**Gunpowder Empires**

1. **Gunpowder Empires-** Important land-based empires (Russia, Ming and Qing China, Japan, the Ottoman Empire, the Safavid Empire, and the Mughal Empire) that used canon/artillery effectively to subjugate their enemies and build control. The three latter empires were Islamic, and together they represent the height of Muslim political and military power in world history.
2. **Autocratic-** Relating to a ruler who has absolute power
3. **Ottoman Empire-** Islamic state founded by Osman in northwestern Anatolia (present day Turkey). It encompassed lands in the middle east, north Africa, the Caucasus, and eastern Europe
4. **Suleiman the Magnificent or Suleiman Kanunu "the lawgiver"-** The most illustrious sultan of the Ottoman Empire. He significantly expanded the empire in the Balkans and eastern Mediterranean.
5. **Mehmet II-** Ottoman sultan that conquered Constantinople in 1453
6. **Janissaries-** Infantry, originally of non-Muslim slave origin, armed with firearms and constituting the elite of the Ottoman army until the corps was abolished in 1826
7. **Devshirme-** Known as a “child levy” or “blood tax,” this was an Ottoman practice of forcibly recruiting soldiers and bureaucrats from among the children of their Balkan Christian subjects= Janissaries
8. **Imperial Harem-** Composed of the wives, servants, female relatives and sultan’s concubines in the Ottoman Empire. They occupied a secluded portion of the Ottoman imperial household and often played an important social function within the Ottoman court and wielded considerable political authority.
9. **Siege of Vienna-** Suleiman commanded the greatest Ottoman assault against Europe, conquering Belgrade in 1521, laying siege to Vienna in 1529, and retreating only when the onset of winder made it impractical to stay. Had Vienna fallen, some historians speculate that the Ottomans may well have overrun the weak Holy Roman Empire.
10. **Tulip period-** Last years of the reign of ottoman sultan Ahmed III, during which European styles and attitudes became briefly popular in Istanbul
11. **Safavid empire-** Iranian kingdom established by Ismal Safavi, who declared Iran a Shi'ite state
12. **Shi’ites-** Muslims belonging to the branch of Islam believing that god vests leadership of the community in a descendent of Muhammad's son-in-law Ali. The state religion of Iran
13. **Hidden Imam-** Last in a series of 12 descendants of Muhammad's son-in-law Ali, whom Shi’ites consider divinely appointed leaders of the Muslim community.
14. **Ismail-** Founder of the Safavid Empire; declared official religion Twelver Shi’ism
15. **Shah-** a title of the former monarch of Iran (Persian)
16. **Shah Abbas I-** The fifth and most renowned ruler of the Safavid dynasty in Iran (used better cannons, more efficient military, and brought European advisors to assist him in his wars with the Ottomans). He moved the royal Capitol to Isfahan far inland (away from the sea-based trade that was transforming the world.
17. **Mughal Empire-** Muslim state exercising dominion over most of India; controlled much of South Asia between the 16th and 19th centuries until the British Crown established the British Raj in 1858
18. **Akbar-** Most illustrious sultan of the Mughal empire in India. He expanded the empire and pursued a policy of conciliation with Hindus (tolerant of Hinduism, but the responsibility of Mughal rulers to Islam was always clear).
19. **Din-i Ilahi-** Also known as Divine Faith, was a new syncretic religion proposed by the Mughal emperor Akbar in 1582, intending to merge some of the elements of the various religions practiced by his subjects and create a new religion for his empire.
20. **Nawab-** A Muslim prince allied to British India; technically a semi-autonomous deputy of the Mughal emperor
21. **Sikhism-** A monotheistic religion founded in Punjab in the 15th century by Guru Nanak; faced oppression by the Islamic Mughal Empire
22. **Sati-** Hindu practice of suicide of widows by jumping into their husband’s funerals pyres
23. **Taj Mahal-** monument for Mughal Shah Jahan’s wife; example of role women played and influence
24. **Muscovy-** Russian principality that emerged gradually during the era of Mongol domination. Dynasty ruled 1276-1598
25. **Tsar (czar)-** From Latin, Caesar, this Russian title for a monarch was first used in reference to Russian ruler by Ivan III
26. **Siberia-** The extreme north-eastern sector of Asia
27. **Cossacks-** Peoples of the Russian Empire who lived outside the farming villages, often as herders, mercenaries, or outlaws. Led the conquest of Siberia in the 16th and 17th centuries.
28. **Serf-** In Russia, agricultural laborer legally bound to lord’s property; some worked as artisans and in factories; not abolished in Russia until 1861.
29. **Peter the Great-** Russian tsar (1689-1725); He enthusiastically introduced Western languages and technologies to the Russian elite, moving the capital from Moscow to the new city of St. Petersburg (helped modernized Russia)
30. **Qing Dynasty-** China’s last dynasty, Manchu-led imperial dynasty of China (1636-1912)
31. **Queue-** Controversial 1645 Qing Dynasty edict that forced adult Han Chinese men to shave the front of their heads and comb the remaining hair to a braid which was worn by Manchu men. The popular description was: “To keep the hair, you lose the head; To keep your head, you cut the hair.”
32. **Canton System-** A form of isolationism in which Qing China controlled trade with the West in its own country by focusing all trade on the southern port of Canton (now Guangzhou). The protectionist policy arose in 1757 as a response to a perceived political and commercial threat from abroad.
33. **Dejima-** Artificial island off Nagasaki, Japan that served as a trading post for the Portuguese (1570-1639) and subsequently the Dutch (1641-1854). For 220 years, it was the central conduit of foreign trade and cultural exchange with Japan during the isolationist Edo Period (1600-1869), and the only Japanese territory open Westerners (about 2 acres).