

منتدى الثلاثاء الثقافي

Conquering Constantinople

History Lesson

December 1st, 2020



Ayasofya



Great Combination!



Records of History





Ayasofya

- From Greek 'Αγία Σοφία, pronounced [ha' jia so' fia], "Holy Wisdom". In Turkish Ayasofya.
- It is built on 537 and till 1453 it is served as Eastern Orthodox Cathedral except between 1204 and 1261 when it is converted by Fourth Crusaders to Roman Catholic.
- Converted to a mosque between 1453 to 1932.
- Opened as a museum in 1935.
- Converted to Mosque again this year 2020. Friday prayers started in July 24 this year.
- The biggest cathedral till 1520.

Hadith

الحديث النبوي عن الرسول صلى الله عليه وسلم
«لَتَفْتَحَنَّ الْقُسْطَنْطِينِيَّةَ، فَلَنِعْمَ الْأَمِيرُ أَمِيرُهَا، وَلَنِعْمَ الْجَيْشُ ذَلِكَ
الْجَيْشُ»

هو وارد في مسند أحمد والتاريخ الكبير والصغير للبخاري
ومستدرک الحاكم.



Mehmed the Conqueror

- Born in 1432. His father is Sultan Murad. and his mother Hüma Hatun, a slave of uncertain origin.
- When Mehmed II was eleven years old, he was sent to Amasya with his two advisors to govern and thus gain experience, per the custom of Ottoman rulers before his time. Sultan Murad II also sent a number of teachers for him to study under.
- Sultan who ruled from August 1444 to September 1446, and then later from February 1451 to May 1481.
- In Mehmed II's first reign, he defeated the crusade led by John Hunyadi after the Hungarian incursions into his country



Mehmed Campaigns

At the age of 21, he conquered Constantinople and brought an end to the Byzantine Empire. Besides conquering Constantinople, he had a lot of campaigns:

- Conquest of Serbia 1454 – 1459
- Conquest of Morea (Southern Balkans) 1458 – 1460
- Conquest of Trebizond 1460 – 1461
- Submission of Wallachia 1459 – 1462
- Conquest of Bosnia 1463
- Ottoman- Venetian War 1463 – 1479
- Anatolian Conquest 1464 – 1473
- War with Moldavia 1475 – 1476
- Conquest of Albania 1466 – 1478
- Expedition of Italy 1480



Mehmed Administration and Culture

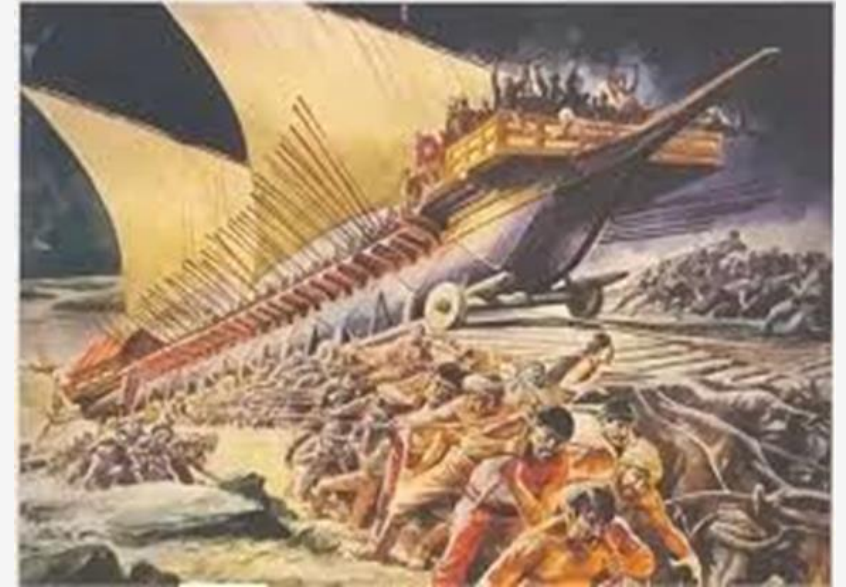
- Introduced the word Politics into Arabic "**Siyasah** سياسة " from a book he published and claimed to be the collection of Politics doctrines of the Byzantine Caesars before him.
- He gathered Italian artists, humanists and Greek scholars at his court.
- Allowed the Byzantine Church to continue functioning.
- Ordered the patriarch Gennadius to translate Christian doctrine into Turkish.
- Called Gentile Bellini from Venice to paint his portrait as well as Venetian frescoes that are vanished today.
- He collected in his palace a library which included works in Greek, Persian and Latin. invited Muslim scientists and astronomers such as Ali Qushji and artists to his court in Constantinople,
- Started a University, built mosques (for example, the Fatih Mosque), waterways, and Istanbul's Topkapı Palace.
- Around the grand mosque that he constructed, he erected eight madrasas, which, for nearly a century, kept their rank as the highest teaching institutions of the Islamic sciences in the empire.

Timeline of Constantinople

- Capital of the Byzantine Empire 395–1204 AD; 1261–1453 AD
- 330 AD: Founding of Constantinople
- 404/05-413 AD: Construction of the Theodosian Walls
- 537 AD: Completion of the Hagia Sophia by Justinian I
- 626 AD: First Siege of Constantinople
- 674–678 AD: First Arab Siege of Constantinople
- 717–718 AD: Great Siege of Constantinople/Second Arab Siege of Constantinople
- 1422 AD: Ottoman Siege of Constantinople (1422)
- 1453 AD: Fall of Constantinople

Conquest of Constantinople

- Build strong fortress on the European side, and thus gained complete control of the Bosphorus strait.
- Proceeded to levy a toll on ships passing within reach of their cannon. A Venetian vessel ignoring signals to stop was sunk with a single shot and all the surviving sailors beheaded
- In 1453 the siege of Constantinople with
 - An army between 80,000 and 200,000 troops
 - An artillery train of over seventy large field pieces
 - A navy of 320 vessels, the bulk of them transports and storeships.
 - 69 Four meters Canon were built to use in the war.



Constantinople Fall

- Defenders of Constantinople are 7000 locals and 2000 Italian missionaries.
- Albanian minors tried digging a tunnel under the walls but discovered by John Grant.
- Four ships were sent from Venice to support the defenders. The Ottoman were not able to stop them from getting to the Roman.
- On 22 April, Mehmed transported his lighter warships overland, around the Genoese colony of Galata, and into the Golden Horn's northern shore; eighty galleys were transported from the Bosphorus after paving a route, little over one mile, with wood. The romans have only thirty ships
- Constantinople fell, on 29 May, following a fifty-seven-day siege. After the conquest of Constantinople, Mehmed claimed the title of caesar of the Roman Empire.



Repopulation of Constantinople

- After conquering Constantinople, he immediately rode his horse to the Hagia Sophia. He ordered that an imam meet him there in order to chant "اشهد ان لا اله الا الله و اشهد ان محمدا رسول الله"
- The Orthodox cathedral was transformed into a Muslim mosque through a charitable trust, solidifying Islamic rule in Constantinople. Mohamed claimed the title of Caesar of Roman Emire.
- Building projects were commenced immediately after the conquest, which included the repair of the walls, construction of the citadel, a remarkable hospital.
- Freedom of religion:
 - Orthodox Patriarchate was established
 - Established a Jewish Grand Rabbinate
 - The prestigious Armenian Patriarchate of Constantinople in the capital.



From the war photos



Janissaries Ottoman
Soldiers الانكشارية



Walls of Constantinople



Canons used in the war



A Show to Watch!

