

# Emergence of New Empires



▲ A mosaic of a Byzantine woman

A gold Byzantine incense burner in the shape of a church



330 A.D.

Constantinople becomes capital of Roman Empire

527 A.D.

Justinian I becomes emperor of Byzantine Empire

622 A.D.

Hijrah

750 A.D.

Abbasids become new rulers of Arab Empire

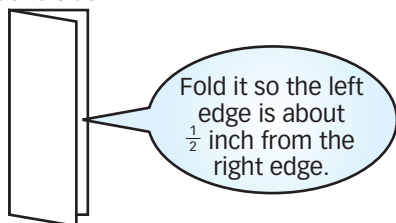


# FOLDABLES™

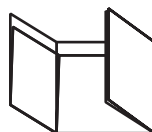
## Study Organizer

**Organizing Information Study Foldable** Make the following foldable to help you organize information about how empires in the Middle East and eastern Europe influenced other civilizations.

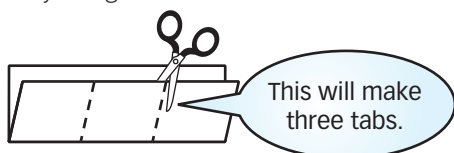
**Step 1** Fold a sheet of paper in half from side to side.



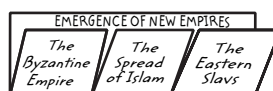
**Step 2** Turn the paper and fold it into thirds.



**Step 3** Unfold and cut the top layer only along both folds.



**Step 4** Label as shown.



**Reading and Writing** As you read the unit, use your foldable to help you organize information about how empires affected other civilizations. Write the main ideas about each empire under the appropriate tab of your foldable.

## PRIMARY SOURCES

### Library

See pages 686–687 for another primary source reading to accompany Unit 7.

**GO TO** Read “The Fall of Constantinople” from the **World History Primary Source Document Library CD-ROM**.



## Journal Notes

In what ways did the new empires that developed in the Middle East and in the eastern part of Europe influence other civilizations? Note details about these empires as you read.

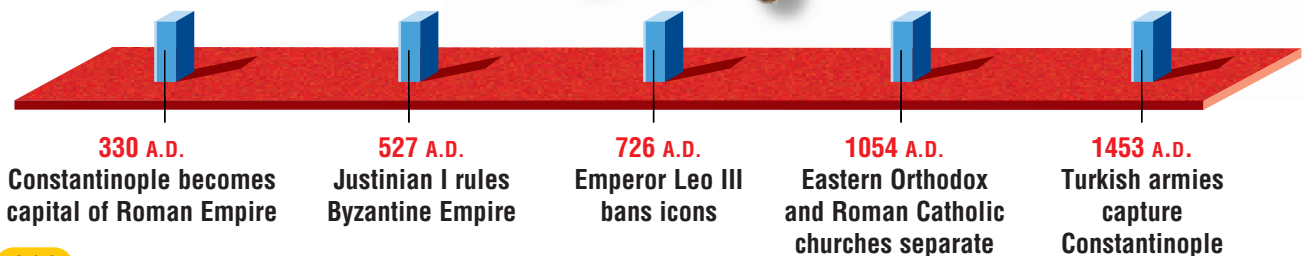
# The Byzantine Empire

330 A.D.–1455 A.D.

◀ A gold Byzantine crown



▲ A Byzantine wedding ring



## Chapter Focus



### Read to Discover

- Why the Byzantine Empire survived and prospered for 1,000 years.
- Why Constantinople was important to the empire.
- What role the Eastern Orthodox Church played in the Byzantine Empire.
- What forces helped bring about the decline of the Byzantine Empire.



### Terms to Learn

relics  
theology  
Greek fire  
icons



### People to Know

Constantine I  
Justinian  
Theodora  
Leo III



### Places to Locate

Constantinople  
Byzantium  
Hagia Sophia

**Why It's Important** Emperor Constantine I moved the capital of the Roman Empire from Rome to Constantinople in about 330. About 100 years later, the Roman Empire in the West fell. The Roman Empire in the East, however, survived and prospered. It became known as the Byzantine Empire. Its people were called Byzantines. The Byzantines built a civilization based on a blend of Greek, Roman, and Christian ideas.

