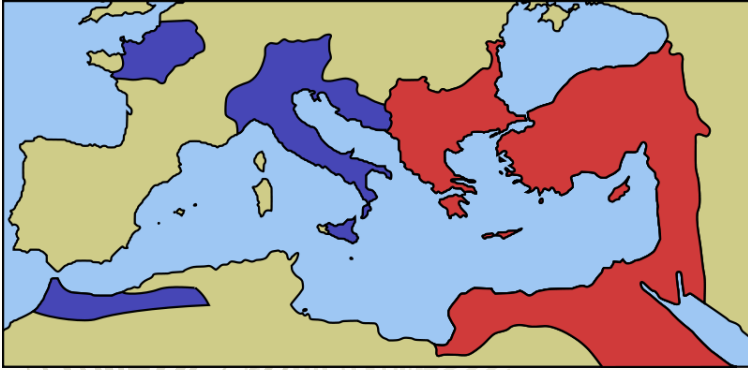




The Byzantine Empire

I. Decline of the Roman Empire



The state of the Roman Empire by 476.



A. Shift of power from W to E

Constantine moves capital to

Byzantium 330 CE (later renamed
Constantinople)

- **395 CE, Roman Empire splits**
between E and W empires: two
emperors shared equal power

**B. Invading groups, (ex. Vandals
and Visigoths), weaken the western
empire through 5th and 6th centuries**

C. From the 5th to 15th centuries, the eastern Roman Empire remained, known as the Byzantine Empire.



The Roman Empire Splits



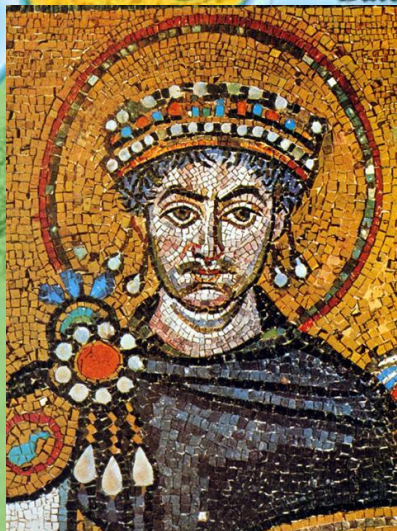
II. JUSTINIAN

A. Justinian takes throne of eastern half of empire (527 CE)

B. Successfully re-conquers western territories

– *North Africa, Italy, parts of Spain eventually reclaimed*

– *Ruled over almost all territory that was once originally Roman Empire*





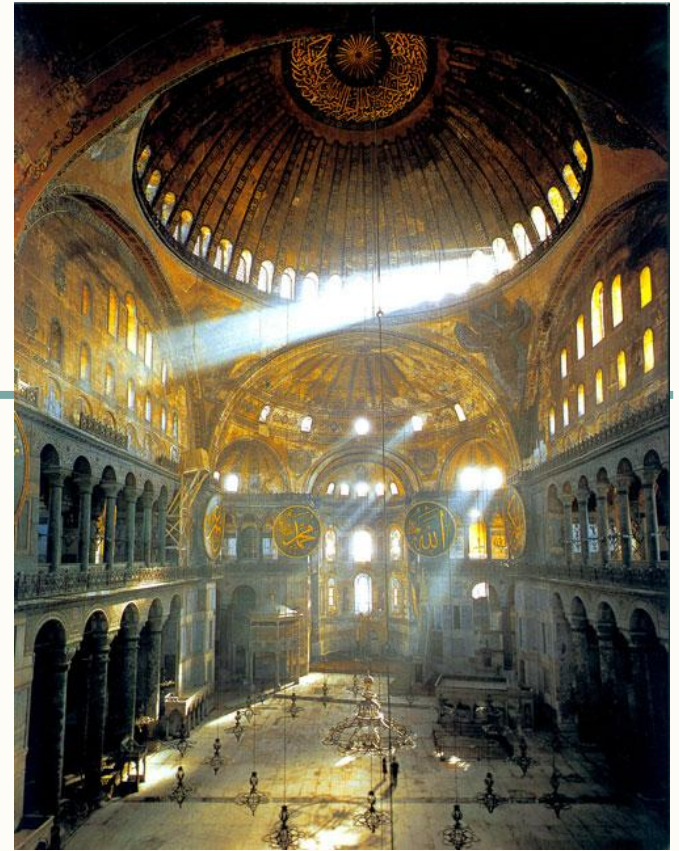
- C. Ruled with absolute power, theocracy
- *Head of empire and church (Christianity official religion)*
 - *Clashed with the Senate over authority*
 - Led to new age of Roman influence/domination in Mediterranean and eastern Europe

