

1 | Thesis Ideas

“Kennedy said that the Ming and the Ottomans suffered the same downfall, and while they did both ultimately struggle due to Spanish silver inflation and European traders, the inflationary loop started with emperors in Ming China while the Ottomans just kinda got stomped + Janissaries weren't very patriotic”

Although the economies of both the Ottoman and Ming empires suffered due to spiraling inflation and European trade, their misfortunes were not as similar as Kennedy suggests: the Ottomans' overstretched military was undermined by Europeans trading silver while the Mings' internal inflation spiral forced trade with and ultimately destruction by Europeans.

2 | Body 1 Choice A

2.1 | Topic

Kennedy said the Ming and the Ottomans suffered the same downfall due to centralization and economic troubles.

2.2 | Evidence

- “the Ottomans were to falter ... strikingly similar Ming decline” (Kennedy 11)
- “The system as a whole, like that of Ming China, increasingly suffered from some of the defects of being centralized, despotic, and severely orthodox in its attitude toward initiative dissent, and commerce.” (Kennedy 11)
- “dislike trade” similarities
 - “Merchants and entrepreneurs (nearly all of whom were foreigners), who earlier had been encouraged, now found themselves subject to unpredictable taxes and outright seizures of property” (Kennedy 12)
 - “The mandarins had a suspicion of trader” (Kennedy 8)
 - “The mandarins' dislike of commerce and private capital ...” (Kennedy 8)

3 | Body 1 Choice B

3.1 | Topic

Both the Ming and Ottoman empires suffered from economies weakened by instability and revolt caused by inflation.

3.2 | Evidence

4 | Body 2

5 | Body 3

6 | Conclusion