Crowns Under Pressure

How Ottoman power shaped European rulers' choices

SS24.8.14d "Summarize the influence of the Ottoman Empire on the political landscape of European monarchies."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two ways Ottoman power changed who controlled land. Circle two political choices European rulers made in response, and write the number 1 beside an alliance that crossed a religious divide.

The Ottoman Empire and Europe's Monarchs

1. In 1526, Ottoman forces defeated the Hungarian king at the Battle of Mohacs. The king died, and rival claimants fought for his crown. Over time, the Ottoman Empire ruled central Hungary, while the Habsburg dynasty held lands in the west and north. Transylvania, to the east, had its own prince but paid tribute to the Ottomans. A single kingdom had become a contested region. For Habsburg rulers, Ottoman power was no distant rumor: it changed the borders, neighbors, and claims they had to defend.

2. The Habsburgs ruled Austria and other European lands, so Ottoman advances pushed them to organize armies and seek money for defense. In 1529, an Ottoman army besieged Vienna, a key Habsburg city, but failed to capture it. Rulers could use the need for defense to argue for stronger central control over soldiers and taxes. Yet they often needed approval or help from local nobles and assemblies. Ottoman pressure did not simply create absolute monarchs. It made control of land and resources a pressing political question.

3. Ottoman power also shaped alliances among European rulers. In the 1500s, France's King Francis I cooperated with the Ottoman sultan Suleiman I against their shared Habsburg rival. This partnership showed that competition for power could outweigh religious differences between Christian and Muslim rulers. In 1683, another Ottoman siege of Vienna ended when forces led by the Polish king John III Sobieski joined Habsburg defenders in defeating the attackers. European monarchs could treat the Ottomans as either useful partners or dangerous opponents, depending on whose power they wanted to limit.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Ottoman power change who ruled the lands of Hungary?

2. How did Ottoman advances affect Habsburg plans for armies and taxes? What limited the rulers' control?

3. Why did Francis I cooperate with Suleiman I, and what does that choice show about European politics?

4. How did Francis I and John III Sobieski respond differently to Ottoman power? What does their contrast show about European alliances?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you advise a European monarch whose kingdom borders expanding Ottoman lands. Write four or five sentences recommending two political choices and explaining one possible cost or limit. Use patterns from the passage, but do not retell one ruler's actions.

ANSWER KEY

Crowns Under Pressure

GRADE 8 · SS24.8.14d

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two ways Ottoman power changed who controlled land. Circle two political choices European rulers made in response, and write the number 1 beside an alliance that crossed a religious divide. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Ottoman power change who ruled the lands of Hungary?	**The Ottomans ruled central Hungary, the Habsburgs held lands in the west and north, and Transylvania had its own prince who paid tribute to the Ottomans.**
2	How did Ottoman advances affect Habsburg plans for armies and taxes? What limited the rulers' control?	**Ottoman advances pushed Habsburg rulers to organize armies and seek defense money, which gave them a reason to argue for stronger central control. They still often needed help or approval from nobles and assemblies.**
3	Why did Francis I cooperate with Suleiman I, and what does that choice show about European politics?	**Both rulers opposed the Habsburgs. Their cooperation shows that rivalry for power could outweigh religious differences.**
4	How did Francis I and John III Sobieski respond differently to Ottoman power? What does their contrast show about European alliances?	**Francis I cooperated with the Ottoman sultan against the Habsburgs, while John III Sobieski helped defeat an Ottoman attack on Vienna. Alliances depended on which power a monarch wanted to limit.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would advise our monarch to seek an alliance with a neighboring ruler, even if the two courts have disagreed before. Together, they could defend a contested border more effectively. I would also ask the kingdom's assembly to fund soldiers and stronger defenses. The monarch may have to bargain with nobles for that money, so the crisis might not give the crown complete control.

Accept responses that accurately connect Ottoman power to changes in territory, defense, central authority, or alliances. For Part 3, look for two distinct political choices and a plausible cost or limit grounded in the passage.