The empire in the East survived for several reasons. Constantinople was a mighty fortress that needed few soldiers to defend it. This freed soldiers to protect other areas of the empire. The empire's wealth supported a large army and was used to pay invaders to move farther and farther west.

### Chapter Overview

Visit the *Human Heritage* Web site at [humanheritage.glencoe.com](http://humanheritage.glencoe.com) and click on **Chapter 21—Chapter Overviews** to preview this chapter.



**CLICK HERE**

## SECTION 1 Constantinople

When Constantine first chose the old Greek city of Byzantium as the place for his new capital, he was aware of its advantages. The Roman Empire depended on trade, and the great centers of trade lay to the east. Byzantium was on the waterway between the Black and Aegean seas. Its harbor offered a safe haven for fishing boats, merchant ships, and warships. The city sat at the crossroads of the trading routes between Europe and Asia. Its location gave it control of the sea trade between Kievan Rus and the Mediterranean area. One of the most important east-west land routes passed through the city, too.



## People in History



**Constantine I**  
c. 288 A.D.–337 A.D.

### Roman Emperor

Born in what is now Serbia, Constantine grew up the son of a Roman army officer. In 305 A.D., he became the co-emperor of Rome, but he continued to fight alongside the troops. During one battle, he saw a vision that convinced him to become the first Roman Emperor to accept Christianity. In 324 A.D., he triumphed as sole ruler of Rome and ordered a new capital city built at Byzantium. His rule helped ensure the eastward spread of Christianity.

The location also favored the city's defense. The sea protected it on three sides, and a huge wall protected it on the fourth side. Later, a huge chain was even strung across the city's north harbor for greater protection. Invaders would not easily take the new capital, which was renamed Constantinople.

It took more than four years to build Constantinople. Constantine modeled it after Rome. The city stood on seven hills. Government buildings and palaces were designed in the Roman style. Streets were narrow and apartment houses crowded. Constantinople even had an oval arena like the Circus Maximus where races and other events were held.

The city's political and social life was patterned on that of Rome, too. The emperor operated under Roman laws and ruled with the help of highly trained officials, who took charge of building roads, bridges, wells, and caravan shelters. The army followed Roman military customs. The poor people of Constantinople received free bread and enjoyed circuses and chariot races put on by the government. The wealthy people lived in town or on large farming estates. In fact, Constantine convinced many of the wealthy Romans to move to Constantinople by offering to build them palaces.

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**CONSTANTINOPLE** Constantinople's location made it an important center for trade. The wealth from this trade was used to make Constantinople an ornate and beautiful city. Citizens shown in this painting gather to watch a royal procession. **Why was Constantinople called the "new Rome"?**



The family was the center of social life for most Byzantines. The majority of them made their living through farming, herding, or working as laborers. There was, however, one important difference between Constantinople and Rome. From the beginning, Constantinople was a Christian city. It had been dedicated to God by Constantine, who viewed it as the center of a great Christian empire. Church leaders were consulted about all important events of everyday life and had great influence over the people. For a young man of Constantinople, a career in the church was considered a very high goal.

Constantinople had many Christian churches. Constantine saw to it that they were the most magnificent buildings in the city. Government and church leaders gathered **relics** (rel' icks), or valued holy objects from the past, from throughout the Christian world. These were placed in public monuments, palaces, and churches. The bodies of saints rested in beautiful shrines. Thousands of people came to these shrines to pray to God for cures for their ills.

The city's Christian values could be seen in the way needy people were treated. The Byzantines believed that each Christian was responsible for the well-being of other Christians. Wealthy Byzantines formed organizations to care for the poor, the aged, and the blind. Even members of the emperor's household took great pride in founding and supporting good causes.

About 600,000 people lived in Constantinople during Constantine's rule. There were Greeks, Turks, Italians, Slavs, Persians, Armenians, and Jews. They spoke Greek among themselves but used Latin, the official language, for government business. Most people became Christians, and all called themselves Romans. Byzantine nobles and rulers continued to boast of their ties to Rome for the next 1,100 years.



