



**OLLI Week 4: From Steppe Lands to Soviet SSRs
(part 1)**

Social media phrases of the week:

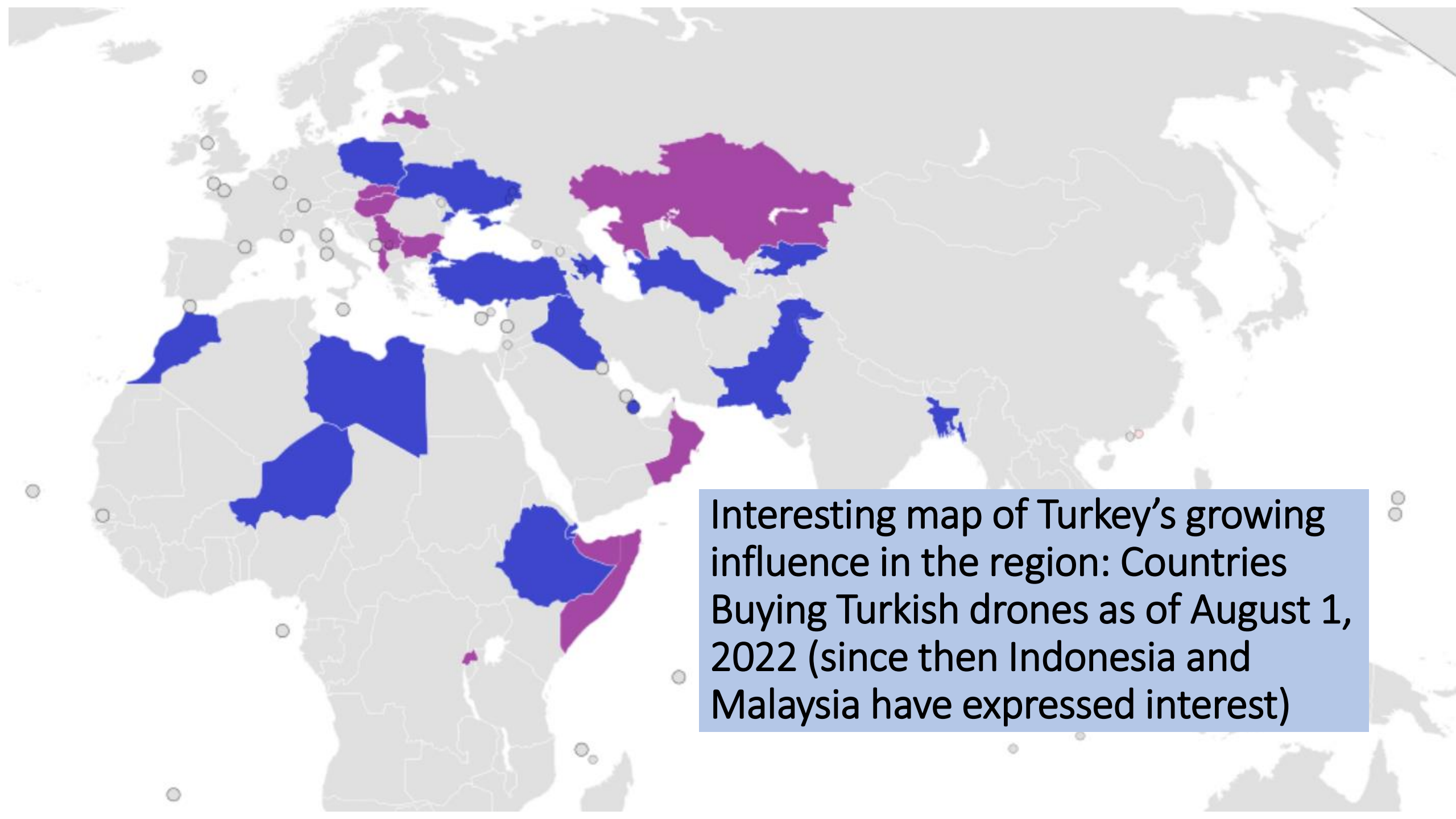
- “Twitterati” – what a great term!
- Erdogan – Putin talks provoke journalists to borrow all kinds of metaphors from 21st c. romance
 - “Caught in a “Vlad Romance”
 - “It’s complicated”
 - “Relations with benefits”

Erdogan and Putin: Complicated Relations With Mutual Benefits

Turkey needs Russian cash, gas and business as Erdogan looks to a dicey election and a new incursion in Syria, while Moscow needs friends to try to evade Western sanctions.

