

AS.100.327 (01)
***The Islamic Age of Empires: The Ottomans, the Mughals
and the Safavids***

Dr. Rao Mohsin Ali Noor

Fall 2022 | MW 12:00PM - 1:15PM | Maryland 201
Office Hours W 9:45-11:45 or by appointment
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Opposing folios depicting an unidentified Ottoman Sultan and the Mughal Emperor Jahangir, c. early 17th century, Royal Collection Trust

“In the sixteenth century of our era”, wrote the eminent historian of Muslim societies Marshall Hodgson, “a visitor from Mars might well have supposed that the human world was on the verge of becoming Muslim”. They would have based this assertion, continues Hodgson, on the political, cultural, and economic vitality of the empires of the Ottomans, the Mughals, and the Safavids. This survey course will introduce students to the history, culture, institutions, and socio-religious makeup of these three early modern polities that ranged from the Balkans to Bengal, paying particular attention on issues of dynastic and religious law, cultural, religious, and military-diplomatic exchanges with the world and with one another, and their impact on the social, religious, and ethnic makeup of modern Eurasia.

Prerequisites: at least one history class at the introductory level

Format: Two weekly lectures accompanied by source-based discussions

Required Texts:

Students are required to purchase the following textbooks via Barnes and Nobles etc. or to access them via the library's course reserves system.

1. Stephen Dale, *The Muslim Empires of the Ottomans, Safavids, and Mughals*, (Cambridge University Press, 2010)
2. Hani Khafipour (ed.), *The Empires of the Near East and India: Source Studies of the Safavid, Ottoman, and Mughal Literate Communities*, (Columbia University Press, 2019)

Additional secondary and primary readings will be uploaded to canvas or otherwise made available via the library. Students are advised that this is a reading intensive class and that completion of all assigned readings is expected.

Grading:

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|------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. Primary Source Reflection Posts | 30 Percent |
| 2. Term Paper | 25 Percent |
| 3. Final Examination | 25 Percent |
| 4. Attendance | 10 Percent |
| 5. Participation | 10 Percent |

Weekly Reflection Posts:

On selected weeks students will be required to post a short reflection on canvas on the week's assigned primary sources. These would have to be uploaded by Tuesday 5:00 pm each week and are intended to facilitate discussion during Wednesday's lecture (which of course feeds into the participation grade as well). As such, these posts should **NOT** be blanket summaries of the text. Rather they should be each student's own particular take on the text in light of that week's assigned secondary readings.

Term Paper

Over the course of the semester students will be required to complete a term paper (8-12 printed pages, double-spaced, 12 point font in Times New Roman) on a pre-set prompt. The prompt will be shared two weeks before the paper is due for submission. The paper should be each student's original take on the assigned prompt and should make use of the assigned secondary and primary texts. Extra points will be awarded for skillful incorporation of outside readings and primary sources.

Final Exam

In final exam week students will sit one final exam. The exam will consist of a map quiz and some historical IDs on important terms, events, personages, and processes that featured in the course. More information on how students should go about the exam will be given in the introductory session of the course.

Attendance and Participation

Regular attendance is a requirement for the course and all absences must be communicated with the lecturer at least two days in advance unless it is an emergency. Each student may be permitted two excused absences without a penalty in the attendance grade. Regular participation in primary source discussions is also mandatory and will count significantly towards the final grade.

Statement on Academic Honesty

As per the rules and regulations of Johns Hopkins University and the code of conduct expected of all scholars, all work submitted must be the students' own. Failure to comply with these rules and regulations will result in serious disciplinary action.

University Statement on Sexual Misconduct and Discrimination

The Johns Hopkins University is committed to providing a safe and non-discriminatory educational and working environment for its students, trainees, faculty, staff, post-doctoral fellows, residents, and other members of the University community. In particular, the University will not tolerate and is committed to providing members of its community with an environment that is free from any form of sexual misconduct. This

conduct is disruptive of the learning and working environment of the University’s community and deprives students, employees, and other community members of equal access to the University’s programs and activities. To that end, the University embraces its responsibility to increase awareness of sexual misconduct, prevent its occurrence, support victims, deal fairly and firmly with offenders, diligently investigate complaints of such misconduct and retaliation, and comply with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (“Title IX”), the Campus SaVE Act, and other applicable laws. The Johns Hopkins University Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedures (the “Policy” and these “Procedures”) implement the University’s commitment to investigate and resolve cases involving sexual misconduct and retaliation promptly, fairly, equitably, impartially, and in compliance with law.