Byzantine Coins



### Reading Check

What are **relics**, and why did they attract thousands of people to Constantinople?



### Student Web Activity

Visit the *Human Heritage* Web site at [humanheritage.glencoe.com](http://humanheritage.glencoe.com)

and click on **Chapter 21—Student Web Activities** to find out more about the city of Constantinople.



## Section 1 Assessment

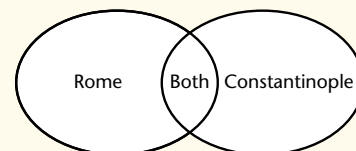
- 1. Define:** relics.
- Why did Constantine choose Byzantium as the site for the empire's new capital?
- How could the influence of Christianity be seen in the city?

### Critical Thinking

- 4. Demonstrating Reasoned Judgment**  
In your opinion, what were some of the good things about living in Constantinople?

## Graphic Organizer Activity

- 5.** Draw this diagram, and use it to compare the cities of Rome and Constantinople.





## SECTION 2 Justinian I

After Constantine died, his sons ruled the empire. They were followed first by a general named Julian and then by a series of other emperors. Finally, in 527, a Macedonian named Justinian (juh stin' ē uhn) came to the throne. He was a strong ruler who came to be considered the greatest Byzantine emperor.

Justinian had served in the army and was a good general. He was well trained in law, music, architecture, and **theology** (thē ol' uh jē ), or the study of religion. The people who served him were chosen for their abilities rather than for their wealth or social positions.

As emperor, Justinian controlled the army and navy, made the laws, headed the Church and the government, and was supreme judge. He could declare war or make peace. The Church taught that the emperor's acts were inspired by God. Therefore, what Justinian did could not be questioned. Those who came into contact with him were expected to bow down before him and kiss his feet and hands.

 **Reading Check**  
What is **theology**?

### Fun Facts

**Theodora** Although Theodora was the daughter of a bear-keeper with a traveling circus, her strong will took her as far as the royal court. Justinian's court historian commented: "She never did anything at any time as the result of persuasion. . . . She claimed the right to govern the whole Roman Empire."

**Theodora** Justinian's wife, the empress Theodora (thē uh dor' uh), was a great help to him. Theodora's family had been poor, and she had worked as an actress before meeting Justinian.

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**JUSTINIAN AND THEODORA** Theodora had a much greater influence on Byzantine government than other empresses. In this painting she urges Justinian to take action against a revolt. **What problems did Justinian face in marrying Theodora?**



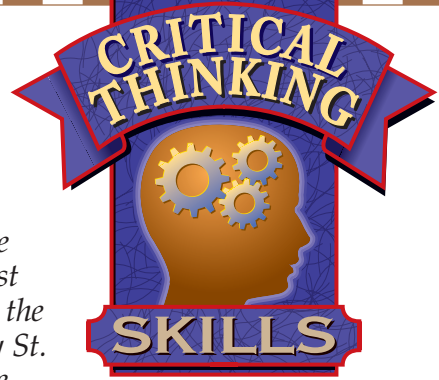
# Making Generalizations

If you say, "We have a good soccer team," you are making a generalization, or general statement, about your team. If you go on to say that the team has not lost a game this season and is the top-rated team, you are providing evidence to support your generalization. When studying history, it is often necessary to put together pieces of information—supporting statements—to arrive at a full picture.

**Learning the Skill** In some cases, authors provide only supporting statements, and you will need to make generalizations on your own. To make generalizations, follow these steps:

- Identify the subject matter and gather facts and examples related to it.
- Identify similarities or patterns among these facts.
- Use these similarities or patterns to form general ideas about the subject.

Read the passage about Hagia Sophia, a cathedral built by Justinian, and study the picture on this page. Then answer the questions that follow.



