The Safavid Empire was a Muslim empire in Persia. Shah Abbas was the greatest Safavid ruler; he ruled from 1588 to 1629. The reforms and leadership of Shah Abbas created the Safavid Golden Age.

For the Safavid Golden Age, his contributions to art and government led the Safavids to their height. In the second article, the author explains how there was a blending of cultures. Shah Abbas brought in Chinese artists whose artwork was found all over Isfahan. He encouraged trade with Europe and Persian rugs could be seen in noble’s homes all over Europe. Shah Abbas also brought changes to the government. He made sure that competent people worked for the government by testing their skills. Shah Abbas created two armies and equipped them with the latest warfare. One army protected the Shah and consisted of only Persians; the second army was made up of slave soldiers like the Ottoman’s janissaries. These contributions made the Safavids great.

Shah Abbas' reforms produced the greatest time in Safavid history. He improved the government and the military. He encouraged trade and the spread of ideas. The Golden Age came to an end with Shah Abbas' successor, his weak and irresponsible grandson.