

# Imperialism

*An Age of Revolutions  
(1750–1914)*



New Imperialism

India and Africa

Southeast Asia and the U.S.

Persian and Ottoman Empires

## Thematic Icons



Economics and business



Geography and environment



Historical concepts and questions



Politics, government and citizenship



Religion and thought



Society and culture



War, diplomacy and foreign policy

**Icons:** For more detailed instructions, see the *User Guide*



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page



By the end of this section, you will have learned about the decline of the Persian and Ottoman Empires, and be able to answer the following key questions:

- How did the Persian Empire decline?
- What happened to the Ottoman Empire in the 19<sup>th</sup> century?
- What are some of the lasting effects of the Age of Imperialism?



In 1794 the **Qajar Dynasty** came to power in Persia by force. Ruled by the Shah, they moved their capital to Tehran and attempted both to consolidate their power, and protect themselves from European forces.

In 1804, war was declared between Russia and Persia, over the encroachment of Russia into Persian land in the **Caucasus**. The Persians were defeated in 1813, and much of the disputed land was ceded to Russia.



A second war in 1826 between the two countries led to even greater losses.





Like the Sultan in the Ottoman Empire, the Shah began a program of modernization.

He introduced elements of Western science, technology and educational methods into his empire. However, strict religious and cultural norms were still maintained.

Later Shahs furthered these reforms, including the building of the first university in the Middle East.







# The Qajar constitution

Later rulers did not rule as well. By 1896 royal extravagance and inept rule led to popular unrest in the empire.

The Shah ignored this discontent, and by 1906 there were significant revolts taking place across the empire. In December 1906, the Shah signed a **constitution** which granted some freedom of speech, the press and association.

However, he refused to relinquish his powers to the new parliament, and his signature was still required for all laws to be enacted.

The Shah died 5 days after this constitution was signed.





**Mohammad Ali Shah** took power in 1907, and attempted to throw out the constitution and end the reforms that his father had put in place.

Britain and France, worried over the impact of this unrest to the region, stepped in and divided Persia under spheres of influence by signing the **Anglo-Russian Convention of 1907**.



The unrest intensified, and the Shah was deposed by constitutional forces in 1909. He was forced into exile, and the constitution was reestablished.



# The decline of the Ottoman Empire



Throughout the 19th century, the **Ottoman Empire** continued to lose power and control over its once vast holdings, as it struggled to adapt to the modern world. This became important for the European powers.

These powers wished to facilitate the demise of the Ottoman Empire and to decide how the land should be controlled.







In the 1820s, a number of independence movements were formed in countries including Spain, Italy and Greece. Greece was under the control of the Ottoman Empire at this time.

The European colonial powers supported the Greek independence movement, both because of a desire to see the rebirth of Greek democracy, but also to further destabilize the Ottoman Empire. The country gained its independence in 1829.



How do you think the Ottoman Empire reacted to losing Greece?



Throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Ottoman Empire went through wide-ranging reforms and modernization, which became known as **Tanzimat** (meaning 'reorganization').

These changes were a response to perceived weakness of the Empire, and were enacted to secure the Empire's territory. Watch this animation for some information about these reforms.

Press **start** to begin.

**start**





Russia had long desired the lands of the Ottoman Empire. In the 1850s, issues arose over the protection of Christians in the **Holy Land**.

The Ottoman Empire had long acknowledged Russia's right as protector of the Holy Land. However by 1850, Russia's aggression, coupled with pressure from France and Britain, forced the Sultan to give the protectorate right to France.

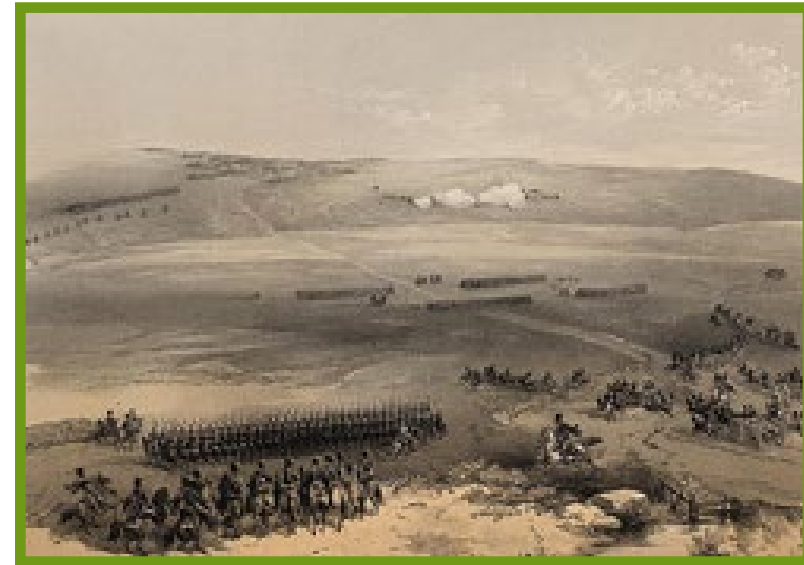
Russia protested but when nothing changed, they invaded Romania, a part of the Ottoman Empire, in 1853. This act of aggression began the **Crimean War** between the Russians and the Ottomans.





The Crimean War was fought along the Black Sea and in Romania. An alliance of French and British forces, fought on the side of the sultan.

The Crimean War was tactically poor on both sides, and was extremely bloody. Russia was eventually defeated in 1856 after heavy losses. They signed the Treaty of Paris, which handed protection power in Moldova and Walachia (an area of Romania) to the great powers.



Why do you think the British and French forces fought on the side of the Ottoman Empire?





In 1878, the **Congress of Berlin** was called to reorganize the Balkan countries as a result of the declining power of the Ottoman Empire. A number of countries gained their independence, while some were transferred to British, Russian or Austro-Hungarian rule.

The Ottoman Empire continued to lose lands, and was eventually dissolved after World War I. The land owned by the Ottoman Empire is now divided into 39 different countries.







Imperialism had a number of lasting effects on the countries that were colonized.

Press on each tab to find out more information about these effects.

Press **start** to begin.

start

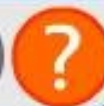




Read the following questions about the legacy of imperialism, and discuss them either in groups or together as a class.

Press **start** to begin.

start





Test your knowledge of imperialism with this quiz. Choose the correct answer to each question to see how much you can remember.

Press **start** to begin.

start





Test your understanding of the "Age of Imperialism" by recapping key terms and important people using this glossary. Press on the tabs and then each term to see a definition.  
Press **start** to begin.

**start**