*Hagia Sophia is the fourth largest cathedral in the world. Only St. Paul's Cathedral in England and St. Peter's Cathedral and Milan Cathedral in Italy are larger.*

*The building's huge round dome can be seen from everywhere in the church. The dome rests on four arches and four gigantic piers. It measures 102 feet (31 m) in diameter and stands 184 feet (56 m) high. A series of 40 arching windows flood the interior with light and draw the visitor's eyes upward.*

## GENERALIZATIONS:

- a. It took great engineering skills to build Hagia Sophia.
- b. Hagia Sophia made Constantinople the center of the Christian world.
- c. Hagia Sophia is one of the world's greatest churches.
- d. The arching windows are Hagia Sophia's most impressive feature.

## Skill Practice

1. Which of the generalizations above are supported by details in the passage?
2. Which of the generalizations are not supported by the passage?
3. Read Section 2 on pages 320–324. Write two generalizations about Justinian's wife, Theodora.




Glencoe's **Skillbuilder Interactive Workbook CD-ROM, Level 1**, provides instruction and practice in key social studies skills.



The people of the empire had a low opinion of actresses. There was even a law forbidding marriages between them and high government officials. Justinian, however, wanted to marry Theodora. After he became emperor, he abolished the law and made Theodora his empress.

At first, Theodora only entertained guests and attended palace ceremonies. Gradually, however, she began to take an interest in politics. Soon she was helping Justinian fill government and church offices. She also convinced Justinian to allow women more rights. For the first time, a Byzantine wife could own land equal in value to her **dowry** (dow' rē), or the wealth she brought with her when she married. A widow could raise and support her young children without government interference.

In 532, Theodora made her most important contribution. A group of senators had organized a revolt to protest high taxes. They were able to gain much support from both the poor and the rich. The poor were angry because they were receiving less free food and entertainment. The rich were angry because, for the first time, they had to pay taxes. The leaders of the revolt were prepared to crown a new emperor. Justinian's advisers urged him to leave the city. Theodora, however, urged him to stay and fight. Justinian and his supporters took Theodora's advice. They stayed in Constantinople, trapped the rebels, killed 300,000 of them, and crushed the uprising. As a result, Justinian kept control of the government and became an even stronger ruler.

 **Reading Check**  
What is a **dowry**, and what did Theodora say it should be used to measure?

## Then... & Now

**Hagia Sophia** Hagia Sophia, first built in the reign of Constantine, was twice destroyed by fire. When Justinian rebuilt the church, he ordered it be made fireproof. Earthquakes caused the dome to collapse in 559, but it too was rebuilt. The building became a mosque in 1453, and today it is a museum.

**Law and Public Works** Justinian was very interested in law and spent much time reading the laws made by other emperors. He decided that the old legal system was too complicated and disorganized. He chose ten men to work out a simpler and better system. This group was headed by a legal scholar named Tribonian (tri bō' nē ahn).

Tribonian and the others studied the existing laws. They did away with those that were no longer needed. They organized and rewrote those laws that remained. In six years, they had developed a legal code that became the law of the land.

This code came to be known as the Justinian Code. It is considered one of Justinian's greatest achievements. It provided a summary of Roman legal thinking. It also gave later generations insight into the basic ideas of Roman law. It has had a great influence on the legal systems of almost every western country.

Justinian was as interested in public works as he was in law. He was almost always busy with some building program. He built churches, bridges, monasteries, and forums. He also built a system of forts connected by a large network of roads. When an earthquake destroyed Antioch, he had the whole city rebuilt.

One of Justinian's greatest accomplishments was the church called Hagia Sophia (hag' ē ī sō fē' uh), or "Holy Wisdom."

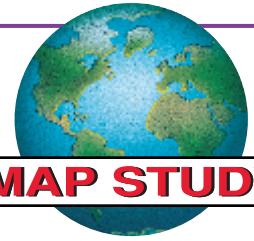
Nearly 10,000 workers, watched over by 200 supervisors, labored in shifts to build the church. It was built exactly as Justinian planned. The church had a gold altar and walls of polished marble. Gold and silver ornaments, woven cloth, and colorful **mosaics** (mō zā' iks), or pictures made up of many bits of colored glass or stone, were everywhere. Figures of Justinian and Theodora were among the angels and saints that lined the walls.

Most impressive was the huge dome that rose high over the central part of the church. It was the first time such a huge circular dome had been set atop a rectangular opening. During the day, sunlight poured through the many windows in the dome. At night, thousands of oil lamps turned the building into a beacon that could be seen for miles.

