



# **THE BYZANTINE EMPIRE**

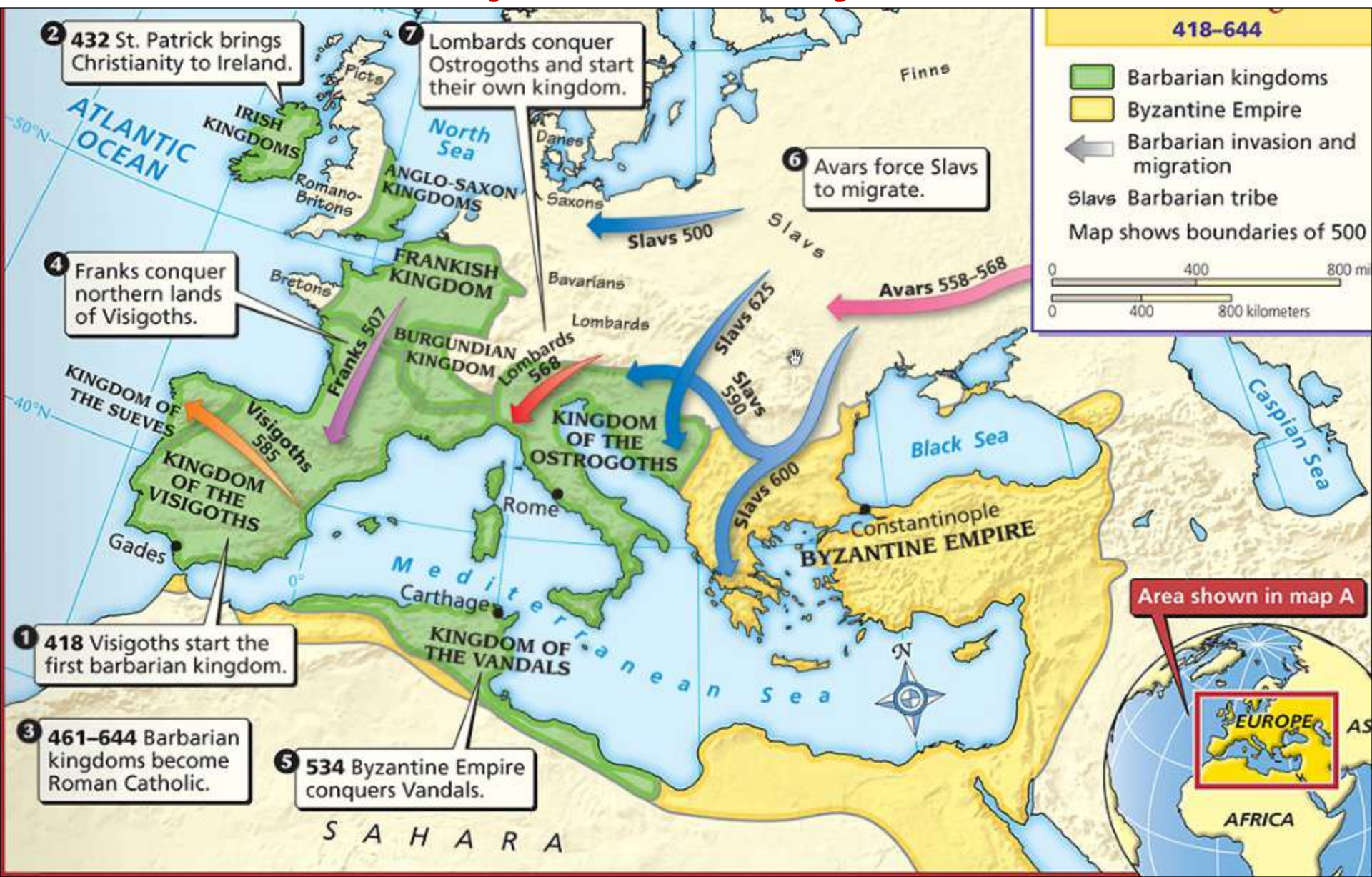
**SSWH4a,b,c,e  
(Ch.11:1 )**



## **Essential Question:**

What is the significance  
of the Byzantine Empire?

