

(1481–1512), who was a peace-loving prince, enjoyed a long reign and abdicated in favour of his son Salim, who ruled till 1520. This ambitious and energetic Sultan invaded Iran and, in a hard fight, defeated Shah Ismail, the Iranian king, and annexed Kurdistan to the Turkish Empire. Next, he captured Egypt and received the sacred banner and other relics of the Prophet from the last nominal Abbasid Khalif in Egypt. Since then Turkish rulers claimed the Khilafat and with it the right to temporal as well as spiritual rule over all Muslims. Salim would have continued his conquest of new lands had not death supervened and given the same opportunity to his great and able son Sulaiman the Magnificent, who captured Budapest, besieged Vienna, and brought the Ottoman Empire to its highest glory. In the East, Armenia was subdued and annexed. Admiral Khair-ud-din, known as Barbarussa, carried the Turkish conquest on the seas. He was succeeded by other able admirals, such as his son Hasan, Targud, Sali Reis, Piale and Pir Reis. They were the terror of Europe. Admiral Pir Reis sailed as far as the Persian Gulf and captured Muscat. Sidi Ali, a sailor-poet and author of a work, entitled *Mohit*, on the navigation of the Indian seas, was forced to land on the West Coast of India and returned by the land route to Turkey. Sulaiman revised the code of laws then current in the land. At his death, his son Salim II (1566–74) succeeded him and during his short reign of eight years, the Turkish Navy sustained a defeat in a naval battle at Lepento, but a fresh fleet was prepared and Tunis was recaptured. His successor Murad III (1574–95) was a weakling, remaining under the influence of his harem ladies or other favourites. The troops mutinied in 1589 and a Turkish force under General Hasan was defeated by the Austrians and Hungarians in 1593. This war continued for 14 years, and in the meantime the Sultan died in 1595. His successor Muhammad III ruled for eight years. His rule was marked by external wars and internal troubles. He was succeeded by his son Ahmad (1603–17), a boy of 14 years of age. Peace was restored

with Austria and for the first time Turkey concluded a treaty on equal terms with an European Power. Ahmad was succeeded by his brother Mustafa (1617-18), who was soon deposed as incompetent. His brother Usman (1618-22) succeeded him. But he was also deposed and replaced by the former Sultan Mustafa, who again abdicated in favour of his nephew. Murad IV (1623-40), the new Sultan, recaptured Baghdad (1638) which had been taken by the Iranians during the disorders that prevailed in Turkey. Ibrahim, his brother, succeeded him in 1640 but was deposed and killed in 1648. Muhammad, a son of the late Sultan, ascended the throne in 1648. He captured Candia and defeated the Poles but a combined attack organized by the Austrians, Russians, and Poles, aided by Tuscany and the Pope, resulted in the loss of several towns. The war culminated in a mutiny of his troops. The Sultan was deposed and was succeeded by his brother Sulaiman II (1687-91). He appointed Mustafa Kuprili as *Grand Vazir*. War continued and in the meantime the Sultan died and was succeeded by another brother of his, Ahmad II (1691-95), who enjoyed his throne for four years, and left it to his nephew Mustafa (1695). War continued with varying fortunes and finally peace was concluded with the Allies in 1699. From then, the Turkish offensive in Europe changed into one of defence. In 1703, the Sultan abdicated in favour of Ahmad III. In 1713, Peter the Great, who was surrounded by a Turkish army, had to yield to Turkish terms and to give up Azao and to permit King Charles of Poland, a refugee in Turkey, to return to his kingdom. But the Turkish army was defeated by the Austrians in the West and by the Iranians in the East. The Iranians under Nadir Shah, drove the Turks out of the Iranian provinces. The army revolted and forced the Sultan to abdicate in favour of his nephew Muhammad I (1730). He was successful in his war against Russia and Austria, with whom he concluded an honourable peace in 1739. His successor Usman III, ruled for a short period of three years and died in 1757. The next Sultan was his cousin Mustafa



THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE, 1566 A.D.

