

Source:

1 | **Introduction**

2 | **Body 1: counterargument**

3 | **Body 2: Ottomans**

Europeans used soft power to mislead the Ottoman empire into trading agreements that caused crippling inflation and corruption, a corrosive trend that lead ultimately to the Ottoman empire's downfall. The Capitulations of the mid sixteenth century were a series of trade agreements between the militarily dominant Ottoman empire and the various states of Europe designed to facilitate trade (Cleveland 50). Because the European nations were weaker than the Ottomans at the time, the Ottoman empire felt safe and philanthropic in the negotiation of the treaties. Even in early drafts of the treaties, the Ottomans grant the French consul jurisdiction over its nationals. One draft from 1535 states that a French consul is to be maintained in the "proper authority" to "determine all causes, suits, and differences, both civil and criminal, which might arise between merchants and other subjects of the King" (Hurewitz 3). Although this is an early draft of the treaty, the loophole spawn of the Ottoman downfall is already apparent—the French see it as "proper" that they should have jurisdiction in another country. Why did the Ottomans give the French so much power? Such power is often granted by weaker, surrendering states, but in this case the privilege is granted primarily to the French.

4 | **Body 3: Ming**

5 | **Conclusion**