

CHAPTER 12: UNIVERSAL EMPIRE: SULEYMAN THE MAGNIFICENT (1520-1566)

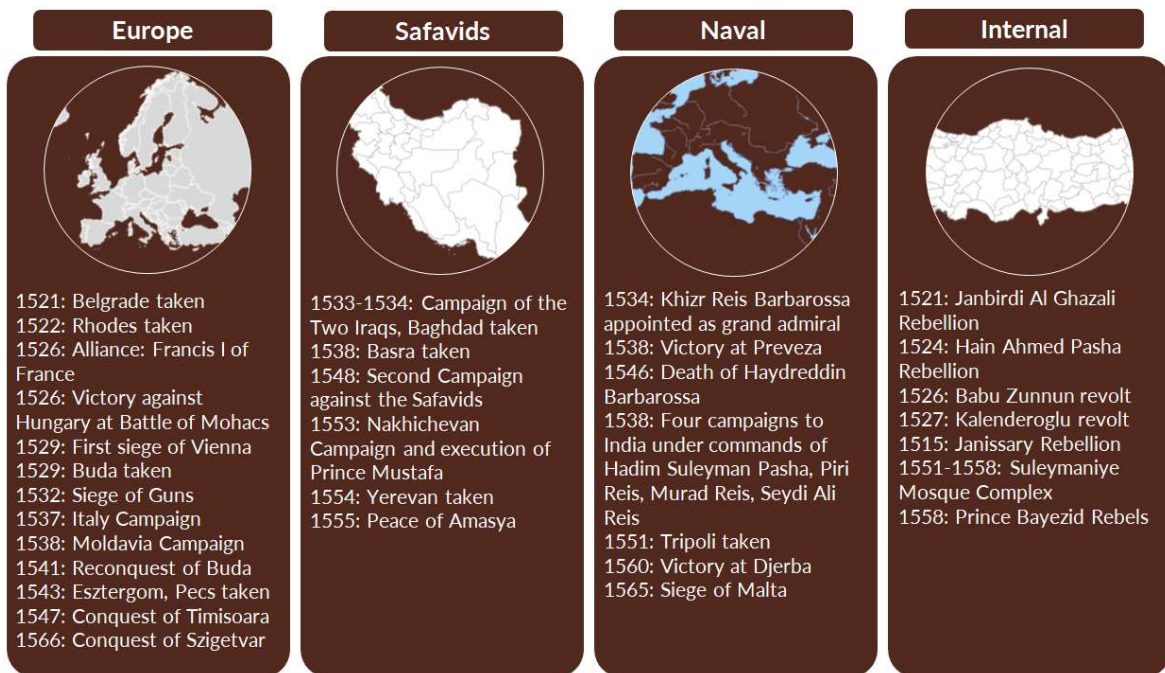
Introduction

Suleyman, born in 1494, possessed a tall and thin physique with faint facial hair, yet he instilled fear in his enemies. Raised in Trabzon, where his father served as the governor, he underwent typical studies for a Shahzade under the guidance of saintly scholar Shaykh Yahya Effendi, focusing on state and military administration and Islamic sciences. In addition to his scholarly pursuits, Suleyman learned jewelry making.

As the only son of his father, at the age of 26, on September 30, 1520, Suleyman ascended to power. His reign started an overflowing treasury, a formidable navy and army, and the additional title of Khalifa. Remarkably, he ruled for 47 years, spending approximately 30 years on campaigns, making him the longest-reigning Ottoman ruler.

Suleyman married Roxalana/Hurrem, his concubine, breaking norms by doing so. Together, they had six children. Known for his architectural contributions, he made Constantinople beautiful by employing the skills of Chief Architect Mimar Sinan. His reign ended on a battlefield in Hungary in 1566, and he was given titles such as Qanuni (Lawgiver), Muhtesem (Magnificent), and Gazi (Warrior).

