# Byzantine Empire (Unit 2)

**Standard: SSWH4abce TSWBAT... a. Analyze the importance of Justinian, include the influence of the Empress Theodora, Justinian's Code, and Justinian's efforts to recapture the west. b. Describe the relationship between the Roman and Byzantine Empires. c. Explain the Great Schism of 1054 CE. e. Explain the Ottoman Empire’s role in the decline of Byzantium and the capture of Constantinople in 1453 CE.**

**What am I learning today?** What was the social position of women in the Byzantine Empire (Including Theodora)? How did Christianity become the official religion of Byzantium and in what ways did the relationship between church and state affect the empire? How is Byzantine art and architecture a reflection of their culture? To what extent was the Byzantine Empire responsible for the adoption of Christianity in Eastern Europe? How did disagreements among Christians result in conflicting branches of their church? What made the Byzantine Empire different from the Roman Empire? To what extent did the Byzantine Empire continue the characteristics of the Roman Empire? How was the body of Roman law codified during Justinian’s rule and to what extent has it influenced Western law codes?

**What am I doing to show I have learned it?** I will...complete the Crash Course guided notes, create a comparison graphic organizer chart the shows the similarities and differences between the Roman and Byzantine Empires (Ch. 11, Sec. 1 or pages 301-306), and participate in a formative vanity plate assessment as Emperor Justinian as a modern car driver.

---

**Fall of the Roman Empire → Byzantine Empire**

1. How and when Rome fell remains the subject of considerable historical debate—but today I'm going to argue that the Rome didn't really fully fall until the middle of the _______ century. Technically the city of Rome was conquered by ____________ in 476 CE.
2. Rome was doomed to fall as soon as it spread outside of _________________ because the further the territory is from the capital, the harder it is to _________________.
3. Thus _________________ itself sowed the seeds of destruction in Rome. This was the argument put forth by the Roman historian Tacitus, "To _________________, slaughter, plunder, they give the lying name of empire; they make a desert and call it _________________."
4. There are two ways to overcome this governance problem: First, you rule with the proverbial _______ _______. Regardless, the Romans couldn't do this because their whole identity was wrapped up in an idea of justice that precluded indiscriminate _________________. The other strategy is to try to incorporate ________________ people into the empire more fully: In Rome's case, to make them Romans. This worked really well in the early days of the Republic and even at the beginning of the Empire. But it eventually led to Barbarians inside the Gates.
5. The decline of the ________________ started long before Rome started getting sacked. It really began with the extremely bad decision to incorporate ________________ warriors into the Roman Army. By the _________ and _________ centuries CE, though, the empire had been forced to allow the kind of riffraff into their army who didn't really care about the idea of Rome itself. They were only ________________ to their commanders.
6. This was of course a recipe for _______ ________, and that’s exactly what happened with general after general after general declaring himself ________________ of Rome.
7. There was very little stability in the West. For instance, between 235 and 284 CE, _______ different people were either emperor or claimed to be.
8. So remember when I said the Roman Empire survived until the 15th century? Well that was the Eastern Roman Empire, commonly known as the ________________ Empire. So while the Western empire descended into chaos, the eastern half of the Empire had its capital in Byzantium, a city on the ________________ Strait that Constantine would later rename ________________ when he moved his capital east.
9. As the political center of the Roman Empire shifted east, Constantine also tried to re-orient his new religion, ________________, toward the east, holding the first Church council in Nicaea in 325. The idea was to get all Christians to believe the ________________—that worked- but it did mark the beginning of the emperor having greater control over the Church.
10. Although the Byzantines spoke ______________ not Latin, they considered themselves Romans. There was a lot of continuity between the old, Western Roman Empire, and the new, Eastern one. ______________, each was ruled by a single ruler who wielded absolute ______________ power.

11. War was pretty much constant as the Byzantines fought the ______________ Sassanian Empire and then various Islamic empires.

12. ______________ and valuable agricultural land that yielded high taxes meant that the Byzantine Empire was like the Western Roman Empire, exceptionally rich, and it was slightly more compact as a territory than its predecessor and much more ______________, containing as it did all of those once independent Greek city states, which made it easier to administrate.

13. Like their Western counterparts, the Byzantines enjoyed spectacle and ______________. Chariot races in Constantinople were huge, with thousands turning out at the ______________ to cheer on their favorites.

14. Perhaps the most consistently Roman aspect of Byzantine society was that they followed Roman ______________.

15. The Eastern Roman Empire's codification of Roman laws was one of its greatest achievements. Much of the credit for that goes to the most famous Byzantine Emperor, ______________. He was born a ______________ somewhere in the Balkans and then rose to became emperor in 527. He ruled for almost 30 years and in addition to ______________ Roman law, he did a lot to restore the former glory of the Roman Empire. He took ______________ back; he even took Rome back from the Goths, although not for long. He's responsible for the building of one of the great churches in all of time—which is now a mosque—the ______________ Church of Saint Wisdom.

16. Maybe the most interesting thing Justinian ever did was be married to ______________ who began her career as an ______________, dancer, and possible prostitute before become Empress. And she may have saved her husband's rule by convincing him not to flee the city during riots between the ______________ and ______________.

17. Theodora fought to expand the rights of ______________ in divorce and property ownership, and even had a law passed taking the bold stance that adulterous women should not be executed.

18. So, in short, the Byzantines continued the Roman legacy of empire and war and law for almost ______________ years after Romulus Augustus was driven out of Rome.

19. The Byzantines followed a different form of Christianity, the branch we now call Eastern or sometimes Greek ______________.

20. How there came to be a split between the Catholic and Orthodox traditions is complicated - In the West there was a ______________ and in the East there was a ______________. The Pope is the head of the Roman Catholic Church. He sort of serves as God's ______________ on earth and he doesn't answer to any secular ruler. In the Orthodox Church they didn't have that problem because the Patriarch was always appointed by the ______________. So it was pretty clear who had control over the church, so much that they even have a word for it—______________: Caesar over Pope.

21. The fact that in Rome there was no ______________ after 476 meant there was no one to challenge the Pope, which would profoundly shape European history over the next ______________ years.

______________

Great Schism of 1054 CE Notes Below:

1. The Great Schism of 1054 starts due to a ______________ between Christian leaders in the East and West where leaders ______________ one another.

2. The Eastern leader is called a ______________ who held limited political power throughout the time of the Byzantine Empire due to its big presence within the region.

3. The Western leader is called a ______________ who held considerable influence on Western Germanic kingdom kings.

4. Disagreeing on dogma or ______________, like the Eucharist and the use of icons, the Christian church split in 1054 CE.