Give this article    153





Interesting map of Turkey's growing influence in the region: Countries Buying Turkish drones as of August 1, 2022 (since then Indonesia and Malaysia have expressed interest)

News Review:

1. I've been enjoying the word "twitterati" for the influencers on twitter. Also, the efforts of journalists and policymakers to figure out what the heck is going on between Putin and Erdogan has led them to some fun metaphors.
2. The Turkish drone industry has really taken off since the Armenia-Azerbaijan 2021 war when Turkish drones made the decisive difference. Turkish drones are less expensive than US or others, high quality, and come with little comment on how they affect human rights.
3. The World Nomad Games going on now provide a chance for Turkey to showcase its links to Central Asia.



4th **World
Nomad Games**
Sept 29-Oct 2, 2022
in Iznik, Turkey

hosted by Turkey for
the Organization of
Turkic States





Hunting,
Wrestling,
Racing,
Archery...
often at the
same time.

100 teams,
40 countries,
lots of
horses...









Hungarian
athletes, (2021
games picture)

Athletes from all
over the world
come to the
games, including
the Americas, but
the Hungarians
really seem to
enjoy displaying
their nomadic
heritage of the
Turkic Huns.

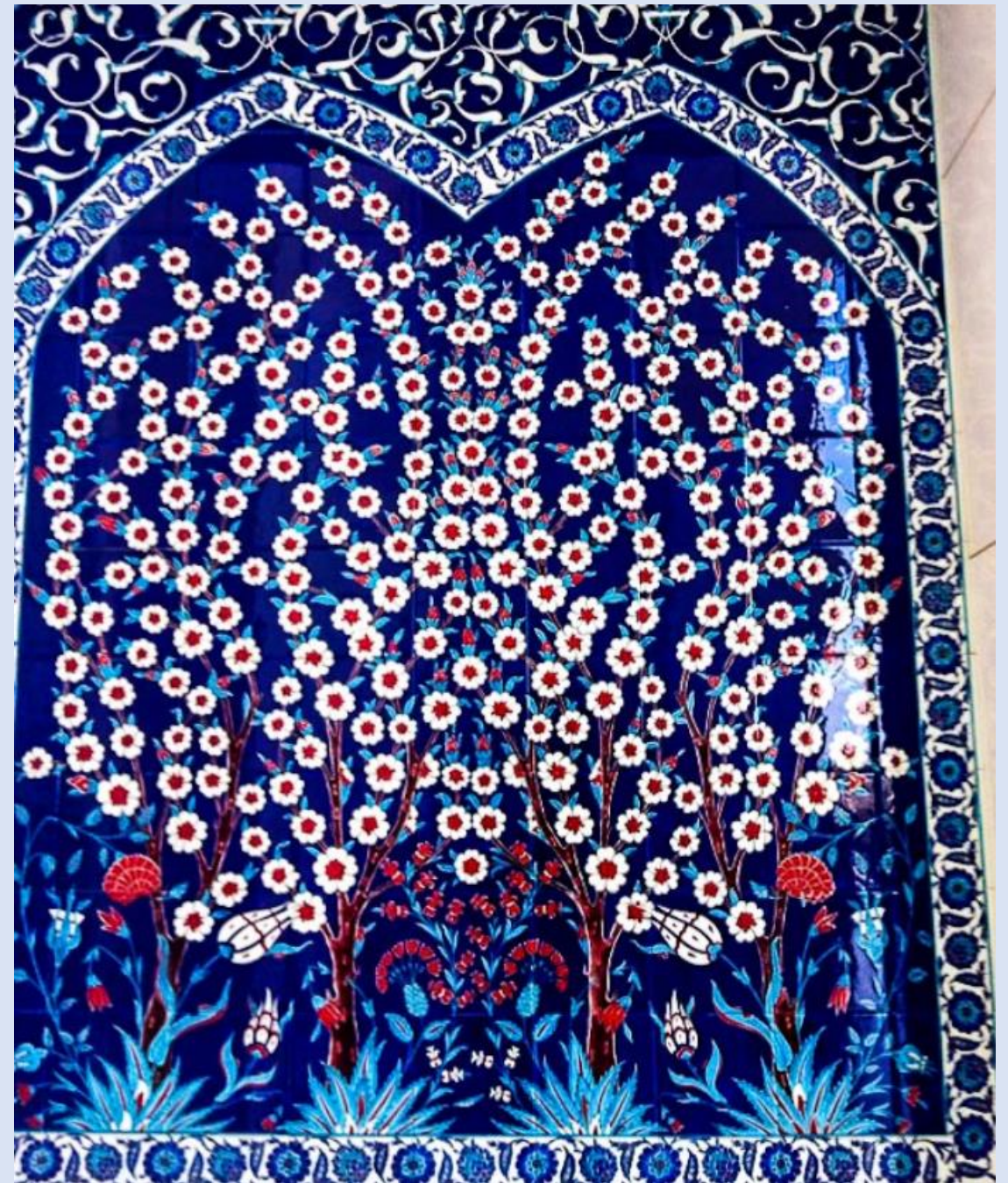


Iznik, formerly Nicea, famous for a few other things in history and art





Iznik Ceramics combined, porcelain knowledge from China, esthetics from Persia, and the powder of local quartz. The Ottoman construction boom of the 1500s gave Iznik ceramics a market.







Iznik/Nicea a Greek and Roman hub long before the Ottomans arrived in 1300s.
(Here I am with my dog at a Roman Gate)



Hagia Sophia, was an Orthodox church until the Greeks expelled in 1922, then restored in 2012 as a mosque.

