

Heimler's History

Video Guide - Unit 3 WHAP Review (c. 1450-1750 CE)—Land-Based Empires

Written by Eileen Orzoff Baranyk

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS	EXTRA INFO
Consolidating Power		
<p>1. How did land-based empires consolidate power in this era?</p>	<p>1. Centralizing their bureaucracies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Qing Dynasty (1644-1912), China: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reintroduced the Civil Service Exam. Necessary for legitimizing power over the Chinese since the Manchu were seen as foreigners. (<i>The Ming Dynasty was the last native dynasty in China</i>) ● Ottoman Empire (c. 1300-1922), Middle East & Southern Europe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Devshirme system (<i>Christian boys from the Balkans were enslaved & educated to serve the state</i>) helped to consolidate power by creating a very loyal bureaucracy and elite military (the Janissaries). ● Songhai Empire (c. 1464 - 1591), West Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consolidated power through their military, alliances, and having control over trade routes. Legitimacy established through court rituals of kings (<i>King on a raised platform surrounded by 700 Eunuchs; only approached lying down on the ground</i>) <p>Consolidating power based on Tribute</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Aztec Empire (1428-1521), Mesoamerica <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Aztecs demanded specific goods from conquered people, called Tribute. This allowed for indirect rule (instead of centralized direct authority), where the Aztec did not have to be present in conquered areas to maintain control. 	<p>1. Learning Objective 3.2.B Rulers used a variety of methods to legitimize and consolidate power in land-based empires. This included the recruitment of bureaucratic elites (Civil Service Exam; Devshirme)</p> <p>Learning Objective 4.7.M Imperial conquests and widening global economic opportunities contributed to the formation of new political and economic elites including in China with the transition to the Qing Dynasty who restricted the power of the Han Chinese population.</p> <p>Learning Objective 3.4.D These are a good comparison of the methods by which various empires increased their influence from 1450-1750.</p>
<p>2. What are the various methods used by land-based empires to collect taxes in this era?</p>	<p>Mughal Empire (1526-1857 CE).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bureaucrats called Zamindars were appointed by the emperor to collect taxes based on an individual's land or production. <p>Ottoman Empire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tax Farmers (who were not government employees) were told to collect a certain amount of taxes from an area. Anything extra that they collected they were able to keep. <p>Aztec Empire</p>	<p>Learning Objective 3.2.B Rulers used a variety of methods to legitimize and consolidate power in land-based empires. This included the use of tax-collection systems to generate revenue in order to forward state power and expansion.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tribute (discussed in number 1). Also, human sacrifice victims. 	<p>Learning Objective 3.4.D These are a good comparison of the methods by which various empires increased their influence from 1450-1750.</p>
<p>3. Why were large powerful militaries & elite cadres of soldiers essential in this era?</p>	<p>3. Eurasian empires had all gained access to gunpowder based weapons. In the Americas, they did not have gunpowder but a large military still led to intimidation and the consolidation of power.</p> <p>Elite Soldiers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ottomans: Janissaries from the Devshirme system. - Safavids: Ghulams (enslaved people from Armenian and Circassian populations, much like Devshirme) - Aztecs: Elite squad also made up of enslaved people. Part of the “blood tax” of tribute states. 	<p>Learning Objective 3.1.A This helps to explain how and why various land-based empires developed and expanded from 1450-1750. Increased use of gunpowder, cannons, and armed trade established large empires (for the Manchu/Qing in Central & East Asia; the Mughals in South & Central Asia; the Ottomans in Southern Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa; and the Safavids in the Middle East).</p> <p>Learning Objective 3.2.B Rulers used a variety of methods to legitimize and consolidate power in land-based empires. This included the development of military professionals</p> <p>Learning Objective 3.4.D These are a good comparison of the methods by which various empires increased their influence from 1450-1750.</p>
<p>Legitimizing Power</p>		
<p>4. How did religion legitimize powers in this era?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Islamic Emperors took the title “Caliph” to show they were the legitimate successors of Muhammed. • European monarchs embraced “Divine Right” which claims that the king is God’s 	<p>Learning Objective 3.2.B Rulers used a variety of methods to legitimize and consolidate their power. This included the continuity of</p>

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	<p>representative on Earth and carries out his bidding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Songhai rulers and nobles all converted to Islam. 	<p>using religious ideas to legitimize their rule.</p> <p>Learning Objective 4.7.M The use of religious tolerance was also used by states to utilize the economic, political and military contributions of different ethnic and religious groups as well as to achieve legitimacy. For example the Ottomans were religiously tolerant of Jews and Christians, which allowed these groups to thrive and contribute economically. The Mughals, under Akbar and several of his successors, were religiously tolerant of the Hindu majority which allowed themselves to be seen as legitimate rulers.</p>
<p>5. How did religion lead to conflict in this era?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Protestant Reformation in Europe challenged what was seen as corrupt practices of the Catholic Church. Eventually leaders chose whether to be Protestant or Catholic which led to bitter resentments among them. It did, however, lead to further spread of Christianity. • In the Middle East, the Ottomans were Sunni Muslims while the Safavids (1501-1736, Persia) were Shi'a Muslims. They saw each other as heretical and fought each other for land. 	<p>Learning Objective 3.3.C This helps to explain continuity and change within various belief systems in the period of 1450-1750. The Protestant Reformation marked a break with existing Christian traditions and both the Protestant and Catholic reformations contributed to the growth of Christianity. For example, the establishing of the Jesuits in the Catholic Church. This group traveled the world trying to spread Catholicism.</p> <p>Learning Objectives 3.3.C & 3.1.A Political rivalries & religious disputes between the Ottoman and Safavid empires led to conflict between states & intensified the split within Islam between</p>

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		<p>Sunni and Shi'a Muslims.</p> <p>Learning Objectives 3.3.C Additionally, Sikhism developed in South Asia due to interactions between Hinduism and Islam. Sikhism was a persecuted religion under the Mughals and beyond.</p>
<p>6. How did leaders legitimize their rule through art and architecture?</p>	<p>Art</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Qing portraits of emperors and high officials meant to impress. ● European monarchs were also patrons of artists for the same reason. <p>Architecture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Monumental architecture (giant structures) meant to impress. ● Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan commissioned the Taj Mahal as a tomb for his wife. ● French King Louis XIV built the Palace of Versailles. It was enormous and beautiful. It showed his power and wealth. He also forced all nobility to live there with him so they could not challenge his power while being watched. 	<p>Learning Objective 3.2.B Rulers used a variety of methods to legitimize and consolidate their power. This included using art and architecture to legitimize their rule. Another example of how the Qing used art to legitimize their rule was by having emperors portrayed surrounded by books to show their connection to Confucianism and the importance of education.</p> <p>Learning Objective 4.7.M The power of existing political and economic elites fluctuated as elites confronted new challenges to their ability to affect the policies of the increasingly powerful monarchs and leaders, such as the nobility in France who were forced to live with the King.</p> <p>Learning Objective 4.6.L Louis XIV moved the nobility into Versailles in response to a rebellion that took place when he was a child called the Fronde. As states became increasingly powerful and centralized there was resistance from an array of social, political and</p>

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