Learn more at: <https://sexualmisconduct.jhu.edu/>

Class Schedule

Session: Date	Topics to be Covered	Readings
1: 31 Aug	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductory Remarks • Course Structure and grading 	No readings
2: 5 Sept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Post-Mongol and Timurid World Order • The Question of Early Modernity • Historical Connections across Eurasia • New universalisms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Chapter 4: Eurasian Connections: The Mongol Empires” in Frederick Cooper and Jane Burbank, <i>Empires in World History</i>, (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2011), p. 93-115. • S. Subrahmanyam, “Connected Histories: Notes towards a Reconfiguration of Early Modern Eurasia” <i>Modern Asian Studies</i>, Vol. 31, No. 3, (Jul., 1997), p. 735-762.
3: 7 Sept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anatolia, Iran, and India at the cusp of “Early Modernity” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dale, p. 10-47 • John E. Woods, <i>The Aqquyunlu: Clan, Confederation, Empire</i>, (Salt Lake City: Utah, 1999), p. 1-23.
5-6: 12 th , 14 th Sept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imperial Origins 	Assigned readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dale, p. 48-76

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heath Lowry. “The Debate to Date.” in <i>The Nature of the Early Ottoman State</i> (New York: SUNY Press, 2003), pp. 5-13. <p>Primary Sources: (Reflection Assignment Due on ONE of these):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Babur (d. 1530), <i>The Baburnama: The Memoirs of Babur, Prince and Emperor</i>, Wheeler Thackston (tr.), (New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996), “Marriage and First Love” (p. 112-113), “Description of Hindustan” (p. 330-334). • Ibn Battuta’s (d.1377) account of Anatolian Society and Orhan Gazi’s Bursa in “Volume II Chapter VIII” in <i>The Travels of Ibn Battuta, AD 1325-1354</i>, H.A.R. Gibb (tr.) (Cambridge: CUP and the Hakluyt Society,1961). <p>NOTE: [Read the whole of Chapter VIII: Asia Minor, but pay particular attention from the bottom of page 449 to the middle of page 452. Also consult the appendix for chronology for this account].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • V. Minorsky, “The Poetry of Shah Isma’il I” in <i>Bulletin of the School of Oriental Studies</i> 10 (1942): 1006-1050.
7-8: 19 th , 21 st Sept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kingship, Legitimacy, and Institutions 	Assigned readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dale, p. 77-105

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A. Azfar Moin, “Millennial Sovereignty, Total Religion, and Total Politics, <i>History and Theory</i>, 56, 2017, p. 89-97. • Cornell Fleischer, “The Lawgiver as Messiah: The Making of the Imperial Image in the reign of Süleyman” in <i>Soliman le magnifique et son temps</i>, ed. Gilles Veinstein, (Paris: La Documentation Française, 1992), p. 159-177. <p>Primary Sources: (Reflection Assignment Due on ONE of these):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Safavid Claim to Sovereignty According to a Court Bureaucrat in Khafipour</i>, p. 179-188. • Excerpts from Idris-i Bidlisi’s <i>The Essence of Kingship</i> in Khafipour, p. 193-200 • <i>The Millennial and Saintly Sovereignty of Emperor Shah Jahan According to a Court Sufi</i> in Khafipour, p. 205-217. • Sheikh Abu al-Fazal ‘Allami (d. 1602), <i>A’in-i Akbari (The Constitution of Akbar)</i>, H. Blochmann (tr.), (Calcutta: Asiatic Society of Bengal, 1873), “His Majesty as the Spiritual Guide of the People” and “Ordinances of the Divine Faith”, p.162-166.
8-9: 26 th , 28 th Sept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economy and Commodities in the Ottoman, Mughal, and Safavid Empires 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dale, 106-134 • James Grehan, “Smoking and “Early Modern” Sociability: The Great Tobacco Debate in the Ottoman