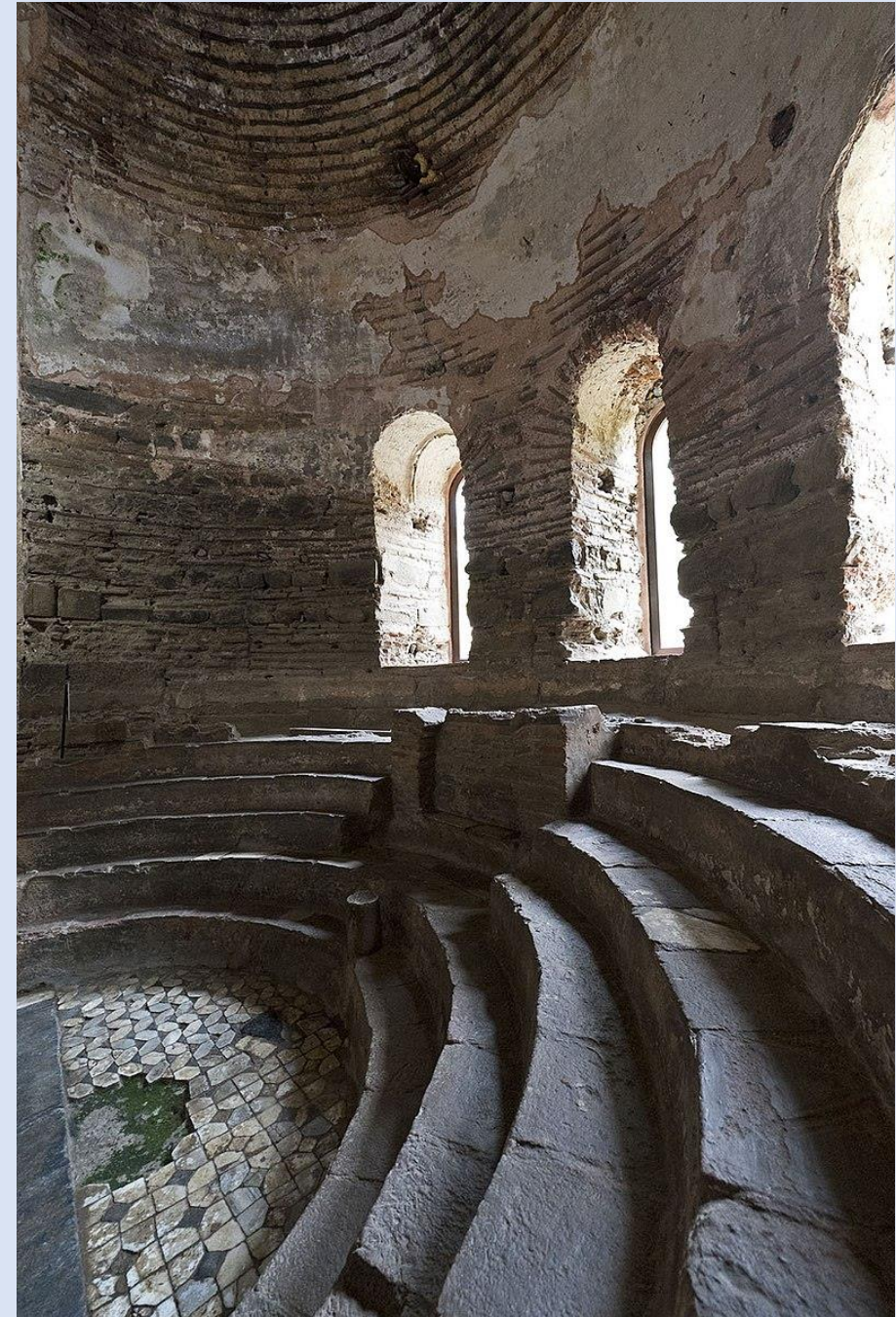


1962 before repair



after 2012 restoration as a mosque.

Was the Nicean Council held here (325 ce)? It was held someplace in the city of Nicea/Iznik, but not clear which church hosted the Christian debates.



Divers observe underwater Byzantine basilica discovered in İzник Lake

BURSA - Anadolu Agency



In 2014 the remains of another basilica discovered in the lake in