Europe in the Mediterranean and Indian Ocean

HSTAFM 162
Lecture 9.1 (3/1/16)
The Battle of Vienna, 11–12 September 1683
The Treaty of Karlowitz, January 1699

La Salle des Conferences
Capitulations

- Ottoman Sultans grant special privileges to European (Venetian, French, English, Dutch) merchants within the Empire.

- Such capitulations often took the form of tax-and customs-exemptions.

- By the seventeenth century, many non-Muslim subjects of the Empire had begun to use ambassadorial protection to acquire tax-exemptions.
Sultan Ahmet III receives French Ambassador, 1723.
Kānūn and Law in the Ottoman Empire

- Develops the *millet*-system, in which different religious communities were subject to different kinds of personal law.

- Ottoman system consists of three levels of courts—one for Muslims, one for non-Muslims, and one governing trade.

- *Kānūn* or customary law codified already in 15th century.

- Institution of the *shaykh al-islām* to regulate the differences between *kānūn* and *sharīʿa*. 
Wahhābism

- Muḥammad ibn Ṭāhir ibn Ṭāhir (1845–1854) born in Najd in Arabia, who claimed to purify Islam by returning it to the original principles of the religion (salaf).

- Called people to return to the exclusive monotheism of the Islamic message. He denounced his contemporaries as polytheists who worshiped other beings alongside God, notably Sufi saints.

- Forms alliance with local tribal chieftain Muḥammad ibn Saʿūd. Forms independent state, ultimately terminated in 1818 by Egyptian-Ottoman forces.
Vasco da Gama's voyage around the Cape of Good Hope in 1498 was an epoch-making event, putting an end to the Muslim monopoly of trade in the Indian Ocean and opening the way for the British and Dutch Empires in South Asia and the East Indies. The era of European imperialism began with merchant adventurers who established trading posts in the southern seas, which became the bases for further expansion. The Portuguese were the pioneers, taking Kilwa and sacking Mombasa in 1505 before establishing bases in Zanzibar and Pemba. In 1509 they defeated a combined Egyptian-Indian fleet to take Goa on the Malabar coast. In 1515 they conquered Malacca and in the same year Hormuz on the Persian Gulf. Portuguese hegemony was soon replaced by that of the Dutch, whom the Portuguese had tried to exclude from the lucrative pepper and spice trade.
The Portuguese Defend The Fort of Hormoz (1622 CE), Painted in Isfahan, 1687 CE.
Russia under Peter the Great begins a series of wars between Russia and Persia in 1722–23, seizes the cities of Derbent (Daghestan) and Baku (Azerbaijan).
Safavid state in chaos after loss to the Russians and plunder by Afghans; Nādir declares himself Shāh in 1736; engages in war with the Ottomans; sacks Delhi in 1738.
THE MUGHAL EMPIRE AT THE END OF THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

INDIA IN 1798
Jahāñābād tu kab is sitam ke qābil thā
Magar kisi ‘āshiq kā ye nagar dil thā
Ke yuṇ uṭhā diā goyā ke naqsh-i bāṭil thā

Delhi, since when did you deserve all this oppression?
Perhaps this city was once the heart of a lover,
It was erased as if it had been an ephemeral drawing.

– Saudā (1713-1781)
British East India Company & the Battle of Plassey (1757)
Gentile Bellini (1429-1507)
I have spent a great deal of my life advocating the rights of the Palestinian people to national self-determination, but I have always tried to do that with full attention paid to the reality of the Jewish people and what they suffered by way of persecution and genocide.

– Edward Said

Orientalism is a style of thought based upon an ontological and epistemological distinction made between "the Orient" and (most of the time) "the Occident." Thus a very large mass of writers, among whom are poets, novelists, philosophers, political theorists, economists, and imperial administrators, have accepted the basic distinction between East and West as the starting point for elaborate theories, epics, novels, social descriptions, and political accounts concerning the Orient, its people, customs, "mind," destiny, and so on. (p. 2)
Edward Pococke, first professor of Arabic at Oxford University, 1636.
L'ALCORAN
DE
MAHOMET.
TRANSLATE'
D'ARABE EN FRANÇOIS.
PAR LE SIEUR DU RYER,
Sieur de la Garde Mailfais.

A PARIS,
Chez ANTOINE DE SOMMenville, Au
Palais dans la Salle des Merciers, à l’Ecu de France.

M. DC. XLVII.
AVEC PRIVILEGE DU ROY.

THE
ALCORAN
OF
MAHOMET,
Translated out of Arabique into French,
By the
Sieur Du Ryer, Lord of Malezair, and
Resident for the King of France, at
ALEXANDRIA.

And newly Englished, for the satisfaction of
all that desire to look into the Turkish vanities.

LONDON Printed, Anno Dom.
1649.
Jean-Étienne Liotard  
(1702-1789)
Portrait de Monsieur Levett et Mademoiselle Glavani Assis Sur un Divan en Costume Turc
Gavin Hamilton: James Dawkins and Robert Wood Discovering the Ruins of Palmyra (1758)