D. Ordered new projects built

- 14-mile stone wall along city coast
- Hagia Sophia– once considered greatest church in Christian world
- Public baths, aqueducts, courts, schools



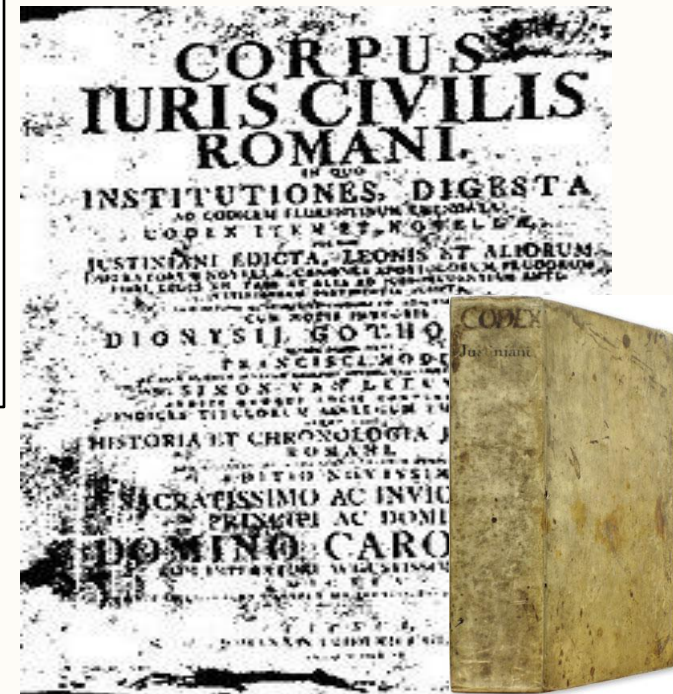
Istanbul: Roman Aqueduct



III. NEW CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS

A. Over time, Byzantine Empire develops own culture

- **Language:** Latin no longer most popular, most people spoke Greek

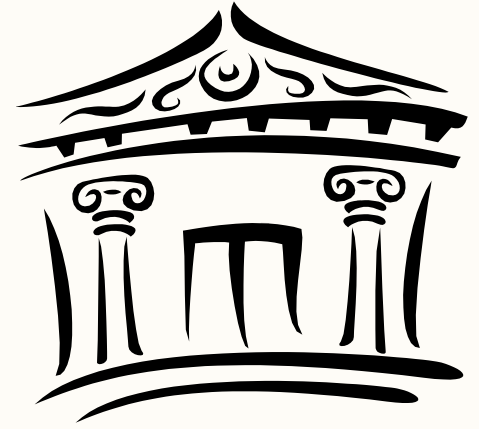


III. NEW CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS

- **Law/Politics:** Roman Law restructured into Justinian Code
 - hundreds of years of laws reviewed, revised, rewritten
 - Covered all aspects of life: marriage, slavery, women's rights, crime, and much more
 - Lasted over 900 years as dominant law, greatly influenced E. Europe (especially Russia)



- **Cultural philosophy/education:**
blended Greek and Roman culture
- Education focuses on Greek & Latin grammar, philosophy
- Byzantine scholars preserve many scholarly works from Ancient Greece and Rome
- *Along with Muslim scholars, help influence the Renaissance in western Europe*



IV. Split in Christian Church

- A. Split in Roman Empire = split in Christianity because of:
1. Distance and lack of communication
 2. Questions of leadership
 - East: Patriarch (*but Emperor real head of church*)
 - West: *the Pope*
 3. Disagreements on practices/beliefs
 - use of icons, behavior of Christians

The Great Schism



IV. Split in Christian Church

- B. Arguments between the eastern patriarch and western pope led to permanent split
 - Roman Catholic Church in west (most of Europe)
 - Orthodox Church in east (including Russia)
- ***Did you know? The Pope of Rome and Patriarch/Bishop of Constantinople Excommunicated each other.***