İznik/Nicea. The land fell after repeated earthquakes in past centuries.

Anatolia, c. 1200 as the Turks arrive

Iznik/Nicea also was the capital of one of the last Byzantine states before the Anatolian peninsula came completely under Turkic/muslim rule.

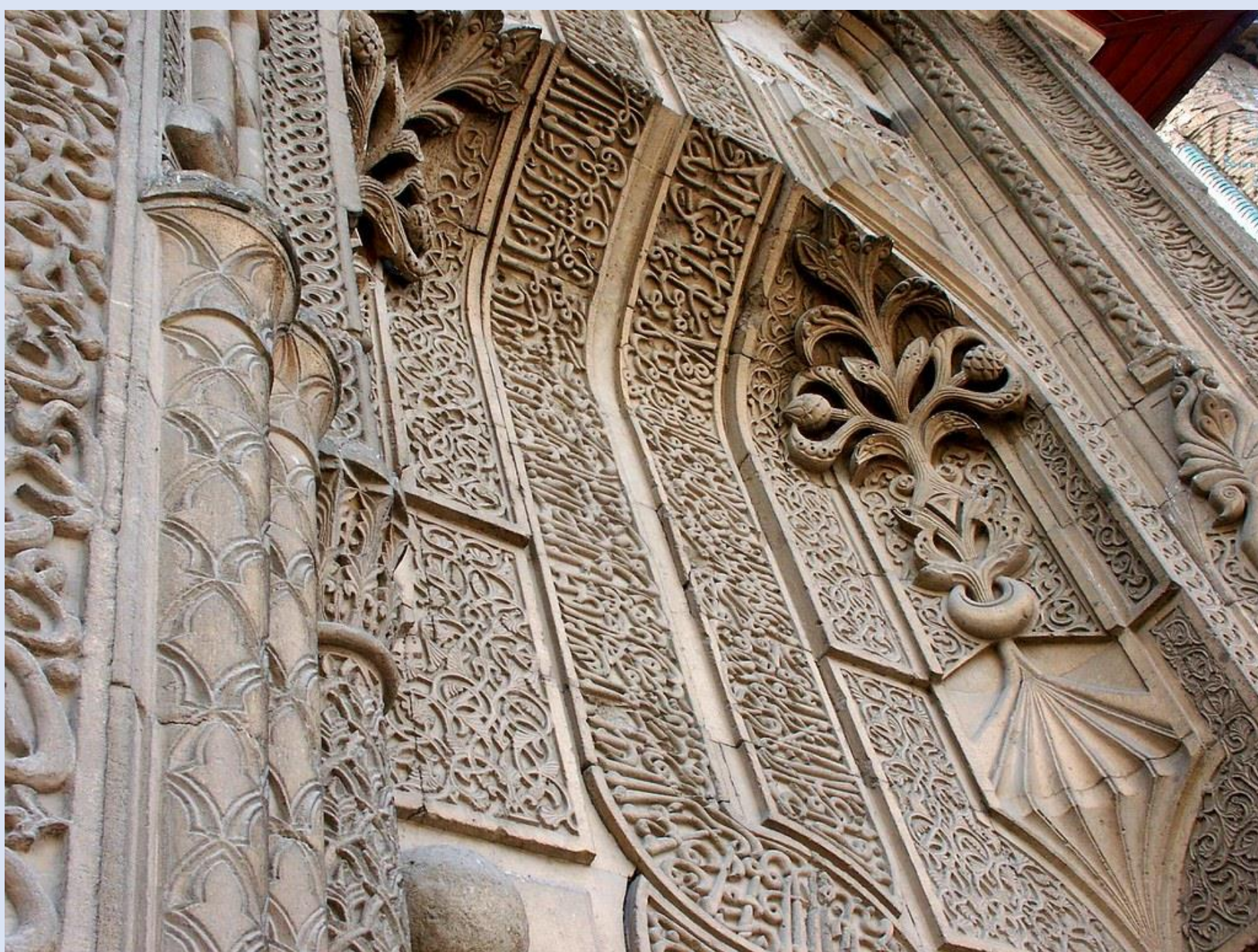
Byzantium was weakened by Crusader pillaging and religious divisions (Latin vs Greek culture and rites divided the Empire).

