

Source:

---

1 |

## *EOPA2*

*This time hopefully not as much as a dumpster fire.*

- Options:
  - Prove one reading self inconsistent
  - Prove one reading inconsistent with the primary sources
  - Find a deeper, fundamental disagreement and point it out.
- Primary source notes:
  - Ambassador (of holy roman empire to the ottoman empire) memior's
    - No distinction is attached to birth among the Turks
    - Merit based system
    - Says that this is the reason that the Turks are successful in their undertakings.
  - Ottoman sultan's letter to leader of Safavid Persia to justify war
    - Describes his titles and parents
    - Basically says that they don't follow the Quran and now they are going to war against them
  - Elite Court-born Ottoman travelogue for educated ottomans
    - Says that the ottomans sultan created the gun-foundry which Bayazit II enlarged
    - Struggled in war against the Holy roman empire for 36 years, way longer than all other wars
    - Says the Romans had great artillery, but Sultan Suleyman was able to overtake them
      - by recruiting gunners and artillerymen from all countries with the offer of rich rewards
    - Destroyed the old gun foundry and replaced it with a new one
    - Viewed as a testament to human strength and intelligence
  - British diplomat analysis / survey of ottoman empire
    - Says that the Turks were once formidable not because of numbers but because of their "military and civil institutions, far surpassing those of their opponents"
    - Conquest was to them a passion
    - Says that the turks are seditious
    - Mob assembled rather than an army levied
    - Says they have a bad navy
- Others Notes quick sum
  - Why the ottomans succeeded
    - Control of silk road
    - Landmass

- Strong Military power
- Fall
  - Over-expanded
    - Centralized
  - Switched to an “Iron Fist” management style of crushing dissidents, encouraging the Persians to ally with the Europeans to crush the Ottomans – Jack
  - Government
    - became to Despotic, orthodox, conservative, bureaucratic
    - Internal Plundering by the government
      - High taxes, bribery, property seizures, ect.
- Kennedy
  - Rise / Strengths
    - says that the ottomans threats and wars seemed part of an coherent grand strategy and the Europeans were disjointed and sporadic {p4}
    - Early 16th century china turned in on itself, but the ottomans did not. In middle staged of expansion
    - Ottomans were the greatest muslim threat to Europe becuase of their army and their superior seige train. {p9}
    - Applied pressure to europe {p9}
    - Had a great navel power, won a bunch of battles, raided a bunch of places with their navy.
    - Had an offical fath, culture, and language over an area greater than the romans.
    - Were way more advanced in tech and culture
    - Large tolerance of other races led to influx of talented people {p10}
  - Fall / Weaknesses
    - Eventually turned inward
    - Hard for army to expand due to immense cost
    - Ottoman imperialism wasn't that profitable
    - second half of 16th century, showed signs of “strategical over-extendion” {p11}
    - Shi'ite kingdom was prepared to ally with the Europeans against the Ottomans
    - Needed good leadership, but after 1566, there was 13 incompetent Sultans in a row.
    - Centralized, despotic, “orthodix in its attitude towards initiative, disent, and commerce”
    - An idiot sultan could paralyze the Ottoman empire in the way that a pope or Holy Roman emperor could never do for all Europe. {p12}
    - Without clear directives from above, the arteries of the bureaucracy hardened, preferring conservatism to change, and stifling innovation.
    - Poverty -> internal plundering
      - Lack of expansion and hence riches combined with the “vast rise in prices” caused janissaries to “turn to internal plunder”
      - Merchants and entrapanuers were met with unpredictable tax rates and “outright seuizure of property”
      - Soldiers raded peasants land, peasants also turned to plundering, eveeverything went downhill.
    - Shi'ite religions made officials crack down on free thought
      - Printing press was forbidden
      - Economic notions remained primitive
      - Imports desired, but exports were forbidden

- Didn't like innovation or rise of capitalism
  - Religions didn't like traders.
- Kept old methods of dealing with plagues, and suffered from more epidemics due to it.
  - Their armed services had become, indeed, a bastion of conservatism.
- Main Ideas:
  - Infighting
    - expansion
      - Iron first tactic of crushing others led to them uniting against the ottomans
      - Harder to keep expanding, imperialism was no longer profitable
      - Needed good leadership / new direction, but heavy centralization allowed for a single "idiot" leader to stall the empire completely. This happened thirteen times in a row.
      - This made bureaucracy harden, which led to a culture of conservatism
      - Lack of income lead to infighting and plundering
      - Threat from Shi'ite religions led to cracking down on free thought
        - Stifled innovation + income
    - More plagues
- Bulliet
  - These periods of change reveal the problems faced by huge, land based empires around the world
  - Rise
    - Grew because of: {486}
      - The shrewdness of its founders and their descendents
      - Control of a strategic link between Europe and asia
      - Army that took advantage of the traditional skills of the turkish cavalryman presented by gunpowder and christian prisoner of war
    - Navy was helpful...? Had a weak navy...?
  - Late 1400s, got christian slaves to use as a valuable resource
  - Taxed male children for warriors {p489}
- Fall
  - Crisis of the military state
    - Newer tech -> greater importance of cannons and light weight fire arms
    - late 16th century, influx of silver led to inflation, landholders couldn't report for military duty {490}
    - Canvalrymen reduced / put out of buisness, replaced with janissary corps.
    - Also scholars suffered from reduced income
  - Cannot fundementaly alter tax system due to religous law.
  - Government recruited short term soldies which were out of money when the campaign ended
    - Former landholding cavalrymen, short-term soldiers released at the end of a campaign, peasants overburdened by emergency taxes, and even impoverished students of religion formed bands of marauders.
  - Economic change and growing weakness
    - Kept sultans confined to the palace so they woudnt start coups
      - led to them not being experienced with the real world
    - Janissaries used their increased power to make privliges in their corps hereditary

- Inflation due to a massive influx of silver hit people with fixed incomes hard
  - Such as, cavalymen holding land grants
  - Students on fixed scholarships {~493}
- Army was weakening, clear by the middle of the 18th century
- Trade agreements led to the Europeans dominating the Ottomans in seaborne trade {494}
- Tulip period...?
- Central governments weakness allowed smaller leaders to fragment the nation.
- Although no region declared full independence, the sultan's power was slipping away to the advantage of a broad array of lower officials and upstart chieftains in all parts of the empire while the Ottoman economy was reorienting itself toward Europe.
- Main Ideas
  - Inflation
    - Influx of silver led to soldiers and students with fixed salaries starving
    - Only mention of conservatism (probs): couldn't fundamentally change tax system due to religious law
  - Formed bands of marauders
  - Trade agreements allowed the Europeans to dominate in seaborne Trade
  - Central government allowed smaller leaders to fragment the nation

### Disagreements

- Bulliet doesn't mention stress caused by nations united against the Ottomans
- Bul doesn't talk about overexpansion
- Bul doesn't talk about bureaucracy or culture of orthodoxy
- Bul doesn't talk about cracking down on free thought and innovation
- Kennedy glossed over inflation
- Kennedy doesn't mention trade agreements
- Kennedy doesn't talk about fragmentation of the nation