Hagia Sophia was later called St. Sophia. For more than 900 years, it served as the religious center of the Byzantine Empire. It still stands today.

**Conquest** Justinian wanted to reunite the eastern and western parts of the empire and restore the glory and power that was Rome's. To do this, he needed to conquer the German kingdoms in western Europe and North Africa. He appointed an officer named Belisarius (bel uh sar' ē uhs) to reorganize and lead the Byzantine army.

 **Reading Check**  
What are mosaics?



## MAP STUDY

### THE WORLD IN SPATIAL TERMS

Justinian conquered parts of Italy, North Africa, and Spain.

About how many miles (km) did the Byzantine Empire under Justinian extend from its most eastern to its most western points?

## The Byzantine Empire Under Justinian





Until that time, the cavalry had been divided into groups of private soldiers hired by landowning nobles. Each group had its own commanders. Foot soldiers, who made up the largest part of the army, were called up when needed and then sent back to their homes. As a result, they felt little loyalty toward their officers.

When Belisarius took command, he set up a basic group of loyal and heavily armed cavalry soldiers. The group was so strong that the other soldiers willingly obeyed its orders. Then, Belisarius developed a series of battle moves that greatly strengthened the army's striking power.

During this time, the Byzantine navy was also improved, and the first secret weapon in history was developed. It was called **Greek fire**, a chemical mixture that ignited when it came into contact with water. Greek fire burned a person's skin and was hard to put out. The Byzantines guarded their secret so carefully that its exact formula is still unknown.

With these improvements, the Byzantines were able to control more of the Mediterranean. They were also able to win back much of Italy and North Africa. They defeated the Persians, and ensured the security of the empire's eastern borders. Most of the western provinces Justinian regained, however, were lost again a generation or so after his death.



### Reading Check

Why was Greek fire the Byzantines' "secret weapon"?

## Section 2 Assessment

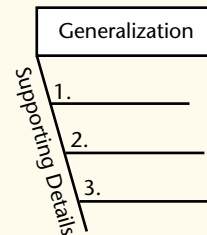
1. **Define:** theology, dowry, mosaics, Greek fire.
2. How did Justinian feel about the old system of Roman laws? What did he do about it?
3. What was Justinian's goal for the Byzantine Empire?

### Critical Thinking

4. **Making Inferences** What do you think Justinian would say about the state of the American legal system today? Explain.

## Graphic Organizer Activity

5. Draw this diagram, and use it to write and support a generalization about improvements made to the Byzantine army.



## SECTION 3 The Church

Church and government worked closely together in the Byzantine Empire. Christianity was the official religion, which meant that everyone in the empire was supposed to be a Christian. The Byzantines believed the emperor represented Christ on Earth. Thus, the emperor was not only the head of the government but also of the Church.

# Linking Across Time

**Mosaics** Byzantine artists excelled in the use of glass mosaics, especially in the design of icons (right). Today mosaics are still an important art form in Mexico (far right), continuing a tradition started by ancient peoples such as the Maya and Aztec. **Why did the Byzantines argue over the use of icons?**




The leader of the Church in Constantinople was called the Patriarch. He was chosen by the emperor. Under him were the **metropolitans** (met ruh pol' uh tuhns), or church officials in charge of the empire's important areas. Under them were the bishops and priests. Most priests were married. All higher Church officials, however, came from monasteries and were not married.

The monasteries played an important role in the Byzantine Empire. They helped the poor and ran hospitals and schools for needy children. They sent missionaries to neighboring lands to help keep the peace. These missionaries translated parts of the Bible and some religious services into several eastern European languages. They believed more people would become Christians if the Bible and Church ceremonies were in their own language.

Some missionaries, including a man named Cyril (sir' uhl), traveled among the Slavs, a people who had settled in eastern Europe. These missionaries gave the Slavs a new alphabet. It was based on the Greek alphabet and was called the Cyrillic (suh ril' ik) alphabet in honor of the man who had helped create it.

Religion was very important to the Byzantines. They often argued about religious matters. One point divided the Byzantines for more than 100 years. It centered on whether or not **icons** (ī' konz), or religious images, should be used in worship.