Suleyman's Reign



Expansion in Europe

In 1521, the Ottoman forces engaged in large-scale preparations against Belgrade, leading to a 28-day siege. The aftermath saw the population shift to Constantinople, and the Kingdom of Hungary had to pay an annual tribute. In 1522, the island of Rhodes, a rocky stronghold occupied by the Knights Hospitaller, became a target. The Ottomans, led by Piri Mehmed Pasha and also by Sultan Suleyman, orchestrated a comprehensive attack involving sea assaults, featuring musketeers, tunnels, and strategic surrenders. The conquest extended to Bodrum castle, Leros, Kos, Kalymnos, Nisyros, Tilos, Halki, Alimia, and Symi.

In 1525, Charles V of the Holy Roman Empire captured Francis I of France at the Battle of Pavia. This prompted Francis I to seek Ottoman assistance, leading to the Battle of Mohacs in 1526. The Ottomans supported France against the Habsburgs, fostering a financial and trade alliance. The Hungarian King Louis II, who was allied with the Habsburgs, had stopped paying tribute. The Ottomans, victorious at Petrovaradin Fortress, Ilok Castle, and Osijek Castle, annihilated the Hungarian army at Mohacs. Louis II's death during retreat led to Ottoman control of Buda, briefly interrupted by Ferdinand I's takeover in 1527.

In 1529, the First Siege of Vienna occurred when Ferdinand demanded Suleyman return Belgrade, Varadin, and Szeged. Suleyman retaliated by reclaiming Buda and besieging Vienna with 120,000 men. However, harsh weather conditions and disease forced Suleyman's withdrawal after 17 days. In 1532, the Siege of Guns led to the Ottoman capture of the castle and a peace treaty in 1533, involving Janos, the king of Hungary, paying tribute.

The years that followed included the Moldavia Campaign in 1538, the Reconquest of Buda in 1541, and the Campaign against Ferdinand in 1543, where Nis, Esztergom, Istolni Belgrade, and Pecs were taken, and King Istefan was made the King of Hungary. The Conquest of Timisoara occurred in 1547 as Ferdinand continued to pressure Ottoman vassal Transylvania, resulting in Ottoman territorial gains. An eight-year armistice was signed in 1562 with Ferdinand and Charles V, marking a period of relative stability.

War with Safavids

Suleyman primarily focused on Europe as his target, avoiding direct conflicts with the Safavids unless compelled. When Shah Tahmasp, the son of Shah Ismail, ascended to the Safavid throne, he attempted to form alliances with the Holy Roman Empire and incited various beys against the Ottomans. The 1533-1534 'Campaign of the Two Iraqs', covering Arab and Persian territories, saw Ibrahim Pasha capturing Tabriz, Azerbaijan, and advancing to Hamadan.

Suleyman joined the campaign, resulting in the capture of Baghdad and securing control over the Silk Road. Despite these victories, the Safavids regained Tabriz, attributing the setback to Ibrahim Pasha's mistakes, leading to his execution. The 1548 Second Campaign against the Safavids witnessed the capture of Van Citadel. In 1553, the Nakhichevan Campaign, portrayed as targeting Safavid land, had the true purpose of eliminating Shahzade Mustafa. Rustem Pasha's involvement led to his removal as Grand Vizier.

Yerevan and Nakhichevan fell in 1554, culminating in the Peace of Amasya in 1555, establishing borders between the Ottoman and Safavid empires along the mountain range bisecting Georgia and descending to the Persian Gulf. This peace treaty remained in effect until 1578.

Naval Campaigns

Unable to counter the Ottoman army on land, in 1534, Spain dispatched a fleet led by Genoese Admiral Andrea Doria to attack Ottoman fortifications in the Morea. Haydreddin Barbarossa, having demonstrated his prowess with the capture of Algiers, was appointed Grand Admiral to establish maritime dominance against Europe.

