Note Outline on “The Russian and Ottoman Empires”

1) How did Peter the Great and Catherine the Great change Russia?

2) Why might the governments of Alexander I and Nicholas I be called “reactionary”? What did they both oppose?

3) When was the Crimean War? Who negotiated the peace treaty following war? What did Russia have to agree to?

4) Who were some of the famous persons of the “Golden Age of Russian Culture”?

5) Which major reform did Alexander II undertake? Why was it so important to Russia?

6) Which reform was Alexander II planning when he was assassinated? How did his successor, Alexander III react to his father’s assassination?

7) What were some of the aspects of Alexander III’s reign?

8) Examining the map of the Russian Empire in 1913, what do you think would be the challenges of governing this vast country and its hundreds of ethnic groups?

9) Which sultans helped create the Ottoman Empire? How was the empire effectively managed?

10) At its peak in the 17th century the Ottoman Empire stretched as far north as _________________. south through _________________, around the _________________, south through ________________, and across North Africa to _________________.

11) What did Selim III attempt to do after coming to power in 1789? Was he successful? Explain.

12) What nationalistic pressure did the Ottoman Empire feel in the early part of the 19th century? What was the result?

13) What is meant by “geopolitics”? Why was the Ottoman Empire geopolitically important? How did this affect its relations with foreign powers?

14) Which area was historically contested by the Russian tsars with the Ottoman Empire? How is this related to the outbreak of the Crimean War in 1853?

7) Looking at the map, where is the Crimea located? Why do you think Russia wanted to control this region?

8) Explain some of the firsts of the Crimean War including…
   -military tactics:
   -use of modern technology:
   -army nurses:
   -reporting:

9) What was the affect of the Crimean War on the Ottoman Empire during the remainder of the 19th century? What actions did Sultan Mahmut II take to try and reverse the empire’s decline?

10) Who were the “Young Ottomans”? How did they try to change the direction of the empire? Why were they not ultimately successful?

11) Why was the Ottoman Empire so weak by the end of the 19th century? In view of this weakness, why didn’t foreign powers take over the entire empire?

12) Looking at the map, during what time period did the Ottoman Empire lose the largest amount of territory? Do you think that these territories became independent nation states? Explain.