

# BYZANTINE EMPIRE

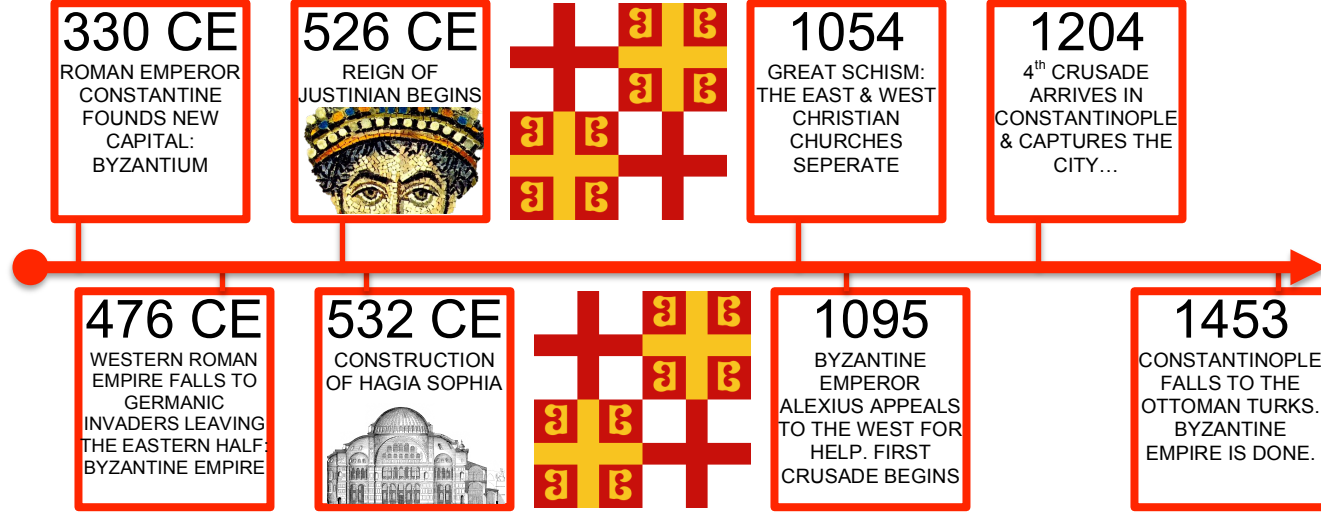


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## APPEARANCES IN THE AP CURRICULUM:

- The expansion of *empires* facilitated Trans-Eurasian trade and communication as new peoples were drawn into their conquerors' economies and trade networks
  - REQUIRED EXAMPLE: BYZANTINE EMPIRE
- Spread of Languages: TURKIC
- Spread of Diseases: BLACK DEATH
- Following the collapse of empires, most reconstituted governments, including the Byzantine Empire combined *traditional sources of power and legitimacy* with innovations better suited to the current circumstances.
- Interregional contacts and conflicts between states and empires encouraged significant *technological and cultural transfers*.
  - REQUIRED EXAMPLE: THE CRUSADES
- Free Peasant Revolts: BYZANTINE EMPIRE

## TIMELINE



## PEOPLE TO KNOW

482-565

JUSTINIAN

BYZANTINE EMPEROR FOR 38 YEARS WHO ATTEMPTED TO REUNITE THE ROMAN EMPIRE & WROTE JUST. CODE

500-548

THEODORA

EMPRESS/WIFE OF JUSTINIAN WHO BECAME THE MOST POWERFUL WOMAN IN BYZANTINE HISTORY

LEO v. MICHAEL

ROMAN POPE LEO IX & CONSTANTINE. PATRIARCH MICHAEL I WHO EXCOMMUNICATED EACH OTHER CAUSING THE GREAT SCHISM

1432-1481

MEHMET II

OTTOMAN SULTAN WHO CONQUERED THE BYZANTINE EMPIRE AT THE BATTLE OF CONSTANTINOPE IN 1453

# JUSTINIAN

- CAME TO POWER IN 527 CE (NEPHEW OF LAST EMPEROR)
- SENT ARMIES TO BEGIN RECLAIMING THE WESTERN EMPIRE
  - COSTLY & ONLY TEMPORARILY SUCCESSFUL
  - 3 YEARS AFTER HIS DEATH, LOMBARDS TOOK ITALY
- PEAK OF BYZANTINE POWER, INFLUENCE, & GEOGRAPHY

