

Ottoman Empire Factors to Consider

Student Name _____ Date _____

- 1) The Sunni Ottomans engaged in an ongoing war with the Shi'ite Safavid Empire, forcing the Ottomans to rely on a large army, including janissaries (captured slave soldiers) and a large bureaucracy to protect and maintain their power. Soldiers and army officials needed to be paid.
- 2) Cities in the Ottoman Empire were religiously tolerant; Istanbul was one of the cities to which Jews who were expelled from the Spanish Empire came.
- 3) Spanish silver caused inflation in the Ottoman Empire. Europeans, having access to more gold and silver, could pay more for Ottoman commodities (such as wheat), leading to an overall increase in prices.
- 4) Increased prices did not coincide with increase wages for soldiers and for peasants, who also had to pay more taxes. This led to revolts in the early 17th century.
- 5) Throughout the 16th century, the Ottoman Empire controlled and profited from the spice trade between the East and Europe, but, with European exploration and expansion, Europeans were able to bypass the Ottomans.
- 6) The Ottoman Empire had a special, although tense, relationship with Venice upon whom it depended for various supplies and a market for its goods.
- 7) The Ottoman Empire did have a navy, but it was not equipped for the high seas and focused on the Mediterranean Sea and coastal waters. An alliance of Spain, Venice, and the Papal States defeated the Ottoman navy at Lepanto in the late 16th century. The Ottomans quickly recovered from the defeat and rebuilt.