**Here is an example of Contextualization that would get the point on the DBQ.**

**The only note I would make is that it could use a sentence to make it flow into the thesis paragraph.**

**Prompt: Evaluate the extent to which strategies used by the rulers of the Ottoman and Russian empires to legitimize and consolidate their power between 1500 and 1800 were similar.**

 Between 1500 and 1800, both the Ottoman and Russian Empires held extreme influence over land, peaking in terms of territory, economic control, and strength. The Ottoman Empire rose to power as one of the gunpowder empires, using cannons and efficient weapons to establish holdings throughout Eurasia. After Mehmed II conquered Constantinople, Ottoman influence spread even farther into Europe and leaders needed efficient ways to maintain complete rule. Since many of the conquered peoples spoke different languages and had different customs, the Ottoman sultans were tasked with establishing methods of uniting the empire as one. Before 1500-1800, Russia was under a very corrupt political system that eventually led to territorial loss and economic downfall under the Ottomans. To combat this, Russian leader Peter the Great established methods and systems to both westernize and modernize Russia. These changes led to the implementation of a political system based on merit with a Table to Ranks. With a goal of expanding to warm water port to access for markets, Peter the Great needed a way to maintain power to establish secure trade relations with European countries and surrounding territories, leading to several economic and military reforms in Russia.