

**7.2 Summarize the consequences of the fall of the Roman Empire including the continuation of the Eastern Roman Empire as the Byzantine Empire, Justinian and the significance of Constantinople.**

# The Roman Empire at its Height

- The Roman Empire became huge
- It covered most of Europe, North Africa, and some of Asia
- The Empire reached its height under Emperor Diocletian (284-305 CE)

# The Roman Empire

in 117 AD, at its greatest extent



# Expansion: Good or Bad?

- What are some problems that an empire or country might have by being stretched out too far?



# The Decline Begins

- 180 CE Marcus Aurelius died
- His son, Commodus, took control of Rome
- Commodus was a poor leader, killed by his bodyguard
- Time of disarray follows



# Political Problems

- Poor leaders weakened the government
- Frequent fights for power
- Many officials took bribes
- Talented people chose not to serve due to dangers of government life

# Social Problems

- Taxes were too great, many rich people stopped paying
- People stopped attending school
- Large number of people enslaved
- Plague (disease) spread throughout Rome, killing 1 in 10
- Famine: there was not enough food to feed people

# Economic Problems

- Farmers lost land, unable to grow and sell crops, out of work (and famine)
- People bought fewer goods, shops closed
- Inflation occurred: Rapidly rising prices. Money lost value because fewer taxes paid.
- Coins lost value: Less gold put in, people found out (caused inflation)
- Bartering grew: sell goods without using money
- No taxes = no money