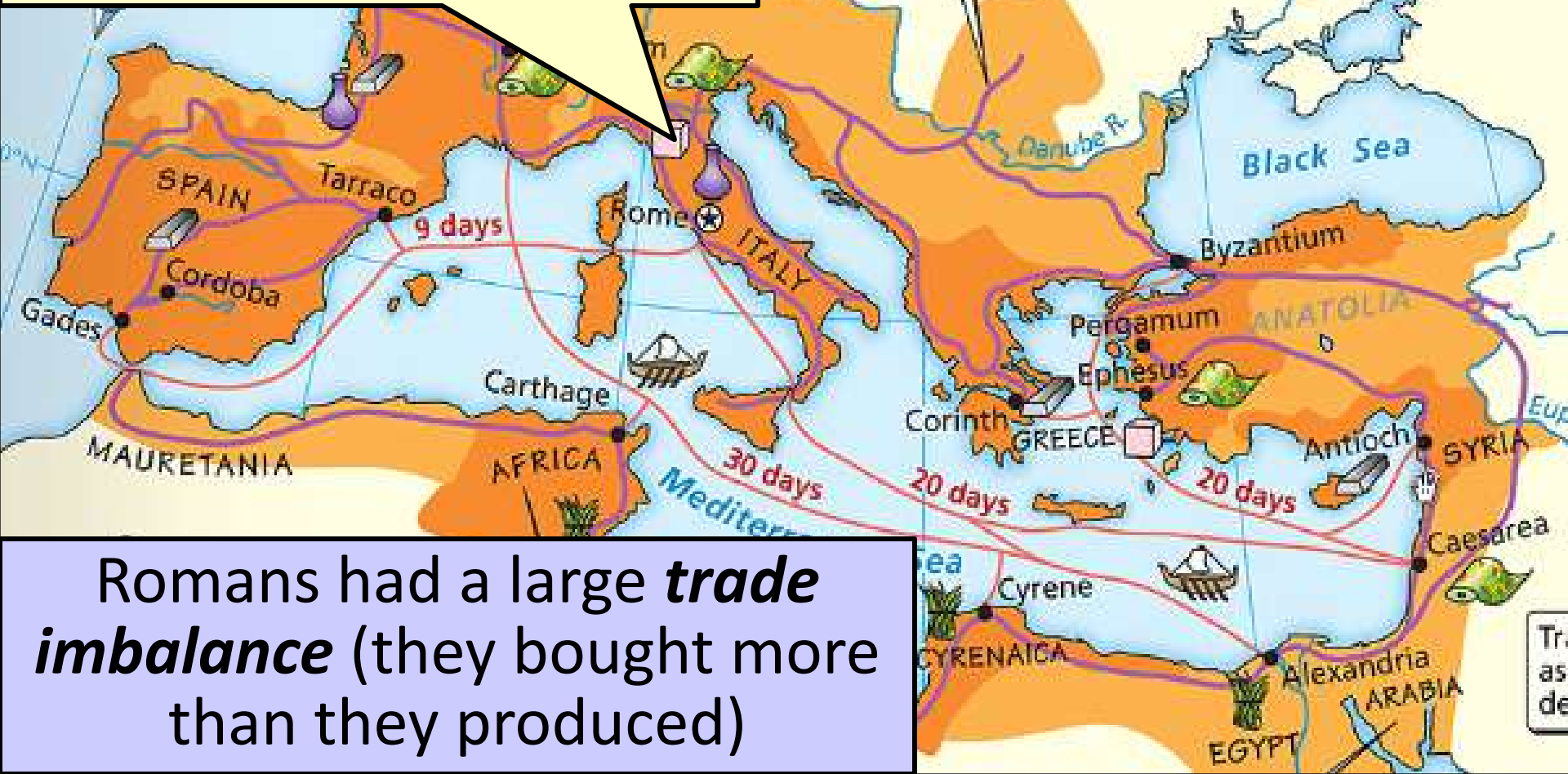
# What happened to the Roman Empire in the year 476 CE?



# The Fall of the Roman Empire

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

Roman roads help link the Empire.



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

# The Fall of the Roman Empire



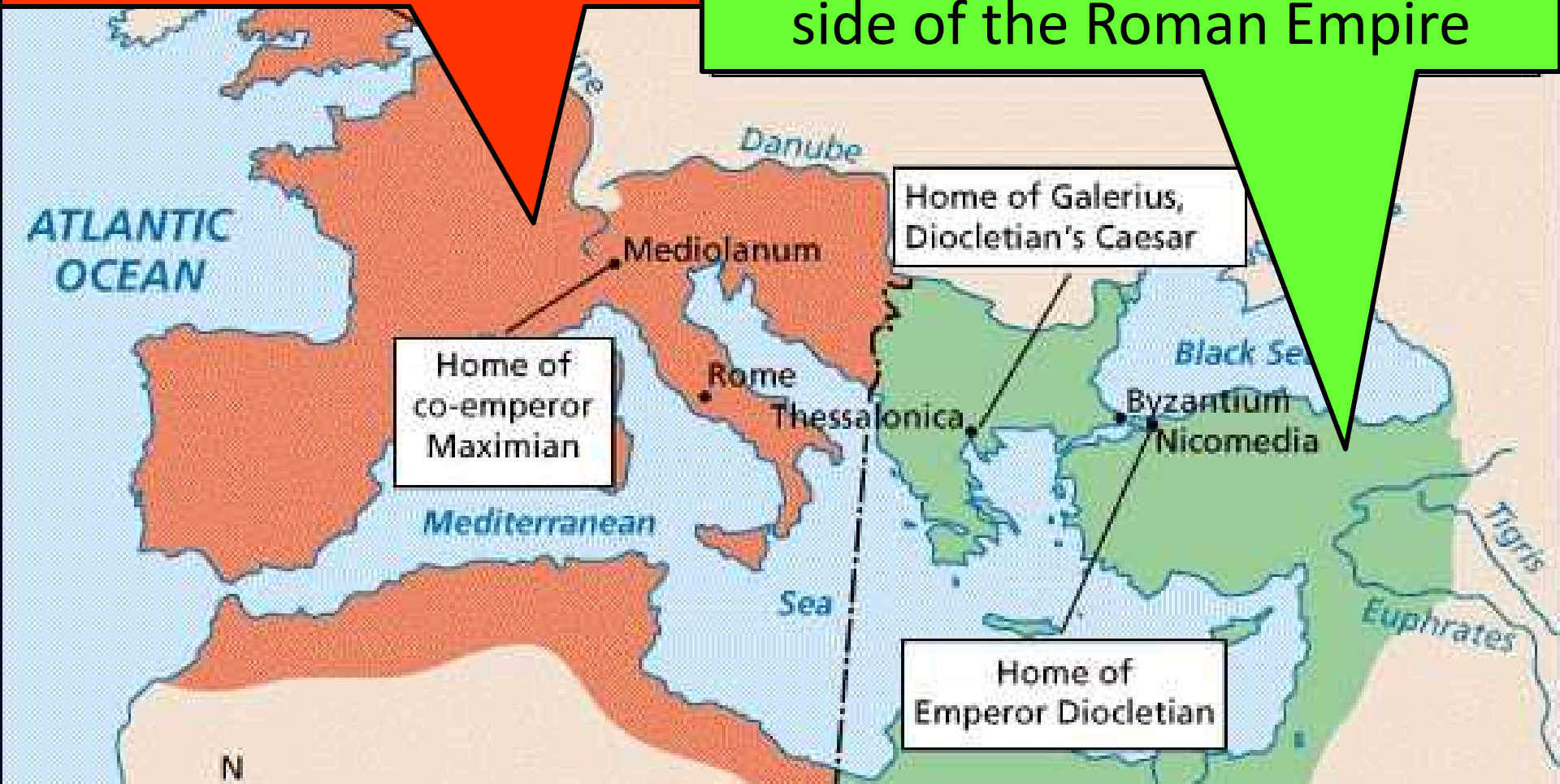
The Roman Empire had a series of ***weak emperors***

