**NAME\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ PERIOD\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**The Fall of Constantinople**

*In his book the Historia Turco-Byzantina, or History of the Byzantines and the Turks, the Greek historian Doukas wrote an account of the Fall of Constantinople to the Ottoman Turks*:

“Just as the sun set, the call to battle rang out. The tyrant [Sultan Mehmed] himself was on horseback on Monday evening. He gave battle with his faithful slaves, young and all-powerful, fighting like lions, more than ten thousand of them. To the rear and on both flanks (sides) there were more than one hundred thousand fighting cavalrymen (soldiers on horseback). To the south of these there were another hundred thousand troops and more. From the spot where the ruler was standing to the extremities (edges) of the palace there were another fifty thousand soldiers. The troops on the ships and at the bridge were beyond number.

The City’s defenders were arranged in the following manner: The emperor and his general were stationed at the fallen walls with about three thousand soldiers. The grand duke was posted at the Imperial Gate with about five hundred troops. At the sea walls and along the battlements more than five hundred crossbowmen and archers were arrayed.

The Turks with Mehmed rushed to the walls, carrying a great number of scaling ladders that had been constructed beforehand. Behind the lines, the tyrant, brandishing (holding in a threatening way) an iron mace (spiked club), forced his archers to the walls by using both flattery and threats. The City’s defenders fought back bravely with all the strength they could muster.

But just as Fortune’s feats of arms were about to snatch victory from Turkish hands, from the very middle of the embattled Byzantine troops, God removed their general, a mighty warrior of gigantic stature (size). He was wounded just before dawn by lead shot, which went through the back of his arm, penetrating his iron breastplate (chest armor). Unable to relieve the pain of the wound, he cried out to the emperor, “Stand your ground bravely, and I will retire to the ship to attend to my wound. Then I will quickly return.” When the emperor beheld his general in retreat, he lost heart and so did his companions. Yet they continued the fight with all their strength.

The Turks gradually made their way to the walls, and, using their shields for cover, threw up their scaling ladders. Thwarted (stopped), however, by stone-throwers from above, they achieved nothing. Their assault, therefore, was repulsed (pushed back). All the Byzantines with the emperor held their ground against the enemy, and all their strength and purpose were exerted to prevent the Turks from entering through the fallen walls. Unknown to them, however, God willed that the Turks would be brought in by another way. When they saw the fallen wall, some fifty of the tyrant’s best slaves leaped inside. They climbed to the top of the walls and slew (killed) anyone they met and struck down the sentinels (guards) who discharged (shot) missiles (arrows) from above. It was a sight filled with horror!

Alas, the calamity! Alas, the horrendous deed! Woe is me! What has befallen us? Oh! Oh! What have we witnessed? An infidel Turk, standing on the holy altar in whose foundation the relics (artifacts) of Apostles (people who followed Jesus) and Martyrs (people that died for their religious beliefs) have been deposited! Because of our sins the temple has been renamed and has become the House of Muhammad. Just is Thy judgment, 0 Lord.”

**Source:** Doukas, *Decline and Fall of Byzantium to the Ottoman Turks*, trans. Harry J. Magoulias. Detroit: Wayne State University Press 1975, 231-235.

**Use the chart below to analyze the document you have just read for bias.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Does the author use any loaded words or exaggerations? List them below:** | **Does the author make any statements that are an opinion? List them below:** |
| **Does the author leave out any parts of the story? If so, list them below:** | **Are there any perspectives missing from this account? If so, list them below:** |