Many Byzantines honored icons. They covered the walls of their churches with them. Monasteries owned icons that were

 **Reading Check**  
What was the role of the **metropolitans** in the Byzantine Church?

 **Reading Check**  
What are **icons**?





Painting of Cyril

believed to work miracles. Some Byzantines, however, wanted an end to the use of icons. They thought honoring them was a form of idol worship forbidden by God.

In 726, Emperor Leo III ordered a stop to the use of icons in religious worship. He did not approve of icons, and he wanted to prevent church officials who favored them from gaining too much power. Leo and the church leaders argued over this. Most people refused to give up their icons. In 843, the emperor realized the cause was lost and once again allowed their use.

The fight over icons damaged the empire's relations with western Europe. Because so few people in the West could read, church leaders there used images instead of the written word to explain Christian teachings. When Leo decided to do away with icons, the Pope called a council of bishops. The council declared that Leo and his supporters were no longer Church members.

An argument also developed between the Pope and the Patriarch. The Patriarch would not recognize the Pope as head of the Church. The Pope broke his ties with the Byzantine emperor and turned to the Frankish kings for military protection. When the Pope crowned Charlemagne "Emperor of the Romans" in 800, the Byzantines were very angry. They believed this title belonged only to their emperor. These disputes helped pave the way for the break between Western and Eastern Christianity in 1054.

## Section 3 Assessment

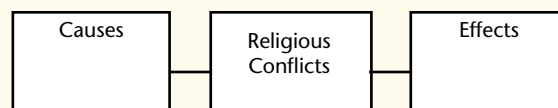
1. **Define:** metropolitans, icons.
2. What role did Christianity play in the Byzantine Empire?
3. What were some of the contributions of monasteries to Byzantine society and culture?

### Critical Thinking

4. **Making Inferences** Why do you think the Slavs needed an alphabet that was different from the one used in the Byzantine Empire?

## Graphic Organizer Activity

5. Draw this diagram, and use it to show the causes and effects of conflicts between the Pope in Rome and the Patriarch of Constantinople.



## SECTION 4 Decline of the Empire

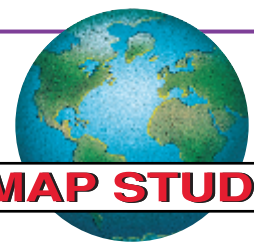
The Byzantine Empire lasted for about 1,100 years. Its capital was the largest, richest, and most beautiful city in Europe. Its people were among the most educated and creative of that time. They preserved Greek culture and Roman law for other civilizations. They also spread Christianity to peoples in the East. The empire did much to help the growth of trade. It also gave the

world new techniques in the fine arts. Even with all of these achievements, however, forces from both inside and outside the empire weakened it and led to its downfall.

Early Byzantine emperors had counted on farmers to make up the army. In return for their services, these farmers were given land. By the 1100s, however, the empire's borders were safe, and not as many soldiers were needed. The emperor decided to cut costs by changing the policy toward the farmers. Once they had lost their land, the farmers found little reason to remain loyal to the empire.

The empire also began to have problems with trade. When the Vikings conquered Byzantine lands in southern Italy in 1080, they threatened to attack Constantinople. The Byzantines no longer had enough soldiers to fight them. So, they turned for help to the Italian city-state of Venice. The Venetians defeated the Vikings. In return, the Byzantine emperor gave them the right to do business tax-free in all the empire's cities. Venetian ships and merchants soon controlled most of the empire's trade. This meant a great loss of income for the Byzantines.

Meanwhile, Christians from the West and Muslims from the East attacked the empire. Asia Minor was lost to these invaders. This greatly weakened the empire, which had depended on Asia Minor for food and materials as well as soldiers. One by one, the invaders took over more lands. Before long, the Byzantine Empire was reduced to a small area around Constantinople.



### MAP STUDY

#### PLACES AND REGIONS

The Byzantine Empire was frequently attacked by invading armies. Compare this map with the map on page 323. **What territory did the Byzantine Empire lose between 565 and 1453?**



The population dropped to less than 100,000. Docks and marketplaces stood empty. Even the emperors were poor. When Turkish armies with guns and gunpowder attacked Constantinople in 1453, they easily conquered the Byzantines.