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



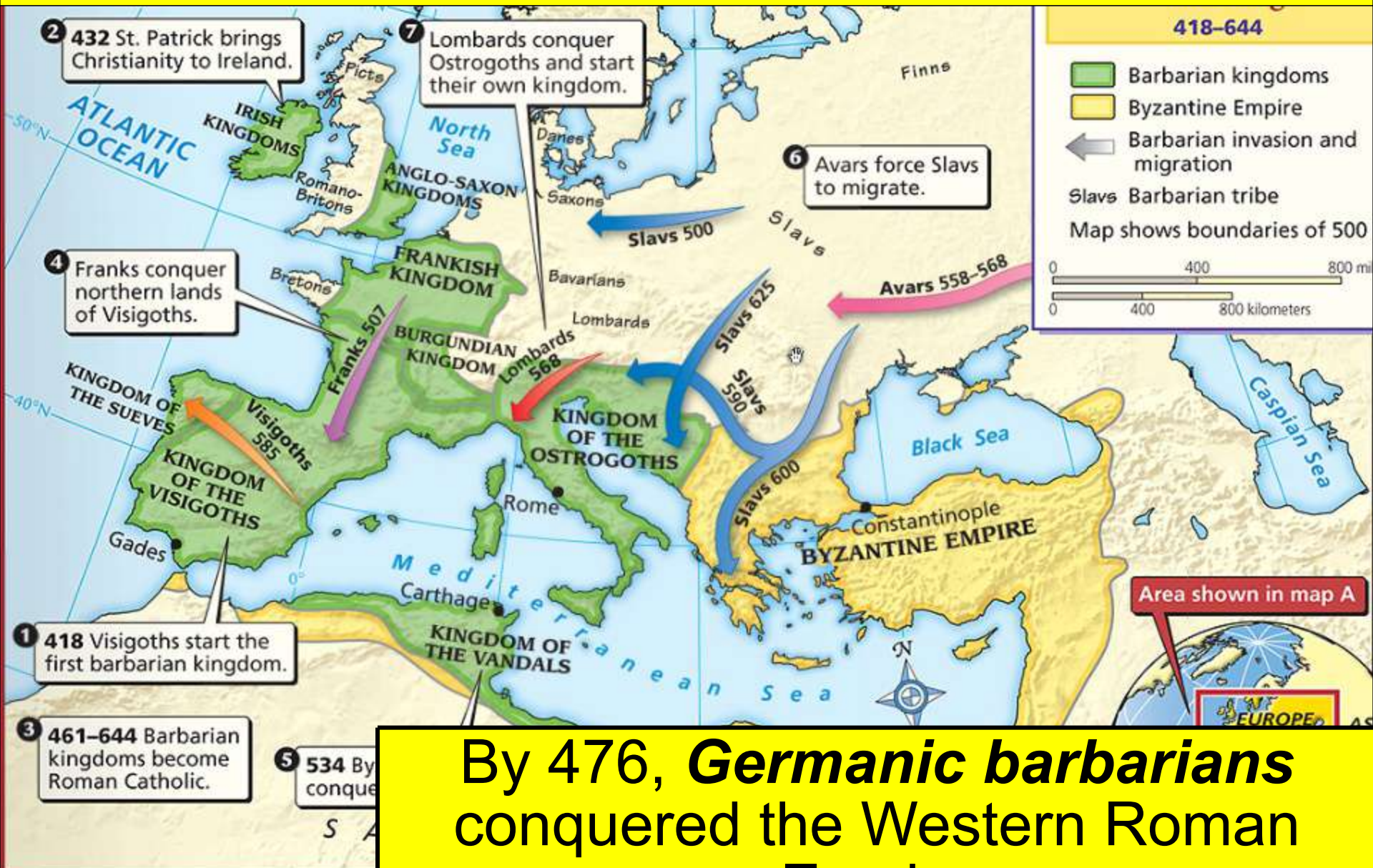
The **Western side** of the Roman Empire continued to grow weak

