

The Byzantine Empire

Outlasting the Western Empire

- Historians call Eastern Empire Byzantine Empire
 - Byzantine Empire lasted about 1,000 years after
 Western Empire
- Emperors were absolute rulers
 - lost much land to invaders

Justinian



- Justinian was emperor from A.D.
 527 to 565
 - reconquered lostEastern Empirelands in Italy, Africa,Spain

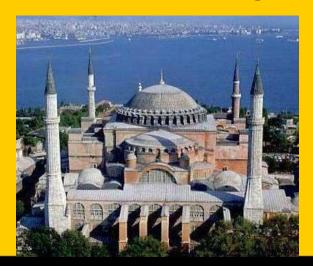






Rebuilding Constantinople

- Justinian began rebuilding the capital, which was damaged in a revolt
 - rebuilt city walls; built schools, hospitals, courts, churches
 - most famous church was Hagia Sophia



Regional Identity

- Justinian Code—uniform code of law based on
 - Included laws on marriage, slavery, property, women's rights, crime
- Byzantines spoke Greek, but considered themselves culturally Roman

Roman law

Studied Latin, Greek, Roman literature and history

Critical Thinking



What are three advantages of a unified code of laws based off the Roman laws and new laws?

Inter-Regional Interaction: Western Europe

- In east, emperor had control over head of church
 - Western pope claimed control over churches in both east and west
 - Eastern church rejected authority of pope
 - Christian Church split in 1054
- Split led to creation of two separate European civilizations
 - Catholic in the west, orthodox in the east

Critical Thinking

Why would the Byzantines be at such a disadvantage in facing the Muslims to their east after the division of the church?

Inter-Regional Interaction: The Middle East

- New Arabian religion of Islam began in 600s
 - Muslim armies attacked Constantinople
 - Civil wars, attacks by Ottoman Turks, Serbs hurt
 Byzantine Empire
- Only small section of empire remained by 1350
- Ottoman Turks captured Constantinople in 1453
 - Ended Byzantine Empire