

<p>The Roman empire has been divided since 200s. The western half declined, the eastern half rose in importance. The Byzantine empire remained a political and cultural force nearly 1,000 years after the fall of Rome.</p>	<p>During the postclassical period (500 – 1500) two major Christian empires emerged in Europe: The Eastern Roman Empire or Byzantine Empire with its capital, Constantinople, the most opulent and important city in Europe. The emperor's autonomous monarchical power rested on Hellenistic political philosophy and Christian political theory. Western portion of the Roman Empire fell to the Germanic invaders. Post-Roman Western Europe constituted by number of states, where the major source of unity was the Roman Catholic Church.</p>
<p>Origins and achievement of Byzantine Empire</p> <p>Constantinople was also known as the New Rome. This name emphasizes the role of the Byzantine empire as the bearer of the Roman heritage. Justinian's Code preserved Roman law, and the accomplishments of Roman engineers were preserved and extended in Byzantine architecture.</p> <p>Byzantine culture was strongly rooted in Greece. The Byzantine empire preserved Hellenistic (Greek) science, philosophy, arts, literature, and ancient text of Greece, which were carried to the West as the Byzantine empire declined in the 1400s. <u>Renascence of Greek classical poetry; creation of religious poetry.</u></p>	<p><u>In 4th century the emperor Constantine established eastern capital – Constantinople</u>, built on the foundations of a town called Byzantium. The Byzantine empire drew its name from this ancient city. Constantinople possessed an outstanding harbor and controlled key trade routes that linked Europe and Asia. Separate eastern emperors ruled the eastern portion of the Roman Empire. The new Byzantine Empire was frequently invaded by Persians, Arabs and Turks as well as nomadic intruders from central Asia. For protection, in addition to the local military base, an army was recruited in the Middle East. In 533 Justinian tried to regain western territories and directed his policy toward the revival of a universal Christian Roman Empire. The entire reign was filled with wars in the east and the west, punctuated by constant incursions of the barbarians from the north. To hold back invaders, he <u>built hundreds of forts along the frontiers and established a regular system of frontier forces</u>. Financially the empire suffered greatly from the extensive military operations and from the great building activities.</p>

<p>Justinian set up a team of scholars to gather and organize the ancient laws of Rome, which became the “body of civil law”. Known as the Justinian’s Code. Later emperors continue to update the code. By the 1100s, it had reached Western Europe, where it became the basis of law for both the Roman Catholic Church and medieval rulers. Even today, international law is influenced by Justinian’s Code.</p>	<p><u>Justinian ruled with centralized government and a codified set of laws.</u></p> <p>Greek becomes the official language.</p> <p>Knowledge of Greek enabled the scholars to read freely in ancient Athenian philosophical and literary classics and in the Hellenistic writings and scientific treatises.</p>
<p>Imperial authority over the church</p> <p>Differences with the West</p>	<p>The Byzantine emperor controlled the business of the church and appointed the patriarch, the highest church official in Constantinople. <u>The emperor set himself up as the master of the Church</u> and arrogated to himself the right to make binding pronouncements in even purely theological matters. The emperor was considered Jesus’ co-ruler on earth. The Orthodox Christian Church became powerful as the official church of the Byzantine empire.</p> <p>Byzantine Christians did not believe that the pope in Rome had supreme authority over them. Byzantine priests could marry; <u>Greek not the Latin was the language of the Byzantine Church</u>. A major disagreement arose over the icons. Some people believed that the importance placed on them bordered with idolatry.</p> <p>Later, in 11 century, Byzantine missionaries</p>

<p>Christian Schism</p>	<p>were willing to have local languages used in church services, whereas Western Catholicism insisted on church Latin.</p> <p>The Roman and Byzantine Churches shared many beliefs, yet their difference become to difficult to overcome. In 1054, there was a permanent split, or schism, between the Orthodox Christian Church in the East and the Roman Catholic Church in the West.</p> <p>Peace had been made with Rome in 519 and Pope John I had visited Constantinople in 525. Justinian made a great effort to maintain the unity of the western and eastern churches, but this led him into trouble with the Monophysites of Syria and Egypt. He attempted to reconcile them also, but with indifferent success. The cleavage between Latin and Greek Christianity became ever more marked. <u>Justinian suppressed all heresies and paganism</u> (closing of the Neo-Platonic Academy at Athens, 529). <u>Extensive missionary work was carried on among the pagans and in Ethiopia.</u></p>
<p>Surge of Arab Muslims</p>	<p>By mid 7th century, the Arabs were repeatedly attacking Constantinople. In 9th century Arab Muslims conquered Crete. Arabs settled the many provinces and eventually moved into heartland.</p>
<p>Another precedent to be followed by most Byzantine emperors until the 13th century was Justinian's <u>ambition to restore the previous Roman Empire with the entire Mediterranean under its control.</u></p>	<p>Justinian hoped to recover the western Roman provinces that invading tribes had seized. Byzantine armies did reconquer parts of North Africa, Italy, and Southern Spain.</p>
<p>Political systems</p> <p>Society and politics</p> <p>State control over church affairs</p> <p>System supported largely by taxes</p> <p>(Longest-lived single government structure)</p>	<p>The power of both state and Church was centered in the emperor.</p> <p>The autocracy was reaffirmed. People started to regard the emperor as God's regent on earth, and church and state became one. He appointed church bishops and passed religious and secular laws. Centralized authority was</p>

