

Starter

Day 2: Nov. 29 or 30

What has been the impact of Christianity on the history of the world?

**THE
BYZANTINE
EMPIRE**

Essential Question:

1. What is the significance of the Byzantine Empire?

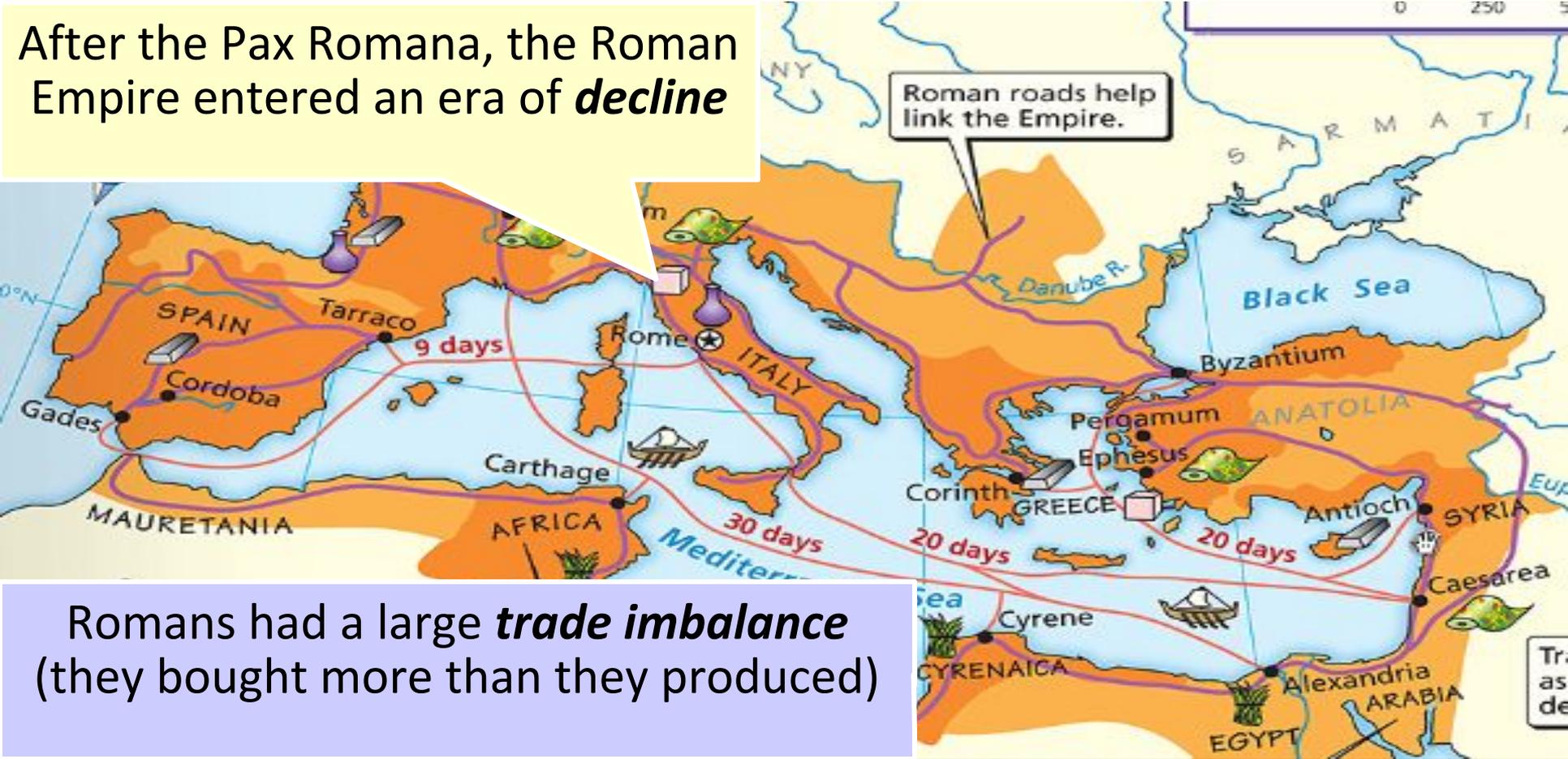
What happened to the Roman Empire in the year 476 CE?



2. “Why did the Roman Empire decline again?”

The Fall of the Roman Empire

After the Pax Romana, the Roman Empire entered an era of **decline**



Romans had a large **trade imbalance** (they bought more than they produced)

The Fall of the Roman Empire

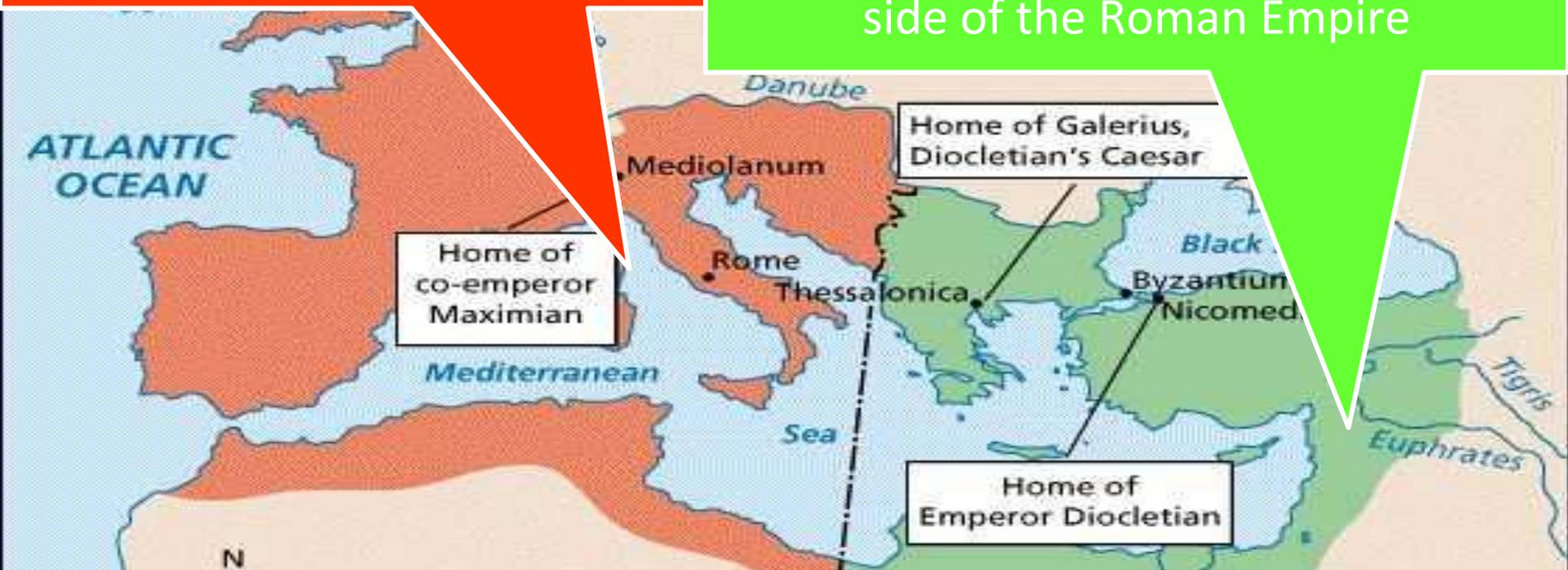


The Roman Empire had a series of ***weak emperors***

As Rome went deeper into debt, the ***military*** became weak and began using foreign mercenary soldiers

