

SSWH4 Analyze the Impact of Byzantine and Mongol Empires



Element C: Explain the Great Schism (East-West Schism) of 1054 CE/ AD.

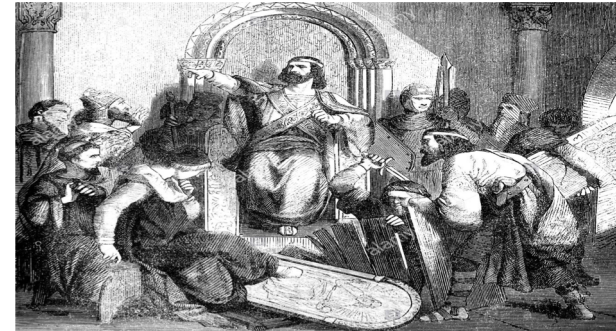
Western Christianity v. Eastern Christianity

- ❑ By the late 300s Christendom developed two parallel hierarchies of leadership that reflected the growing political divide in the Roman Empire.
 - In the west the church was headquartered in Rome and led by the pope.
 - In the East, the Byzantine Emperors claimed leadership of the church and considered the Patriarch of Constantinople as the highest member of the church clergy.
 - Each of these leaders, the pope in Rome and the emperor in Constantinople, considered themselves the head of a single unified church and thus believed that they held authority over the other.



Growing Hostilities

- ❑ Lack of communication and distance between the two capitals kept the peace for about 300 years but in 730 this dispute over leadership came to a head.
 - The Byzantine Emperor Leo III banned the use of icons in worship because he believed that their use was a form of idolatry.
 - Riots and clerical rebellion ensued, leading Pope Gregory II to side with the supporters of icons thus undermining the authority of the Byzantine Emperor and creating enduring animosity.
- ❑ Anger grew between Rome and Constantinople after 751 when the pope was facing an invasion by the Lombards.
 - He requested help from the Byzantine Emperor but the emperor refused the request leading the pope to turn to the Franks for help.
 - In gratitude for this and later support from the Franks in suppressing rebellions in Rome, Pope Leo III crowned Charlemagne the Roman Emperor. This title was a direct affront to the Byzantine Emperor who considered himself the Roman Emperor and the pope his subordinate.



Saint Peter, a 6th-century encaustic icon from Saint Catherine's Monastery, Mount Sinai



Great Schism (East-West Schism) of 1054

- By the mid-1000s the situation became untenable, arguments over Church ritual ranging from the type of bread used for communion to clerical marriage ruined relations between the east and the west.
- In 1054 the controversy culminated in the excommunication of the Patriarch of Constantinople by Pope Leo IX.
 - This formally severed the ties between the Christian Churches of the east and west leading to two independent churches, the Eastern Orthodox Church and Roman Catholic Church.