	<p>supplemented by highly educated scholars, trained in Greek classics, philosophy, and science. Bureaucrats were specialized into various offices. Bureaucracy regulated trade and food prices. Provincial governors were appointed from the center and were charged with keeping tabs on military authorities. System of spies helped preserve loyalty. In military organization, rulers adopted the Roman system by recruiting troops locally and rewarding them with grants of land. <u>Peasant class</u> was vital in supplying goods and <u>providing the bulk of tax revenues</u>. <u>Land ownership and lucrative economic activities, like the silk industry, were state monopolies</u> (Byzantium succeeded in importing silkworms directly from China and developed a silk industry of its own). Empire developed <u>effective trading network</u> with India and Asia to the east and Russia and Scandinavia to the north. Various luxury products like cloth, carpets, and spices were sent north. Large <u>merchant class never gained significant political power</u>, in part because of the elaborate network of government control. Cultural life centered on the secular traditions of Hellenism impacting the traditions of Orthodox Christianity.</p>
<p>Iconoclasm</p>	<p>Controversy over religious art in the 8th century, when a new emperor attacked the use of religious images in worship, probably responding to Muslim claims that Christians were idol worshipers.</p>
<p>Made contributions in architecture, engineering, and art. <u>Byzantine architects blended Greek, Roman, Persian, and other Middle Eastern styles and developed a distinct Byzantine style (addition of domes to earlier classical styles).</u> <u>The art and architecture reflected the importance of the Orthodox Christian Church.</u></p>	<p>Justinian launched an impressive building program designed to make Constantinople a dazzling city. Construction ranging from whole towns to public baths, palaces, bridges, roads, and forts, as well as countless churches and cloisters. The most inspiring was Church of Hagia Sophia (whose name means “Holy Wisdom”), constructed between 532 and 537. Icons were richly ornamented holy images of Jesus, the Virgin Mary, or saints of the Orthodox Christian Church. Blue and gold backgrounds were meant to represent the</p>

	<p>unchanging brilliance of heaven. Interiors of churches were adorned by mosaics showing biblical scenes.</p>
<p>Decline of the empire after the split</p> <p>The fall of Constantinople was a turning point in the world history. It marked a change in power in the region from the Christian Byzantine empire to the great Muslim trading empire of the Ottomans.</p>	<p>In the late 11th century, (1071) at the battle of Manzikert the Byzantine empire fell to Turks. Turkish troops, the Seljuks, seized almost all the Asiatic provinces of the empire, thus cutting off the most prosperous sources of tax revenue and the territories that had supplied most of the empire's food. Empire's power was further diminished by creations of new, independent Slavic kingdoms in the Balkans, such as Serbia, Hungary and Poland. One of the western crusades in the 1204 turned against Byzantium, attacked and conquered Constantinople and ruled for 50 years. Small restored Byzantine empire existed for another two centuries. In 1453 the Constantinople was taken by the Ottoman empire, bringing Islamic power farther into Eastern Europe.</p>
<p>Russia and the Eastern Europe</p> <p>The Byzantines gave Russia and other Eastern European lands a written language, arts and</p>	<p><u>The first Russian state, Kievan Rus' was established in the 800s</u> and it was centered in the <u>city of Kiev</u>. A monarchy emerged and flourished until 12th century. Traders from Scandinavia were able to reach the Byzantine empire trough rivers of western Russia, which run south to north, particularly the Dnieper. When regular, flourishing trade developed between Scandinavia and Constantinople, the Scandinavian traders, militarily superior to the Slavs, gradually set up some governments along their trade routs, particularly in the city of Kiev which became prosperous trading center.</p> <p>Around that time, states such as Poland, Hungary, and Serbia were established in Eastern Europe. Settlers arrived from Western Europe, Russia, and Asia giving the region a wide variety of languages and cultural traditions. This was also moderately active area for trade and industry. Eastern Europe during these centuries also received an</p>

<p>architecture, and an autocratic style of government.</p>	<p>important <u>influx of Jews</u>, who were migrating away from the Middle East but also fleeing intolerance in western Europe.</p> <p>In Russia, trade with the Byzantine empire helped bring Eastern Europe into the Byzantine sphere of influence. The exchange led to growing knowledge of Christianity. Prince Vladimir I converted to Christianity also on behalf of all his people (Russian awe at the splendor of religious services in Constantinople also played a role). He was eager to avoid papal influence and could not accept Islam, a religion that forbade alcoholic drink. Vladimir organized mass baptisms for his subjects, forcing converts by military pressure. The king controlled major appointments, and a separate Russian Orthodox church soon developed.</p> <p>The Byzantines influenced both Russia and Eastern Europe in a variety of ways.</p> <p>In 11th century Orthodox missionaries converted most people in the Balkans (particularly Bulgaria). Missionaries Cyril and Methodius were sent to the territory of present Slovak and Czech republics. The two missionaries devised a written script for their language, derived from Greek letters, known as Cyrillic.</p>
<p>Byzantine missionaries carried Orthodox Christianity to Russia and other countries of Eastern Europe</p>	<p>The close church-state relationship in the Byzantine Empire also became a model for Russian government and religion. The Russian Orthodox Church became an important arm of state power. <u>One Byzantine tradition that continued was that of autocratic rule, which became the norm in Russian government.</u> Autocratic rulers in Russia were known as czars (from “Caesar”) Russians adopted the religious art, music, and architecture of the</p>

	Byzantine empire. Byzantine domes were transformed into the <u>onion domes</u> of Russian architecture.
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