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Period 3

HW 25

Venice was a trading city that was also very good at building ships. They had trading agreements with various neighbors, especially the Byzantines. When Constantinople were conquered by the Ottomans, Venice was quick to become friendly with them. Venice was wealthy due to the pepper trade with Egypt. Venice also had to import a lot of grain from the Ottomans since their land wasn't suitable for farming. Venice was also known for its glass making, which required ash that the Ottoman's prepared. The Ottoman empire was the greatest under Mehmet the Conqueror from 1451 to 1481 and Suleiman the Magnificent from 1520-1566. Suleiman conquered key parts of Egypt and Mesopotamia that gave the empire control over lucrative trade between Europe and Asia. To rule over the newly conquered lands, the Ottomans created a program called Deshmire, which took Christian boys and converted them from Christianity to Islam, where they became an elite military force called Janissaries or government officials that served the Sultan. The Ottomans controlled the entire Mediterranean sea trade, but they didn't care for it as much and Venice continued on with their trade with the Ottomans. As Venice grew very wealthy, they led the very beginnings of the Renaissance. Europeans also began to invest in explorations to find new trade routes to go around the Ottomans.