Inspector Rex's History Snippet #38

Vlad the Impaler (1428/31-1476/77)

Ambras Castle portrait of Vlad III (c. 1560), reputedly a copy of an original made during his lifetime

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Why did Vlad the Impaler impale?

Because he was fighting an infinitely larger adversary (the Ottoman Empire) and to have any chance of success, he needed to rely on extreme strategies such as **psychological warfare**, scorched earth, etc.

Being impaled is a horrible way to die, one of the worst.

By torturing & executing armies of invading Muslims and Muslim colonists in this way and leaving forests of said impaled to greet future invading armies, Vlad struck at the very core of any army, it's morale, it's will to fight on.

[Mehmed the Conqueror of Constantinople](#) himself was leading such an army in an invasion of Wallachia when he was greeted by such a sight. In shock, he declared he gives up and left the country.

By applying such methods internally as well, Vlad essentially eliminated criminality (from petty theft to high level corruption) and internal dissent, ensuring his complete and effective control over the state in said times of war.

Wallachia was never conquered or annexed by the Ottoman Empire.

Attribution: Quora.
Fuller account: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vlad_the_Impaler

End of Byzantium.
Fall of Constantinople, (May 29, 1453), conquest of Constantinople by Sultan Mehmed II of the Ottoman **Empire**. The dwindling **Byzantine Empire** came to an **end** when the Ottomans breached Constantinople's ancient land wall after besieging the city for 55 days.