

# The Ottomans and Their Empire

Michael Wilkins



Series Editor **Rob Waring**

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**Level 2 - 0**

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## Introduction

The Ottomans were a family from a small town in Turkey long ago. They became one of the most important families in history. This is the story of how one family made a big empire that lasted about 600 years.



## The Start of an Empire

A man called Osman I started the empire. He was the leader of a small town called Sogut. He had big ideas for the future.

One day, Osman had a dream that he would make a great empire and become a powerful leader. In time, Osman's dream came true as he and his family used their power to take over many cities and towns.



Osman I

## Sultans

The leader of the Ottoman Empire was called a Sultan. The Sultan had a lot of power, like a king. Osman was the first Sultan.

After Osman died, a new sultan took his place. Then another sultan came after that. Each new sultan used his fast horses to take more towns, and the empire continued to grow.



Sultan Bayezid I  
(1389 - 1402)



Sultan Mehmed I  
(1413 - 1421)



Sultan Selim III  
1789 - 1807

## Constantinople

Long ago, the city of Istanbul was called Constantinople. It was one of the greatest cities in the old world. Hagia Sophia was its greatest church. The Ottomans wanted Constantinople. They wanted to make it their home.



Inside Hagia Sophia



A Christian picture  
in Hagia Sophia

Hagia Sophia

## Comprehension Questions

- Where were the Ottomans from?  
(a) Constantinople  
(b) Vienna  
(c) Sogut  
(d) Istanbul
- What was the Ottoman king called?  
(a) King  
(b) Prince  
(c) President  
(d) Sultan
- What is the city of Constantinople called now?  
(a) Cairo  
(b) Rome  
(c) Vienna  
(d) Istanbul
- What religion did the Ottomans follow?  
(a) Islam  
(b) Buddhism  
(c) Christianity  
(d) Hinduism
- About how long did the Ottoman Empire last?  
(a) 200 years  
(b) 400 years  
(c) 600 years  
(d) 800 years
- Which country did the Ottomans NOT control?  
(a) Egypt  
(b) Iran  
(c) Austria  
(d) Turkey
- How did the Ottomans make their money?  
(a) By printing it  
(b) By trade  
(c) By farming  
(d) By stealing it
- Who was the first sultan?  
(a) Mehmed  
(b) Ataturk  
(c) Suleiman  
(d) Osman
- What is Hagia Sophia today?  
(a) A church  
(b) A mosque  
(c) A theater  
(d) A restaurant
- When was the Ottoman Empire divided up?  
(a) After World War I  
(b) During World War II  
(c) Before Egypt fell  
(d) When Ataturk became president

## Glossary

- **attack** to make a sudden, violent attempt to hurt or damage
- **battle** a big fight between two groups of soldiers
- **cannon** a very large gun
- **Christian** someone whose religion is Christianity
- **Christianity** a religion based on belief in one God and the teachings of Jesus Christ
- **empire** a group of countries ruled by one nation
- **Islam** a religion based on belief in one God and the teachings of Mohammed
- **magnificent** very good
- **mosque** a building used for a worship by Muslims
- **Muslim** someone whose religion is Islam
- **satisfied** happy; pleased
- **slave** a person who is owned by someone else
- **soldier** a fighter in an army
- **sultan** a king or ruler in some Muslim countries
- **tax** money, goods, or services that must be paid to a government

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# World History Timeline

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This chart shows a rough overview of world history.  
Some of the dates have been simplified.

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# World History Timeline



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