Eastern Empire

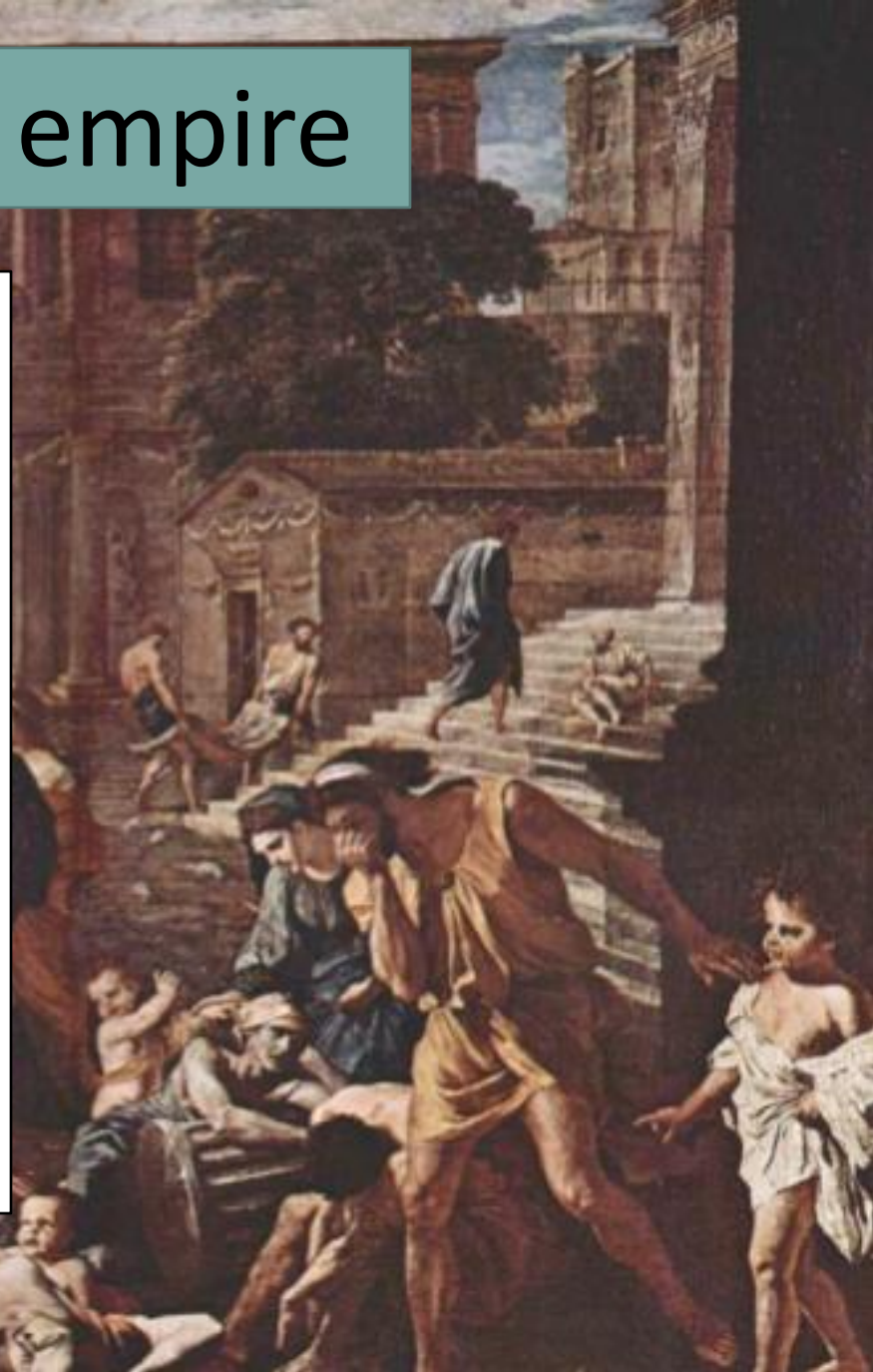
IV. Split in Christian Church



V. End of another empire

A. Began with Plague of Justinian

- 542 C.E. – 10,000 people a day were dying
- Would come and go until the year 700
- Killed up to 25% of population






B. Empire slowly shrank due to constant attacks from the outside

- Sassanid Persians in the east; Lombards in the west
- Muslim armies from south; Avars, Slavs, Bulgars in north
- 1350 – reduced to tip of Anatolia
- *City of Constantinople held until 1453*

VI. Influence on Eastern Europe



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A. Byzantine Empire pushed Christianity north

- Accelerated development of independent civilizations in Eastern Europe
- Missionaries bring culture – development of Slavic written language (Cyrillic)

VI. Influence on Eastern Europe

- B. Kievan Rus'
 - Founded by Scandinavian traders
 - Settlements and governments established along trade routes
 - City of Kiev became focal point of commerce, culture
 - *Became center of small kingdom, called Kievan Rus', later known as Russia*

- C. Partially based on Byzantine culture
- *Autocratic ruler (tsar/czar), also controls church*
- *Russian Orthodoxy develops over time*
- *Boyars = aristocracy*
- Development of Russia delayed
- *Invaded/conquered by Mongols (Tatars) in 1200s*



