

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
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 - 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 region
 - 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” — 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