

Section 3, *continued*

developed into large Muslim communities.

Muslims generally practiced **tolerance**, or acceptance. They did not ban all other religions in their lands. More people began speaking Arabic and practicing Islam. The Arabs also took on non-Muslim customs. Cultural blending changed Islam into a religion of many cultures. The **development** of Muslim cities like Baghdad and Córdoba reflected this blending of cultures.

THREE MUSLIM EMPIRES

In the 1200s, Muslim Turks known as Ottomans attacked the Byzantine Empire. They trained **Janissaries**, boys from conquered towns who were enslaved and converted to Islam. The Janissaries fought fiercely. In 1453 the Ottomans led by **Mehmed II** took Constantinople. This ended the Byzantine Empire. The Ottoman Empire peaked under **Suleyman I**

(soo-lay-MAHN). By 1566 the Ottomans took control of the eastern Mediterranean and parts of Europe.

Meanwhile, the Safavids (sah-FAH-vuhds) gained power in the east. Before long, the Safavids came into conflict with the Ottomans and other Muslims. The conflict stemmed from an old disagreement about who should be caliph. In the mid-600s, Islam had split into two groups—the **Sunni** and the **Shia**. The Ottomans were Sunni, and the Safavids were Shia. The Safavid Empire conquered Persia in 1501.

East of the Safavid Empire, in India, lay the Mughal (MOO-guhl) Empire. The Mughals united many diverse peoples and were known for their architecture—particularly the Taj Mahal. Under the leader Akbar, the Mughal Empire was known for its religious tolerance. But more restrictive policies after his death led to the end of the empire.

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Drawing Inferences Draw a timeline marking the major Muslim conquests and a map to show the size of Islamic territory.