

Source: [KBHistoryMasterIndex](#)

## 1 | Bulliet, Chapter 19

#disorganized

- Ottoman empire grew from small size
- With Syria and Egypt shrinking 16th century, Ottomans became the biggest Muslim empire
- Less medieval, and represented more the new age centralized monarchy
- Beginnings
  - Turkish Nomads + Muslim Warriors + Christian Islamic Converts
  - 3 factors of growth
    - Original leader was quite shrewd
    - Strategic link between Europe + Asia at the Daranelles strait
    - Creation of army combining Trukish techniques + high tech gunpowder
  - Eventually in 1453 conquered Constantinople, which ended Byzantine rule + gave a pretty good capital
  - Schedule of Battlings
    - Conquered Safavid Empire => 1514
    - Conquered Egypt => 1516-1517
  - Eastern frontier => where Safavid was
  - Southern frontier => red sea
- Sought control of the Mediterranean
- (Unsuccessfully) tried to fight Venice
  - Initial fight => reduced military power + tribute
  - Finally fell another century later, but due to unrelated reasons
- Fought the Portuguese, too!
  - Tried to deter Portuguese threats
  - Successfully prevented them from closing in, but ultimately did not conquer into Portugal
- Military might
  - Used traditional mounted warriors
  - Also gained Christian POWs
    - Lived in barracks and trained all year round
    - Barred from jobs or marrying
    - Barred from jobs or marrying
    - Learned to use guns to support horseback soldiers
- A cosmopolitan empire
  - Sophisticated language
  - Advanced class system
  - "Most powerful and best organized"
    - Advanced land forces aforementioned

- Heavy military technology
- Militaristic government?
  - Cavalrymen administered the rural land
  - Maintained order, collected taxes, and, come summer, fought
- Model of government => “Taxes help fund military and sultan which provides justice for the people”
- Reality => Government had little actual involvement
  - Local customs prevailed
  - Looked to religious leaders that *is not necessarily muslim* for guidance
- Beginning of problems
  - [\[KBHIST201ProblemsWithSilver\]](#) Problems with Silver
    - Affected landowners
    - Could not build stronger military
    - Caused the weakening of cavalrymen + increase in reliance on POWs
  - CLAIM: “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, too!
  - Sultans kept to themselves
  - Prevented male relatives from leaving the palace
  - *Females gained larger role* + chief administrators oversaw the actual government **important!:**  
CLAIM — stereotypically, muslim culture had fears of woman in politics
  - Original systems is slowly abolished
    - 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 recoup
      - Caused local administration to suffer due to the above
  - Corruption within the government led 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
  - Rural disorder also caused new economic opportunities
    - CLAIM: ottoman's lack of control brings other European coastal regions to resume originally Ottoman controlled trades
    - Local farmers shifted growth to cash crops (tobacco, cotton, oil, etc.)
  - The armies kept deteriorating
    - Resorted to hiring substitutes
    - Also relied partially on trained seasonal recruits
  - Europeans took control of Ottomans' overseas trade “Capitulations”
    - European domination of Ottoman seaborne trade
    - Did not control strategic ports