## THREE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT JUSTINIAN:

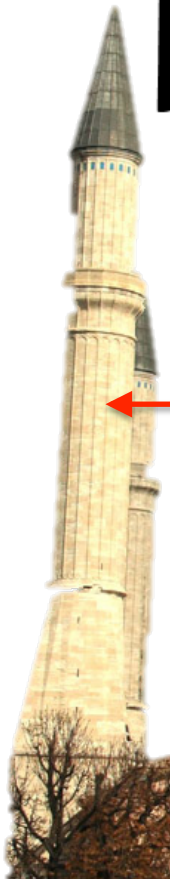
- 1. HE **CODIFIED ROMAN LAW** (*CODE of JUSTINIAN*)
  - INHERITED THE BULK OF ROMAN LAWS FROM THE WEST
  - SENATE, ASSEMBLIES, PRAETORS, COMMENTARIES, ETC.
  - BASIS OF LEGAL CODES IN EUROPE FOR CENTURIES
    - LAST MAJOR LEGAL DOCUMENT WRITTEN IN LATIN
- 2. HE MARRIED **THEODORA**
  - "ACTRESS"...
  - HAD TO CHANGE LAWS TO MAKE MARRIAGE LEGAL
  - KEPT JUST. FROM FLEEING DURING THE NIKAI REVOLTS
- 3. HE **BUILT SOME OF BYZ.'s MOST FAMOUS STRUCTURES**
  - REBUILT THE CITY AFTER THE RIOTS (SEE NEXT PAGE)
  - HUGE DEFENSIVE WALL SYSTEM (They're gonna need it)
  - BUILT ROADS, BRIDGES, BATHS, COURTS, RESEVOIRS
  - **HIPPODROME**: "HORSE PATH"; CIRCUS of CONSTANTINOP
  - AND THIS...

# HAGIA

- FINISHED IN 537 CE
- "HOLY WISDOM"
- FAMOUS FOR ITS DOME
  - APPEARS TO BE FLOATING IN PLACE
- EARTH'S LARGEST CATHEDRAL FOR 1,000 YEARS! (TODAY=20<sup>th</sup>)
- MEHMET II CONVERTED IT INTO A MOSQUE (MINARETS)
- PATRIARCH MICHAEL WAS EXCOMMUNICATED HERE
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# SOPHIA

 FREEMAN-PEDIA



# LIFE AFTER JUSTINIAN

## PROBLEMS JUSTINIAN LEFT BEHIND:

- 1. **JUSTINIAN'S PLAGUE**
  - BUBONIC PLAGUE THAT RETURNED EVERY GENERATION FOR 200 YEARS
  - WORLDWIDE PLAGUE (25 Mill)
  - FROM CHINA TO IRELAND
  - JUSTINIAN CAUGHT PLAGUE
    - SURVIVED
- 2. **LACK OF \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$**
  - BANKRUPTED THE EMPIRE
  - BUILDINGS, WARS, etc.
- 3. RENEWED THREATS ABROAD
  - PERSIANS, SLAVS, ARABS, etc.

## BIGGEST CHALLENGE: **ARAB EMPIRE**

- Also, SLAVS, & PERSIANS
  - Arabs conquered:
    - PERSIAN EMPIRE
    - SYRIA, PALESTINE, North AFRICA
  - ATTEMPTED TO TAKE CONSTAN.
    - FAILED
    - BYZ USED *GREEK FIRE* (BELOW)
- TO THE NORTH: BULGARS
  - TOOK LAND ALONG THE DANUBE R.
- BYZ IN A CONSTANT STATE OF WAR
  - LED TO A MILITARIZED STATE

 FREEMAN-PEDIA



- LATIN FELL OUT OF FAVOR
  - GREEK BECAME THE LINGUA FRANCA
  - (see JUSTINIAN'S CODE)
- USE OF ICONS IN RELIGIOUS SERVICES



- LED TO **ICONOCLASM CONTROVERSY** →

## THE BYZANTINE **EMPEROR**

- ABSOLUTE RULER
- HEAVILY REGULATED THE ECONOMY
- VERY STRONG BUREAUCRACY
  - (adj)-excessively complicated, typically involving a great deal of administrative detail.
  - INTENSE TRAINING PROGRAM
    - CIVIL/RELIGIOUS/MILITARY
    - SEE *CIVIL SERVICE EXAM IN CHINA*
- APPOINTED PATRIARCH
  - EMPEROR RAN CHURCH & STATE

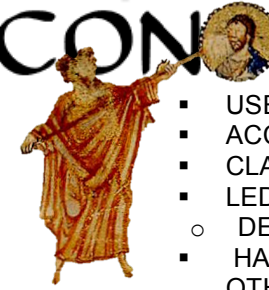
## TRADE IN CONSTANTINOPLE

- KEY TRADING CITY BETWEEN WEST/EAST
- CARRIED OUT BY FOREIGN MERCHANTS
- SMUGGLED SILK WORMS FROM CHINA
  - BEGAN STATE SILK INDUSTRY
  - CITY'S MOST LUCRATIVE PRODUCT



# CRISES

## ICONOCLASM



- USE/# OF ICONS INCREASED
- ACCUSED OF IDOL WORSHIP
- CLAIMED FOR ILLITERATE
- LED TO *ICONOCLASM*-
  - DESTRUCTION OF ICONS
- HAS ALSO HAPPENED IN OTHER RELIGIONS (8<sup>th</sup> Cent.)

