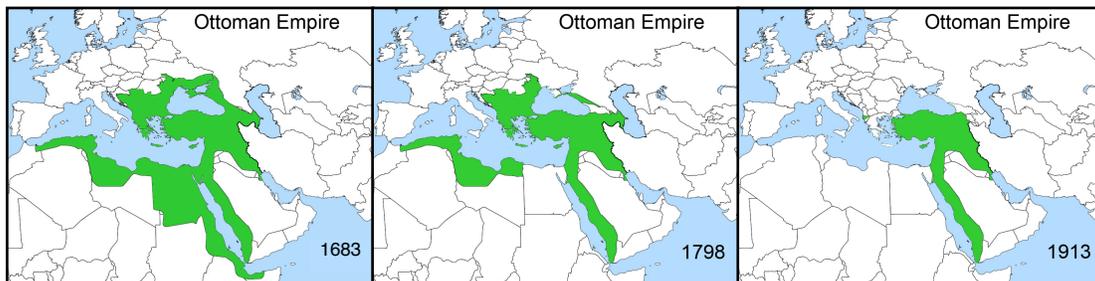


E. The Decline and Fall of Triumphal Islam

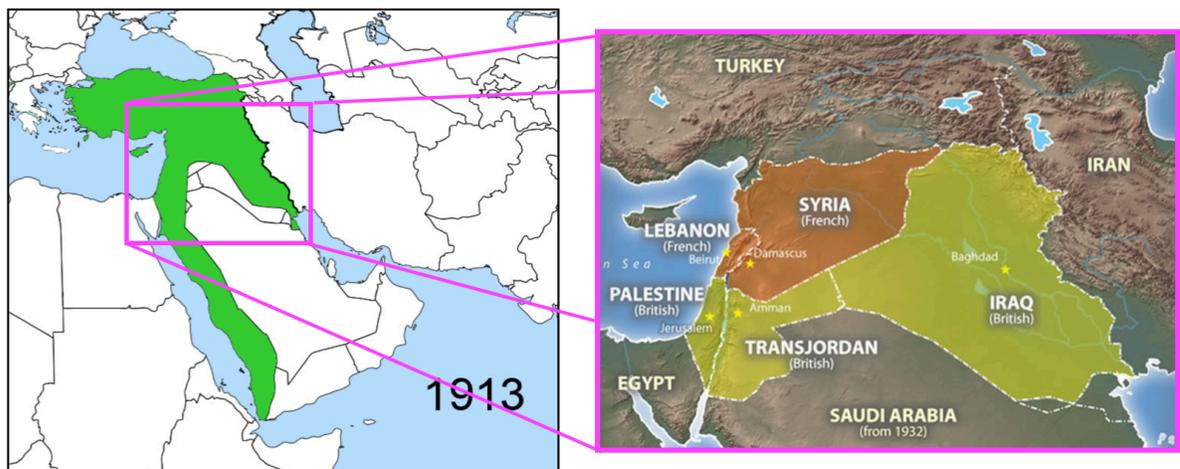
1. During the long Dark Ages following the early period of Islamic conquests, the Muslim world lived in a relative equilibrium with its neighboring cultures.
2. The Europeans tried to reconquer the Holy Land (today Israel) during the *Crusades (1095-1291)*, but they were eventually expelled.
3. The Muslim invaders of Iberia were eventually kicked out in 1492, but at the same time, they were pushing into Europe on the other side. The Ottoman Empire (a Turkish Muslim empire) conquered Constantinople in 1453 on the edge of southeastern Europe.
4. Muslim armies always more successes than failures until the year **1683**.
5. In that year, the Turkish Ottoman Empire laid siege to the city of Vienna, in the heart of central Europe. It was only the second time that Muslim conquerors had penetrate that far into Europe.
6. On this new occasion, however, they were defeated by Polish forces that came to reinforce their Christian neighbors from the north, and then they were driven back consistently during a series of *Euro-Ottoman Wars (1683-99)*.
7. This makes the failed siege of Vienna in **1683** an important “turning point” in history.
8. The basic character of the relationship between Islamic culture and Europe had flipped. It was now Europe that had a triumphal character.
9. In response to Europe’s ascendancy, the Ottoman Turkish leaders began to want to *learn* from the Europeans, by sending ambassadors and students to Europe. This was known as the “Tanzimat Reforms” starting in 1839. (The word “Tanzimat” in Turkish means “reorganization.”)
10. Triumphalism was not dead yet. The purpose of the reorganization was to help Islamic culture return to being the strongest so that it could defeat all others.
11. The Ottoman leaders could not truly grasp the nature of Europe’s cultural advantage, however, and the Ottoman Empire consistently declined all the way until **World War I**.



From the turning point of the failed siege of Vienna in 1683, the Ottoman Empire consistently lost ground, starting with the Black Sea coast and Egypt, and then all of northern Africa and Southeastern Europe, until by the onset of World War I, it was a much reduced remnant whose leaders were desperate to save their empire from total dissolution.

G. The World Wars and the Disintegration of Triumphal Islam

1. Despite the setbacks of the period of decline from **1683** onward, there was still a belief in the ultimate triumph of Islam within Islamic culture. That belief was shattered by the world wars, when the Islamic world was completely overpowered by Europe.
2. Desperate to restore their power, the Ottoman Turks allied with Germany in World War I, hoping that Germany and its allies, who has never attacked the Middl East, would help them defeat Russia, France, and Britain (the three countries that were most aggressive against the Islamic world).
3. It turned out to be a fateful miscalculation. The Ottoman Empire was defeated and dismembered. It was cut up into the separate countries of: Turkey, Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Transjordan (later simply “Jordan”), Lebanon, and (eventually) Israel.



The modern disintegrated state of the Islamic world is mainly caused by the defeat of the Ottoman Empire in World War I, when France and Britain carved up the empire and made a number of new countries in its place.

4. Isolated further to the east, the only other major Islamic nation, Persia (which became Iran) was not directly affected by World War I. However, it was invaded and controlled by Britain and Russia during World War II. They used its railroads to ship American supplies to Europe in order to fight Nazi Germany.
5. By the end of the world wars, there was no part of the Islamic world that had not come under outside control. This was the complete reversal of the expect triumph over the world that Muslims believed in. Triumphalism was nearly extinguished. Unfortunately, an antidote to powerlessness and disintegration was devised, which put Islamic culture on the path towards its modern form...