Emperor Constantine moved the Roman capital to **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



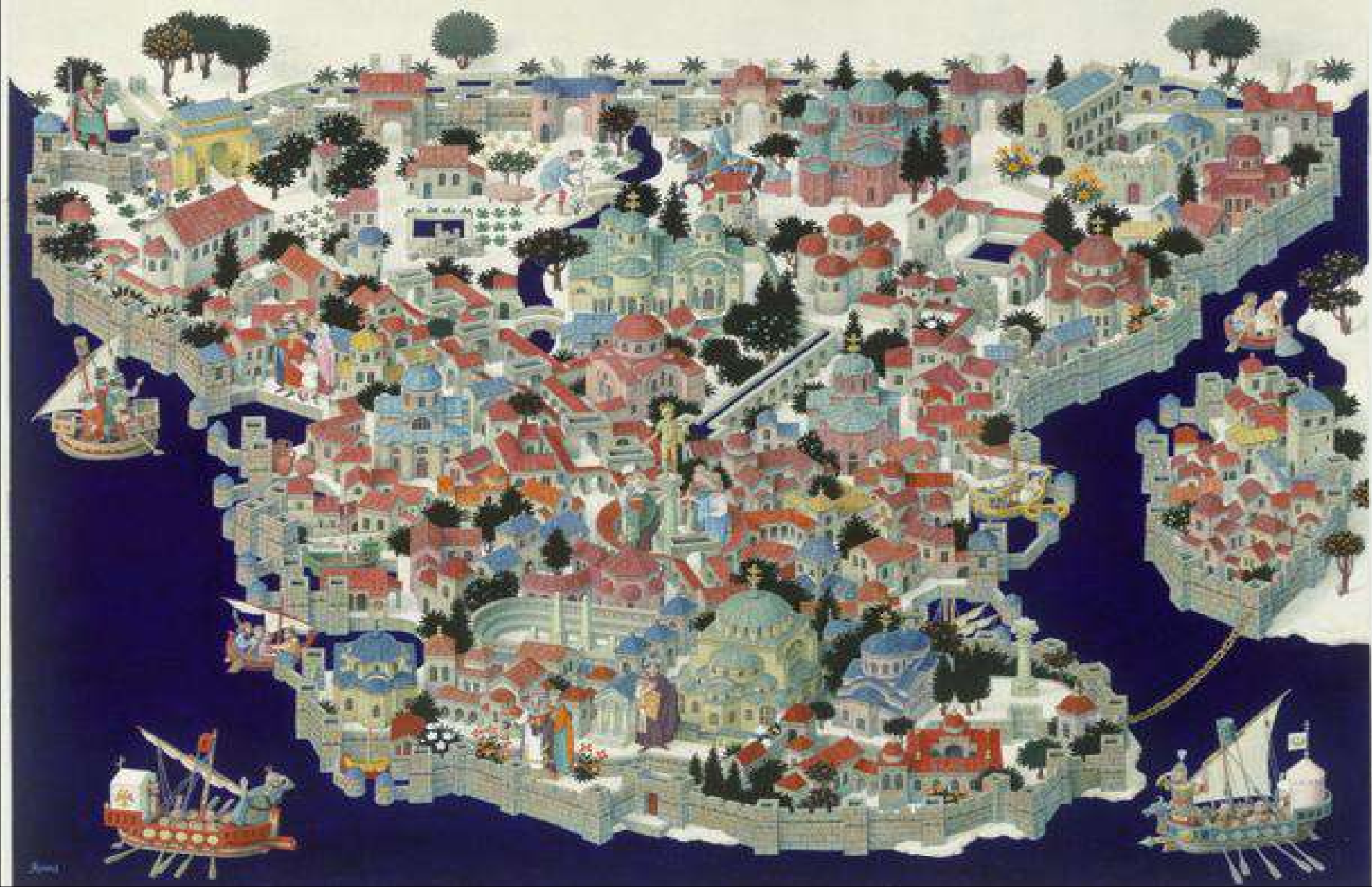
By 476, **Germanic barbarians** conquered the Western Roman Empire.



