

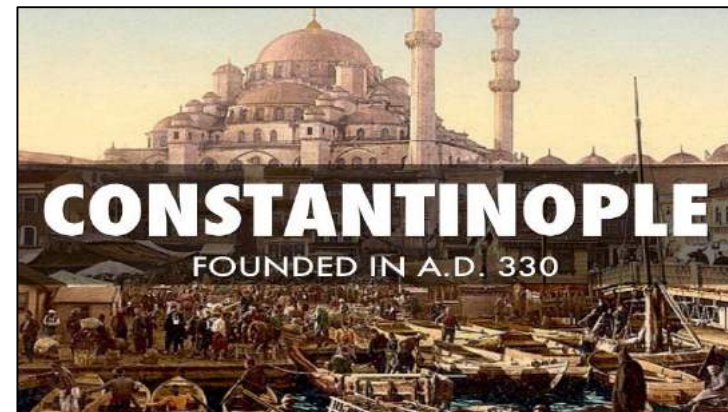
THE BYZANTINE EMPIRE

In 330 A.D., the Roman Emperor Constantine shifted the center of power from the western half of the Roman Empire to the Eastern half. Constantine wanted to create a “**New Rome**” and rebuilt the city of **Byzantium** to be the new capital of the empire. He named the city **Constantinople**, after himself. Although the western half of the Roman Empire crumbled after Germanic tribes invaded in 476 A.D., the eastern half flourished for another 1,000 years as the Byzantine Empire.

Byzantine Empire, A.D. 565



The center of the Byzantine Empire was Constantinople. The city was located on the Bosphorus Strait between the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea. Constantinople lay at the **crossroads of important trade routes** linking Europe and Asia. As a result, Constantinople was the most important city for trade for hundreds of years. The city and its people became very wealthy.



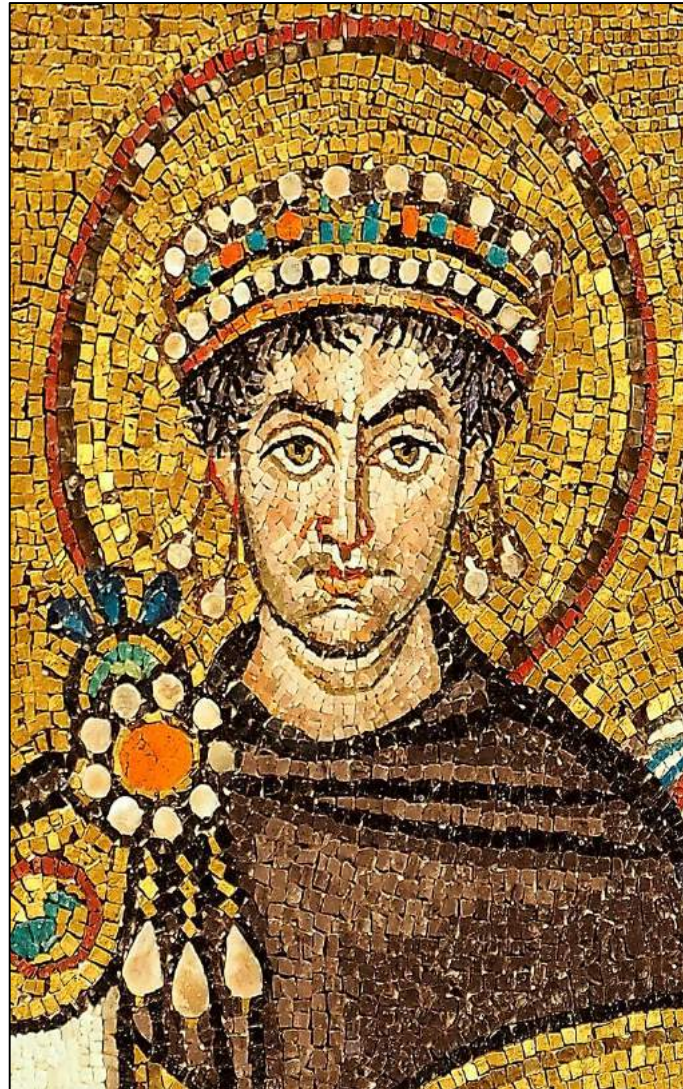
At its height, the Byzantine Empire stretched across parts of **Europe, Southwest Asia, and North Africa**. Although it eventually declined to a small area around Constantinople, the Byzantine Empire’s most important legacy was **preserving the traditions of Greece and Rome** for around 1,000 years after the fall of the western half of the Roman Empire. It also promoted great **cultural diversity**, as it blended Greek, Roman, and Christian influences with other traditions of the Mediterranean World.

