

Unit 3: Land - Based Empires

C. 1450 - 1750

AP Exam Weighting: 12-15%

Topic 3.1 - Empires: Expand c.1450 - c.1750

Thematic Focus - Governance (GOV)

A variety of internal and external factors contribute to state formation, expansion, and decline. Governments maintain order through a variety of administrative institutions, policies, and procedures, and governments obtain, retain, and exercise power in different ways and for different purposes.

Learning Objective

Explain how and why various land-based empires developed and expanded from 1450 - 1750.

Historical Developments

Imperial expansion relied on the increased use of gunpowder, cannons, and armed trade to establish large empires in both hemispheres.

Land empires included the Manchu in Central and East Asia; the Mughal in South and Central Asia; the Ottoman in Southern Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa; and the Safavids in the Middle East.

Political and religious disputes led to rivalries and conflict between states.

State Rivalries:

- Safavid - Mughal Conflict
- Songhai Empire's Conflict with Morocco

Topic 3.2 - Empires: Administration c. 1450-c. 1750

Thematic Focus - Governance (GOV)

A variety of internal and external factors contribute to state formation, expansion, and decline. Governments maintain order through a variety of administrative institutions, policies, and procedures, and governments obtain, retain, and exercise power in different ways and for different purposes.

Learning Objective

Explain how rulers used a variety of methods to legitimize and consolidate their power in land-based empires from 1450 - 1750.

Historical Developments

Recruitment and use of bureaucratic elites, as well as the development of military professionals, became more common among rulers who wanted to maintain centralized control over their populations and resources.

Bureaucratic elites or Military Professionals:

- Ottoman Devshirme
- Salaried Samurai

Rulers continued to use religious ideas, art, and monumental architecture to legitimize their rule.

Religious ideas:

- Mexica practice of human sacrifice
- European notions of divine right
- Songhai promotion of Islam

Art and Monumental Architecture:

- Qing Imperial Portraits
- Incan Sun Temple of Cuzco
- Mughal Mausolea and Mosques
- European Palaces, such as Versailles

Rulers used tribute collection, tax farming, and innovative tax-collection systems to generate revenue in order to forward state power and expansion.

Tax - Collection Systems:

- Mughal Zamindar Tax Collection
- Ottoman Tax Farming

- Mexica Tribute Lists
- Ming Practice of Collecting Taxes in Hard Currency

Topic 3.3 - Empires: Belief Systems c. 1450 - c. 1750

Thematic Focus - Cultural Developments and Interactions (CDI)

The development of ideas, beliefs, and religions illustrates how groups in society view themselves, and the interactions of societies and their beliefs often have political, social, and cultural implications.

Learning Objective

Explain the continuity and change within the various belief systems during the period from 1450 - 1750.

Historical Developments

The Protestant Reformation marked a break with existing Christian traditions and both the Protestant and Catholic reformations contributed to the growth of Christianity.

Political rivalries between the Ottoman and Safavid empires intensified the split within Islam between Sunni and Shi'a.

Sikhism developed in South Asia in a context of interactions between Hinduism and Islam.

Topic 3.4 - Comparison in Land-Based Empires c. 1450 - c. 1750

Learning Objective

Compare the methods by which various empires increased their influence from 1450 - 1750.

Historical Developments

- The interconnection of the Eastern and Western Hemispheres made possible by transoceanic voyaging, transformed trade and had a significant impact on the world.
 - In some cases, the increase and intensification of interactions between newly connected hemispheres expanded the reach and furthered the development of existing religions, and contributed to religious conflicts and the development of syncretic belief systems and practices.
- Empires achieved increased scope and influence around the world, shaping and being shaped by the diverse populations they incorporated.
 - Imperial expansion relied on the increased use of gunpowder, cannons, and armed trade to establish large empires in both hemispheres.
 - Land empires included Manchu in Central and East Asia; Mughal in South and Central Asia; Ottoman in Southern Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa; and the Safavids in the Middle East
 - Political and religious disputes led to rivalries and conflict between states.