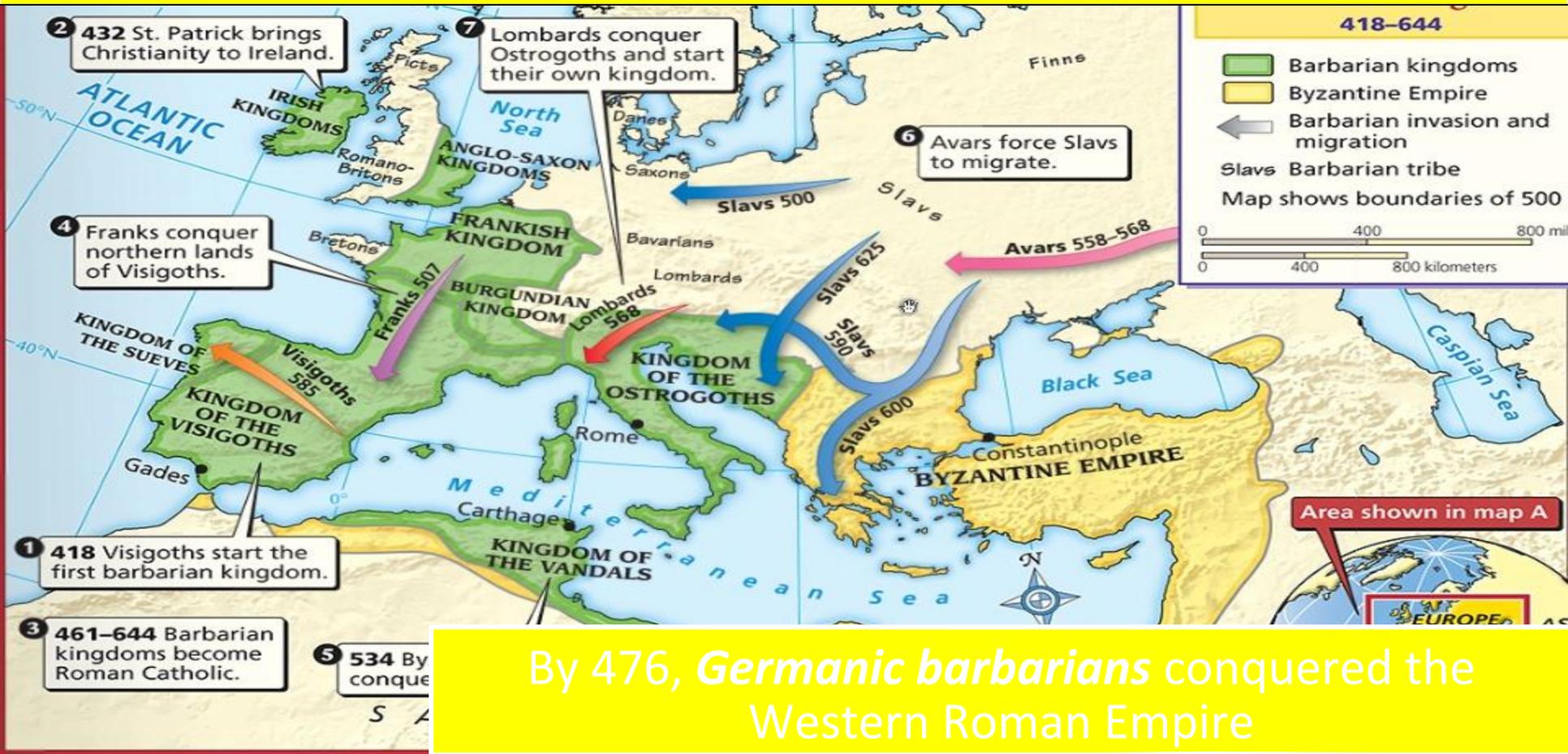
The **Western side** of the Roman Empire continued to grow weak

Emperor Constantine moved the Roman capital to Byzantium which he named **Constantinople** in the Eastern side of the Roman Empire



Emperor Diocletian then tried to save the Roman Empire by **dividing** it to make it more manageable

The Fall of the Roman Empire



By 476, Germanic barbarians conquered the Western Roman Empire

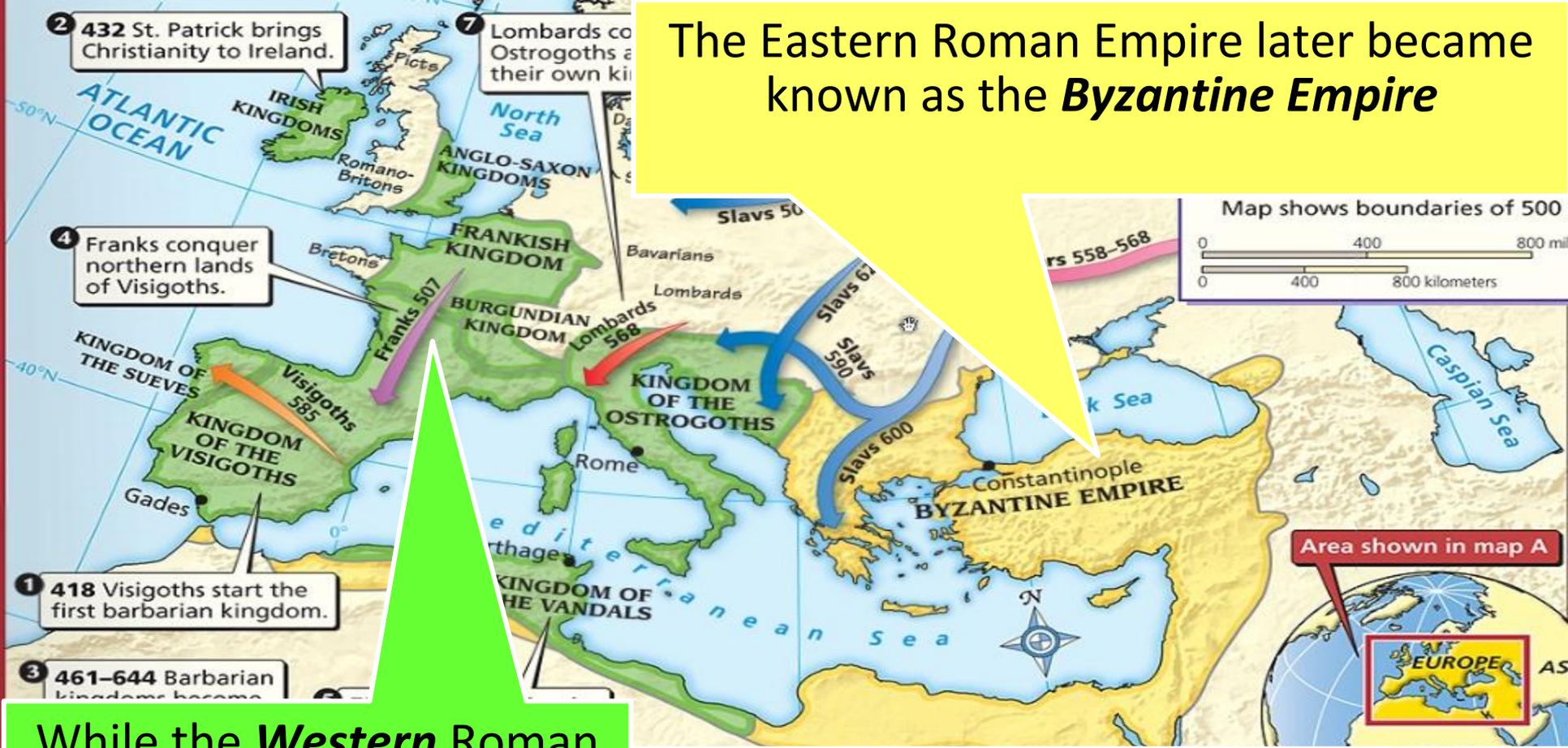


The Western Roman Empire fell into the ***Middle Ages*** (or “Dark Ages”) from 500 to 1300 CE

What happened in the Eastern Roman Empire?



The Eastern Roman Empire later became known as the **Byzantine Empire**



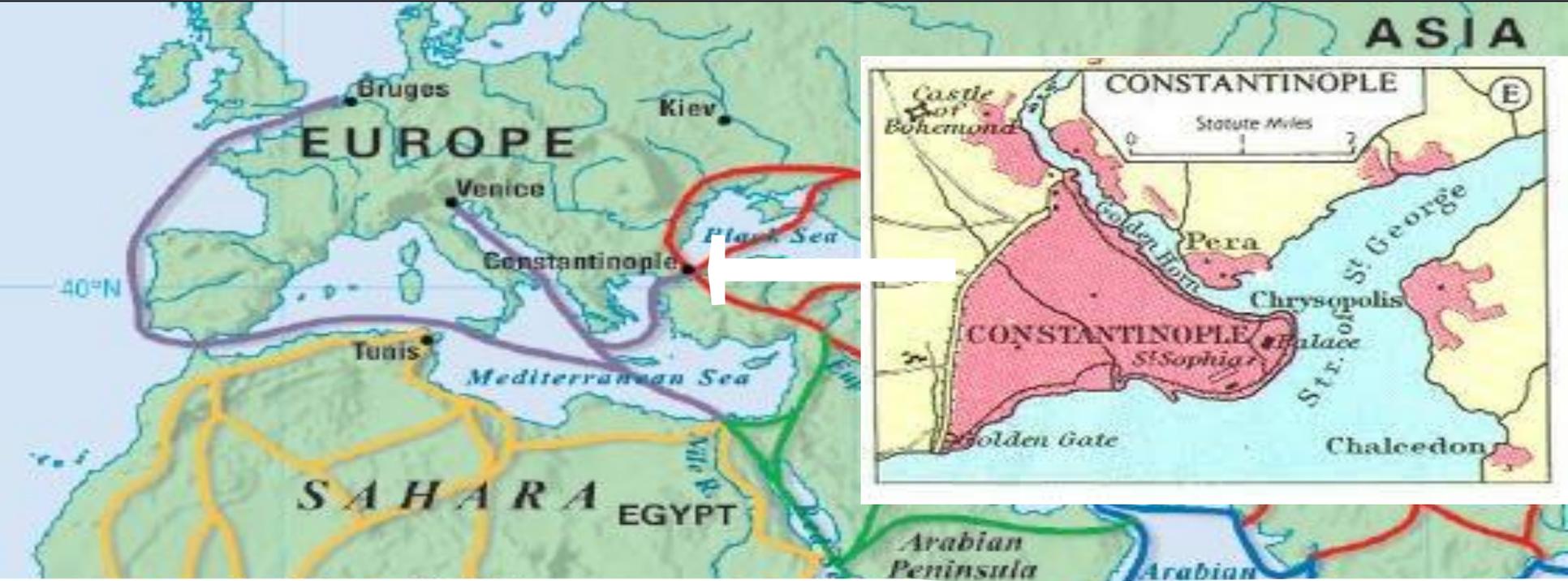
While the **Western** Roman Empire was in **decline**...