JUSTINIAN

Conquest The Byzantine Empire reached its peak under the emperor Justinian, who ruled from 527 to 565 A.D. Justinian reconquered land in the western Roman Empire that had been lost to European invaders in the previous century. He expanded the Byzantine Empire to control North Africa, Italy, and the southern Iberian peninsula. However, he is most known for building Constantinople to rival the glory of Rome and his reform of law into **Justinian's Code**.



Justinian's Code Early on in Justinian's rule, he worked to collect and organize all the laws of ancient Rome. This included important decisions made by Roman judges, as well as laws created by Justinian himself. Eventually, the Code had a great impact in the formation of strong government in Western Europe as rulers used it to centralize their power. By preserving Roman law, Justinian helped shape the law in use today around the world.



The Hagia Sophia One of Justinian's most important legacies is his rebuilding of Constantinople after it was destroyed by riots and fire. The most famous building is the church of Hagia Sophia, which means "**Holy Wisdom**." Its gigantic dome rivaled the Pantheon's in ancient Rome. Though it was built as a Christian Church, Constantinople was conquered in 1453 and Hagia Sophia was converted to a mosque for Islamic prayer. Today it is a museum in the city of Istanbul, Turkey.



THE BYZANTINE CHURCH

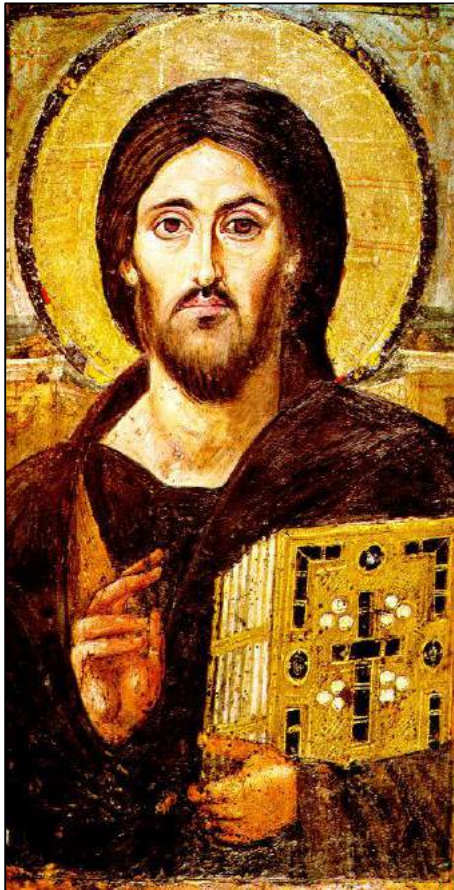
There were many differences in how Christianity was practiced between the Roman Christians and Byzantine Christians. This led to a series of conflicts that would result in a split between eastern and western Christianity.

Roman Church

- ❖ **Papal Supremacy** – The **pope** had authority over all Christians.
- ❖ Priests could not marry.
- ❖ Latin was the language of the Church.

Eastern Church

- ❖ The Byzantine emperor controlled religious affairs and appointed the highest church official, called a **patriarch**, in Constantinople.
- ❖ Priests were allowed to marry.
- ❖ Greek was the language of the Church.



The Great Schism

The most important difference in the churches was the question of who was in charge of Christian leadership. During the Middle Ages, growing disputes about the use of **icons**, or holy images in worship, the resentment of papal supremacy, and other religious differences led the pope in Rome and the patriarch in Constantinople to **excommunicate** each other. This **schism**, or split between eastern and western Christianity is known as the Great Schism. The Byzantine Church became known as the **Eastern, or Greek Orthodox Church**, while the Roman branch became known as the Roman Catholic Church. Each branch has many differences to this day.



