

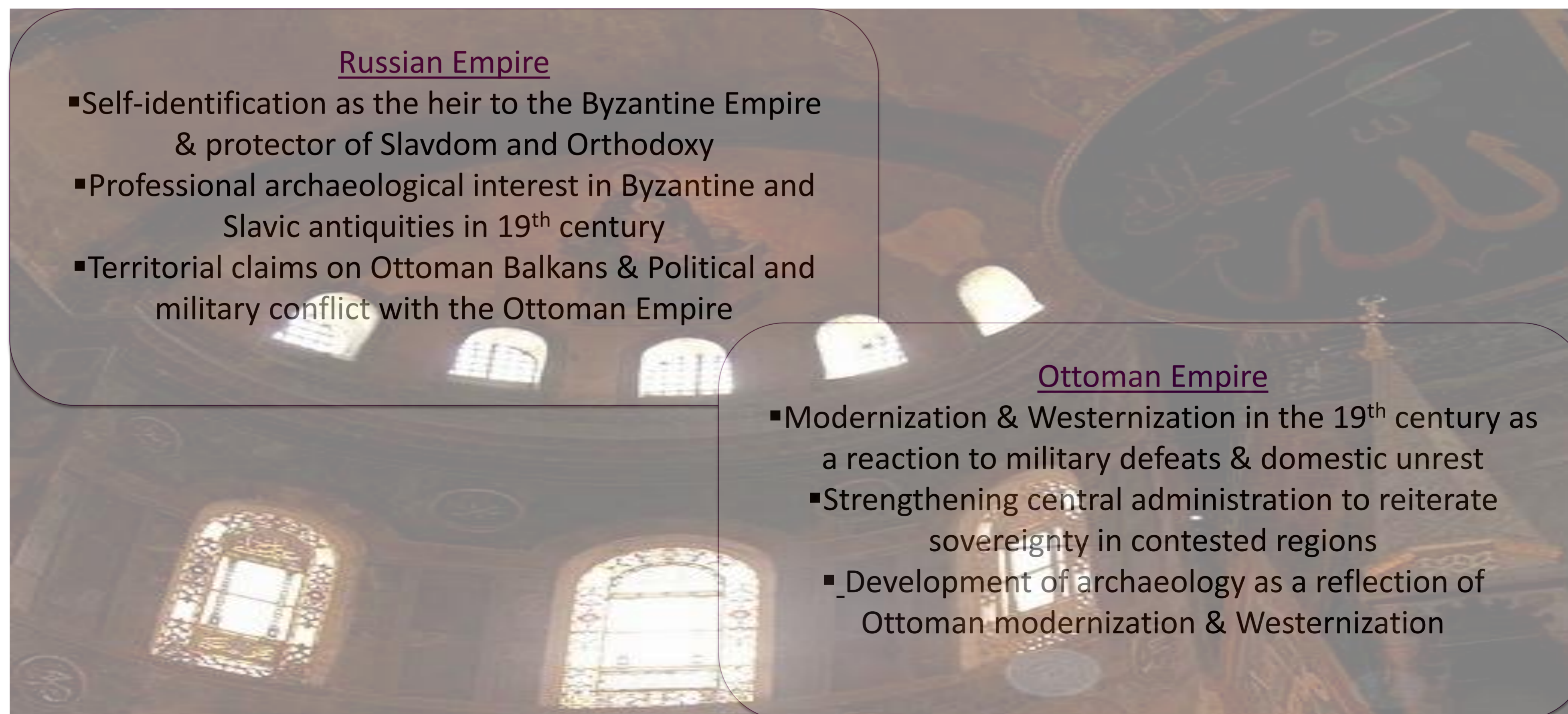
At the Intersection of Science and Politics: Russian Archaeological Institute in Istanbul and the Diplomacy of Archaeology between Russia and the Ottoman Empire, 1894-1914

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This project will highlight:

- The relationship between archaeology, nationalism, and imperialism
 - Property rights of antiquities and international politics
 - How cultural property functioned as the symbol of sovereignty
- How the study of a distant past became instrumental in reflecting national identity
- The relationship between the development of archaeology as a scientific discipline and the prevalent political atmosphere in the late 19th century.

Cases:



Russian Empire

- Self-identification as the heir to the Byzantine Empire & protector of Slavdom and Orthodoxy
- Professional archaeological interest in Byzantine and Slavic antiquities in 19th century
- Territorial claims on Ottoman Balkans & Political and military conflict with the Ottoman Empire

Ottoman Empire

- Modernization & Westernization in the 19th century as a reaction to military defeats & domestic unrest
- Strengthening central administration to reiterate sovereignty in contested regions
- Development of archaeology as a reflection of Ottoman modernization & Westernization