...the **Eastern** Roman Empire remained **strong**

Predict:

3. What problems might come from dividing the empire into two pieces?

4. How did physical geography impact the Byzantine capital of Constantinople?



Constantinople was a crossroads for **trade** and business between Europe, Asia, and Africa because of its location; this trade made the Byzantine Empire very **wealthy**

How did physical geography impact the Byzantine capital of Constantinople?



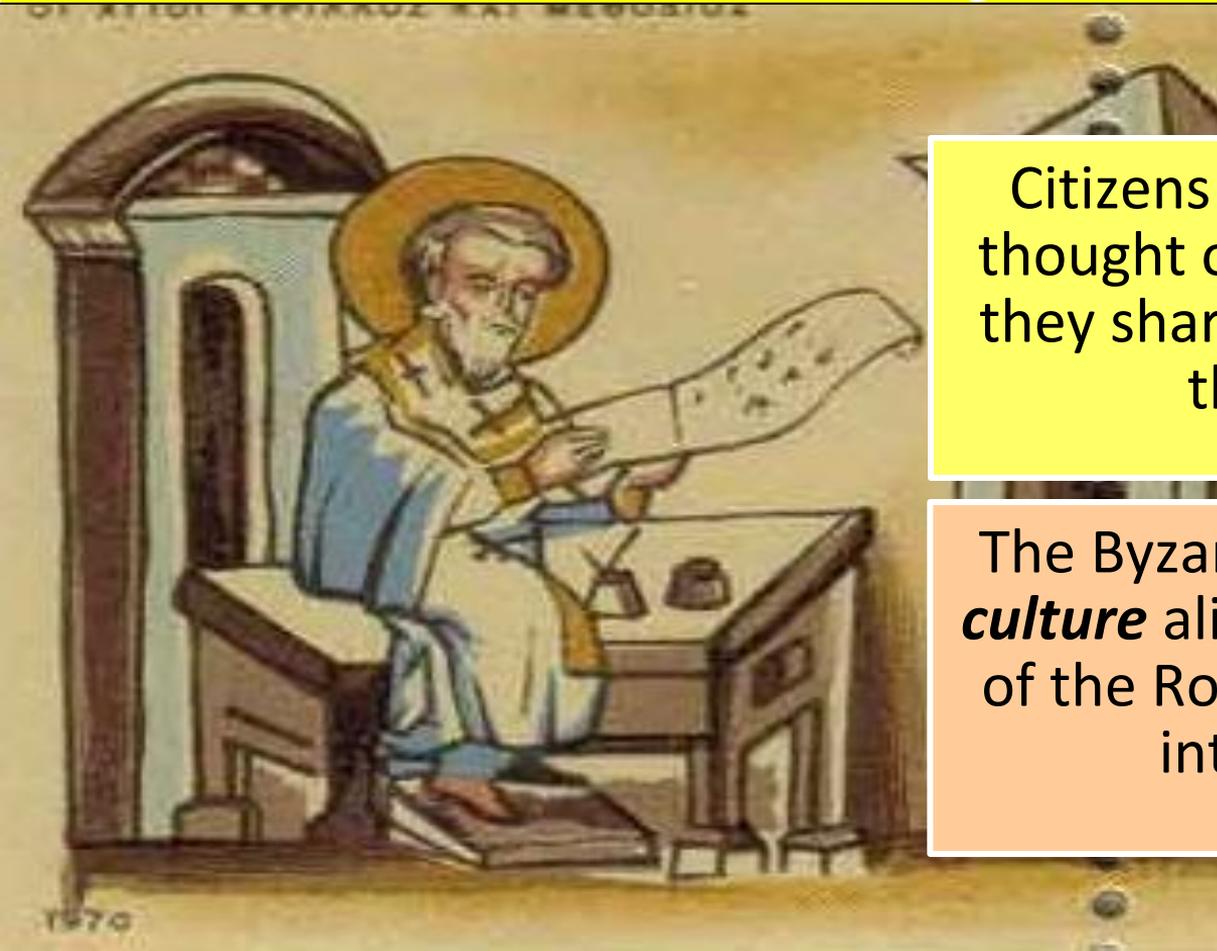
Its location on the water (connecting the Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea) made it more *easily defended* from outside invaders than most cities

How did physical geography impact the Byzantine capital of Constantinople?



The Byzantines had ***many enemies***, including Arabs and some Germanic tribes, but they were able to ***survive***

Culture of the Byzantine Empire



Citizens of the Byzantine Empire thought of themselves as **Romans**; they shared some **similarities** with the Roman Empire

The Byzantines kept **Greco-Roman culture** alive while the Western side of the Roman Empire was plunged into the Middle Ages

Culture of the Byzantine Empire

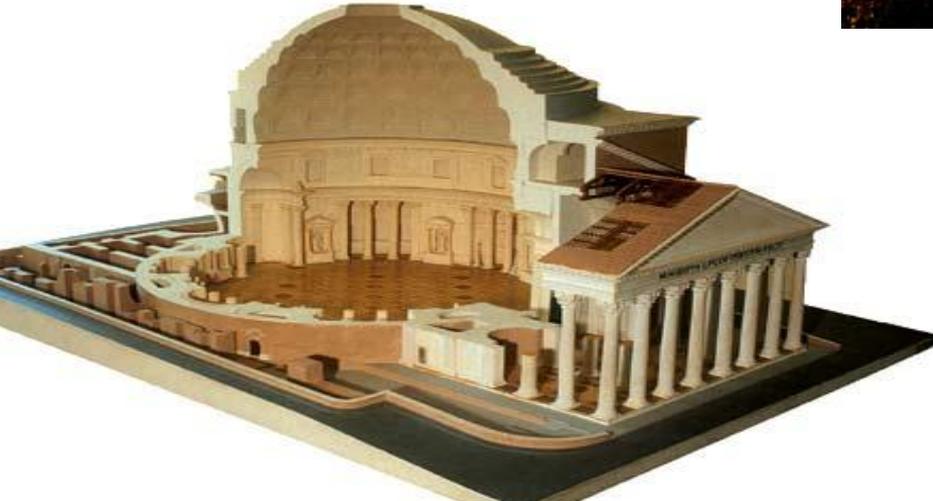


By preserving Greco-Roman culture, Constantinople became a major center of *learning*

Schools taught philosophy, *medicine*, geometry, and Greek and *Latin* grammar

Culture of the Byzantine Empire

Constantinople featured **Roman-style** architecture (using arches and **domes**)



BYZANTINE

ROMAN

NOTE THE
SIMILARITIES

Culture of the Byzantine Empire

Like the Romans, Byzantine cities had *forums* for business and trade and built *arenas* for entertainment



Culture of the Byzantine Empire



The most impressive work of Byzantine architecture is the ***Hagia Sophia***, which was originally a Christian ***church*** in the year 360

Culture of the Byzantine Empire



Later, the Hagia Sophia (which means “*Holy Wisdom*” in Greek) became a *mosque* and today is a museum in present-day Turkey

Hagia Sophia

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?
v=KRPp3jzv1Tw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KRPp3jzv1Tw)

5. What impressed you most about the
Hagia Sophia?

Culture of the Byzantine Empire



Though the official language of the Roman Empire was Latin, most people on the Eastern side spoke **Greek**, which became the Byzantines' **official language**



Both the Roman and Byzantine Empires were ruled by *emperors* who had absolute power over their empires



Justinian was the most famous of the Byzantine emperors

Emperor Justinian

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?
v=8Y2pAGcW51Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Y2pAGcW51Y)

6. What do we remember Emperor Justinian for?

About 50 years after the **fall** of Western Rome, Justinian came to power in the East; he began **reconquering** Roman territories lost to the Germanic tribes