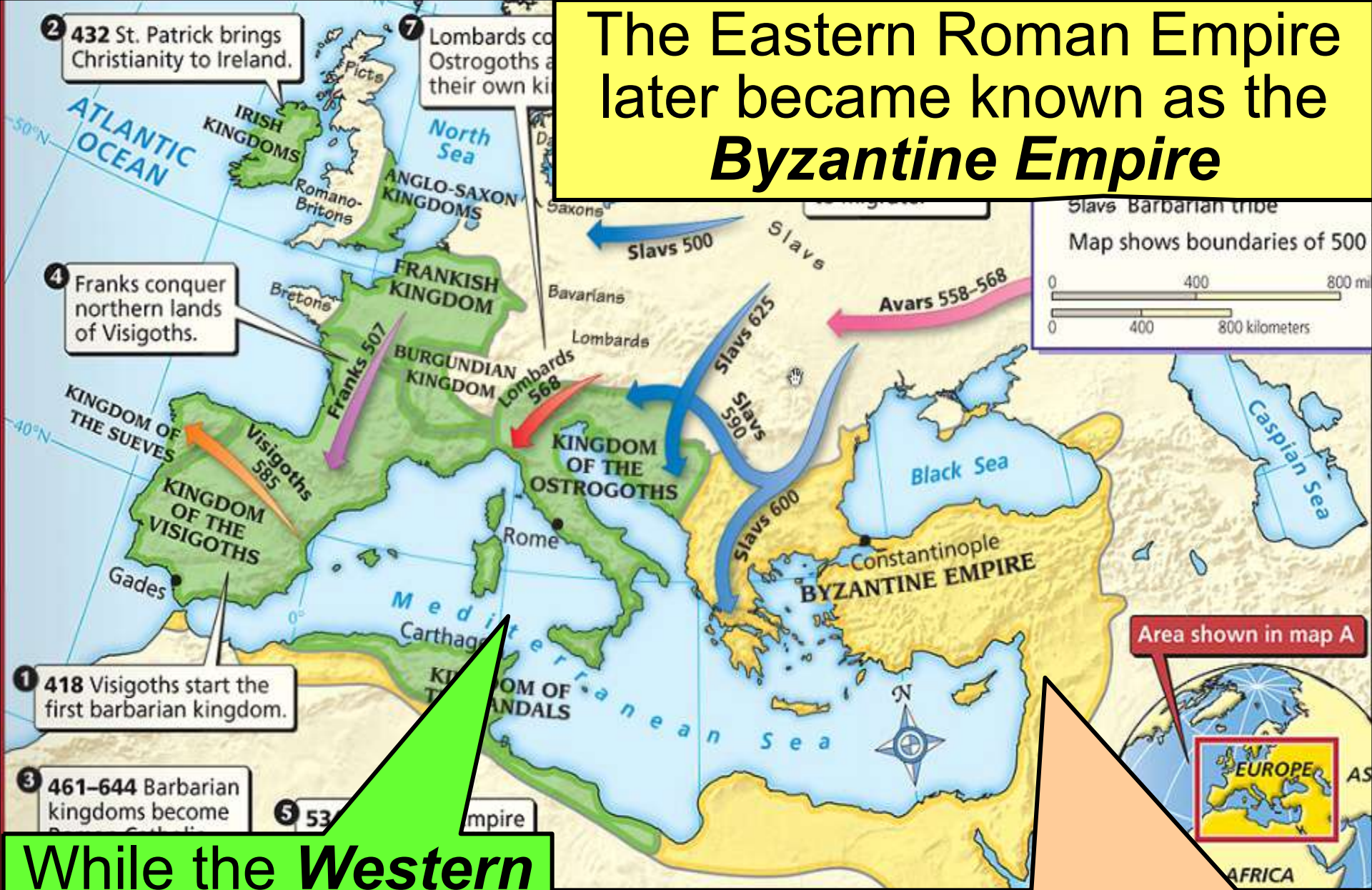
The Western Roman Empire fell into the ***Middle Ages*** (or “Dark Ages”) from 500 to 1300 CE



