

The Age of Imperialism**Section 3**

Europeans Claim Muslim Lands

Terms and Names

geopolitics Interest in or taking of land for its location or products

Crimean War Conflict in which the Ottoman Empire halted Russian expansion near the Black Sea

Suez Canal Human-made waterway connecting the Red and Mediterranean Seas

Before You Read

In the last section, you read about imperialism in Africa.

In this section, you will learn about imperialism in Muslim lands.

As You Read

Use a diagram to note three details that support the main idea that Muslim states failed to keep European imperialists out of their lands.

OTTOMAN EMPIRE LOSES POWER

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When did the Ottoman Empire become weak?

The Ottoman Empire was based in modern Turkey. But it controlled lands in Eastern Europe, North Africa, and Southwest Asia.

This empire lasted for hundreds of years, but by the 1800s, it was weak. The ruling party broke up into quarreling factions. Corruption and theft caused financial chaos. The Ottomans had once embraced modern technologies but now were falling behind the Europeans.

Nationalism began to stir among people in the empire. In 1830, Greece won its independence and Serbia won the right to govern itself. European nations eyed what remained of the empire hungrily.

1. What happened when the Ottoman Empire weakened?

EUROPEANS GRAB TERRITORY

(Pages 352–354)

Where did Europeans grab territory?

Geopolitics is the interest in or taking of land for its location or products. It played an important role in the fall of the Ottoman Empire. Russia hoped to win control of the Black Sea so it could ship grain into the Mediterranean Sea. Russia fought a war with the Ottomans in the 1850s called the **Crimean War**.

Section 3, *continued*

Russia lost the war when Britain and France joined on the side of the Ottomans. Still, the Ottomans later lost almost all of their land in Europe and parts of Africa. Muslim leaders, seeing this decline, decided to modernize their countries.

Russia also fought Great Britain in a war known as the “Great Game.” Russia sought to extend its empire and gain access to India, one of Britain’s most valuable colonies. The British defended India and also attempted to spread its empire beyond India’s borders. Much of the war was fought in the independent Muslim kingdom of Afghanistan. After decades of fighting, both countries withdrew and agreed to respect Afghanistan’s independence.

2. Why did Russia engage in the Crimean War and the Great Game?

**EGYPT INITIATES REFORMS;
PERSIA PRESSURED TO CHANGE**
(Pages 354–356)

What measures did Muslim countries take to avoid imperialist domination?

Some Muslim leaders tried to adopt reforms to block European control of their lands. In Egypt, Muhammad Ali broke away from Ottoman control. He reformed the army and the economy. Ali’s grandson continued to modernize the empire. He joined with the French in building the

Suez Canal. It connected the Mediterranean to the Red Sea.

The canal was extremely expensive to build. Egypt quickly found that it could not afford to repay the money it owed. The British took control of the canal. Later the British took over the rest of the country as well.

In Persia, the Russians and the British competed for control. Russia wanted to use Persia to gain access to the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean. Twice Russia forced Persia to give up territories through military victories.

Britain wanted to use Afghanistan as a buffer between India and Russia. In 1857, Britain forced Persia to give up all claims to Afghanistan.

In the early 1900s, oil was discovered in Persia. A British company signed an agreement with Persia’s ruler to develop these oil fields. Persians rebelled against their ruler, who was corrupt, and the growing influence of Europeans. Then Russia and Britain stepped in and took control of the land.

In Muslim lands, the Europeans gained control by using economic imperialism and creating spheres of influence. Some Muslim countries tried to modernize. But these efforts came too late to prevent Europeans from taking over.

3. What happened in Egypt and in Persia?

Section 3, *continued*

As you read this section, explain how each of the factors listed contributed to the decline of Muslim states.

1. Death of Suleyman I	→	
2. Rise of nationalism	→	
3. Geopolitics	→	
4. Construction of the Suez Canal	→	
5. Discovery of oil in Persia	→	