ORANGE: OLD ROMAN TERRITORY THAT JUSTINIAN ADDED TO BYZANTINE TERRITORY

PURPLE: BYZANTINE EMPIRE WHEN JUSTINIAN ROSE TO POWER

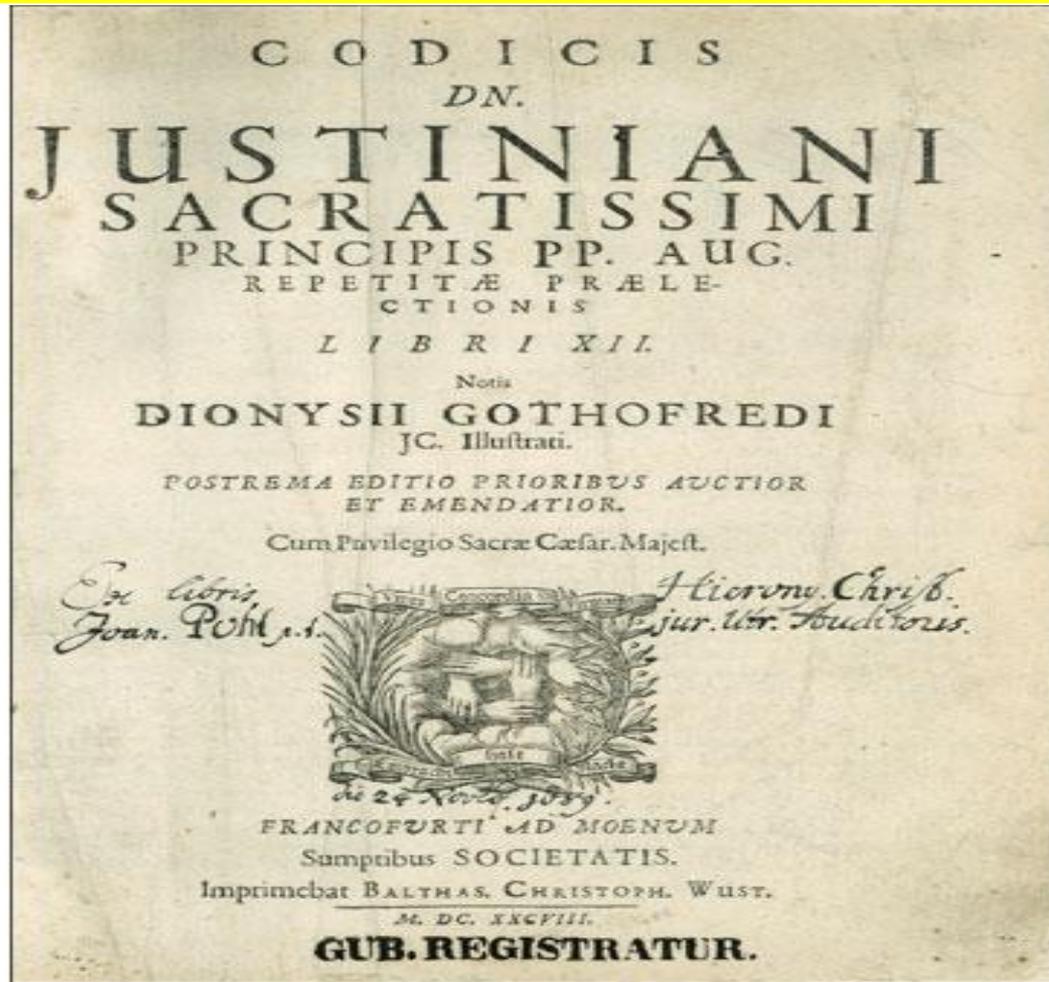
In addition to empire building,
what else did Emperor Justinian value?



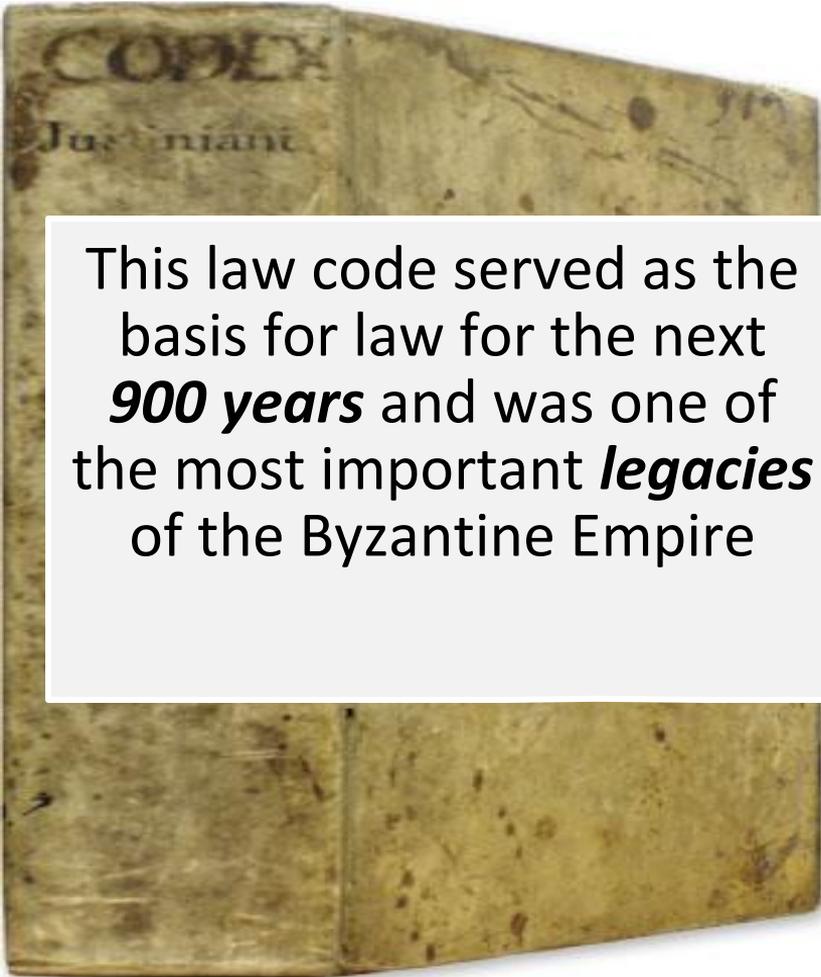
The Justinian Code

To oversee his empire, Justinian ordered **legal experts** to consolidate Roman laws into a single law code

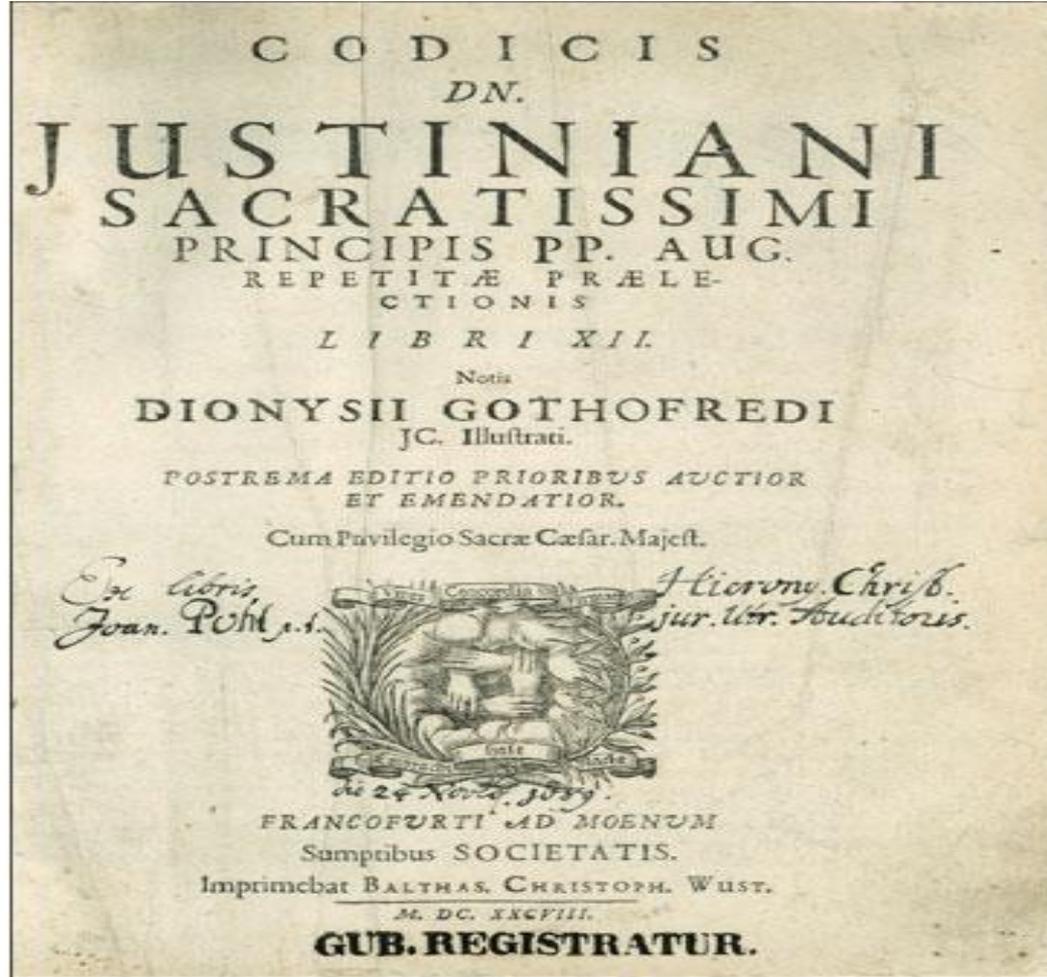
It was called the “**Justinian Code**” and served as the legal basis for criminal justice, **marriage**, property, **slavery**, and women’s rights