		<p>Middle East”, <i>American Historical Review</i>, v.111 no. 5, 2006</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rudi Mathee. “The Safavid Economy as Part of the World Economy.” in <i>Iran and the World in the Safavid Age</i>. Ed. Willem Floor and Edmun Herzig. London; New York: I.B. Tauris, 2012, pp. 31-47
<p>10-11: 3rd, 5th Oct</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warfare and Diplomacy in the Islamicate world 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Chapter One: The Indian Frontier” and “Chapter Two: War-band and Court” in Jos Gommans, <i>Mughal Warfare: Indian Frontiers and Highroads to Empire 1500-1700</i>, (New York: Routledge, 2002), p.7-64. • “Chapter six: Ottoman Methods of Warfare” in Rhoads Murphy, <i>Ottoman Warfare 1500-1700</i>. • Andrew Hess, “The Evolution of the Ottoman Seaborne Empire in the Age of Oceanic Discoveries, 1453-1525, <i>The American Historical Review</i>, Vol. 75, No. 7 (Dec., 1970), pp. 1892-1919 • Rudi Mathee, “Unwalled Cities and Restless Nomads. Firearms and Artillery in Safavid Iran.” in <i>Safavid Persia. The History and Politics of an Islamic Society</i>. ed. Charles Melville. London; (New York: I.B. Tauris, 1996), pp. 389-416. <p>Primary Sources: (Reflection Assignment Due on ONE of these):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imperial Geopolitics and the Otiose Quest for Qandahar, in Khafipour p.

		<p>265-279.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selections from the memoirs of the Ottoman Janissary Konstantin Mihailović (d. 1501) • Akbar’s victory letter at the conquest of Chittor (c.1568) in Khafipour, p. 287-300
<p>12-13: 10th, 12th Oct</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religious landscapes from the Balkans to Bengal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dale, p. 177-207. • Tijana Krstić, “Illuminated by the Light of Islam and the Glory of the Ottoman Sultanate: Self-Narratives of Conversion to Islam in the Age of Confessionalization”, <i>Comparative Studies in Society and History</i>, Vol. 51, No. 1 (Jan., 2009), pp. 35-63. • A. Azfar Moin, “The Politics of Saint Shrines in the Persianate Empires” in <i>The Persianate World: Rethinking a Shared Space</i>, (Leiden: Brill, 2019). • Kathryn Babayan, “The Safavid Synthesis: From Qizilbash Islam to Imamite Shi’ism.” <i>Iranian Studies</i> 27 (1994), pp. 135-161. <p>Primary Sources: (Reflection Assignment Due on ONE of these):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ottoman Religious Rulings Concerning the Safavids: Ebussuud Efendi’s fetvas in Khafipour, p. 97-106. • Prince Dara Shukoh (d. 1659), <i>Sirr-i Akbar (The Greatest Secret)</i> in <i>The</i>

		<p><i>Norton Anthology of World Religions: Islam</i> (New York and London: W.W. Norton & Company, 2015) p.499-502.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confessions of an Armenian Convert in Khafipour, p. 11-31.
14-15: 17 th , 19 th Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-Muslim ‘others’ and the management of diversity in the Ottoman, Mughal, and Safavid Empires 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giancarlo Casale, “Mehmed the conqueror between Sulh-i kull and Prisca Theologia”, <i>Modern Asian Studies</i>, v.56, no.3, May 2022, p. 840-869 • Rajiv Kinra, “Handling Diversity with Absolute Civility: The Global Historical Legacy of Mughal Şulh-i Kull”, <i>The Medieval History Journal</i>, Volume: 16 issue: 2, 2014, p. 251-295. • Roger M. Savory, “Relations between the Safavid State and its Non-Muslim Minorities”, <i>Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations</i>, Vol. 14, No. 4, October 2003.
16-17: 24 th , 26 th Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imperial Society and Culture I: Architecture, Learning, Poetry, and Painting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dale, p. 135-176, 208-246. • Wayne Begley, “The Myth of the Taj Mahal and a New Theory of Its Symbolic Meaning”, <i>The Art Bulletin</i>, Mar., 1979, Vol. 61, No. 1 (Mar., 1979), pp. 7-37. • Christine Woodhead, “Chapter 10: Ottoman Languages” in <i>The Ottoman World</i>, (Routledge, 2011), p. 143-158.