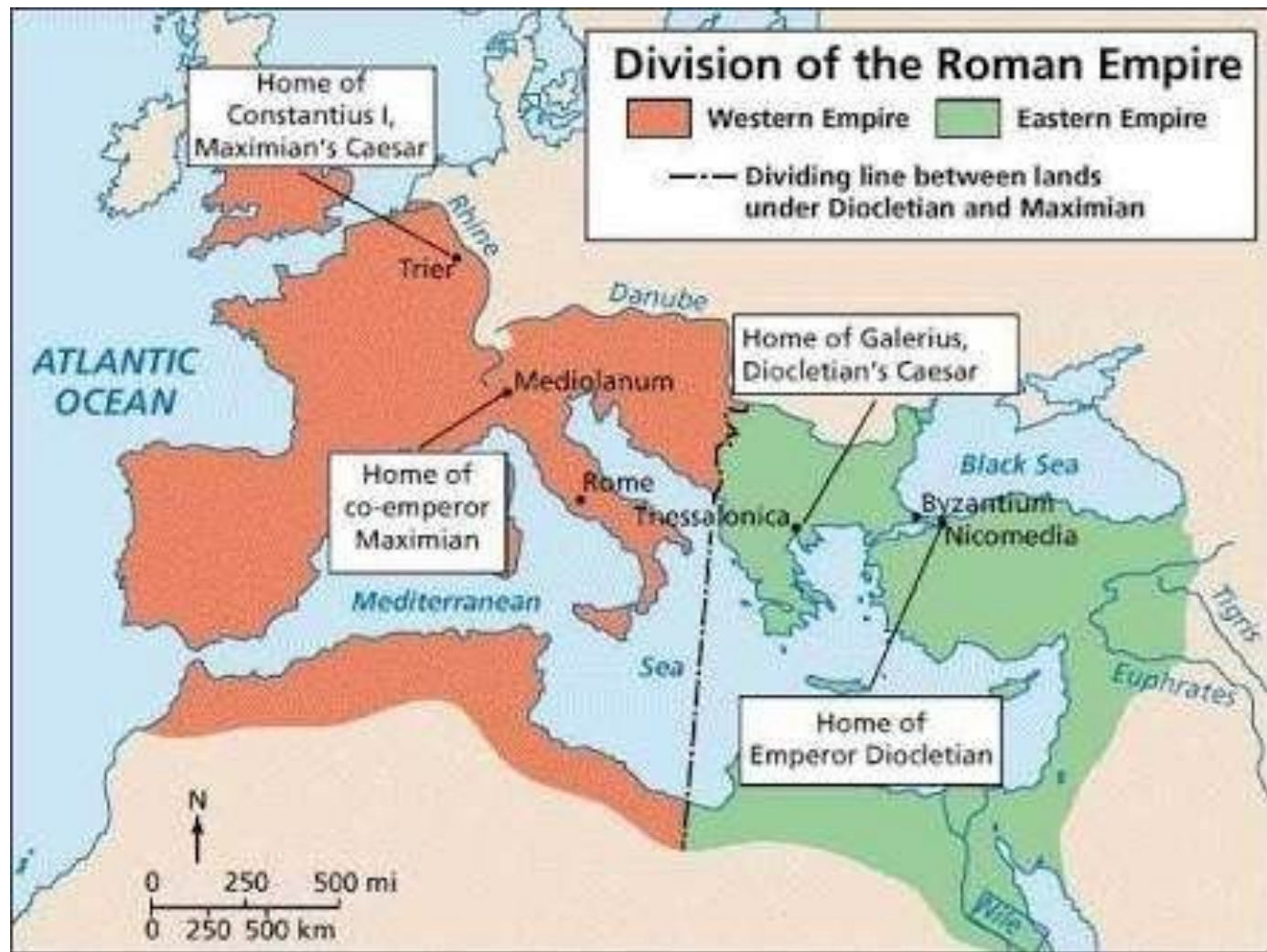


# Military Problems

- Soldiers only in it for money (mercenaries)
- No money to pay military = weak military
- Constant threat of invaders on empire's borders
- Weak military = unable to stop border invasions

# Diocletian

- 284 CE, Diocletian became emperor
- Tried reforms (political changes)
- Set price limits (if a person went beyond limits, put to death) and ordered workers to stay in jobs to death
- Diocletian felt that the only way to save the empire was to divide it in half
- Created two empires: Western and Eastern
- Western Empire: Europe/ North Africa and city of Rome
- Eastern Empire: Turkey/ Asia and city of Byzantium
- Two emperors, emperor in Rome was senior



# Constantine

- Diocletian retired and Constantine took his place as emperor
- Constantine (312 CE) united the empire again
- First Christian emperor (created a religiously tolerant empire)
- Main reform: sons had to follow fathers' trade
- Rome continued to decline
- Constantine moved the capital from Rome to city of Byzantium
- City name changed to Constantinople (today is Istanbul)

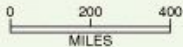
# Theodosius

- Constantine died in 337 CE, replaced by Theodosius
- Theodosius could not rule the empire, divided in two again
- Western Roman Empire with capital in Rome
- Eastern Rome Empire with capital in Constantinople



**THE ROMAN EMPIRE**  
c. 400 C.E.

- East Roman Empire
- West Roman Empire



SAHARA

# Rome Invaded

- Western Empire unable to hold off German tribes on its borders
- (1)Ostrogoths, (2)Visigoths, (3)Franks, (4)Vandals, (5)Saxons
- German tribes wanted warmer area, Roman riches, and to flee the Huns







# Rome Invaded

- Rome agreed to allow the Visigoths to live inside of Roman boundaries
- Romans treated Visigoths badly
- Visigoths rebelled and defeated the Romans
- Visigoth leader, Alaric, captured Rome in 410 CE



# Rome Invaded

- Vandals followed Visigoths and spent 12 days stripping Rome of valuables (vandalism)
- Many more German invaders followed
- Finally, a German general named Odoacer defeated the western emperor Romulus Augustulus (14 years old, little Augustus)

# The Fall

- Augustulus was defeated in 476 CE
- For this reason, this date is given as the fall of the Western Roman Empire
- Western Empire was divided into many kingdoms that adopted many of the customs of Rome

# The Fall

- Although the Western Empire fell in 476 CE, the Eastern Roman Empire continued to prosper for 1,000 more years
- Became known as the Byzantine Empire

# The Byzantine Empire

- At its height, the Byzantine Empire covered an area from Rome through southeastern Europe and Asia Minor, down to Egypt and across North Africa.
- The city of Constantinople, was on a peninsula overlooking the Bosphorus Strait connecting the Black Sea to the Mediterranean Sea.
- From its central location, the city controlled key trade routes that linked Europe and Asia.

# Byzantine Empire, A.D. 565

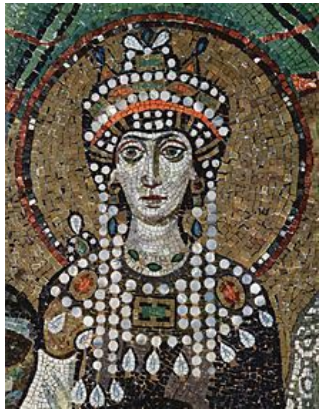
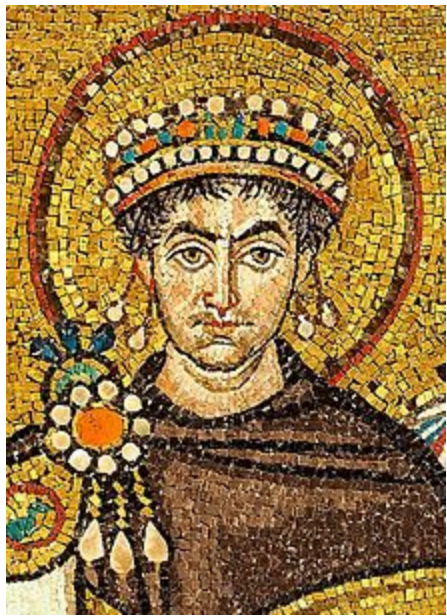