The Justinian Code



This law code served as the basis for law for the next **900 years** and was one of the most important **legacies** of the Byzantine Empire



The Justinian Code

The Justinian Code had four components:

THE LAW CODE: nearly 5000 Roman laws that the Byzantines still considered *useful*

THE DIGEST: summarized Romans' *opinions* about laws

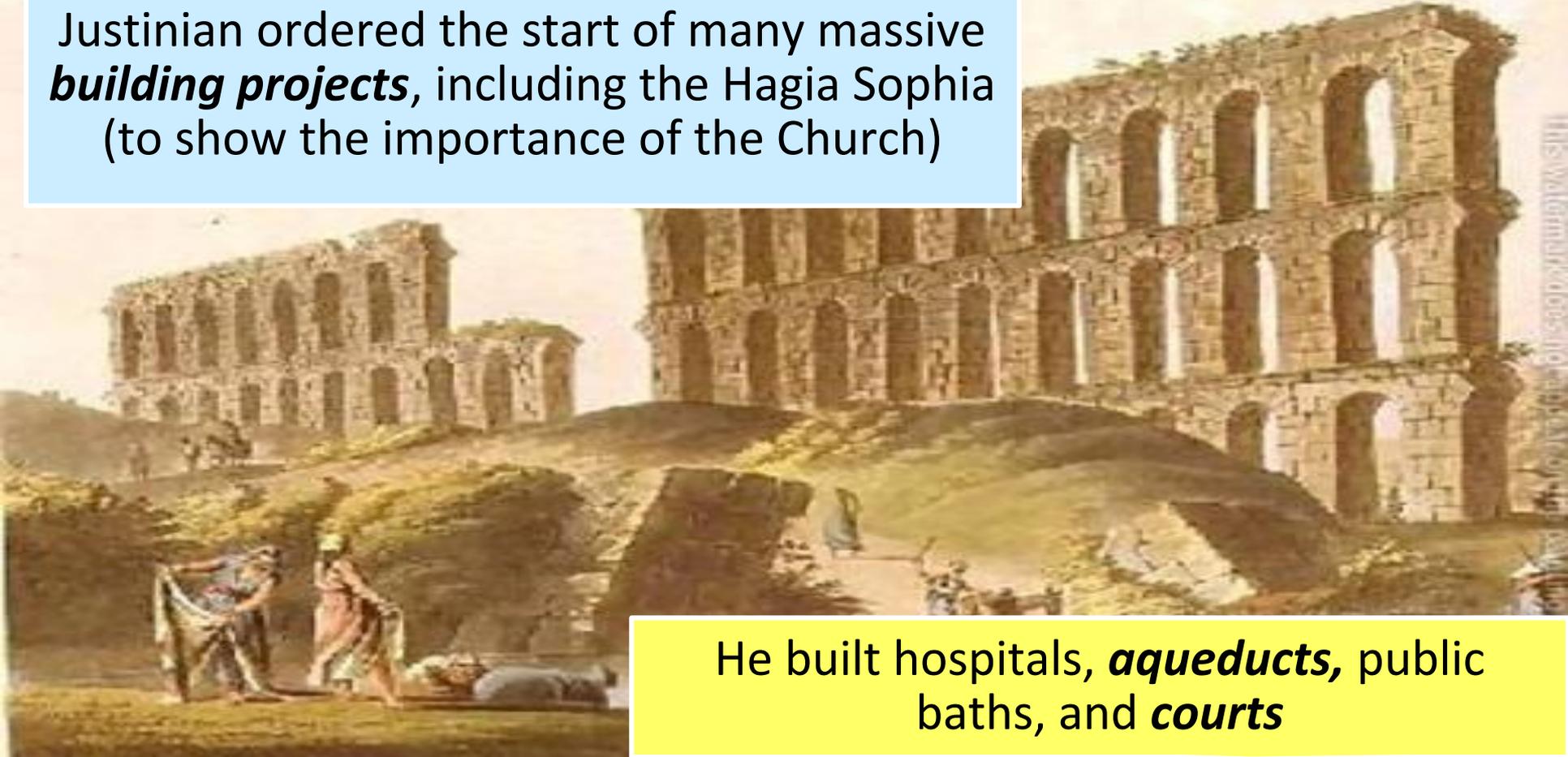
THE INSTITUTES: textbook on how to *use* the laws

THE NOVELLAE (NEW LAWS): contained all new laws that were *passed* after the year 534



Justinian's Building Projects

Justinian ordered the start of many massive **building projects**, including the Hagia Sophia (to show the importance of the Church)



He built hospitals, **aqueducts**, public baths, and **courts**

Empress Theodora

Justinian's wife, the *Empress Theodora*, had a lot of *power* and influence in the Byzantine Empire

She dealt with *foreign leaders*, meeting with and writing to them

She helped her husband pass new laws and *advised* him in matters dealing with other nations

Theodora encouraged the *building* of Christian churches and cathedrals



Empress Theodora



Theodora was a woman of **great beauty** and did many things to help her husband Justinian, but she had a dark side to her

Theodora **fiercely guarded** her husband's regime and her own personal power, ruthlessly ordering **murders** of those she thought were enemies

When a **rebellion** against Justinian rose up (the "Nika Riots"), she sent the army to **slaughter** 30,000 people

Justinian and Theodora



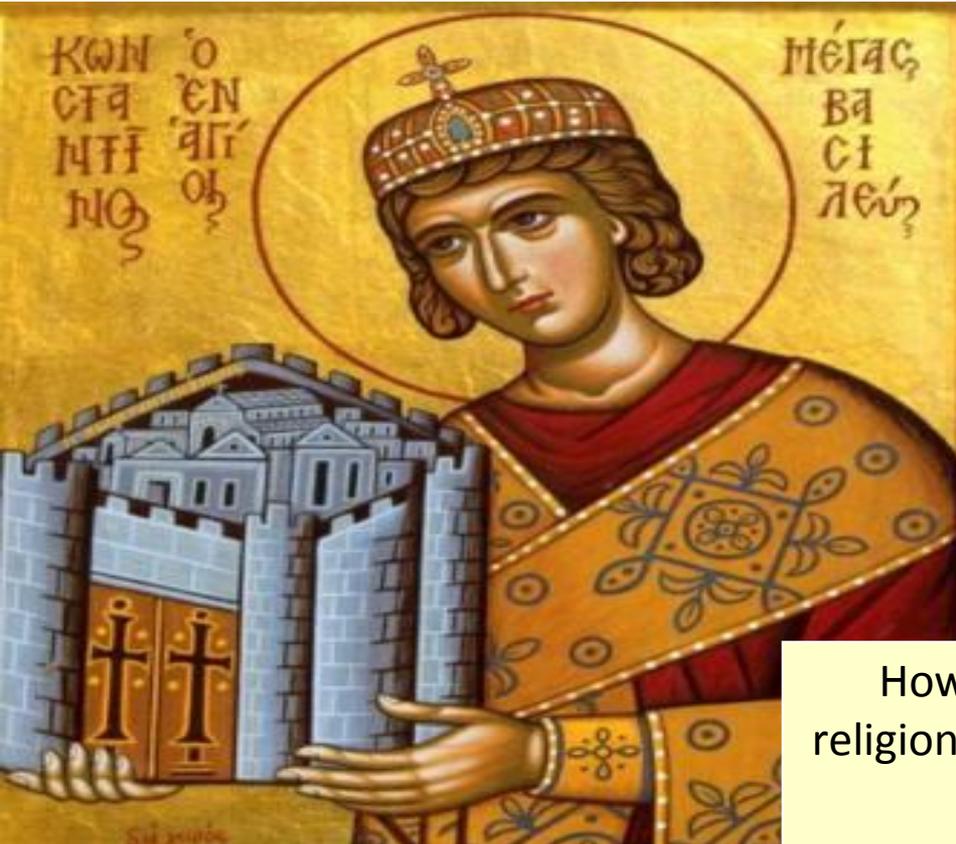
Justinian is remembered as one of the Byzantine Empire's ***greatest*** emperors while Theodora is one of the most ***influential*** women in history

