

# Safavid Iran

1501-1722

# Brief overview

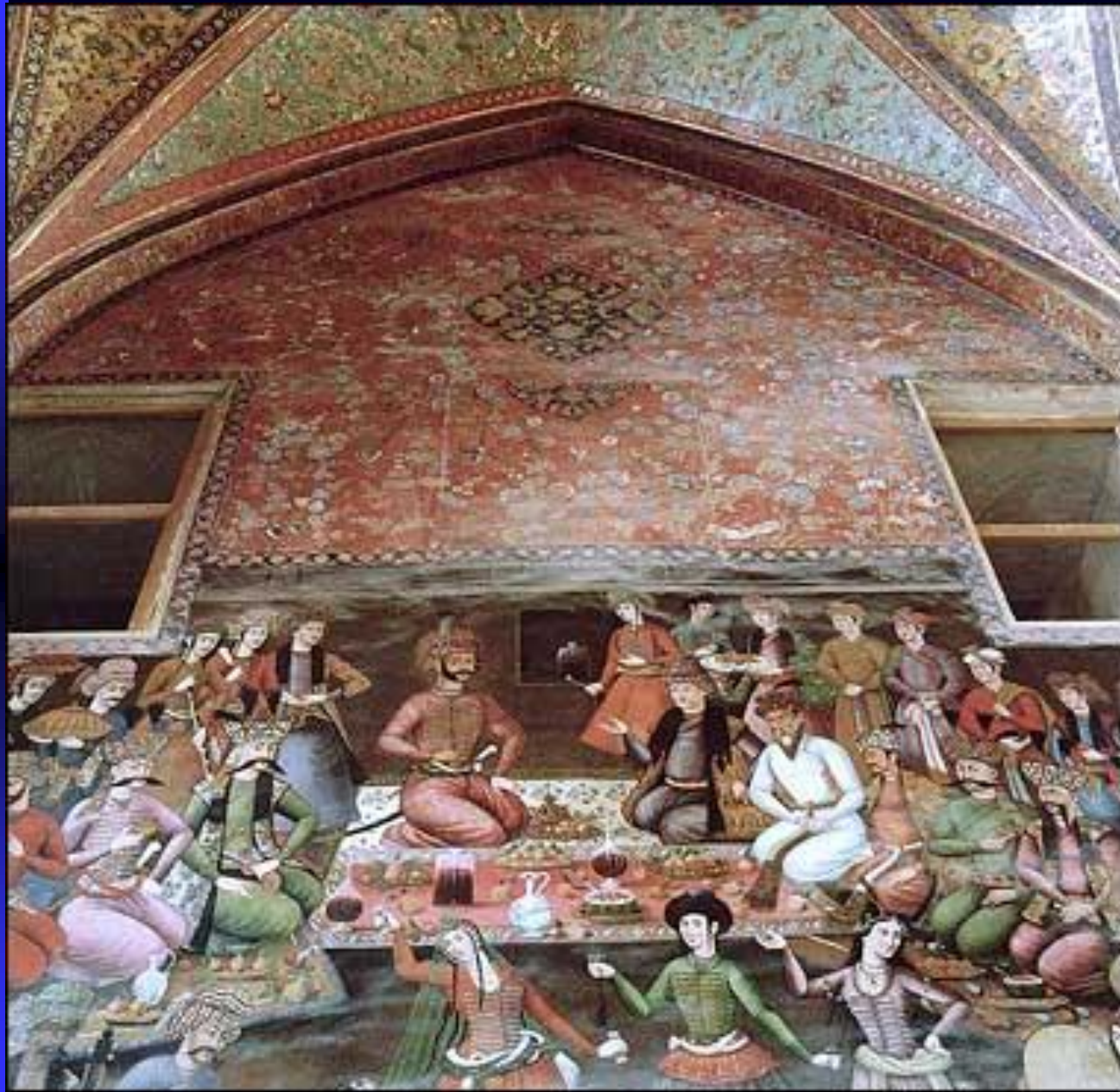
- Timur Lenk falls
- Shiite Muslims, Safavids, end the anarchy
- Turkish by ethnicity
- Seized much of present day Iraq and Iran
- Tried to unite a diverse group of people using the Shiite faith
- Fought the Ottomans for land
- Fell to Turkish and Afghan invaders in 1722





# Religion and Culture

- Ardent Shiites (hereditary, not elected ruler)
- Sent preachers into the Ottoman empire to convert people
- Shah Ismail massacred Sunni Muslims
- Used Shiite beliefs as a unifying force
- Early intellectual freedom gave way to pressure to conform
- Culturally: Turkish and Persian



# Trade and Economics

- Most people were farmers or townspeople
- Trade and manufacturing were important
- Large urban middle class involved in trade
- Horse and camel caravans
- Not as prosperous as Ottomans or Mughals
- Hard to trade with Europe
- Silk and carpet weaving became important







# Geography and Migration

- Turkish migratory groups were difficult to integrate with settled Persian groups

# Social Structures

- Persian women were forced into seclusion and veiled



# Government Structure

- Led by a Shah, or King
- Under Shah Abbas they reached their peak
- Used a janissary-like system to train administrators
- Shahs were “available” to the people
- Bureaucracy (people that work for the gov)

# War

- Border wars with the Ottoman Empire
- Strong army with the latest weapons
- Europeans allied with Safavids against the Ottomans