## Section 4 Assessment

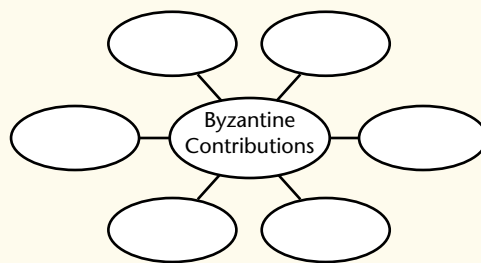
1. What problems within the Byzantine Empire helped bring about its decline?
2. What outside forces helped cause the empire's downfall?

### Critical Thinking

3. **Demonstrating Reasoned Judgment**  
Do you think the Byzantine emperor was wise in asking Venice for help against the Vikings? Why or why not?

## Graphic Organizer Activity

4. Draw this diagram, and use it to show Byzantine contributions to world civilization.



# Chapter Summary & Study Guide

1. Around 330, Constantine moved the capital of the Roman Empire to Constantinople, the site of the old Greek city of Byzantium.
2. After the fall of Rome, the Roman Empire in the East became known as the Byzantine Empire.
3. Although Constantine patterned much of life in Constantinople after Rome, his acceptance of Christianity also helped shape the city.
4. When Justinian became emperor in 527, he was influenced in some of his decisions by the empress Theodora, who favored increased women's rights.
5. Two of Justinian's greatest achievements were development of a system of law known as the Justinian Code and construction of Hagia Sophia.
6. Under Justinian, Belisarius reorganized the Byzantine army and expanded the empire's borders.
7. Relations between the Pope and the Patriarch were weakened by the argument over icons, by the Patriarch's refusal to recognize the Pope as the head of the Church, and by the Pope's crowning of Charlemagne as emperor.
8. Both internal problems and outside forces weakened the Byzantine Empire, which was conquered by Turkish armies in 1453.

**HISTORY**  
*Online*



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### Self-Check Quiz

Visit the *Human Heritage* Web site at [humanheritage.glencoe.com](http://humanheritage.glencoe.com) and click on **Chapter 21—Self-Check Quiz** to assess your understanding of this chapter.

# CHAPTER 21 Assessment

## Using Key Terms

You live in ancient Byzantium and are asked to write a paragraph describing your culture. Your paragraph is to be put in a time capsule to be opened by a future generation. Write your paragraph, including the following words.

relics            theology            dowry  
mosaics        Greek fire        metropolitans  
icons

## Understanding Main Ideas

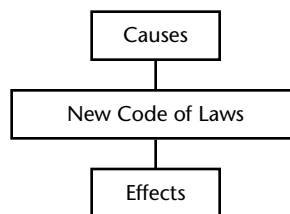
1. Why did the Roman Empire in the East survive the fall of Rome?
2. How did Constantinople's location help it become a great trading center?
3. How did Christianity affect Byzantine attitudes toward the care of needy people?
4. How did Theodora help women within the Byzantine Empire?
5. What led to the separation of the Eastern Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church in 1054?
6. Why did Byzantine farmers gradually lose their loyalty to the empire?

## Critical Thinking

1. What is your opinion of the following statement: "Constantine was wise to model Constantinople after Rome"?
2. What are the advantages for a government to have an official religion? What are the disadvantages?
3. What do you think had the most to do with the decline of the Byzantine Empire? Explain.
4. What contribution made by the Byzantines do you think was the most important? Explain.

## Graphic Organizer Activity

**Citizenship** Create a chart like the one shown, and use it to show the causes and effects of Justinian's decision to draw up a new code of laws.



## Geography in History

**Human Systems** Justinian expanded his empire greatly. Refer to the map on page 323. If you had been Justinian, in which direction would you have sent troops next to gain new territory? Why?

## Using Your Journal

Review any details you may have noted about the ways the Byzantine Empire influenced other civilizations. Then compare the Justinian Code to modern laws in the United States. Write an essay explaining which set of laws seems more just.