Nevertheless, their ***partnership*** worked and the Byzantine Empire mostly thrived under their rule

Essential Question:

7. Why did the Christian Church split into Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox denominations?

Religion of the Byzantine Empire

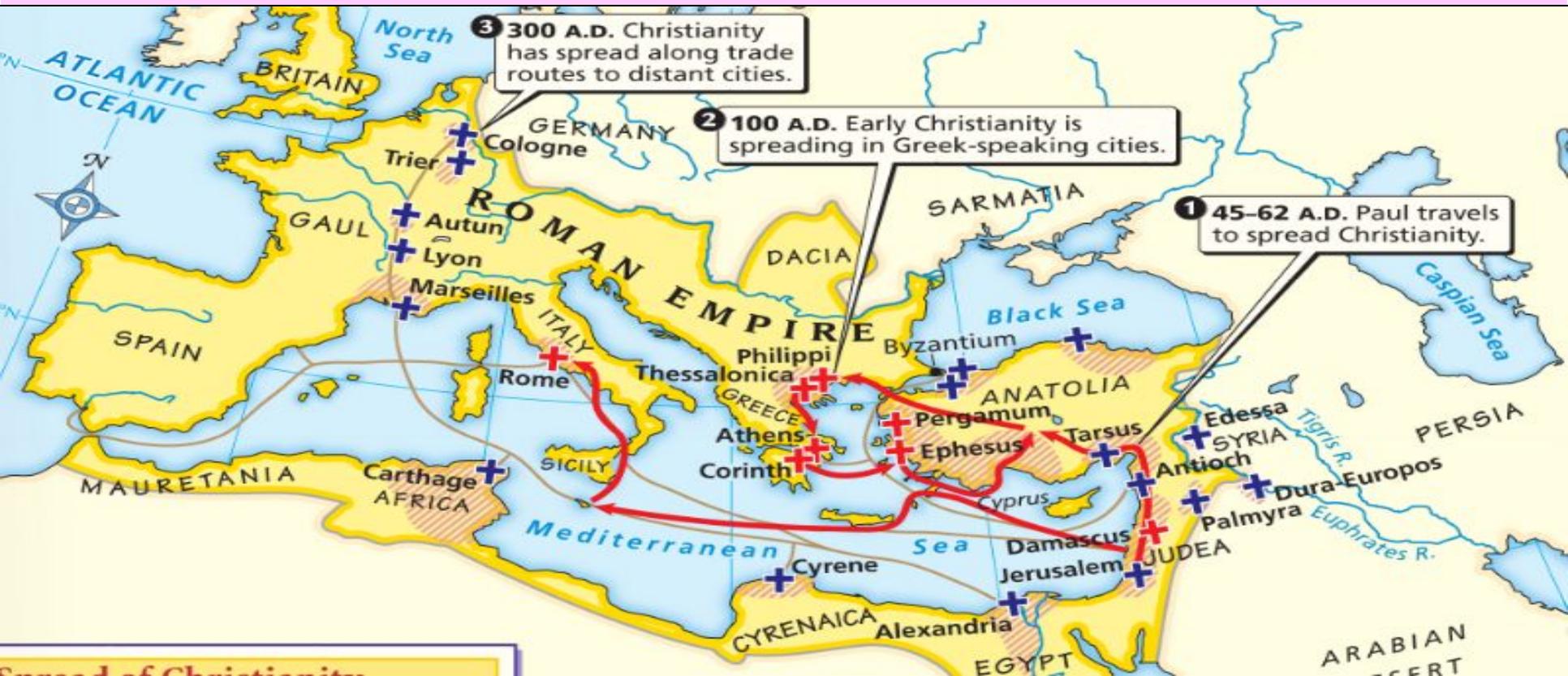


How was religion similar?

ROMAN RELIGION

BYZANTINE RELIGION

Because of its location close to **Judea**, most Byzantines had **converted to Christianity** before people in the Western Roman Empire did



The Division of Christianity



However, Christianity developed ***differently*** in the East due to the ***distance*** and lack of contact between the Eastern and Western halves of the Roman Empire

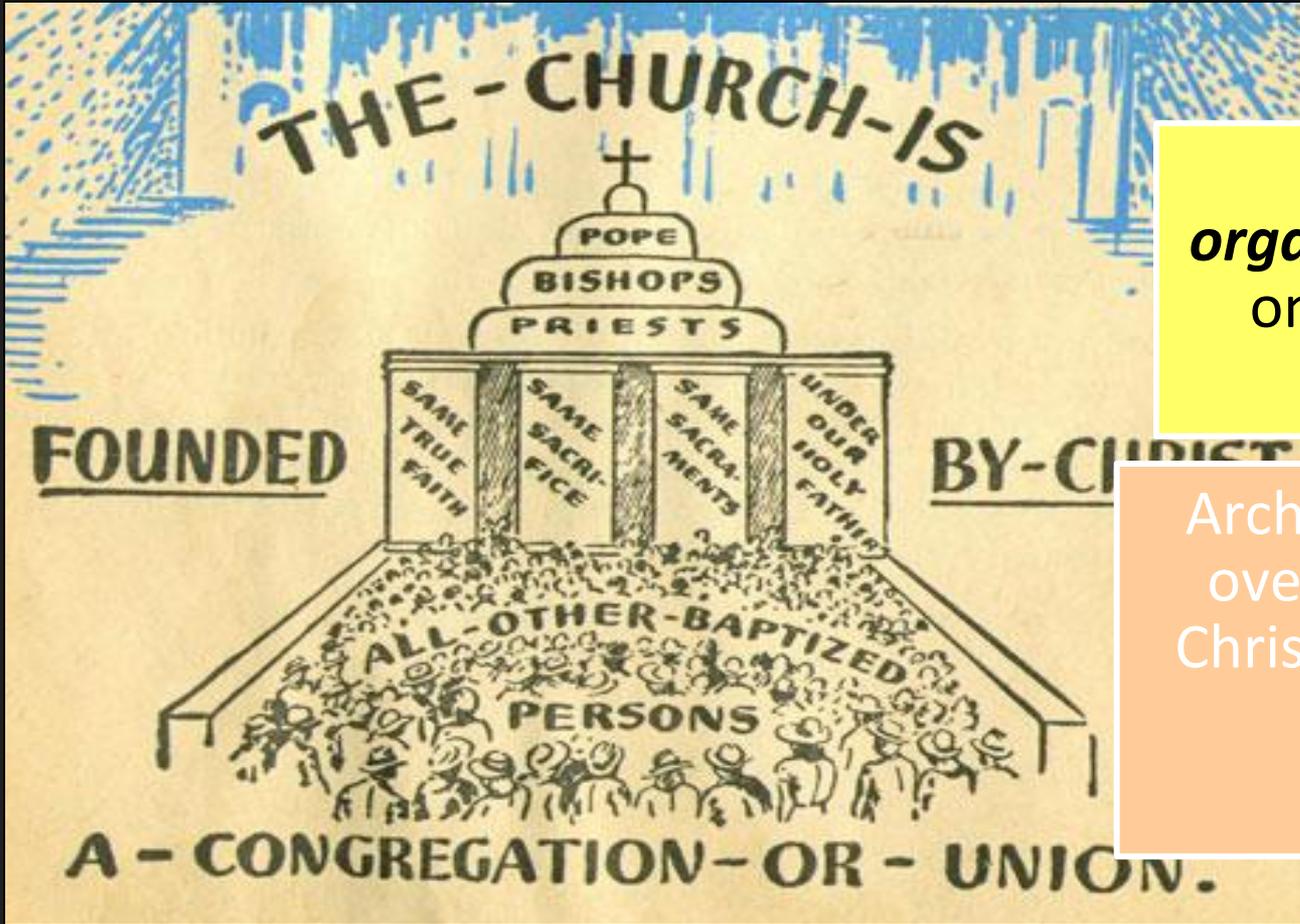
The Division of Christianity



All Christians, both in the East and the West, based their faith on *Jesus Christ* and the *Bible*

However, there were many ***differences*** in Eastern and Western religious ***practices***

