

Byzantine Empire

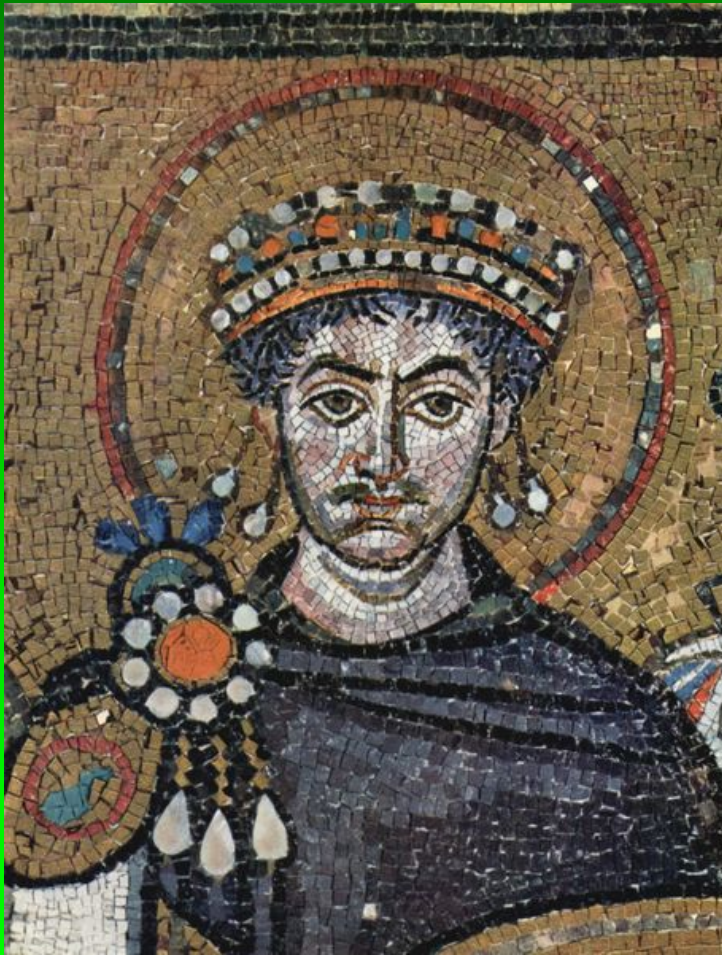


Founding



- Established when Roman Emperor Constantine moved the capital of the Roman Empire from Rome to Byzantium in 300 AD - later to be renamed Constantinople in his honor
- Eastern Roman Emperors assumed control for of all Rome

Justinian



- 527 AD a high-ranking Byzantine nobleman succeeded to the throne of the Eastern Empire
- Justinian's military conquests reestablished rule over most of the previously vast Roman Empire
- Headed the state and the church
- Completely rebuilt the capitol and its fortifications
- Built the Hagia Sophia, hailed as the most splendid church in the Christian world
- Preserved the Greco-Roman culture with emphasis on classical education

Byzantine Culture



- A different kind of culture from that of the West
- Shared some Roman traditions, but most spoke Greek



Justinian Code

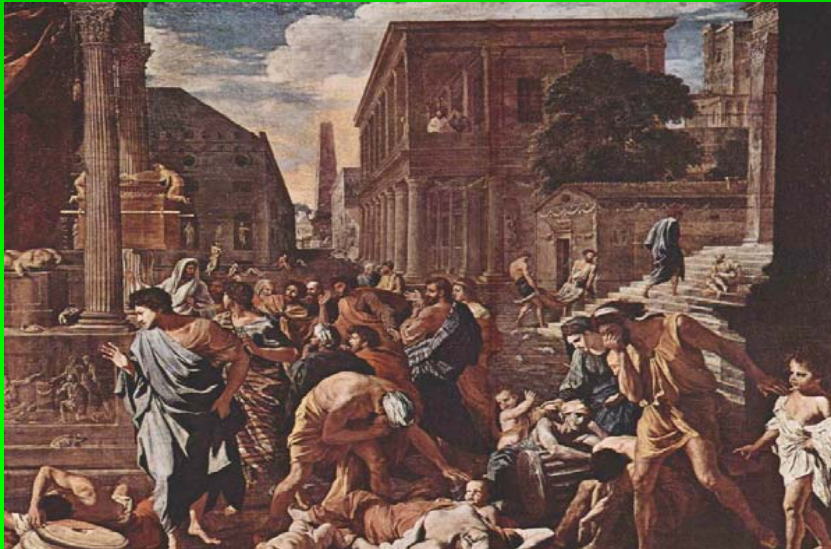


- Justinian created a single uniform code of laws for the empire - Justinian Code
- The code had 5,000 Roman laws
- The Digests - works of Rome's legal scholars
- The Institutes - law textbook
- The Novellae - new laws after 534 AD
- Regulated whole areas of Byzantine life
- Justinian's legacy lasted 900 years

Byzantine Empire



- Rich trade from all corners of the Empire
- Continued Roman traditions of free entertainment in the Hippodrome, an arena that featured chariot races and performing acts
- First record of bubonic plague strikes during Justinian's rule, known as the Plague of Justinian. Thousands died a day during its peak



The Church Divides During the Byzantium Empire



- Each region of the church, East and West, developed separately through time
- Eastern Church followed different early leaders of the church
- Icons, or religious pictures of Mary, Jesus, and holy figures were part of the Eastern religion
- Iconoclasts objected to these figures and thought they led to idol worship
- In 1054 the church split over the following:
 - Roman priests could not marry; Eastern Orthodox priests could marry
 - Pope would lead the church in Rome; a patriarch would lead the Orthodox Church in the East
- Churches became known as the Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church