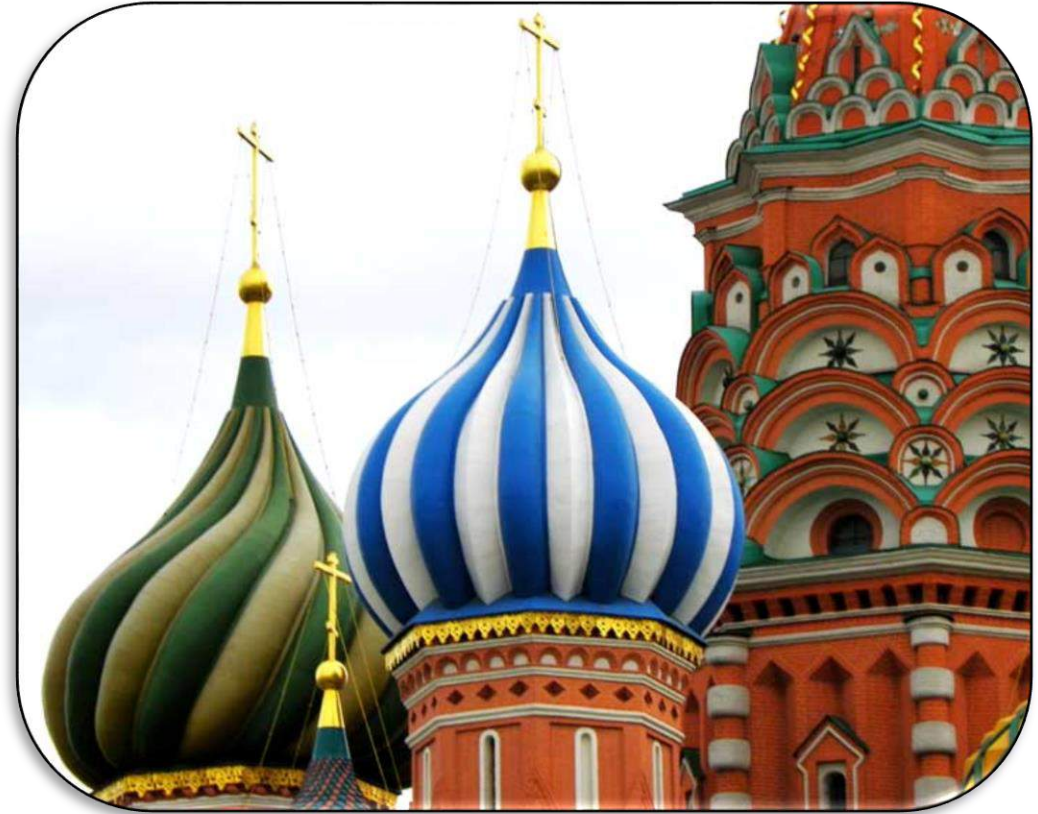
THE BYZANTINE LEGACY

Preservation of Greek and Roman Civilization

The most important legacy of the Byzantine Empire is the preservation of Greek and Roman civilization during the Middle Ages. Byzantine civilization blended Christian religious beliefs with Greek science, philosophy, arts, and literature. They also extended Roman achievements in engineering and law. These aspects of civilization were reawakened in Western Europe at the end of the Middle Ages and helped bring about the Renaissance.

Kiev: the capital of Ukraine today and the city in eastern Europe around which Russian culture developed.

Missionaries: people sent to spread a religious message to another country or area.



Byzantine Influence on the Development of Russia

Another important contribution of the Byzantines is their influence on the development of religion and culture in Russia. As Byzantines began trading with the Russian people in the city of Kiev, missionaries followed to spread Christianity. **The Cyrillic alphabet** was created by missionaries to translate the Bible into Russian's native language. Russia's practice of **eastern Orthodox Christianity**, the Cyrillic alphabet, and the **onion-shaped domes** in their architecture are all due to the cultural diffusion between these two civilizations.

THE RISE OF RUSSIA

The Mongols Rule Russia

In the early 1200s, **Genghis Khan** united the Mongols and took over land stretching from China to eastern Europe. Mongols were nomadic horsemen from central Asia infamous for their violent raids. Their armies were known as the **Golden Horde** because of their yellow tents. The Mongols took control of Russian towns including Kiev and Moscow and ruled with absolute power for 150 years. The major effects of their rule include cutting Russian civilization off from Europe and establishing a system of absolute rule.



Ivan the Great



As Mongol power declined, Russian princes joined together to defeat the Golden Horde and regain power for Russia itself. One of the most important leaders was **Ivan III**, also known as **Ivan the Great**. He brought most of northern Russia under his control and built the framework for absolute rule. He worked to limit the power of **boyars**, or landholding nobles, and adopted many Byzantine practices, including the title of **Tsar**, Russian for Caesar.

Ivan the Terrible



In 1547, Ivan the Great's grandson, Ivan IV, was crowned **Tsar of Russia**. He limited the power of the boyars and introduced laws that tied serfs to the land. Later on in his rule Ivan IV used extreme measures to root out anyone suspected of disloyalty. His enforcers murdered boyars and destroyed entire towns that he believed were enemies of his rule. His actions earned him the nickname "**Ivan the Terrible**" and were a model for future absolute rulers in Russia.