In 1538, King Francis I signed the Truce of Nice with Holy Roman Emperor Charles V. Pope Paul II formed the Holy League, an alliance against the Ottomans under the leadership of Andrea Doria. It comprised the Republic of Venice, Genoa, Papal states, Knights of Malta, and Spain with its vassals. The Ottomans emerged victorious with minimal losses. Subsequently, Tunis was captured, although briefly.

In 1538, campaigns to India were initiated in response to Portugal's dominance in the Indian trade routes. Selim's conquest of Egypt aimed to counter this impact. Four campaigns involving Hadim Suleyman Pasha, Piri Reis, Murad Reis, and Seydi Ali Reis sought to expel the Portuguese and aid Muslim rulers in India, restoring Mediterranean trade to previous levels.

Significant victories included the capture of Tripoli in 1551 by Turgut Reis, the 1560 Victory at Djerba led by Grand Admiral Piyale Pasha/Turgut Reis, and the 1565 Siege of Malta, where the Ottoman invincibility notion began to unravel. In 1566, Chios Island proudly displayed the Ottoman flag.

Internal Challenges

Internal challenges included rebellions, such as the Janbirdi Al Ghazali Rebellion (1521), Hain Ahmed Pasha Rebellion (1524), and the Janissary Rebellion (1515).

Suleyman's sons played crucial roles in succession plans, with Shahzade Mehmed tragically dying of smallpox, Shahzade Mustafa being executed, and Bayezid facing a similar fate.

Suleyman's Legacy

Mimar Sinan (1489-1588)

Background

- Born in 1489 in Anatolia, Turkey
- Originally named Joseph; later took the name Sinan, meaning "the learned one."
- Apprenticed as a Janissary soldier before discovering his talent for architecture.
- Appointed Chief Royal Architect (Mimarbaşı) in 1538 at the age of 50, served during the reigns of Suleiman, Selim II and Murad III

Architectural Legacy

- Oversaw the construction of over 300 structures; over 200 survive
- 135 Mosques, 57 colleges, 35 palaces and mansions, 22 tombs, 17 hospices, 3 hospitals, 8 bridges, 7 aqueducts, 42 bath houses, 46 inns, 8 granaries
- Built Mosques in Turkey, Hungary, Bulgaria, Jerusalem, Aleppo, Crimea, Damascus, Iraq, Greece
- Iconic works include the Süleymaniye Mosque, Selimiye II Mosque, Mimrihan mosques
- Emphasized functionality, aesthetics, and harmony in design.
- Influence extended to mosque, bridge, aqueduct, and palace architecture.

Innovations and Techniques

- Pioneered the use of large domes and semi-domes in mosque design.
- Developed innovative structural systems for stability and earthquake resistance.
- Incorporated natural light and ventilation for a serene interior ambiance.

In 1562, an eight-year armistice was agreed upon with Ferdinand and Charles V, aiming to bring respite to the ongoing conflicts. However, issues persisted along the borders, exacerbated by the Holy Roman Empire's reluctance to fulfill tribute obligations. The treaty was shattered when the HRE attacked the principality of Transylvania. In response, an Austrian envoy arrived in Constantinople in 1566 without the overdue tribute, prompting Suleyman to declare war on Austria.

The focal point of this conflict was the capture of the strategically significant city of Szigetvar, which had been causing damage to Ottoman territories. The fortress proved formidable, featuring four interconnected castles surrounded by a moat. While the siege was underway, Suleiman fell ill and monitored the progress from his tent. Unfortunately, he passed away on September 6, 1566, and his death was initially kept a secret. Despite his demise, his army successfully conquered the city on September 7.

