

the Ming dynasty  
(1368-1644)

and the

Ottoman Empire  
(1299-1922)



# Map of Ming China





# Great Mosque of Xi'an



Outer view (above) and inside view (left)



# Yongle Emperor



# Ming Initiatives

- Yongle Emperor needs legitimacy
  - builds Beijing, Zheng He voyages, Chen Cheng to Timurid Empire
- 5 campaigns against the Mongols
- Disastrous invasion of Vietnam



# Temple of Heaven, Beijing



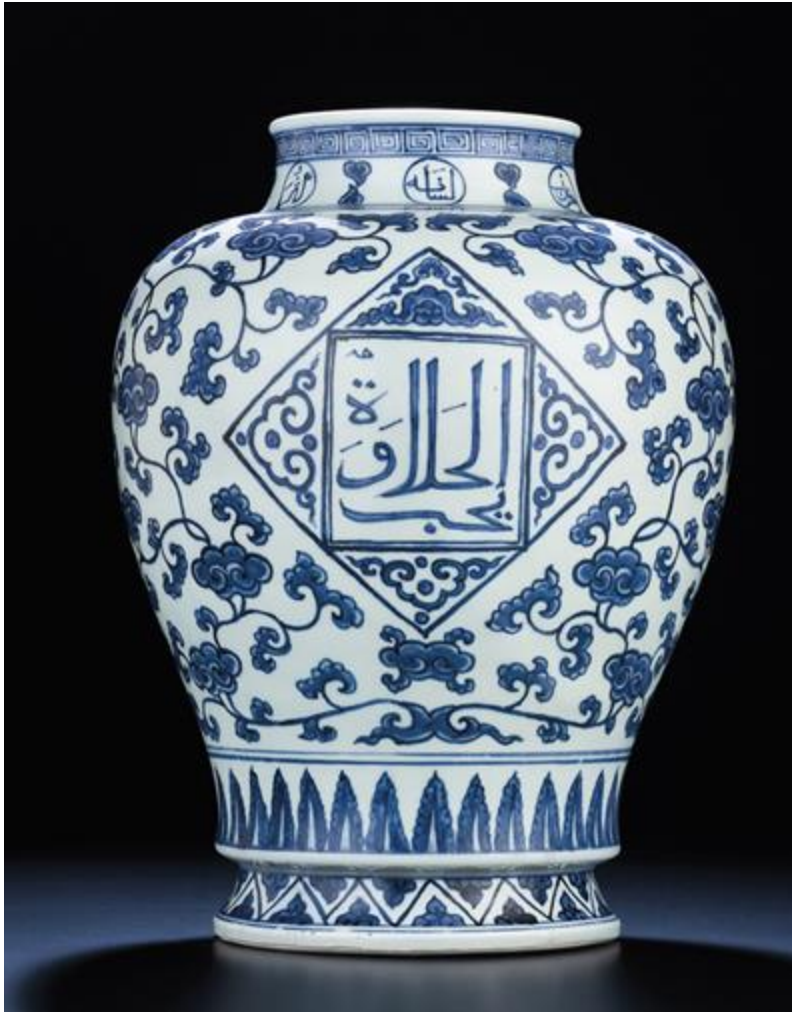
# Statue of Zheng He

Located at Sam Poo Kong Temple in Semarang, Indonesia





# Porcelain with Arabic inscription



Ming Emperor Zhengde era, 1505-1521



# Map of Ottoman Empire

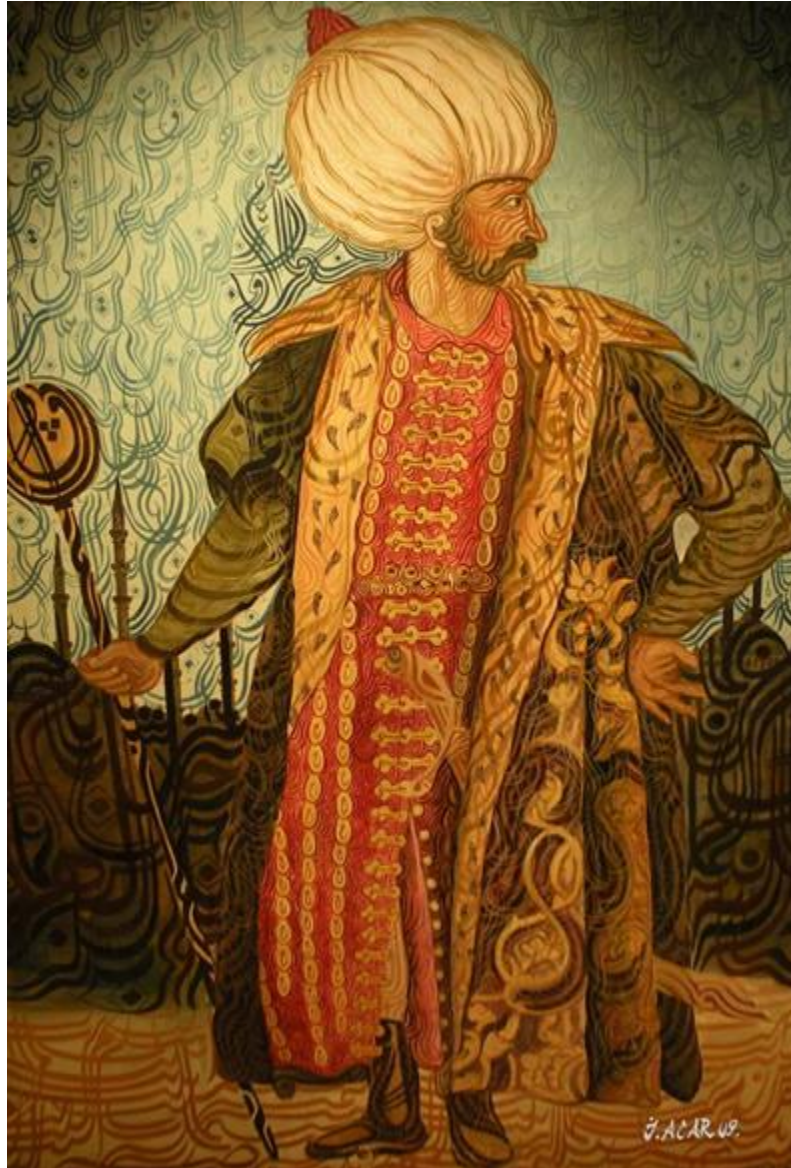


# Knowledge of the Other

1. “Khitay Namah,” by Ali Akbar Khitai—written in Persian for Sulieman the Magnificent in early 16<sup>th</sup> century, description of government, products (silk, porcelain), and Muslims in China.
2. “Xiyu,” by Ma Li, a 16<sup>th</sup>-century geography of the Western Regions, or the Ottoman Empire from a Chinese perspective. There are errors on houses, emulation of the Chinese, No Chinese in Middle East.
3. Knowledge about each other.
4. Norman Itzkowitz, scholar of Ottoman Empire and Islamic tradition



# Suleiman the Magnificent



# Hagia Sophia





# Blue Mosque in Istanbul



# Similarities and Differences:

## 1. Territorial Expansionism

- Ottomans: Successful expansion, briefly stopped by Tamerlane, Constantinople (Istanbul), Middle East, North Africa, Southeastern Europe, Mediterranean
- Ming: Failures in Mongolia, Xinjiang, and Vietnam



# Similarities and Differences:

## 2. Tolerance Within the Empires

- Ottomans—multi-ethnic, vibrant Christian and Jewish communities— “People of the Book,” less discrimination than in Europe
- Ming—less tolerant, Neo-Confucianism dominance

# Similarities and Differences:

## 3. Role of Religion within the Empires:

- Ottomans: Caliph (secular and religious leader), Islamic law
- Ming: Mostly secular Emperor

# Similarities and Differences:

## 4. Huge Public Buildings for Legitimacy

- Ottomans: Istanbul, Hagia Sophia, Topkapi Palace, Blue Mosque
- Ming: Beijing—moves from Nanjing; the Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven