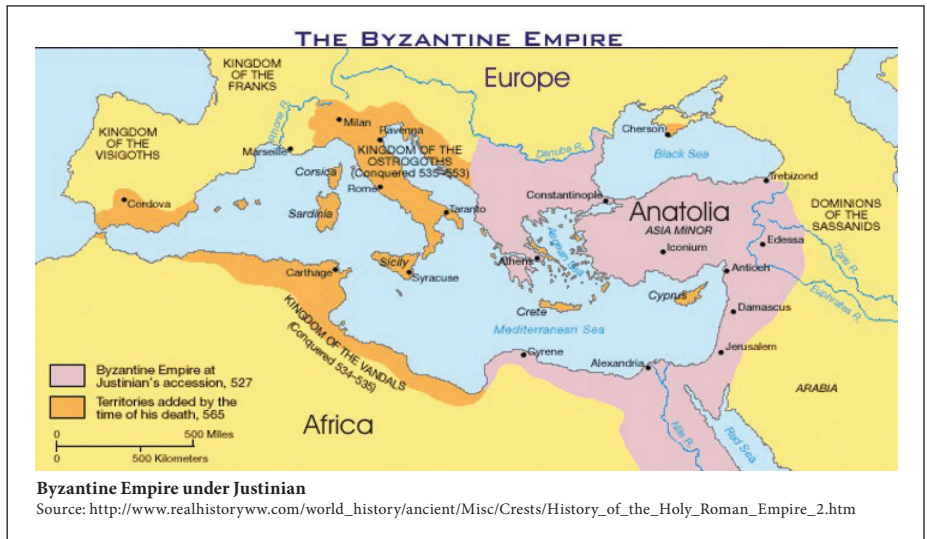


Byzantine Empire (330 C.E.-1453 C.E.)

You Mean the Roman Empire Didn't Disappear after Rome's Fall?

Constantinople's Importance

By 285 C.E., the Roman Empire had grown so large that the Emperor Diocletian split the empire into the Greek-speaking East and Latin-speaking West. In 330 C.E., Emperor Constantine moved the capital from Rome to the city of Byzantium in the East, and it was eventually renamed Constantinople. Constantine chose this city because of its location. He wanted to protect the capital from the Germanic invasions in the Western part of the empire, and the **peninsula** was easier to defend. Constantinople was wealthy because it was at the center of trade between Europe and Asia at the Mediterranean Sea and the Silk Road, and it had many good harbors. In 476 C.E. the Roman Empire fell in the West. The empire in the East survived and it became known as the Byzantine Empire with Constantinople as its capital.



Justinian

In 527 C.E., Justinian became emperor and began to expand the empire by reconquering some of the former Roman lands. Under his leadership the Byzantine Empire reached its largest size. He also had a group of scholars review the many laws



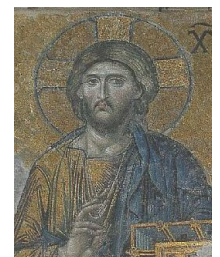
Hagia Sophia
 Source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hagia_Sophia_09.JPG

of Rome and codified (organized) them into a single set of laws for the entire empire to follow called Justinian's Code. This code would become the basis of other law codes in Western Europe. Justinian was a very religious emperor. He demonstrated the power and beauty of Christianity and the Byzantine Empire by building the Hagia Sophia, the Church of Holy Wisdom.

Byzantine Culture and Achievements

Christianity was very important in the Byzantine Empire, and it influenced Byzantine art and architecture. Religious images, known as icons, were used to help remind the people of God in everyday life.

Icons came in many forms, such as paintings, statues, carvings, or mosaics. **Mosaics** were a popular style of art which used small pieces of glass or tile to create an image. Mosaics and icons could be found throughout the empire in churches and public buildings. Through art, architecture, education, and the building of libraries, the Greek and Roman cultures were kept alive. Preserving their knowledge and traditions was an important legacy of the Byzantine Empire.



Mosaic of Jesus Christ
 Source: <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ac-christ.jpg>

Christian Church Splits

While Christianity was worshiped in the Byzantine Empire, there were arguments over who had more influence over the churches. The argument over power was between the **Pope** in Rome and the **Patriarch** in Constantinople. They disagreed over the use of icons. The Byzantine emperor made it illegal to have icons, but the Pope supported the use of them. There were also some differences in how the religion was practiced. Rome continued to use Latin in religious ceremonies, but people spoke Greek in the Byzantine Empire. There was also the issue of whether or not priests should be able to marry. All of these differences led to tensions between the two groups and they split in 1054 C.E. The church in the West became known as the Roman Catholic Church and in the East it became the Eastern **Orthodox** Church.

End of the Byzantine Empire

The Byzantine Empire began to lose parts of its empire after the death of Justinian because of invasions from Muslims, Turks, and Germanic tribes. In 1204 C.E. Christian crusaders on their way to fight the Muslims in the Holy Land attacked and burned much of Constantinople. The destruction weakened the city. In 1453 C.E., Constantinople fell to the Turks and was renamed Istanbul.

Key Vocabulary

Peninsula: a strip of land surrounded by water on three (3) sides

Codified: to simplify and organize

Mosaics: style of art using small pieces of tile or glass to create an image or pattern

Icons: religious images

Legacy: something important left behind by culture or civilization

Pope: leader of the Roman Catholic Church in Rome

Patriarch: leader of the Eastern Orthodox Church in Constantinople

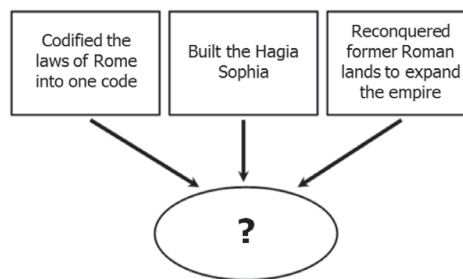
Orthodox: following the traditional rules and beliefs

Quick Review

1. Which item best completes the chart?

- A. Priest is head of the Church
- B. Bishop is head of the Church.
- C. Patriarch is head of the Church
- D. Cardinal is head of the Church

Roman Catholic Church	Eastern Orthodox Church
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centered in Rome • Divorce is not permitted • Pope is head of the Church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centered in Constantinople • Divorce permitted under certain conditions • ????



2. Who is being described in the graphic (above)?

- A. Constantine
- B. Diocletian
- C. Theodosius
- D. Justinian

3. One of the Byzantine Empire's greatest accomplishments was-

- A. defending the Roman Catholic Church from attacks by the Muslims.
- B. conquering the Islamic Empire and gaining control of the Silk Road.
- C. preserving the knowledge and cultures of ancient Greece and Rome.
- D. developing new methods and techniques in mathematics and science.

4. Identify and explain 2-3 advantages of the location of Constantinople.

Connection to Today

Leaders like Justinian built churches and buildings to make sure they were remembered. What do our leaders do today to try to be remembered?

Resources

Learn 360

- Hagia Sophia: (<http://goo.gl/dAZLcL>)
- Justinian and the Byzantines: (<http://goo.gl/VygOg>)