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Armed conflicts in the Balkans, 1820-1856 causes and consequences

Questions to ponder

1. **Examine the causes and consequences of Armed conflicts in the Balkans, 1820-1856**

Approach

- a. Give a brief introduction of armed conflicts in the Balkans, 1820-1856.
- b. Identify and explain the causes and consequences of **armed conflicts in the Balkans, 1820-1856.**
- c. The give a generalized conclusion

Summary of the Armed conflicts in the Balkans, 1820-1856

The **Balkans** experienced several armed conflicts between 1820 and 1856, primarily driven by the decline of the Ottoman Empire and the rise of nationalist movements. Here's a brief summary:

1. **Greek War of Independence (1821-1832):** Greek revolutionaries fought against Ottoman rule, leading to the establishment of an independent Greek state.
2. **Serbian Uprisings (1830s):** Serbia rebelled against Ottoman control, resulting in the First Serbian Uprising (1804-1813) and the Second Serbian Uprising (1815-1817), which eventually led to Serbian autonomy within the Ottoman Empire.
3. **Balkan Wars (1912-1913):** Although outside the specified timeframe, the Balkan Wars were a significant series of conflicts where the Balkan League (Serbia, Greece, Montenegro, and Bulgaria) fought against the Ottoman Empire to gain independence and territory.

Causes of the armed conflicts in the Balkans, 1820-1856

The armed conflicts in the Balkans between 1820 and 1856 were driven by several key factors:

1. **Decline of the Ottoman Empire:** The weakening of the Ottoman Empire created a power vacuum, leading to uprisings and independence movements among its Balkan territories.
2. **Nationalism:** The rise of nationalist sentiments among various ethnic groups in the Balkans fueled desires for independence and self-determination.
3. **Great Power Interests:** European powers, such as Russia, Austria-Hungary, and Britain, had strategic interests in the region and often supported or intervened in conflicts to expand their influence.
4. **Economic Hardship:** Economic difficulties and social unrest within the Ottoman Empire and its Balkan territories contributed to the outbreak of conflicts.
5. **Religious and Cultural Tensions:** Religious and cultural differences between the Ottoman rulers and the predominantly Christian populations in the Balkans led to tensions and conflicts.
6. **The collapse of the congress system and the concert of Europe by 1830** leading to failure of peaceful resolution of conflicts.
7. **The Franco-Russian scramble for holy places of Jerusalem and Bethlehem**
8. **The success of the 1830 revolutions in France the overthrew Charles X inspired revolts for independence of Balkans states.**
9. **The desire of the British and French to control the Russian influence in the Balkan region.**
10. **The rise and growth of nationalism in the Balkans.**

Impacts of the armed conflicts in the Balkans, 1820-1856

The armed conflicts in the Balkans between 1820 and 1856 had several significant impacts:

1. Widespread loss of life and property
2. **Decline of Ottoman Control:** The conflicts weakened the Ottoman Empire's grip on the region, leading to the gradual loss of its territories in the Balkans.
3. **Rise of Nationalism:** The wars fueled nationalist movements among various ethnic groups, leading to the formation of independent states and the rise of national identities.
4. **European Intervention:** European powers, particularly Russia, Britain, and Austria-Hungary, became more involved in the region, influencing its political landscape and territorial boundaries.
5. **Economic Disruption:** The conflicts disrupted local economies, causing widespread destruction and hardship for the civilian populations.
6. **Social and Cultural Changes:** The wars led to significant social and cultural changes, including the displacement of populations and the reshaping of regional demographics.
7. **Greece achievement of independence**

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