# What happened in the Eastern Roman Empire?



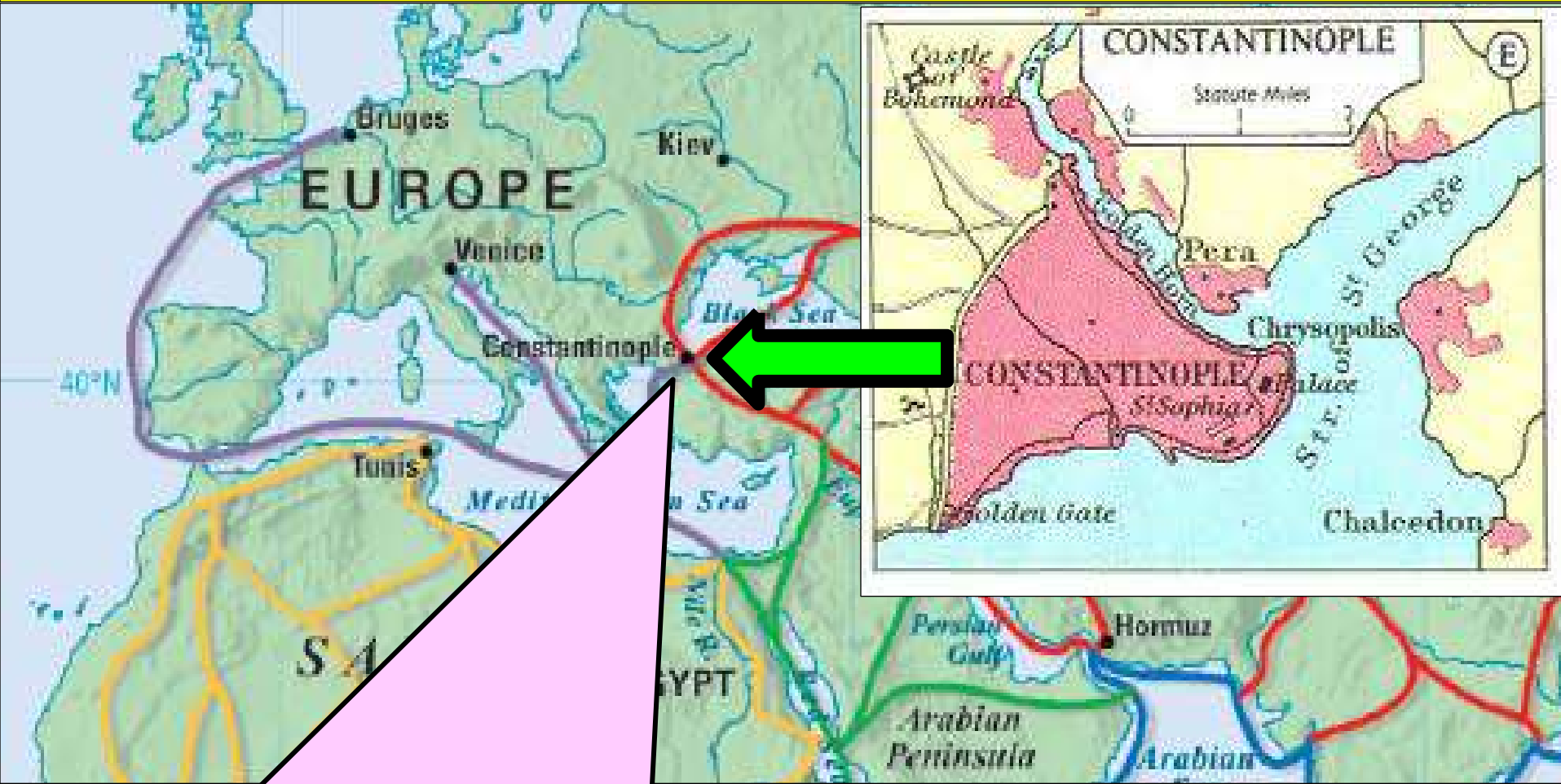
# The Eastern Roman Empire later became known as the *Byzantine Empire*



