

Byzantine Empire Flipped Video Notes #2

Name: _____

As the Roman Empire was declining, Diocletian decided to divide the empire in half to make it easier to govern. Constantine controlled the Eastern half of the empire. He named the capital of the Eastern half _____. Before the rule of Constantine, people who did not believe in the Roman Gods were persecuted. Constantine changed this by legalizing all religions. He even converted to Christianity. Eventually, civil war broke out in the Western half of the Roman Empire. The Western half of the Roman Empire fell in 476. The Eastern half of the Roman Empire (the part that included Constantinople) survived, thrived, and became known as the _____.

Geography of the Byzantine Empire:

The Byzantine Empire and its capital of Constantinople held a strategic geographical significance. _____ is located between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea. This was an excellent location because of the access to the sea. Most trade routes between Asia, Europe, and North Africa had to pass through the Byzantine Empire. The location of Constantinople along these trade routes helped the Byzantine Empire become wealthy.

Christianity in the Byzantine Empire:

Since the Byzantine Empire had once been apart of the Roman Empire, many of the Byzantines were Christian. However, in 1054, there was a dispute over the worship of idols/icons in the Christian Religion. The Christian authorities in the Byzantine Empire _____ with Rome. The Byzantines did not believe that they should worship idols/icons. As a result of this dispute, the first split in Christianity occurred with the West in Rome continuing to practice Catholicism and the Byzantines practicing Eastern Orthodox. Later, divisions in Christianity would come about during the Protestant Reformation in the 1500s.

Byzantine's Historical Significance (Preservation of Rome and Greek Culture):

When the Western half of the Roman Empire fell much of the knowledge that had been gained during the Greek and Roman Civilizations had been lost. Since the Eastern part of the Roman Empire survived and thrived as the Byzantine Empire, the Byzantines wanted to preserve much of the Greek and Roman advancements.

The Rule of Justinian:

The Byzantine Empire was ruled by a group of autocrats. _____ were people who had absolute power. The Byzantine's greatest leader was Justinian. Under Justinian's rule, the Byzantine Empire gained some of the Western Roman Empire's land that was lost to the Barbarians and expanded westward to reach its greatest extent. The greatest contribution Justinian made was to codify the laws of the Roman Empire. This meant that all of the laws of the Roman Empire were compiled and written down. These laws were called _____ . Justinian's Code enabled the Roman laws to be kept for generations. Since the laws were preserved they have been used as the basis for many legal systems for Western countries like the _____ .

The Decline of the Byzantine Empire:

When Justinian died in 565 the Byzantine Empire began to decline. Faced with invasions by Barbarians, Persians, and Muslims later emperors lost all the land that Justinian had gained. The Byzantine Empire finally _____ 900 years after the death of Justinian. In 1453 a group called the Ottoman Turks swept in an _____ Constantinople. They changed the name of Constantinople to _____ .