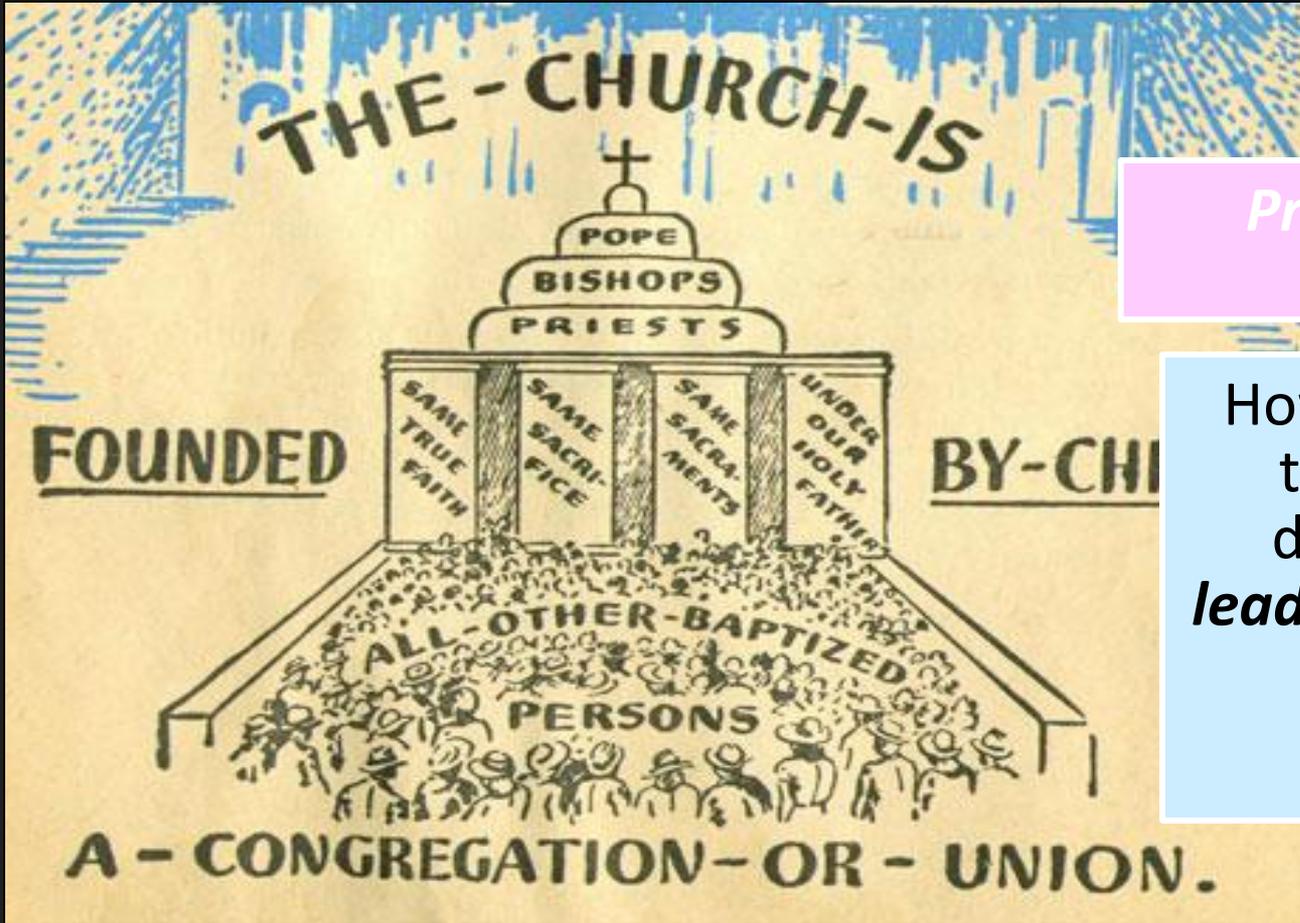
The Division of Christianity



Christianity was **organized** the same way on both sides of the Empire

Archbishops and *bishops* oversaw regions where Christianity was practiced

The Division of Christianity



Priests led individual churches

However, Christians in the East and West disagreed over the *leadership* of the Church

The Division of Christianity



Christians in Western Europe believed that a leader called the *Pope* (Latin for “father”) should oversee the bishops

Christians in Western Europe accepted the Pope as the top *authority figure* of the Church

The Division of Christianity

Eastern European Christians believed that the **Byzantine emperors** had authority over Church matters

The emperors relied on a religious leader called a **Patriarch** to oversee Church operations, but the emperors had **final** authority



The Division of Christianity



Byzantine Christians did ***not accept*** the authority of the Pope

The Division of Christianity

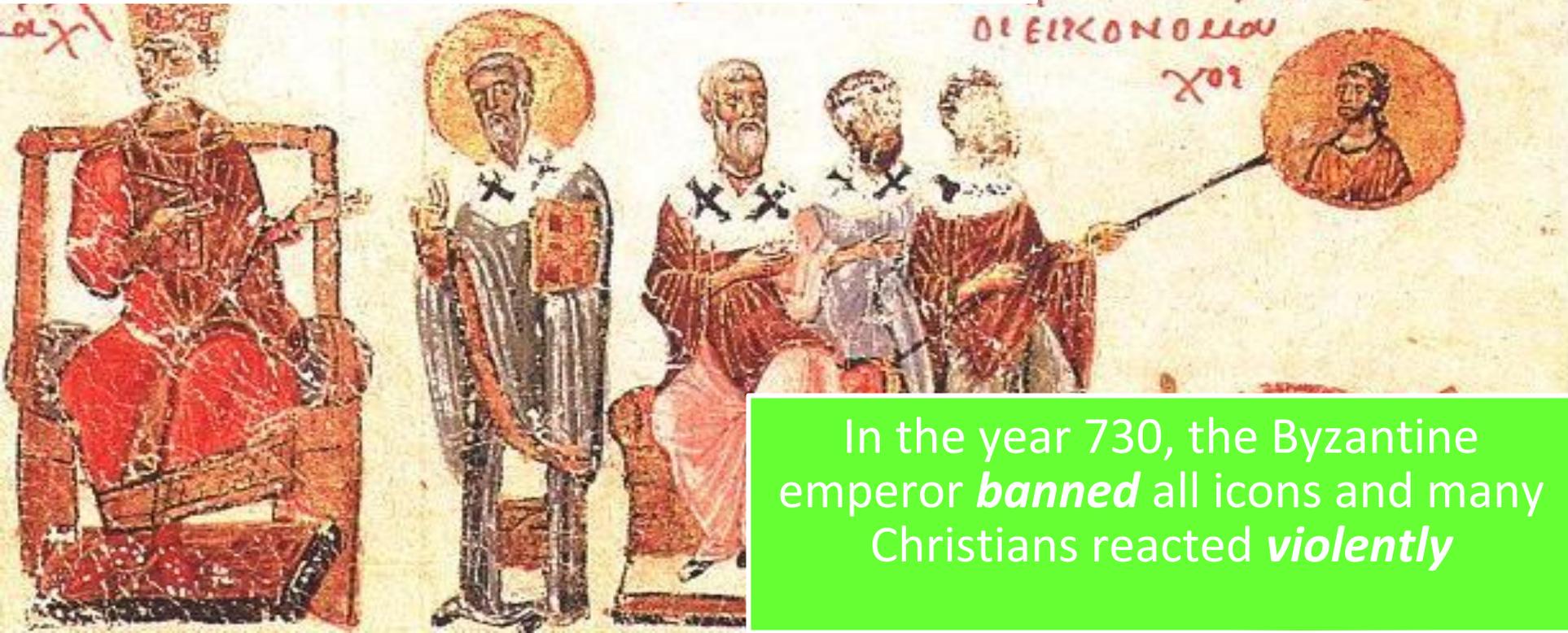


The biggest *controversy* between Christians of the West and East was over the use of *icons*

Icons were *religious images* (paintings, statues) that Christians would have during prayers and worship

The Division of Christianity

Some Christians thought icons were “*idol worship*” (worshipping false images of God)



In the year 730, the Byzantine emperor *banned* all icons and many Christians reacted *violently*



Emperor Leo III
ordered the
destruction of icons
in the Byzantine
Empire

Riots broke out
between people who
wanted icons and
iconoclasts (those who
wanted to ban icons)



The **Pope** in Western Europe supported the use of icons and called Leo III a **heretic** (a believer of false religious ideas)

The Pope **excommunicated** the Byzantine emperor (formally banned him from the Church)

