

SSWH4 Analyze the Impact of Byzantine and Mongol Empires



Element A: Describe the relationship between the Roman Empire and Byzantine Empires, include the importance of Justinian and Empress Theodora

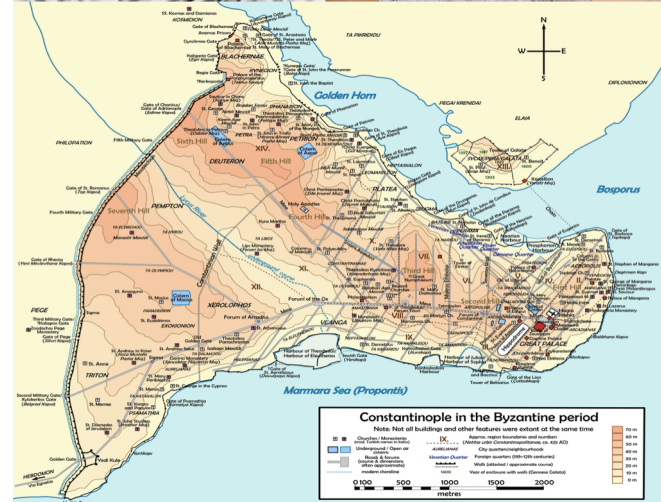
SSWH4 Overview

- ❑ Students will be expected to explain how the Byzantine and Mongol states impacted both the regions they directly controlled and surrounding societies.
- ❑ Special attention should be placed on the religious, economic, technological and political developments that left an enduring legacy.
- ❑ Focus should be placed on the transregional nature of these empires and the cultural interactions that they facilitated.

Relationship between the Roman Empire

- ❑ In the waning days of the Roman Empire, Emperor Diocletian enacted reforms that laid the foundation for the creation of a successor state to the Roman Empire, the Byzantine Empire.
 - Diocletian believed that the empire had grown too big and complex for a single man to administer so he divided it into the Latin speaking west and Greek speaking east with a capital in the city of Byzantium.

- ❑ Constantine took power after Diocletian in 312 CE and reunified the empire but moved the capital of the unified Roman Empire to Byzantium, renaming the city Constantinople after himself.
 - At this point Constantinople was considered the New Rome and contemporaries simply viewed this move as a political reform.
 - However, many historians see this and subsequent events like the loss of Constantinople's control of the western province in 395 and the final sack of Rome by Germanic tribes in 476 as the beginning of a new state in the Mediterranean world.



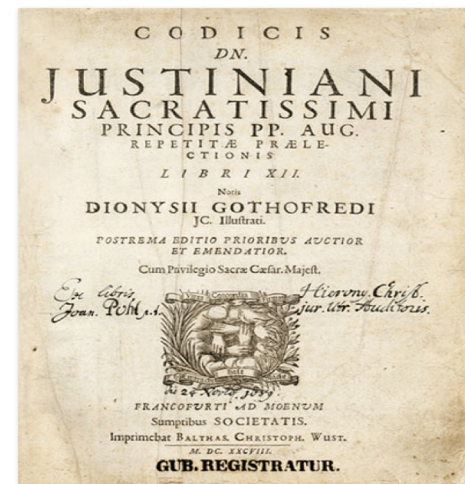
Relationship between the Roman Empire

- While the Roman Empire that lasted from about 27 BCE to 476 CE shared a great deal with its successor state, the Byzantine Empire (about 395 to 1453) most historians argue that the differences make the Byzantine Empire a distinct state in world history.
- Some important Roman traditions did survive however.
 - Roman political institutions like the Senate continued in the Byzantine world as did the basic structure and content of Roman law.
- However, culturally the Byzantine Empire was distinct.
 - The Byzantine Empire spoke Greek and was officially a Christian state for preponderance of its history.



Importance of Justinian

- In 527 the Emperor Justinian came to power. An ambitious emperor, Justinian was determined to restore the glory of the old Roman Empire.
 - His first task was to retake the lands lost to Germanic tribes in North Africa and Western Europe.
 - After a series of successful military campaigns much of the former territory of the Roman Empire was in the hands of Justinian.
 - His hold on the lands in Western Europe was tenuous at best, and changed hands six times in 16 years.
- Back in his capital of Constantinople, Justinian instituted major legal reforms that included the organization, simplification, and standardization of Roman law.
 - This project produced Corpus Juris Civilis or Justinian's Code.
 - A law code that regulated almost all aspects of Byzantine life for the next 900 years and served as the foundation of many of the law codes of Western Europe after the fall of the Byzantine Empire.



Importance of Emperor Justinian

- Justinian also completed massive infrastructure projects that transformed Constantinople into a vibrant and thriving metropolis.
 - These included the construction of a 14 mile long city wall, public baths, aqueducts, law courts, schools, hospitals and churches.
 - Justinian's most significant architectural legacy was the construction of the Hagia Sophia, a massive church that symbolized the partnership between the church and state in the Byzantine world.

