

**Inference Question:** *How did the Ottoman Empire grow so powerful and last so long?*

- Several trade routes crossed Turkey (Anatolia).
- Had been a part of the Byzantine Empire and before that a part of the old Roman Empire. This might mean that a lot of the infrastructure from the empire, like bridges, aqueducts and roads were already in place.
- The capture of Constantinople, arguably the most significant city in SW Asia, allowed even more control of trade and thus more power. The city has strategic location between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea and allowed control of ship traffic.
- Future sultans continued to expand the area of the empire.
- Taxes across the empire were a major source of wealth.
- Religious tolerance allowed many peoples to be citizens of the empire, while maintaining their own communities.

So it appears that 3 T's made a difference: Trade, Taxes and Tolerance