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EOPA2

1.0.1 |

This time hopefully not as much as a dumpster fire.

- Options:
 - Prove one reading self inconsistent
 - Prove one reading inconsistent with the primary sources
 - Find a deeper, fundamental disagreement and point it out.
- Primary source notes:
 - Ambassador (of holy roman empire to the ottoman empire) memoir's
 - * No distinction is attached to birth among the Turks
 - * Merit based system
 - * Says that this is the reason that the Turks are successful in their undertakings.
 - Ottoman sultan's letter to leader of Safavid Persia to justify war
 - * Describes his titles and parents
 - * Basically says that they don't follow the Quran and now they are going to war against them
 - Elite Court-born Ottoman travelogue for educated ottomans
 - * Says that the ottomans sultan created the gun-foundry which Bayazit II enlarged
 - * Struggled in war against the Holy roman empire for 36 years, way longer than all other wars
 - * Says the Romans had great artillery, but Sultan Suleyman was able to overtake them
 - by recruiting gunners and artillerymen from all countries with the offer of rich rewards
 - * Destroyed the old gun foundry and replaced it with a new one
 - * Viewed as a testament to human strength and intelligence
 - British diplomat analysis / survey of ottoman empire
 - * Says that the Turks were once formidable not because of numbers but because of their "military and civil institutions, far surpassing those of their opponents"
 - * Conquest was to them a passion
 - * Says that the turks are seditious
 - * Mob assembled rather than an army levied
 - * Says they have a bad navy
- Others Notes quick sum
 - Why the ottomans succeeded
 - * Control of silk road

- * Landmass
- * Strong Military power
- Fall
 - * Over-expanded
 - Centralized
 - * Switched to an "Iron Fist" management style of crushing dissidents, encouraging the Persians to ally with the Europeans to crush the Ottomans – Jack
 - * Government
 - became to Despotic, orthodox, conservative, bureaucratic
 - Internal Plundering by the government
 - High taxes, bribery, property seizures, ect.
- Kennedy
 - Rise / Strengths
 - * says that the ottomans threats and wars seemed part of an coherent grand strategy and the Europeans were disjointed and sporadic {p4}
 - * Early 16th century china turned in on itself, but the ottomans did not. In middle staged of expansion
 - * Ottomans were the greatest muslim threat to Europe becuase of their army and their superior seige train. {p9}
 - * Applied pressure to europe {p9}
 - * Had a great navel power, won a bunch of battles, raided a bunch of places with their navy.
 - * Had an offical fath, culture, and language over an area greater than the romans.
 - * Were way more advanced in tech and culture
 - * Large tolererance of other races led to influx of talented people {p10}
 - Fall / Weaknesses
 - * Eventually turned inward
 - * Hard for army to expand due to immense cost
 - * Ottoman imperialism wasn't that profitable
 - * second half of 16th century, showed signs of "strategical over-extenstion" {p11}
 - * Shi'ite kingdom was prepared to ally with the Europeans against the Ottomans
 - * Needed good leadership, but after 1566, there was 13 incompetent Sultans in a row.
 - * Centralized, despotic, "orthodix in its attitude towards initiative, disent, and commerce"
 - * An idiot sultan could paralyze the Ottoman empire in the way that a pope or Holy Roman emperor could never do for all Europe. {p12}
 - * Without clear directives from above, the arteries of the bureaucracy hardened, preferring conservatism to change, and stifling innovation.
 - * Poverty -> internal plundering
 - Lack of expanstion and hence riches combined with the "vast rise in prices" caused janissaries to "turn to internal plunder"
 - Merchants and entrapanuers were met with unpredictable tax rates and "outright seuzure of property"

- Soldiers raded peasants land, peasants also turned to plundering, eveeverything went downhill.
- * Shi'ite religions made officials crack down on free thought
 - Printing press was forbidden
 - Economic notions remained primitive
 - Imports desired, but exports were forbidden
 - Didn't like innovation or rise of capitalism
 - Religions didn't like traders.
 - Kept old methods of dealing with plagues, and suffered from more epidemics due to it.
 - Their armed services had become, indeed, a bastion of conservatism.
- Main Ideas:
 - * Infighting
 - expansion
 - Iron first tactic of crushing others led to them uniting against the ottomans
 - Harder to keep expanding, imperialism was no longer profitable
 - Needed good leadership / new direction, but heavy centralization allowed for a single "idiot" leader to stall the empire completely. This happened thirteen times in a row.
 - This made bureaucracy harden, which led to a culture of conservatism
 - Lack of income lead to infighting and plundering
 - Threat from Shi'ite religions led to cracking down on free thought
 - Stifled innovation + income
 - More plagues
- Bulliet
 - These periods of change reveal the problems faced by huge, land based empires around the world
 - Rise
 - * Grew because of: {486}
 - The shrewdness of its founders and their descendents
 - Control of a strategic link between Europe and asia
 - Army that took advantage of the traditional skills of the turkish cavalryman presented by gunpowder and christian prisoner of war
 - * Navy was helpful...? Had a weak navy...?
 - * Late 1400s, got christian slaves to use as a valuable resource
 - * Taxed male children for warriors {p489}
 - Fall

* Crisis of the military state

- Newer tech -> greater importance of cannons and light weight fire arms
- late 16th century, influx of silver led to inflation, landholders couldn't report for military duty {490}
- Cavalrymen reduced / put out of business, replaced with janissary corps.
- Also scholars suffered from reduced income
- Cannot fundamentally alter tax system due to religious law.
- Government recruited short term soldiers which were out of money when the campaign ended
- Former landholding cavalrymen, short-term soldiers released at the end of a campaign, peasants overburdened by emergency taxes, and even impoverished students of religion formed bands of marauders.

* Economic change and growing weakness

- Kept sultans confined to the palace so they wouldn't start coups
- led to them not being experienced with the real world
- Janissaries used their increased power to make privileges in their corps hereditary

* Inflation due to a massive influx of silver hit people with fixed incomes hard

- Such as, cavalrymen holding land grants
- Students on fixed scholarships {~493}

* Army was weakening, clear by the middle of the 18th century

* Trade agreements led to the Europeans dominating the Ottomans in seaborne trade {494}

* Tulip period...?

* Central governments weakness allowed smaller leaders to fragment the nation.

- * Although no region declared full independence, the sultan's power was slipping away to the advantage of a broad array of lower officials and upstart chieftains in all parts of the empire while the Ottoman economy was reorienting itself toward Europe.

– Main Ideas

* Inflation

- Influx of silver led to soldiers and students with fixed salaries starving
- Only mention of conservatism (probs): couldn't fundamentally change tax system due to religious law

* Formed bands of marauders

- * Trade agreements allowed the Europeans to dominate in seaborne Trade
- * Central government allowed smaller leaders to fragment the nation

1. Disagreements

- Bulliet doesn't mention stress caused by nations united against the Ottomans
- Bul doesn't talk about overexpansion
- Bul doesn't talk about bureaucracy or culture of orthodoxy
- Bul doesn't talk about cracking down on free thought and innovation
- Kennedy glossed over inflation
- Kennedy doesn't mention trade agreements
- Kennedy doesn't talk about fragmentation of the nation