# GREAT SCHISM

- EAST=CONSTAN. & PATRIARCH
- WEST=ROME & POPE
- POPE CLAIMED TO BE #1
- WEST & EAST GREW APART
  - IN BELIEFS/IDEAS/GEOG.
- PAPAL ENVOY WENT TO BYZ
  - EXCOMMUNICATED THE PAT.
  - PAT. EXCOMMUNICATED THE POPE
- SPLIT CONTINUES TO THIS DAY (1054 CE)



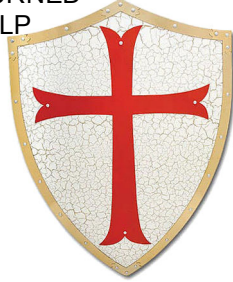
# ISLAM

- AFTER THE ABBASIDS BEGAN TO LOSE POWER
  - OTHER ISLAMIC GROUPS RIVALLED THE BYZ.
- THE FATAMIDS
  - BROKE AWAY FROM ABBASID EMPIRE
  - TOOK CONTROL OF EGYPT (CAIRO)
  - HIRED MERCENARIES FOR MILITARY
  - INCLUDED SELJUK TURKS
    - CONVERTED TO ISLAM
    - CAPTURED BAGHDAD & REST OF EMPIRE
    - DEFEATED BYZ @ MANZIKERT (1071)

# CRISES CRVSADERS

(1096-1272 CE)

- EMPEROR ALEXIUS TURNED TO THE WEST FOR HELP
  - TURKS HAD BEGUN TO OCCUPY ANATOLIA
- NOW, BYZ HAD TO DEAL WITH TURKS & THE WEST IN THEIR TERRITORY
- LATER LED TO THE EXPULSION OF THE VENETIANS IN 1171
- VENETIANS RETURNED FOR THE 4<sup>th</sup> CRUSADE (TOOK CITY)



# FREE PEASANT REVOLTS

- NIKA RIOTS (532 CE)
  - WEEKLONG REVOLT IN CONSTANTIN.
  - RIOT AMONGS CHARIOT RACE FANS
    - BLUES v. GREENS
      - (JUSTINIAN WAS A BLUE)
    - SIMILAR TO SOCCER HOOLIGANS
      - BUT WITH MORE POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS ACTIVITY
      - BECAME POLITICAL CLUBS
  - TWO FANS WERE ACCUSED OF MURDER.. LED TO RIOTING
  - SO BAD, JUST. NEARLY FLED THE CITY
  - THEODORA CONVICTED HIM TO RETURN
  - 30k RIOTERS EXECUTED BY JUSTINIAN
- BASIL THE COPPER HAND
  - SEE NEW LABOR MGMT. HANDOUT



HUGE CANNON USED BY THE TURKS ON THE CITY WALLS. THE TURKS ACTUALLY DUSTED THIS GUN OFF TO FIGHT OFF THE BRITISH IN 1807. THEY LOST.



# FALL OF CONSTANTINOPLE

- OTTOMAN TURKS SPREAD QUICKLY FROM NORTHEAST ANATOLIA IN THE 13<sup>th</sup> CENTURY (TOOK SELJUK & BYZ LAND)
- BYZANTINE EMPIRE WAS REDUCED TO THE CITY OF CONSTANTINOPLE
  - AND IT WAS SURROUNDED BY OTTOM.
- 19 YEAR OLD MEHMET II ATTACKED
  - 80,000 TROOPS ATTACKED THE WALL
  - VENICE OFFERED AID. TOO LITTLE. TOO LATE
- EMPEROR CONSTANTINE XI ORDERED A HUGE CHAIN ACROSS THE HARBOR TO STOP THE OTTOMAN SHIPS
  - OTTOMANS DRAGGED THEIR SHIPS ASHORE, PAST THE CHAINS, & BACK INTO THE WATER
    - BYPASSING THE CHAIN
- OTTOMANS HAD SUPERIOR FIRE POWER (SEE ABOVE)
  - 60 OXEN TO DRAG THAT CANNON!
  - CITY WALLS BREACHED
  - EMPEROR KILLED FIRST
- MEHMET RODE INTO THE HAGIA SOPHIA
  - ORDERED IT CONVERTED TO A MOSQUE... THE END.



# ST CYRIL & METHODIUS

- 9<sup>th</sup> CENTURY GREEK BROTHERS (MISSIONARIES)
  - "APOSTLES OF THE SLAVS"
- BORN TO A BYZANTINE MILITARY LEADER
- TRAVELED EASTERN EUROPE CONVERTING PEOPLE TO ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY
- MORAVIAN (CZECH/SLOVENIA) KING ASKED THE PATRIARCH FOR MISSIONARIES TO EVANGELIZE HIS PEOPLE
  - CYRIL & METHODIUS WERE SENT
- TRANSLATED THE BIBLE INTO THE SLAVIC LANGUAGES
- CREATED A WRITTEN LANGUAGE (CYRILLIC ALPHABET) STILL USED IN THE REGION TODAY
- EVEN WROTE A LAW (CIVIL) CODE!