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

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

# 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

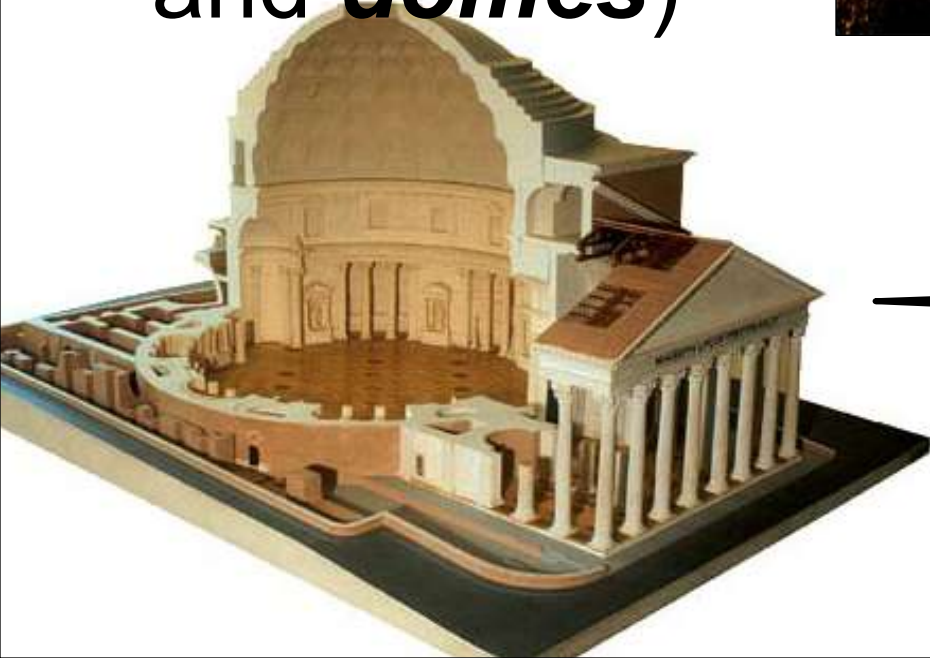
center of *learning*

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

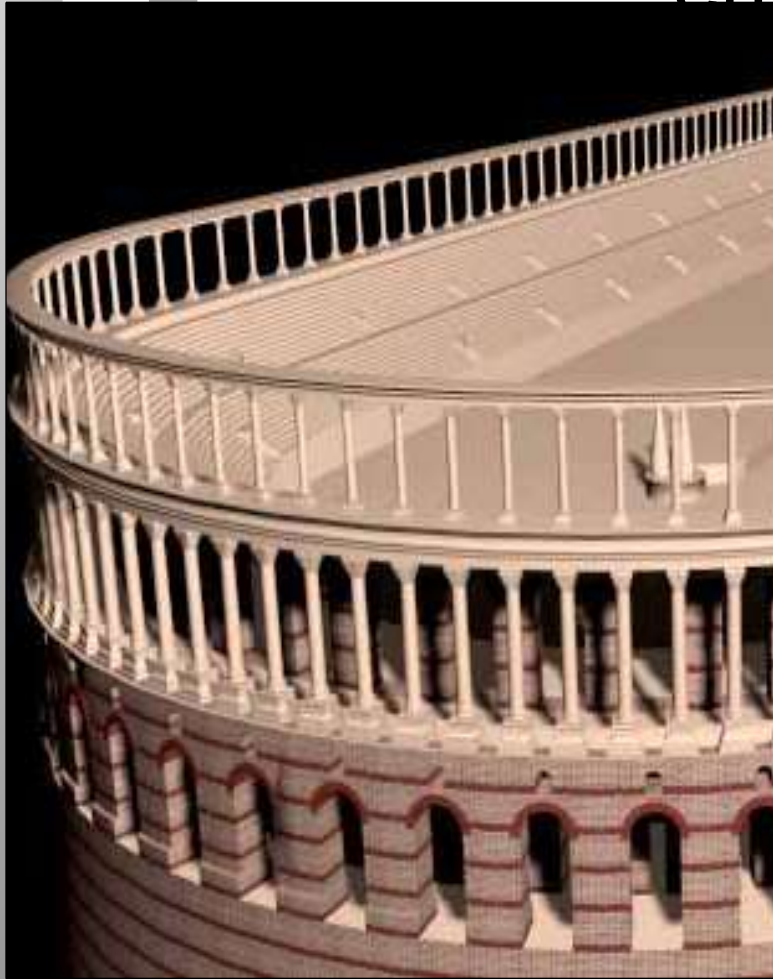
ROMAN

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



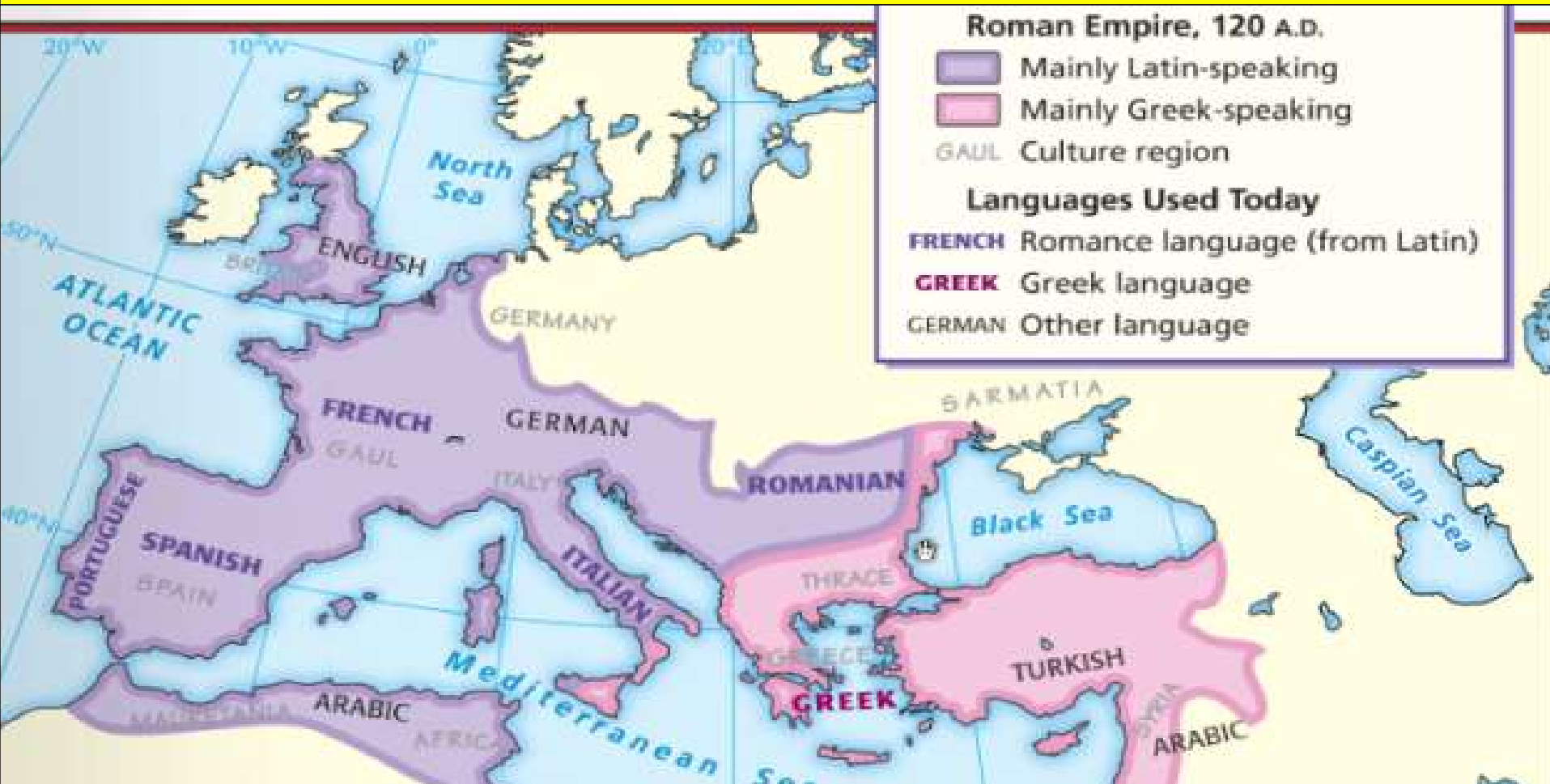
The most impressive work of Byzantine architecture is the *Hagia Sophia*, which was originally a Christian *church* in the year 360

