



The Byzantine Empire

Chapter 9 Section 1

Lesson Objectives

Show on a map where the city of Constantinople was located.

Explain why Constantinople became such a rich and powerful city.

Describe Justinian's accomplishments.

Explain why the Eastern and Western Churches split (schism).

Describe how the Byzantine Empire is destroyed.

Describe Byzantine contributions to art and learning.

Show on a map where the Byzantine Empire and its capital city of Constantinople was located.



Explain why Constantinople became such a rich and powerful city.



- ✦ As the Germanic tribes invaded Rome the Roman Emperor Constantine moved the capital from Rome to **Byzantium** (renamed **Constantinople**).
- ✦ When the Roman Empire finally fell the “new Rome” became known as the **Byzantine Empire**.
- ✦ Roads connected the capital to Europe, the Middle East, and Africa.

Constantinople Grows

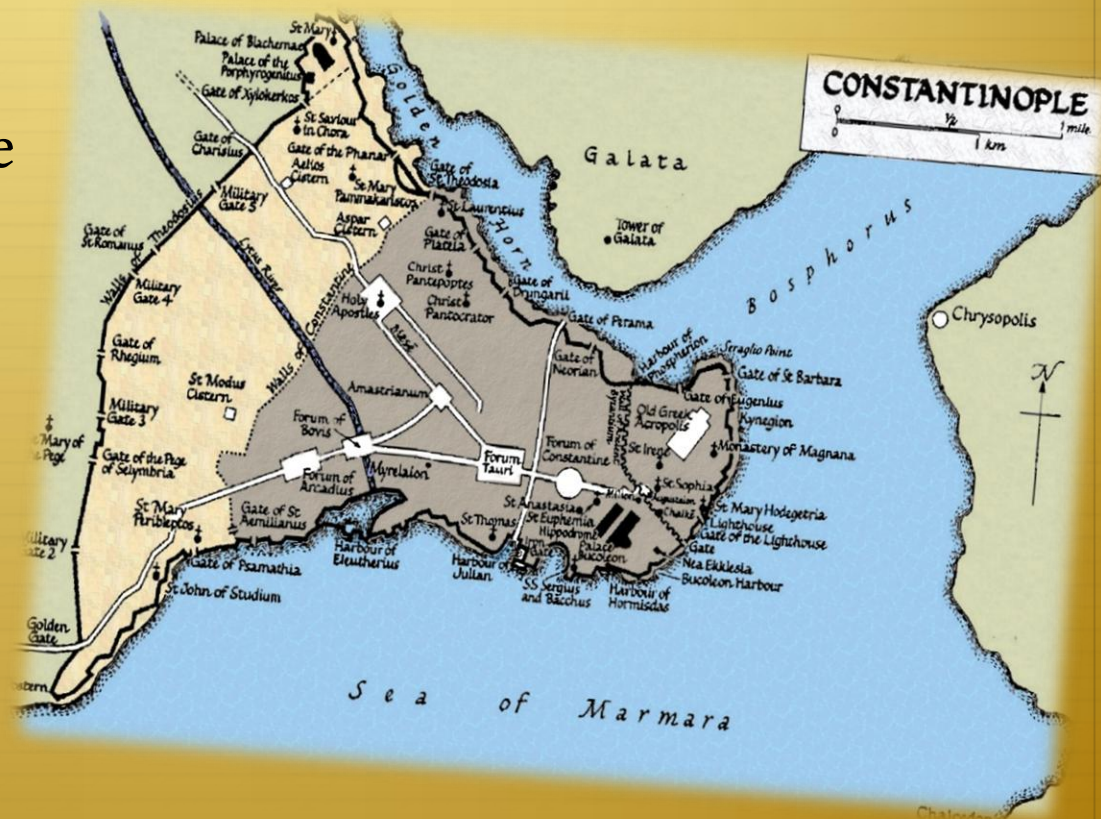
Constantinople is located on the shores of the **Bosphorus Strait** which links the Mediterranean Sea with the Black Sea.

Guarded on three sides by water.

Commanded key trade routes linking Asia with Europe.

Spices, silk, wheat, gems from all over the world.

Emperors lived in luxury-wealthy from trade.



Blending of Cultures



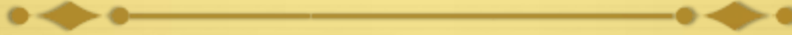
- ✦ Still in existence nearly 1,000 years after the fall of Rome.
- ✦ Blending of Greek, Roman, and Christian traditions with other traditions of the Mediterranean world.

Describe Justinian's accomplishments.

- ✦ The Byzantine Empire reached its peak under the emperor **Justinian**.
- ✦ He was determined to take back the Roman lands taken by invaders.
- ✦ Re-conquered North Africa, Italy, and parts of Spain.
- ✦ Only temporary- land is gradually lost again.



The Great City is Rebuilt



- ✦ 532 A.D- **fire** destroys most of Constantinople.
- ✦ Justinian rebuilds the city grander than ever.
- ✦ Builds the **Hagia Sophia**, a large Church noted by its immense dome.

Justinian's Code

- ✦ Justinian reformed the laws of the empire.
- ✦ He set up a commission to collect, organize, and revise all of the laws of ancient Rome.
- ✦ This collection became known as **Justinian's Code**.
- ✦ Monarchs in Europe during the Middle Ages modeled their system of law on Justinian's Code.
- ✦ Used as the modern day foundation for international law.



Justinian Rules with Absolute Power

- ✦ Justinian had absolute power.
- ✦ Known as an **autocrat**, a sole ruler with complete power.
- ✦ He also was the leader of the Church.
- ✦ He was considered “Christ’s co-ruler on earth”.
- ✦ Unlike monarchs in Europe he combined both **secular** and **spiritual** power.



