

Unit 3: Land-Based Empires

C. 1450 - 1750

AP Exam Weighting: 12-15%

Topic 3.1 Empires Expand

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 A

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

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 B

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

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 C

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

Land-Based Empires of 1450-1750

Indicate the location of the following empires on this map:

- Qing Dynasty
China (Manchu)
- Mughal
- Ottoman
- Safavids
- Tokugawa Japan