Notice the Seljuk Turks arriving in Anatolia, driven West from Persia by Mongol Wars.



The Seljuk Empire (1100-1300) was a mix of Persian elite culture and mostly Turkic peoples. The Seljuk founder gets a statue as one of the great leaders of the Turkic peoples in Turkish parks.





Ince
Medresesi,
detail, Konya

This school
building detail
shows classic
Seljuk style
with its heavy
Persian/Indian
influences

Seljuk Tilework (Konya, Ince Medresesi museum)



Seljuk Stonework showing Eastern Influence



More amazing Seljuk Stonework

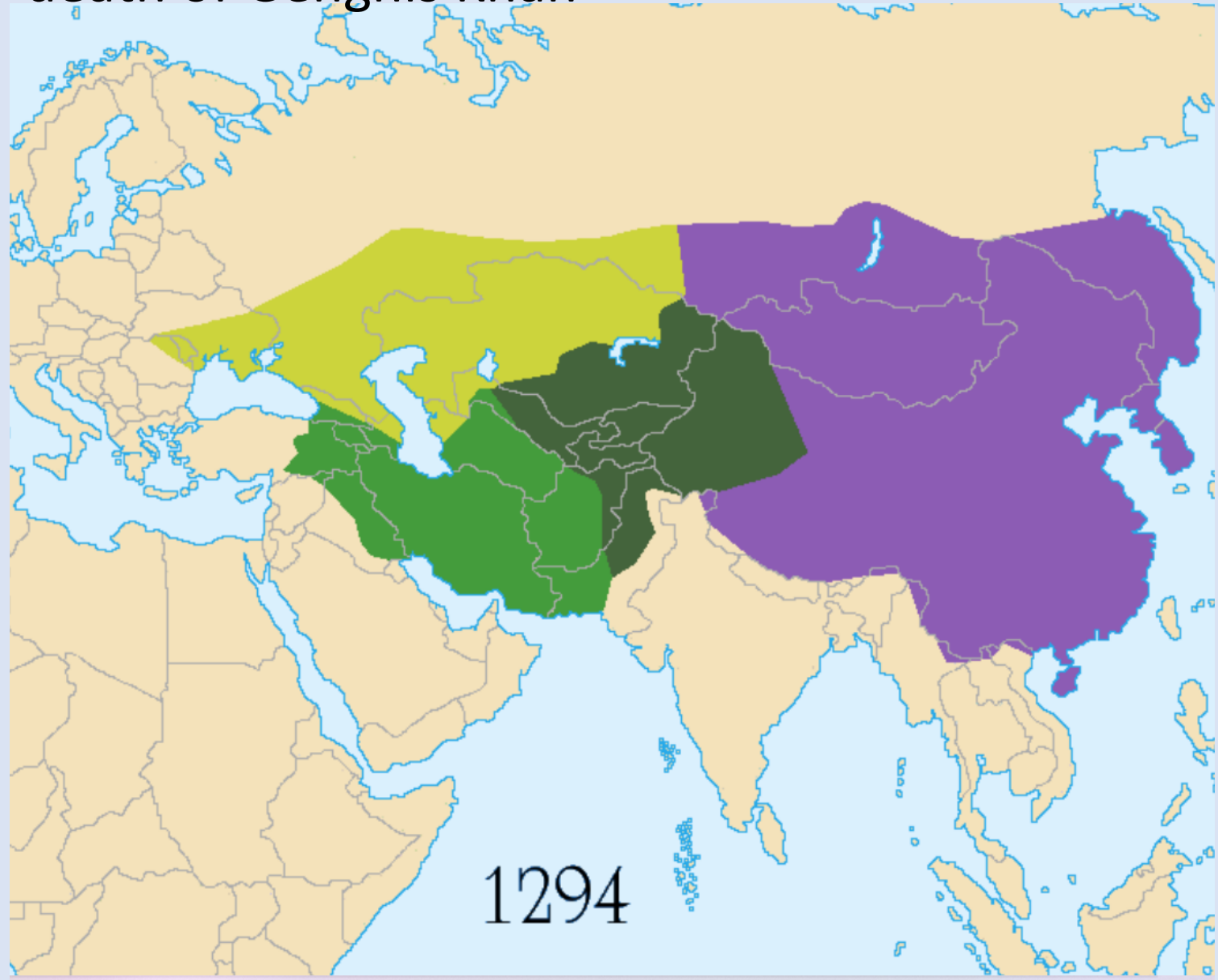


Divisions of the Mongol world after the death of Genghis Khan

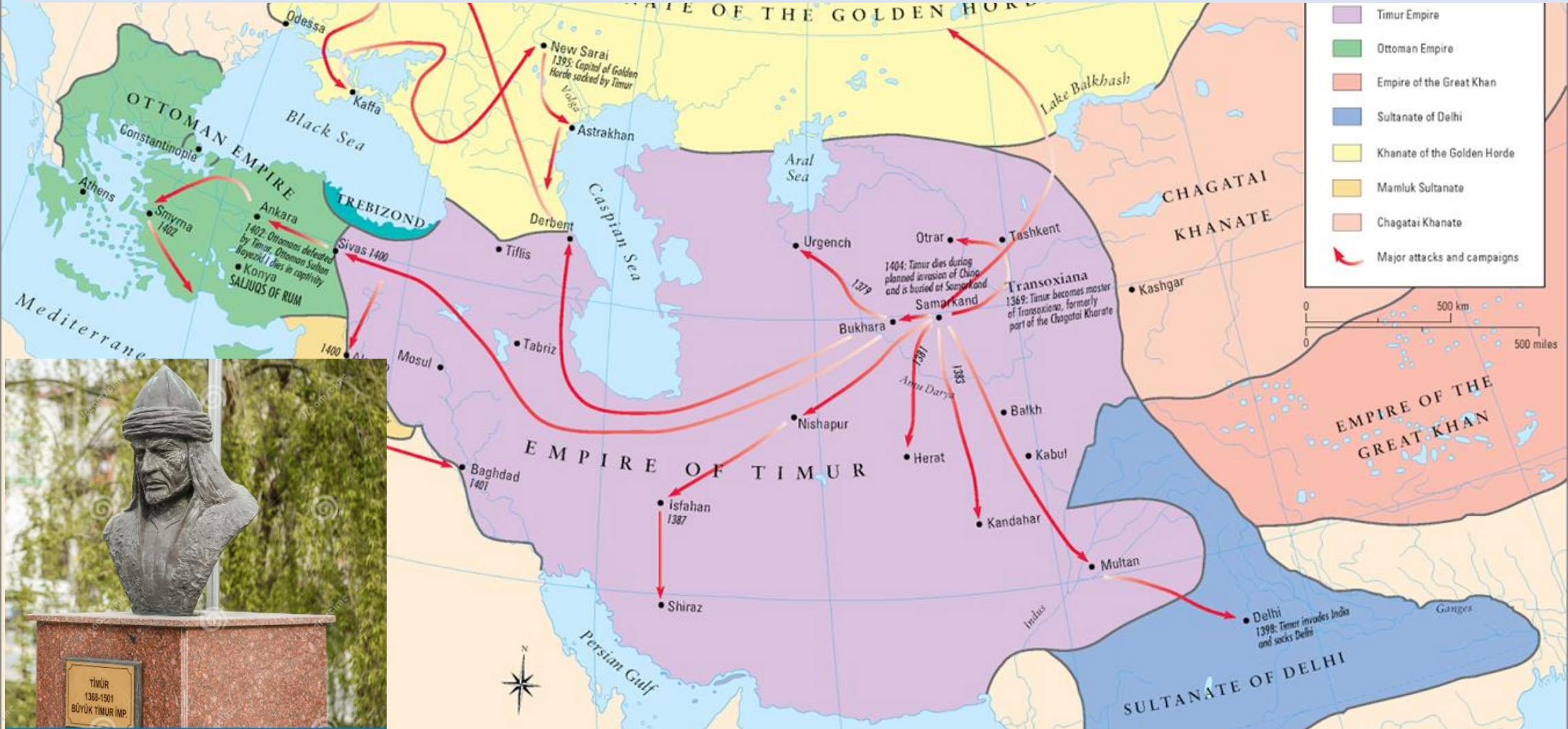
The Seljuk empire emerged first in Persia, but was driven West to Anatolia as it fled the Mongols and later their successor states.