Economic and Military Strength is Second to None

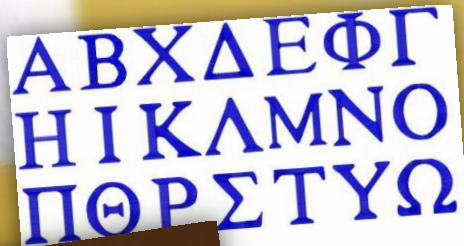


- ✦ Economic Power- wealthiest Empire in the world due to trade.
- ✦ Military Power- used money from trade to build one of the strongest militaries in the world.
 - ✦ Excellent Navy
 - ✦ “Greek Fire”
petroleum, sulphur mixture,

Explain why the Eastern and Western Churches split (schism).



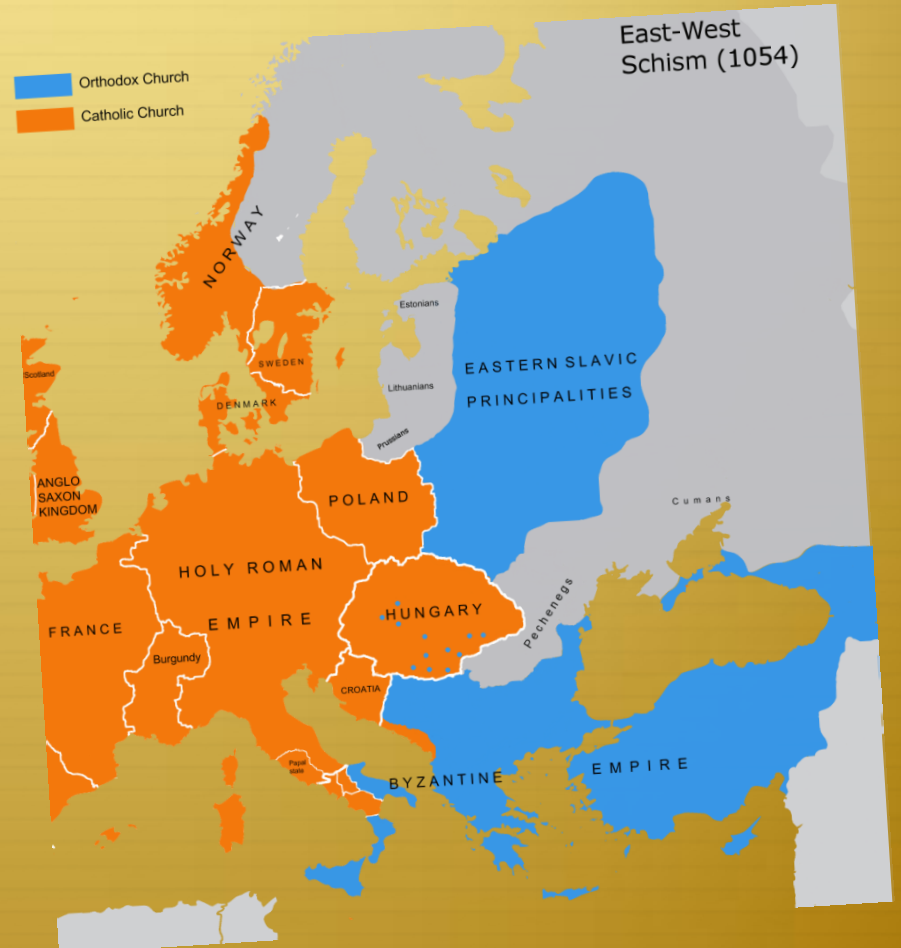
East and West Differ



- ✦ Byzantine Emperor- not a priest but controlled the Church affairs(what is the word?) He appointed the **patriarch**, highest Church official.
- ✦ Byzantine Christians rejected the Pope's authority.
- ✦ The Byzantine clergy kept the right to marry, unlike Roman Catholic priests, who were celibates
- ✦ Official language- Greek.
- ✦ Less importance of Christmas (the birth of Jesus).

The Church Divides

- ✦ In the 700's a Byzantine Emperor banned the use of **icons**, holy images of people. (Jesus, Virgin Mary, saints)
- ✦ The Pope in the West disagreed which set off violent battles over their use.
- ✦ In 1054, other controversies contributed to the **Great Schism**, or split of the Church into two separate churches.
- ✦ Eastern- **Byzantine- Eastern or Greek Orthodox**
- ✦ Western- Roman Catholic Church



Describe how the Byzantine Empire is destroyed.

- ✦ By the time of the schism the Byzantine Empire was in decline.
- ✦ Constant invasions and warfare led to the downfall of the empire.



The Crusades Lead to Plunder



- ✦ Byzantine Emperor Alexius I asked Pope Urban II for help against the invading Turks (Muslims).
- ✦ In the 4th Crusade Catholic knights attacked Constantinople. They burned and looted the city.
- ✦ Crusaders wanted the trade wealth of Constantinople.

Constantinople Falls to the Turks

- ✦ In 1453, Ottoman Turks (Muslims) laid siege to the city.
- ✦ Two months later they captured the city.
- ✦ The ancient city was renamed Istanbul.
- ✦ The Hagia Sophia was turned into an Islamic house of worship.
- ✦ Istanbul became the center of Muslim civilization.



Describe Byzantine contributions to art and learning.

- ✦ Byzantine Art-
mosaics of icons (holy images).
- ✦ Byzantine scholars preserved the classic works of Ancient Greece.
- ✦ Many writers recorded the history of the times.

