

Source: [\[KBhHIST201Ottomans1500\]](#)

1 | The Ottomans' Fall

Problems with Silver [\[KBhHIST201ProblemsWithSilver\]](#)

@[\[KBhHIST201BulietCh19\]](#) Bulliet Chapter 19

- Affected landowners
- Could not build stronger military
- Caused the weakening of cavalrymen + increase in reliance on POWs

Overconservatism

@[\[KBhHIST201KennedyCh1\]](#) Kennedy, Chapter 1

“Natural consequences of earlier Turkish successes”

- Got Romanitas — expanded too much to the point of unmanageability => “Strategical Overextension”
- Switched to an “Iron Fist” management style of crushing dissidents, encouraging the Persians to ally with the Europeans to crush the Ottomans
- Suffered from being centralized, despotic, and severely orthodox
 - Emperor had too much power
 - Country became over-conservative #why
 - Bureaucracy became too heavy
- Heavy internal plundering
 - High taxes
 - Seizures of property
 - Depopulated towns
 - Unorderly soldiers
 - Bribery

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“Religious laws ... constrained the ottomans from reforming the tax system”

- Levied surtaxes
- Caused rebellions + banditry
- POWs took advantage of influence to gain the ability to marry and do business, but overall caused deterioration of the quality of the military (less professionals, more POWs)

Declining government

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Sultans kept to themselves

- Prevented male relatives from leaving the palace
- *Females gained larger rule* + chief administrators oversaw the actual government **important!:** CLAIM — stereotypically, muslim culture had fears of women in politics

Dismantling original systems

- Land grants for military services disappeared
- Abolished devshirme system which selected POW officers
- Tax farming became allowed
 - Tax collectors are allowed to pre-paid tax and collect any amount to recouperate
 - Caused local administration to suffer due to the above
- Corruption within the government lead them to give power to tax collectors
 - Causing them to control the incomes and expenses of a regions
 - Which turns them into large private landowners

The armies kept deteriorating

- Resorted to hiring substitutes
- Also relied partially on trained seasonal recruits

European trade capitulations

- Europeans took control of Ottomans' overseas trade "Capitulations" — special trade agreements
 - European domination of Ottoman seaborne trade
 - Muslim merchants are trading at a disadvantage due to this domination
- Few Ottoman statesmen observed the change, but they are generally disregarded
- "Tulip Craze" => European integration
 - Early sign of destruction shown with the Ottomans' craze on Tulips
 - European cultures integrated into the Ottoman culture — clothing, books, furtinutes
 - At *gala soirees*, Janissaries revolted, causing the abdication of Sultan Ahmed III
- Eventually, Janissary commanders became independent rulers, causing a slip of control

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- Rural disorder also caused new economic opportunities
 - CLAIM: ottoman's lack of control brings other European costal regions to resume originally Ottoman controlled trades
 - Local farmers shifted growth to cash crops (tobacco, cotton, oil, etc.)