The Division of Christianity



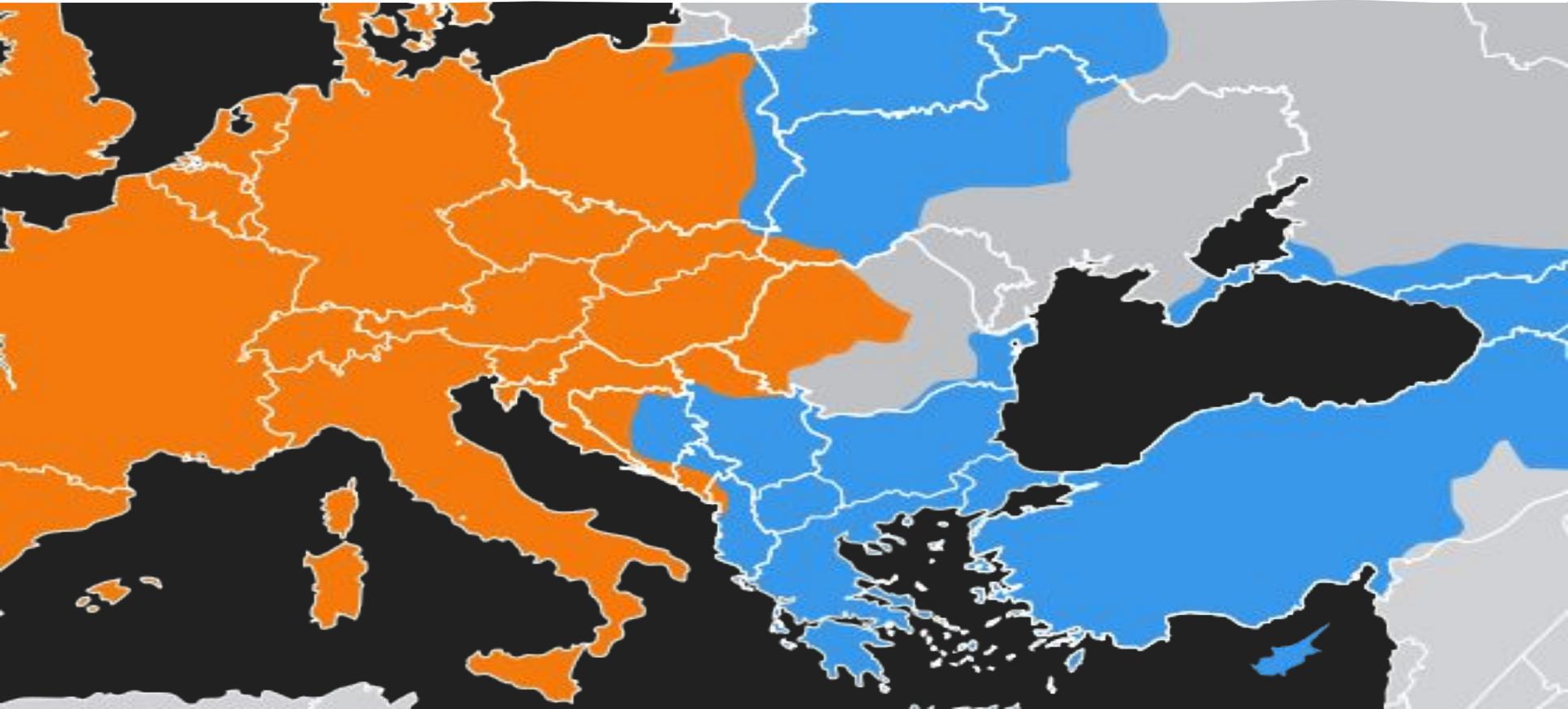
These disagreements led to *deep divisions* between Christians

The *Great Schism* (split) occurred in 1054 CE



Christians in Western Europe became the *Roman Catholic Church*

Christians in Eastern Europe became the *Eastern Orthodox Church*



Roman Catholics and Eastern Orthodox Christians practice their religions differently:

Roman Catholic

Services are conducted in Latin.
The pope has authority over all other bishops.
The pope claims authority over all kings and emperors.
Priests may not marry.
Divorce is not permitted.

Similarities

They base their faith on the gospel of Jesus and the Bible.
They use sacraments such as baptism.
Their religious leaders are priests and bishops.
They seek to convert people.

Eastern Orthodox

Services are conducted in Greek or local languages.
The patriarch and other bishops head the Church as a group.
The emperor claims authority over the patriarch and other bishops of the empire.
Priests may be married.
Divorce is allowed under certain conditions.

Religion in Europe Today

CATHOLIC CHRISTIANS

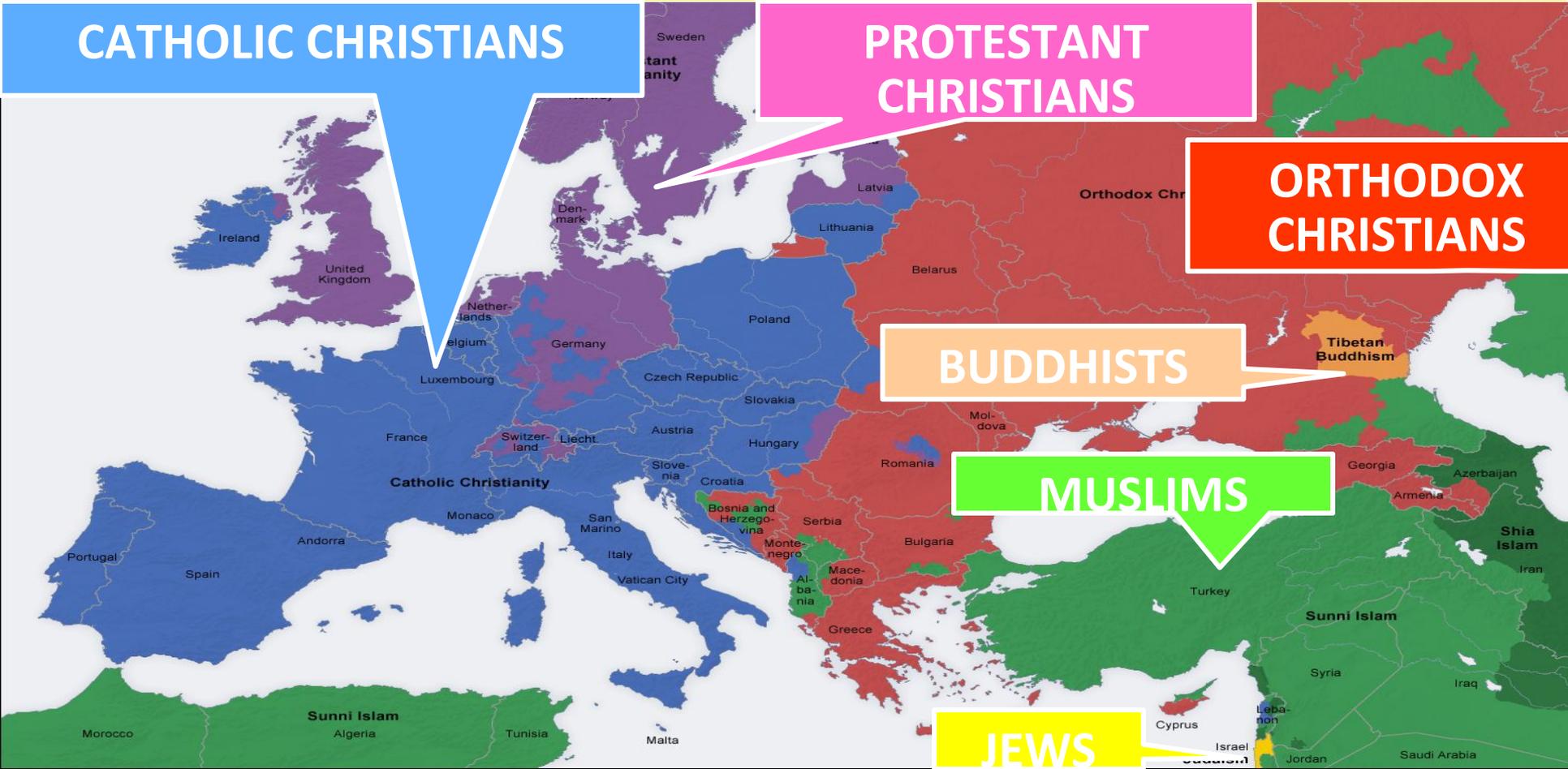
PROTESTANT CHRISTIANS

ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS

BUDDHISTS

MUSLIMS

JEWES



Constantinople Attractions Pamphlet

During the Byzantine Empire the Caesar Justinian took over the Eastern Empire. He built up the capital of Constantinople and began making the city a unique yet familiar place to live. It was called "**New Rome**" because they wanted to emphasize its connection to the glory days of the former Roman Empire.

Use handout packet to create a Real Estate advertisement for why an outsider should settle in Constantinople. Your advertisement should be in the form of a 3-section folded pamphlet, and must include the following:

- The cover needs to have a memorable slogan that would encourage others to pick up the pamphlet: _____/5
- Pamphlet must include a map that shows where Constantinople is located: _____/5
- All pamphlets will include four paragraphs; one for each of the following: **geography**, **government**, **religion**, and **daily life**. Each of these sections must have a **visual component** that represents the key ideas in the paragraphs: _____/16
- Writing must be neat and free from spelling and grammatical errors. _____4
- PAMPHLETS MUST BE COMPLETED AS NEATLY AS POSSIBLE. Include extra creative touches that make the advertisement look authentic. _____5