The Mongol Empire fractured after the death of Genghis, creating opportunities and new instabilities in the region.

(The only thing worse than hosting the Mongol Empire might be running into the would-be-Mongol successor armies?)



The Seljuks also fleeing Timur, (1346-1405) who claimed to be restoring the Mongol Empire. (He also gets a statue in Turkish parks).



Timur completed the Turkification of Central Asia

- Responsible for the death of 17 million? 5% of world population at the time.
- Claimed (doubtful) descent from Genghis
- Spreads Persian culture throughout the region, under rule of a Turkic-Mongol elite
- Spread Turkic Muslim culture to India (Mughal Empire)
- Chinese, Russian (1941) and Uzbek (1990s) depictions; each claim him as a founder.



Uzbekistan rediscovers Timur, 1990s

Uzbekistan has gone on a bit of a building spree celebrating its Turkic heritage in the years since it became independent from the USSR.
(1991)

Timur's birthplace, with still standing ruins from the Ak Saray palace, are the centerpiece of a popular park.

The national museum to Timur probably skims over his murderous impact. I put a bit of the official website in here so you could see the tone of adulation (both of Timur and the Chandeliers)

State Museum of Timurid Empire, Tashkent, Uzbekistan



“It was opened in 1996 in honor of the 660th anniversary of the outstanding commander Amir Timur, also known worldwide as Tamerlane.

The three-story rounded building of the Museum is framed by a dome in classic Oriental style. The interior is richly decorated with marble, unique paintings, and gold leaf. On the walls of the halls, a fresco depicts the life of Tamerlane, as well as paintings that convey the atmosphere of those times. The highlight of the Museum is a crystal chandelier with a height of 8.5 meters, which consists of 106 thousand pendants.”



Shahsirabz,
Uzbekistan 60
km south of
Samarkand.

Birthplace of
Timur with new
park.



Ak Saray
Palace,
Shahrisabz,
Uzbekistan
Birthplace of
Timur 1300s

Yes, Alexander the Great
was here in this city in the
300s...

Ak Saray
Palace
Gates



Madrasa in Samarkand built by Timur's son, Ulegh Bey

The Silk Road cities of Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva, etc., benefitted from Timur's control and became showplaces of Architecture and learning.



Ulegh Bey, Timur's son, also known for his Observatory, his schools, and the Libraries of Khiva.



Khiva Observatory



Palvan Gate, Khiva City Walls

Khiva was famous not only for its science, but also for its slave markets – primarily **slavs** from the North



Khiva and the other Silk Road cities began coming to the attention of the expanding Rus in the 1700s both for its **trade routes to India** and because of the **enslavement of the Slavs** by Turkic peoples





Khazar slave market,
19th c. Russian
painting depicting
14th c. history

Russian foreign
expansion into Turkic
areas in the 1700-
1800s kept alive the
memory of Slavic
enslavement at the
hands of the Turks.

We will return to the Russian expansion into the lands of the Turks in next installment!

What we saw today:

- Anatolia began coming under Turkic control first with the **Seljuks Turks**, 1100s-1300s, then **Timur in the late 1300s**.
- Timur only briefly holds power, but his Samarkand based Empire drives Turkic refugees into Anatolia.
- These Turkic peoples will eventually be welded together by the **Ottomans, who expand rapidly after Timur's death in 1405**.