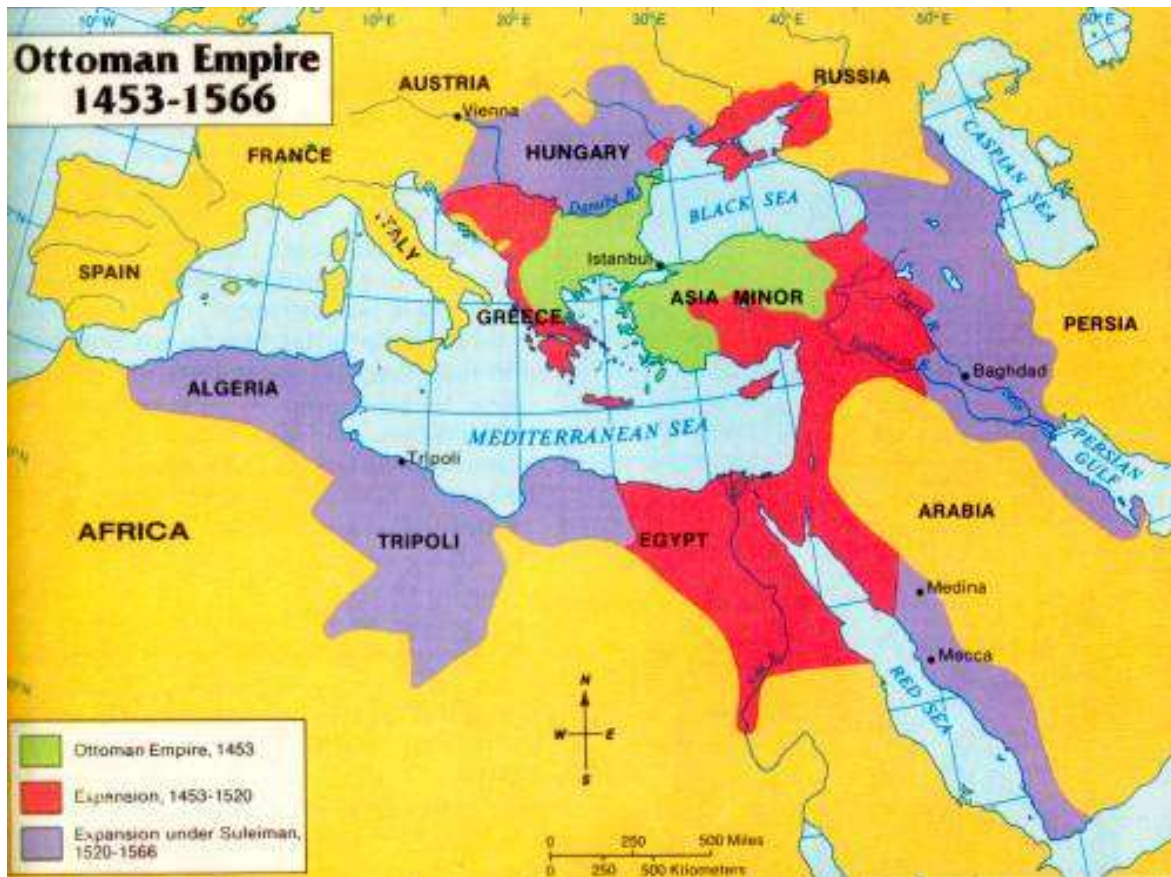
Suleyman's final two campaigns, the Siege of Malta (1565) and the Conquest of Szigetvar (1566), marked the end of an era. He was succeeded by Selim II.

Suleiman's reign marked significant legal, administrative, and cultural advancements. The establishment of Kanun-name, known as Suleiman's Law, introduced rules for the division of labor, proper assignment of duties, and staff training.

In the realm of art and culture, imperial artistic societies were supervised by Suleiman, who personally inspected and rewarded outstanding works in various fields such as calligraphy, miniature painting,

manuscript painting, gravures, ebru (water marbling), wood and stone carvings, ceramics, tiles, and textiles.