# Justinian

- The empire reached its peak under the Emperor Justinian.
- Justinian was an autocratic ruler, or single ruler with complete authority.
- Emperor Justinian became known for his collection of ancient laws known as Justinian's Code.
- This written set of laws became the basis for today's international laws.





# Hagia Sophia

- In the area of architecture, Justinian blended Greek, Roman, Persian, and Middle Eastern styles.
- The best known structure is the Church of Hagia Sophia, whose name means “Holy Wisdom”

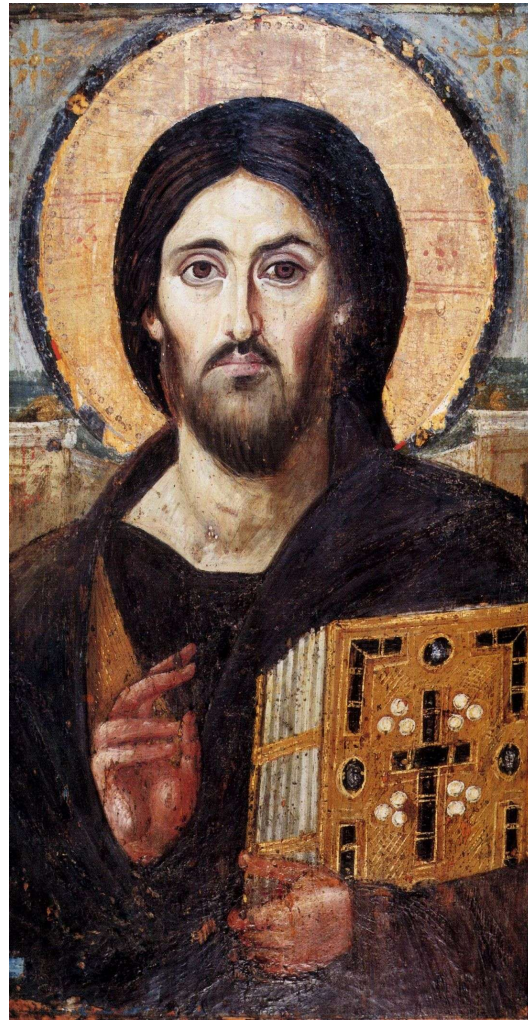




# Byzantine Empire and Art

- The Byzantine Empire made great contributions in art.
- Icons were images of Jesus, the Virgin Mary and others.
- These icons were supposed to create the sense that the holy person was actually present.
- Byzantine artists also developed mosaics, pictures or designs formed by inlaid pieces of stone or other materials.
- Mosaics often displayed religious themes.
- In 1054, a permanent split or schism occurred between the Orthodox Christian Church in the East and the Roman Catholic Church in the West.





# Byzantine Empire Decline

- The decline of the Byzantine Empire came with the onset of invading armies.
- The final blow came at the hands of the Ottoman Empire in 1453.

# Influence of the Byzantine Empire

- The Byzantine Empire had its influence in the development of history.
- Emerging out of the once strong Roman Empire, the Byzantines develop a written set of laws and strongly influenced art and architecture of the time.
- The Byzantine Empire preserved the Greek, Roman, and Persian achievements as well as influencing the development of Russia and Eastern Europe.

# Influence of the Byzantine Empire

- The Byzantine Empire also strongly influenced the first Russian state.
- As Russia traded with the Byzantine Empire, the Byzantines influenced both Russian and Eastern European development.
- The Byzantines gave Russia a written language called the Cyrillic alphabet is still used in Russia today.



# Influence of the Byzantine Empire

- Byzantine missionaries carried Orthodox Christianity to Russia and other Eastern European nations.
- Another Byzantine influence on Russia was that of an autocratic ruler.
- Autocratic rulers in Russia were known as czars. Czar is the Russian word for Caesar.