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APWH: Land Based Empires

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Gunpowder Empires
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1. Gunpowder Empires

The term used to describe the Ottoman, Safavid, and Mughal Empires, which relied heavily on gunpowder technology (e.g., cannons, firearms) for military conquest and empire-building.

2. Ottoman Empire

A powerful empire centered in modern-day Turkey, stretching across Southeastern Europe, Western Asia, and North Africa. It utilized gunpowder to expand its territory.

3. Suleiman the Magnificent

The 10th Sultan of the Ottoman Empire, known for his military campaigns, legal reforms, and cultural patronage. He oversaw the height of Ottoman power.

4. Janissaries

Elite infantry soldiers in the Ottoman Empire, initially made up of Christian boys converted to Islam through the devshirme system. They were a key component of the Ottoman military success.

5. Devshirme System

A system used by the Ottomans to recruit boys from Christian families in the Balkans, who were converted to Islam and trained as soldiers or bureaucrats.

6. Safavid Empire

A Persian Empire that arose in the early 16th century, known for its Shia Muslim identity and rivalry with the Ottoman Empire. It was a key gunpowder empire in the region.

7. Shah Ismail I

Founder of the Safavid Empire and a key figure in establishing Shia Islam as the state religion, which created tensions with the Sunni Ottomans.

8. Abbas the Great (Shah Abbas I)

One of the most significant rulers of the Safavid Empire, responsible for military successes, cultural achievements, and the flourishing of trade and the arts.

9. Mughal Empire

A powerful empire in South Asia, founded by Babur in 1526, noted for its cultural achievements, religious tolerance, and the use of gunpowder weapons in conquest.

10. Akbar the Great

The third emperor of the Mughal Empire, known for his policy of religious tolerance, centralization of power, and military success, as well as promoting arts and culture.

11. Babur

The founder of the Mughal Empire, a descendant of Timur and Genghis Khan, who established the empire after his victory at the Battle of Panipat in 1526.

12. Sikhism

A monotheistic religion founded by Guru Nanak in the Punjab region, which grew in influence during the Mughal Empire, particularly in relation to the conflict with the Mughal rulers.

13. Cannon

A gunpowder-based weapon used by the Ottoman, Safavid, and Mughal Empires to gain military advantages, especially in siege warfare.

14. Ming Dynasty

A Chinese dynasty (1368-1644) known for its restoration of Chinese rule after the fall of the Yuan Dynasty and for its exploration, trade, and cultural flourishing.

15. Zheng He

A Chinese admiral during the Ming Dynasty who led extensive naval expeditions to Southeast Asia, South Asia, the Arabian Peninsula, and East Africa, showcasing China's naval power.

16. Great Wall of China

A series of fortifications built and expanded during the Ming Dynasty to protect China from northern invasions, particularly by nomadic Mongols and other steppe tribes.

17. Qing Dynasty

The last imperial dynasty of China (1644-1912), founded by the Manchu people. It expanded China's territory significantly and became a major global power.

18. Manchu

The ethnic group from Manchuria that established the Qing Dynasty in China, overcoming resistance and integrating the diverse Chinese population into their imperial system.

19. Emperor Kangxi

One of the greatest emperors of the Qing Dynasty, known for his military conquests, long reign, consolidation of power, and efforts to incorporate diverse cultures within the empire.

20. Emperor Qianlong

A Qing emperor noted for his cultural achievements, military conquests, and the expansion of the Qing Empire to its greatest territorial extent.

21. Hapsburg Empire

A European dynasty that controlled vast territories across Europe, including Spain, Austria, and the Holy Roman Empire, which played a key role in European politics.

22. Charles V

Holy Roman Emperor and King of Spain who ruled over the Hapsburg Empire, overseeing conflicts with France, the Ottomans, and the Protestant Reformation.

23. Ferdinand and Isabella

Catholic Monarchs of Spain, responsible for completing the Reconquista and sponsoring Christopher Columbus's voyages to the New World.

24. Habsburg Monarchy

The dynastic empire of the Habsburg family, which became one of Europe's most influential ruling families, controlling territories in Spain, the Holy Roman Empire, and Austria.

25. Thirty Years' War

A religious and political conflict (1618–1648) primarily within the Holy Roman Empire, involving the Habsburgs, that had significant effects on the European balance of power and the decline of feudalism.

26. Holy Roman Empire

A complex political entity in Central Europe, often ruled by the Habsburgs, that continued to exist until the early 19th century despite being largely fragmented.

27. Serfdom

A system of labor in which peasants were bound to the land and worked for a lord in exchange for protection, especially prevalent in Russia under the tsars and in Eastern Europe.

28. Tsar (Czar)

The title of the emperors of Russia, derived from "Caesar," used from the time of Ivan IV (Ivan the Terrible) through the fall of the Romanov dynasty in 1917.

29. Ivan the Terrible

The first Tsar of Russia, known for centralizing power, expanding Russian territory, and employing brutal methods of rule, including the Oprichnina.

30. Cossacks

Semi-nomadic, militarized communities in Russia, known for their role in expanding Russia's territory into Siberia and their resistance to imperial rule.

31. Mughal Military Technology

The Mughals were pioneers in the use of **gunpowder** technology, including large cannons, artillery, and firearms, which helped them conquer large territories in India and maintain control.

32. The Battle of Lepanto (1571)

A significant naval battle where the Holy League, led by the Spanish Habsburgs, defeated the Ottoman Empire's fleet, marking a turning point in Ottoman naval power.

33. Potosí

A city in modern-day Bolivia, which became one of the richest silver mining centers in the Americas during the Spanish colonial period. Its vast wealth helped fuel Spain's empire in Europe.

34. Tsar Peter the Great

A Russian tsar (1682-1725) who is known for his extensive reforms aimed at modernizing Russia, including the expansion of the Russian military, the building of a powerful navy, and the founding of St. Petersburg as the new capital.

35. Treaty of Westphalia (1648)

A series of peace treaties that ended the Thirty Years' War in Europe, significantly reshaping the political and religious map of Europe, weakening the Habsburgs, and promoting the rise of nation-states.