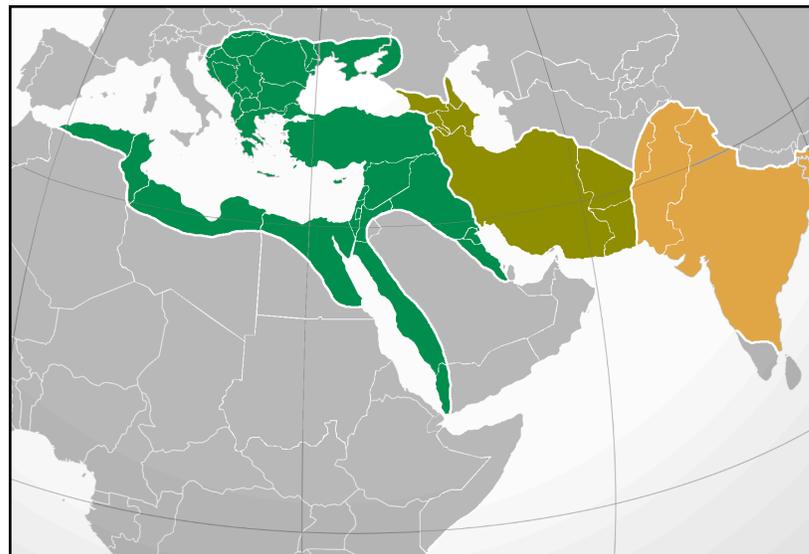


F. The Millennium of Triumphalism (c.622-1683)

1. When the Muslims invaded Europe c.711 AD, European culture was still trying to get on its feet after the fall of the Roman empire in **476 AD**.
2. Different European tribes were competing for territory until one of them, the Franks, temporarily achieved primacy and almost created a new empire, thanks to their charismatic leader, Charlemagne. Charlemagne's empire broke up into the separate countries of France and Germany, which became separate nations after that.
3. In the Muslim world at the same time, the Arabs who had built the original Islamic empire lost control of it to another people, called the "Turks," who were originally from the region now known as "Turkmenistan" on the map, but had moved to "Turkey," and claimed it as their new home.
4. These Turks were known for attacking Christian pilgrims to the Holy Land, which sparked the *Crusades*—a European military campaign to wrestle control of the Holy Land from Muslim rule that lasted from 1095 to 1291.
5. After an initial success, the Christians were eventually defeated, so the *Crusades* did little to discourage *Triumphal Islam* in its belief that it was superior to Christianity and assured of an ultimate religious victory.
6. This continued to be the case, even though the Muslim occupiers of Iberia were eventually repelled in 1492, because the Turks were expanding their empire into eastern Europe at the same time.
7. Also a Muslim invasion of India was also getting underway that would result in the formation of the Mughal Empire in South Asia. There were still plenty of reasons to hope for the military triumph of Islam over other faiths.



By 1683, the original Islamic Caliphate had broken up into three empires: the Turkish "Ottoman" Empire (green), the Persian Empire (brown), and the Mughal Empire (orange). Even though it was politically divided, the "House of Islam" was still arguably more successful and triumphal than ever.

G. The Decline of Triumphant Islam (1683-)

1. Everything changed in **1683**, when the Turkish Empire known as the “Ottoman Empire” (named after one of its early leaders) laid siege to the city of Vienna, in the heart of central Europe.
2. On this occasion, however, they were defeated by Poland that came to help Austria. The Poles and their European allies then drove the Ottomans back consistently during a series of *Euro-Ottoman Wars (1683-99)*.
3. This makes the failed siege of Vienna in **1683** an important “turning point” in history.
4. After that the Muslims lost almost all the wars they fought. The French Empire seized Algeria in northern Africa. The British Empire seized India in its entirety from the Mughal Empire and seized Egypt from the Ottomans. Greece won its independence.
5. Like China, the Turks were not able to change fast enough to figure out how to change the course of history. The Ottoman Turks did send ambassadors to Europe to learn about their armies, and about their scientific knowledge. The wealthiest families were encouraged to send their youth to Europe to study in its universities. This was known as the “Tanzimat Reforms” starting in 1839. (The word “Tanzimat” in Turkish means “reorganization.”)
6. It was too little, too late. The collapse of all three Islamic empires continued all the way until **World War I (1914-19)**[‡].