

--- author: Exr0n title: 20hist201 Unit 1 Essay Outline source: context: 20hist201 ---

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This is attempt 9

1 | Thesis Ideas

"kennedy said that the ming and the ottomans suffered the same downfall, and while they did both ultimately struggle due to spanish silver inflation and european traders, the inflationary loop started with emperors in ming china while the ottomans just kinda got stomped + janissaries weren't vere patriotic"

Although the economies of both the Ottoman and Ming empires suffered due to spiraling inflation and European trade, their misfortunes were not as similar as Kennedy suggests: the Ottomans' overstretched military was undermined by Europeans trading silver while the Mings' internal inflation spiral forced trade with and ultimately destruction by Europeans.

2 | Body 1 Choice A

2.1 | Topic

Kennedy said the ming and the ottomans suffered the same downfall due to centralization and economic troubles.

2.2 | Evidence

- "the ottomans were to falter ... strikingly similar Ming decline" (Kennedy 11)
- "The system as a whole, like that of Ming China, increasingly suffered from some of the defects of being centralized, despotic, and severely orthodox in it's attitude toward initiative dissent, and commerce." (Kennedy 11)
- "dislike trade" similarities
 - "Merchants ant entrepreneurs (nearly all of whom were foreigners), who earlier had been encouraged, now found themselves subject to unpredictable taxes and outright seizures of property" (Kennedy 12)
 - "The mandarins had a suspicion of trader" (Kennedy 8)
 - "The mandarins dislike of commerce and private capital ..." (Kennedy 8)

3 | Body 1 Choice B

3.1 | Topic

Both the Ming and Ottoman empires suffered from vicious cycles of economic weakness and civil unrest.

3.2 | Evidence

3.2.1 | Ming

1. Mann inflation ming: civil unrest

- "The entirely unsurprising result was a delirium of smuggling (if business is outlawed, only outlaws will do business)." (Mann 128)
- 1557 wokou struck back, "overwhelming all the resistance, the wokou 'abducted more than a thousand people and burned more than a thousand homes.'" (Mann 133)

2. Mann ming trade: unstable economy

- "'Coins received in the morning couldn't be used by evening,' explained a central-China gazetteer 1606." (Mann 137)
- "the preferred money flipped arbitrarily from one Song emperor to another."

3.2.2 | **Ottomans**

1. Military Economics

- The Ottoman military was originally made of cavalry, who administered land and fought traditionally on horses, and Janissaries, who fought on foot with modern technology and lived off wages. (Bulliet 490-1)
- As the number and cost of the Janissary corps grew, "the Turkish cavalry, which continued to disdain firearms, diminished". Then, the government tried to get rid of them by slowly reducing the number of landholding cavalymen. (Bulliet 491)
- The Ottoman government tried to save funds in the seventeenth century by abolishing the devshirme system, but the net increase in Janissaries and their "steady deterioration as a military force more than offset these savings". (Bulliet 491)

4 | **Body 2**

4.1 | **Topic**

Europeans used soft power to force the Ottoman empire into trading agreements that caused crippling inflation.

4.2 | **Evidence**

5 | **Body 3**

5.1 | **Topic**

China opened up to European trade to reverse its existing deflationary spiral.

5.2 | **Evidence**

5.2.1 | **DBQ doc 3**

Paraphrase: grain price dropped despite poor harvests due to the deflation of silver. "As the price of grain falls, tillers of the soil receive lower returns on their labors, and thus less land is put into cultivation."

6 | **Conclusion**

China's new link with Europe ultimately resulted in Europe targeting and destroying China with hard power