Architectural developments, led by Sinan, included projects in the Holy Lands, such as shelters for pilgrims around Makkah, a Turkish bath, replacement of wooden roofs with stone domes around the Kaaba portico, establishment of a medrese in Makkah, and preparation of the Kiswa in Egypt. Fortifications, renovations in the Prophet's mosque in Medina, and the allocation of budgets for mosque staff were undertaken. The construction extended to city walls encircling Jerusalem and fortresses with water reservoirs on the pilgrimage route from Damascus to Makkah. Mihrimah, a daughter of Suleiman, invested significantly to transport the Ayn Al Zubayda reservoir from Arafah to Makkah.



Timeline of Suleyman's Reign

- 1494: Suleyman was born in Trabzon
- 1520: He became Sultan on the death of his father Selim I
- 1521-22: Belgrade and Rhodes taken
- 1526: Alliance with Francis I of France, Victory against Hungary at Battle of Mohacs
- 1529: First siege of Vienna, Buda taken
- 1533-1534: Campaign of the Two Iraqs; Baghdad, Tabriz, Azerbaijan taken
- 1534: Khizr Reis Barbarossa appointed as grand admiral
- 1538: Moldavia Campaign, Basra taken from the Safavids, Victory at Preveza, 4 campaigns to India
- 1541-47: Campaigns against Ferdinand I - Buda, Esztergom, Pecs, Timisoara taken
- 1551: Tripoli taken
- 1551-1558: Construction of Suleymaniye Mosque Complex
- 1555: Peace of Amasya with the Safavids

- 1560: Victory at Djerba
- 1562: Eight year armistice was signed with Ferdinand and Charles V
- 1566: Conquest of Szigetvar, death of Sultan Suleyman

What was Happening in the World

- 1520: Spanish explorer **Hernán Cortés captures Tenochtitlan**, the capital of the Aztec Empire.
- 1520: **Martin Luther refuses to recant his views**, leading to his excommunication
- 1521: **Ferdinand Magellan's expedition** circumnavigates the globe
- 1526: The Mughal Empire, led by Babur, defeats the Sultan of Delhi, Ibrahim Lodi, **establishing Mughal rule** in India at the battle of Panipat
- 1527: Imperial troops, **led by Charles V, sack Rome**, a significant event in the Italian Wars.
- 1533: **King Henry VIII of England marries Anne Boleyn** after the English Reformation.
- 1534: **Henry VIII is declared the supreme head** of the Church of England.
- 1540: **Sher Shah Suri**, a former officer in the army defeats Humayun, he flees to the Safavids
- 1543: Nicolaus **Copernicus** publishes "De revolutionibus orbium coelestium," proposing a heliocentric model of the solar system.
- 1545-1563: The Catholic Church convenes the Council of Trent to address issues raised by the Protestant Reformation.
- 1555: **Humayun** regains Mughal Empire
- 1556: **Akbar the Great** becomes the ruler of the Mughal Empire in India.
- 1558: Elizabeth I ascends to the throne of England, marking beginning of the **Elizabethan era**.

Brief Timeline of Exploration from 1453 to 1600

- 1453: The fall of Constantinople to the Ottoman Empire.
- 1492: **Christopher Columbus**, funded by Spain, reaches the Americas, thinking he had reached Asia.
- 1497-1498: Portuguese explorer **Vasco da Gama** sails around the Cape of Good Hope, establishing a sea route to India.
- 1499-1500: Italian explorer **Amerigo Vespucci** suggests that the newly discovered lands are part of a separate continent, not Asia.
- 1519-1522: **Ferdinand Magellan's** expedition becomes the first to circumnavigate the globe, although Magellan himself dies during the journey.
- 1533: **Francisco Pizarro** completes the conquest of the Inca Empire in South America.
- 1565: **Miguel López de Legazpi** reaches the Philippines, leading to Spanish colonization.
- 1577-1580: Sir **Francis Drake** circumnavigates the globe, the first Englishman to do so.
- 1588: The Spanish Armada, a fleet sent by Spain, is defeated by the English navy, marking a significant shift in naval power.
- 1599-1600: Dutch navigator **Willem Barentsz** explores the Arctic region in search of a Northeast Passage.