Primary Sources: (Reflection Assignment)

		<p>Due on ONE of these):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Endowment Deeds of a Safavid Madarsa” in Khafipour, p. 481-492. • Selections from Ottoman biographical dictionaries (<i>tezkire</i>): Sehi’s <i>Eight Paradises</i>, Latifi’s <i>Biography of Poets and Beacon for Versifiers</i>, and Aşık Çelebi’s <i>Assemblies of Poets</i>, in Khafipour, p. 493-504. • “A Letter of Advice from a Mughal Gentleman to His Son”, in Khafipour, p. 505-520
<p>18-19: 31st Oct, 2nd Nov</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imperial Society and Culture II: Family, Gender, and Sexuality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leslie Pierce, <i>The Imperial Harem: Women and Sovereignty in the Ottoman Empire</i> (New York and Oxford: OUP, 1993), p. 3-149. [Order from interlibrary loan well in advance] • Dror Ze’evi, “Chapter 3: Morality Wars: Orthodoxy, Sufism, and Beardless Youths” in <i>Producing Desire: Changing Sexual Discourse in the Ottoman Middle East</i>, (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2006). • Maria Szuppe, “Status, Knowledge, and Politics: Women in Sixteenth-century Safavid Iran”, in Guity. Nashat & Lois. Beck, eds., <i>Women in Iran from the Rise of Islam to 1800</i>. Urbana and Chicago, University of Illinois Press, 2003, pp. 140-169. • Listen: Munis Faruqui, “The Princes of the Mughal Empire”, <i>The Lakshmi Mittal and Family South Asia Institute, Harvard University</i>, 2014

		<p>https://mittalsouthasiainstitute.harvard.edu/2014/09/princes-of-the-mughal-empire/</p> <p>Primary Sources: (Reflection Assignment Due on ONE of these):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selections from Ottoman <i>Şehrengiz</i> poetry • Selections from the erotic work of Deli Birader • Selections from Jahanara Begum's (d. 1681), <i>Munis-ul-Arwah, The Master of Pure Souls</i>, Valiur Rahman and Mohammed Adil (tr.), AND the dream letters of Balkan Sufi Asiye Hatun • Eskandar Beg Munshi's accounts of the Safavid princess Parikan Kanom (d. 1578)
20-21: 7 th , 9 th Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Long 17th Century in the Ottoman Empire and Indo-Persia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geoffrey Parker, "Introduction: 'The Little Ice Age' and 'The General Crisis'", "Chapter 7: The Ottoman Tragedy, 1618-83" and "Chapter 13: The Mughals and their Neighbors" in <i>Global Crisis: War, Climate Change, and Catastrophe in the Seventeenth Century</i>, (New Haven: Yale UP, 2013), p. xxi-xxix, p. 185-210, and p. 399-420.
22-23: 14 th , 16 th Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18th century transitions in the Ottoman Empire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donald Quartret, "Chapter 3: The Ottoman Empire, 1683-1798", <i>The Ottoman Empire, 1700-1922</i>, (Cambridge: CUP, 2005).

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shirine Hamadeh, “Introduction” and “The Conquest of the Bosphorus” in <i>The City’s Pleasures: Istanbul in the Eighteenth Century</i>, (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2007).
24: 21 st November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> End of Empire 	<p>***TERM PAPER DUE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dale, p. 247-287 P.J. Marshall, “Introduction” in <i>The Eighteenth Century in Indian History: Evolution or Revolution?</i> (Oxford: OUP, 2003), p. 1-49 Ellen Comisso, “Chapter 7: Empires as Prisons of Nations versus Empires as Political Opportunity Structures: An Exploration of the Role of Nationalism in Imperial Dissolutions in Europe” in <i>Empire to Nation Historical Perspectives on the Making of the Modern World</i>, (Rowman and Littlefield, 2006).
25: 23 rd November	THANKSGIVING BREAK: NO CLASS OR READING	
26-27: 28 th , 30 th Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vestiges of Empire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dale, p. 288-292 Sarah Abrevaya Stein, “Protected Persons? The Baghdadi Jewish Diaspora, the British State, and the Persistence of Empire”, <i>American Historical Review</i>, Feb2011, Vol. 116 Issue 1, p80-108.
28: 5 th Dec	SUMMATION AND RECAP SESSION	
7 th -11 th Dec	READING PERIOD	
14 th Dec	***FINAL EXAMINATION	

