

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
- 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
 - [KBhHIST201ProblemsWithSilver](#) 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
 - "Tulip Craze" => European integration
 - Early sign of destruction shown with the Ottomans' craze on Tulips
 - European cultures integrated into the Ottoman culture — clothing, books, furniture
 - At *gala soirees*, Janissaries revolted, causing the abdication of Sultan Ahmed III
 - Eventually, Janissary commanders became independent rulers, causing a slip of control

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Ottoman system

Heads of government

1. Sultan
 2. Grand vizier
 3. Military elite — Janissaries
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Civic Law, Taxation, and Education by default religion

- Muslims => Shaykh
- Christians => Patriarch
- Jews => Grand Rabbi

Grand Vizier + Sultan appoint the heads of each religion

Criminal Law, Tax Collection, Military, and Policing by government

1. Local administrator
2. Governors

Devshirme system pluck young Christian boys and train them in islam to appoint governors + local administrators.

Eventually, government corruption led the Janissaries