

Source: [KBhHIST201HistModHist](#)

1 | Kennedy Is Frustrating

- 200s-1800s: "Unified, hierarchic administration run by a well-educated Confucian bureaucracy" (reason: ???) → strength in political and cultural coherence
- 1200s-1800s: "technological precocity" -- libraries, printing, paper money, trade, iron industry (reason: centralized state power) → strength in wealth, but weakness if the state neglects it
- 1200s-1433: Naval fleets explore and trade with Korea, Japan, SE Asia, East Africa (no reason) → strength in overseas exploration and trade
- 1433 onwards: Maritime trade forbidden, fleets limited (reasons: Mongols, navy is luxury, bureaucracy didn't see value) → weakness
- 1500s: "conservatism of the Confucian bureaucracy" (reaction to Mongols) → weakness, not focused on overseas expansion and commerce and warfare
- ???: "Printing was restricted to scholarly works" (reason: ???) → weakness, no dissemination of skill knowledge
- 1550s: "The use of paper currency was discontinued" (reason: ???) → weakness in trade
- ???: "Chinese cities were never allowed the autonomy of those in the west" (reason: centralized bureaucracy) → weakness
- 1433: Banning of overseas trade (reason: ???) → weakness
- 1500s-1800s: Booming population (reason: ???) → weakness: can't feed everyone, only kept in check by plague, floods, war

Figure 1: Screen Shot 2020-08-31 at 9.30.01 AM.png

His arguments are not very well supported. For instance, his argument that orthodox Confucianism stopped trade (and ???, then) decline for China.

Missing was pieces of evidence could have caused tremendous difficulty.

"I don't need arguments to support his claims, I just need to claim harder" — Kennedy

- "These people failed because they cared about their own people" — Both Empires
- "These people failed because they used a strategy that have worked for them and is working" — Ming w.r.t. Confucianism
- "These people failed because they are too good and managing an empire" — Ottomans w.r.t. to the Romanitus

His Frustrating Arguments

One is obliged to stress the words "potential power" because the evolution of the gunned long-range sailing ship was a slow, often uneven development.... Moreover, there were considerable arguments in favor of continuing to deploy galleys in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea; they were swifter on many occasions, more maneuverable... which, for the Turks, outweighed the disadvantages of their being short-ranged and unable to act in heavy seas. (25)

Kennedy's framing of *potential power* is basically saying "Turks, why did you not see the benefits of this thing that you could not possibly have seen given the circumstances? Why don't you time travel?" Development of large maritime ships was slow