

Source: [KBhHIST201KennedyCh1]

1 | Europe on the Brink

Before its transformation in the 1500s, Europe was quite behind in terms of its technological + cultural developments. European knowledge of oriental culture was fragmentary + wrong => Constructed based on retold tales

The Weak Europe

Geography

- Shaped awkwardly (ice + water bound)
- Easily invaded by land from the east
 - By 1500, Granada, the Muslim rule of Spain has just collapsed 8 years ago
- Easily arrived by water from the western front
- Fall of Constantinople happened 1453

Technology

- Did not invent modern numbers a la arabia + China
- Did not engage in active foreign trade a la India and Islam
- Most of what it had was borrowed from Eastern counties

Leadership

- Never did all of Europe acknowledge one leader
 - Small kingdoms + lordships => Fighting
 - Could not rally around religious image