

#67 The Legs of Iron – The Holy Roman Empire vs. the Ottoman Empire

Key Understanding: *The Holy Roman Empire vs. the Ottoman Empire.* The Ottoman Empire of the Muslim Turks became adjacent to the Holy Roman Empire, and during the height of the empire, extended very close to the Habsburg capital of Vienna, Austria. The two empires would be rivals for centuries.

The Habsburgs vs. the Ottomans. The Ottomans conquered and occupied the Hungarians in 1526, vaulting closer to Vienna. The Ottomans attacked Vienna in 1529, but failed to take the capital. [The Ottomans had taken Constantinople, the capital of the Eastern Roman, or Byzantine, Empire in 1453, and now less than 80 years later they attempted to conquer Vienna, the capital of the Habsburgs, emperors of the Holy Roman Empire in the West.]



From top-left clockwise: Austrian coat of arms; Ottoman Mameluke; Imperial Troops in battle; Flag of the Ottoman Empire

The Ottomans had conquered the Hungarians, but the Habsburgs themselves had long wanted Hungary as a part of their empire, and they were able to take Hungary's western and northern sections. In the 1600's, the Habsburgs drove the Ottomans out of Hungary and gained control of the entire country. The Habsburgs and Ottomans would vie for control over southeast Europe and the Balkan Peninsula for centuries. [With the Habsburgs still ruling, Vienna would go on to win fame in the 1700's and 1800's as a world center of education, literature, music, and science.]

A general map of Europe in the 1500-1700 time period, showing the Holy Roman Empire adjacent to the Ottoman Empire



Here is #67–Doc 1, a map showing **the growth of the Ottoman Empire** over approximately four centuries. Again, note the proximity of the Ottoman Empire to Vienna, the capital of the Austrian Empire, at the height of the Turks’ power.

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*Daniel 2:40 (KJV) And **THE FOURTH KINGDOM SHALL BE STRONG AS IRON** [the Legs of Iron Roman Empire, extending through the Western Roman Empire, which ended in 476 A.D., and the Eastern Roman Empire, which ended in 1453 A.D. The Leg of Iron of the Western Roman Empire was extended to include the life of the Holy Roman Empire, begun by Charlemagne in 800 A.D. Its political power was generally German-based in the earlier centuries, including that of Charlemagne, King Otto I and Frederick Barbarossa, **but more Austrian-based in the later centuries through the Habsburg Dynasty.** In the meantime, the Leg of Iron of the *Eastern* Roman Empire was further extended to include the life of the Russian Empire]: *forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.**

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