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This picture depicts a typical stall in Istanbul's Grand Bazaar, selling various local and foreign spices. A living remnant of the Ottoman Empire's regional control, I have chosen the marketplace to demonstrate Istanbul's commercial power.

As a common characteristic of Turkish architecture, the mosaic tiling as shown in the picture was typical in such stalls, and they help to illustrate the market's vibrancy and culture. Furthermore, the use of arched beams like the ones found in the background was one of the structural design choices that enabled the Grand Bazaar to become a

reliable and safe marketplace. This defence against natural disasters was similar to Amsterdam's construction of dikes in the 16th Century (Lecture 3.2).

On the other hand, the diverse spices on display represent the global influence exerted by Istanbul, as merchants from both the West and the East were attracted to the market. This influx of traders was a key reason for Istanbul's growth, similar to that of early London (Lecture 3.4).

As discussed in case studies such as Melaka (Lecture 3.1) and New York City (Lecture 9.2), Istanbul's success can also be partly attributed to its geographic position around bodies of water vital for trade. Specifically, its maritime control over the Black, Aegean and Mediterranean Seas had managed to disrupt the Silk Road and establish Istanbul as a centre for ever-growing trade.

All these successes have cemented it as one of Istanbul's most popular tourist destinations, with tourists (like myself) sustaining the market to this day.

[249 words]