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This watercolour painting depicts a typical sight at Istanbul's Grand Bazaar. Having served as Istanbul's commercial centre, I have chosen the marketplace to demonstrate Istanbul's role as a "Commercial City".

The diverse selection of silk and spices in the background indicates that Istanbul was rich in trade and had extensive global influence. Like Melaka's control over the China-India trade route, this success can partly be attributed to Istanbul's geographic position along key trade routes. Specifically, Istanbul's control over lucrative trade routes such as the Silk Road had turned it into a central hub for both Eastern and Western merchants. (Lybyer, 1915)