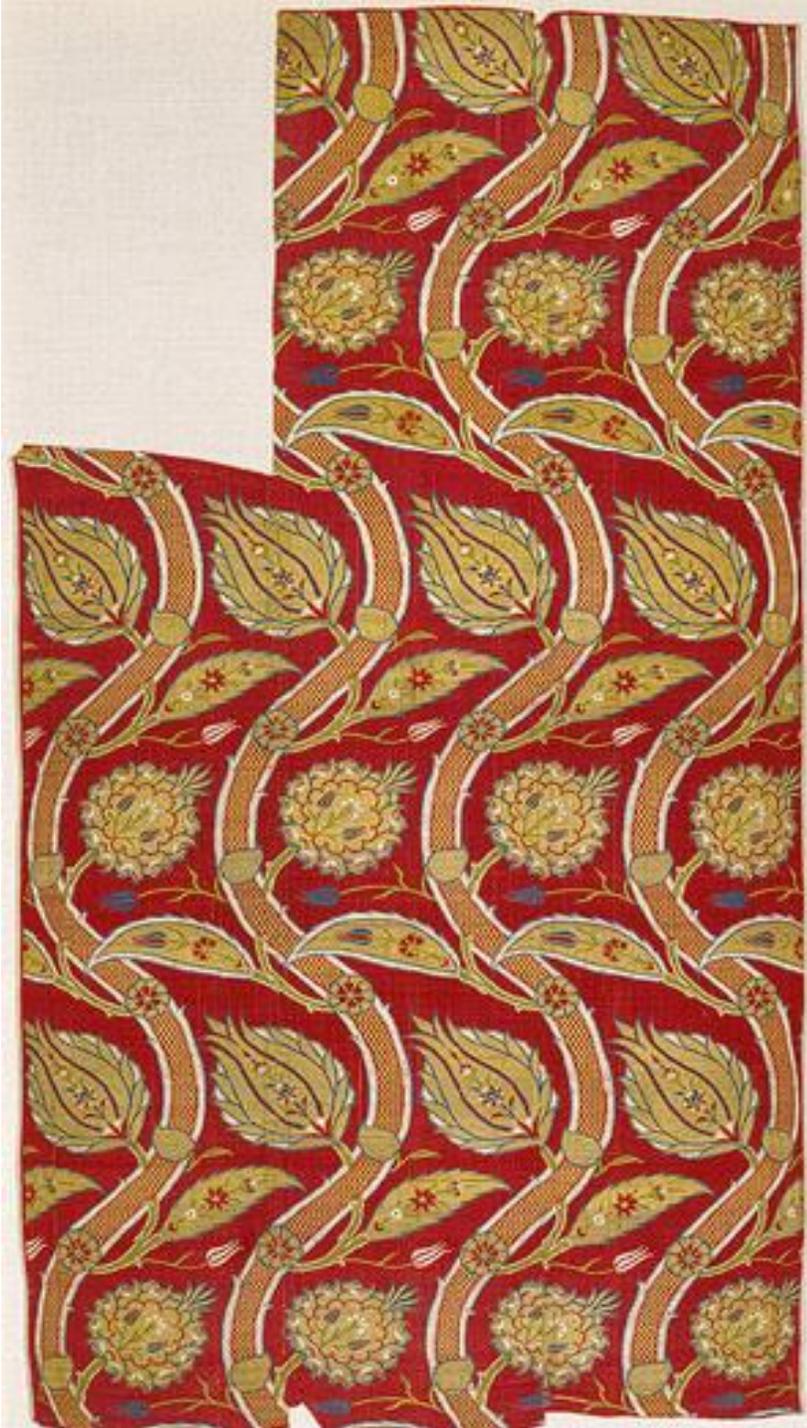


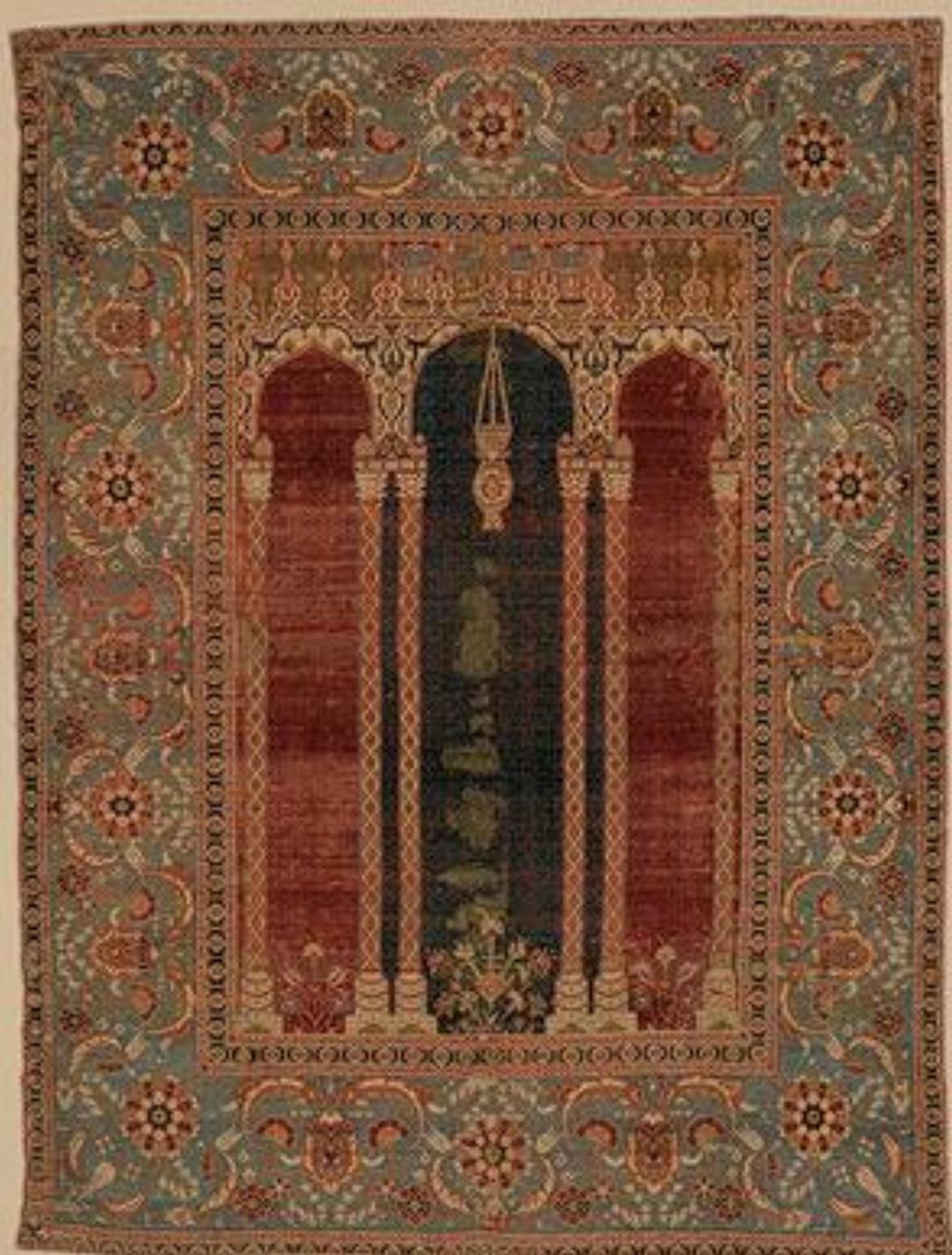
ART AND CULTURE

Sultans, being insanely wealthy, were great patrons of Islamic art

Well-known for their work in silk and textiles

Biggest architectural legacy: Blue Mosque of Istanbul









A LONG, SLOW DECLINE

Decline of Ottoman power begins in the late 16th century

- Bureaucracy becomes increasingly hereditary, not merit-based
- Breakdown of effectiveness and honesty of pashas
- Provinces lose contact with Istanbul— center no longer holds everything together

Economic problems

- Warfare and rebellion strain the treasury
- Trade routes interrupted by war
- MASSIVE inflation → Spanish silver influx

Loss of cultural capital

- Westernization → loss of social norms and identity