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Ottomans

Very organized army – lots of training, wealth in the military

Systematized: went to each village and taxed {some} percentage of 7yo boys, which were converted to Christians.

1. (war to the Ottomans is) not bureaucratic, it's an art form. Safavid's started to copy Ottoman war tactics after they lost. They even kept a painting of a lost war in their main hall.

Had a big scary navy - Arta, 2020

But couldn't take over the Mediterranean – too many competing European forces.

1.1 |

Grand Strategy

Alignment of potentially unlimited aspirations with necessarily limited capabilities

Kennedy argues that the ottomans seemed to have a good grand strategy,

- Change in grand strategy over time

In groups:

Look at the three major periods of the early-to-mid Ottoman Empire that Bulliet discusses: the period of expansion, the period of consolidation, and the period of decline. For each era: what do you think the grand strategy of the Ottoman leaders was? If successful, why so? If not, why not?

Pick a specific moment where you think Ottoman strategy was at its best (meaning aspirations and capabilities aligned) and a moment where it was at its worst (meaning aspirations and capabilities were out of sync).

On the whiteboard: For the moment you selected as being strategically weak or unsound, propose a better strategy.