# Culture of the Byzantine Empire



Later, the Hagia Sophia (which means "***Holy Wisdom***" in Greek) became a ***mosque*** and today is a museum in

# 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**





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

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



Byzantine Empire at Justinian's accession, 527

ORANGE: OLD ROMAN TERRITORY THAT JUSTINIAN ADDED TO BYZANTINE TERRITORY

PURPLE: BYZANTINE EMPIRE WHEN JUSTINIAN ROSE TO

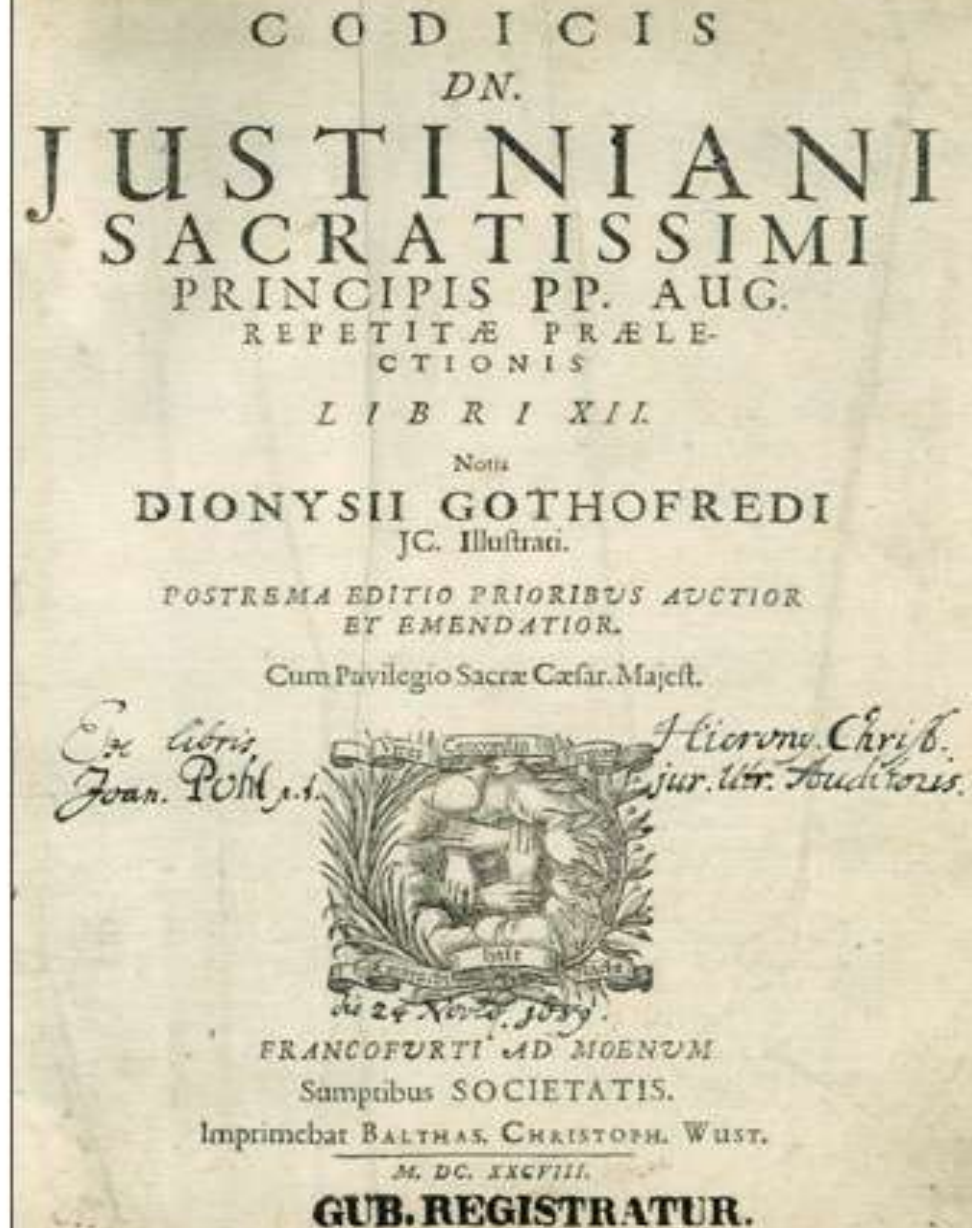
In addition to empire building,  
what else did Emperor Justinian value?



# The Justinian Code

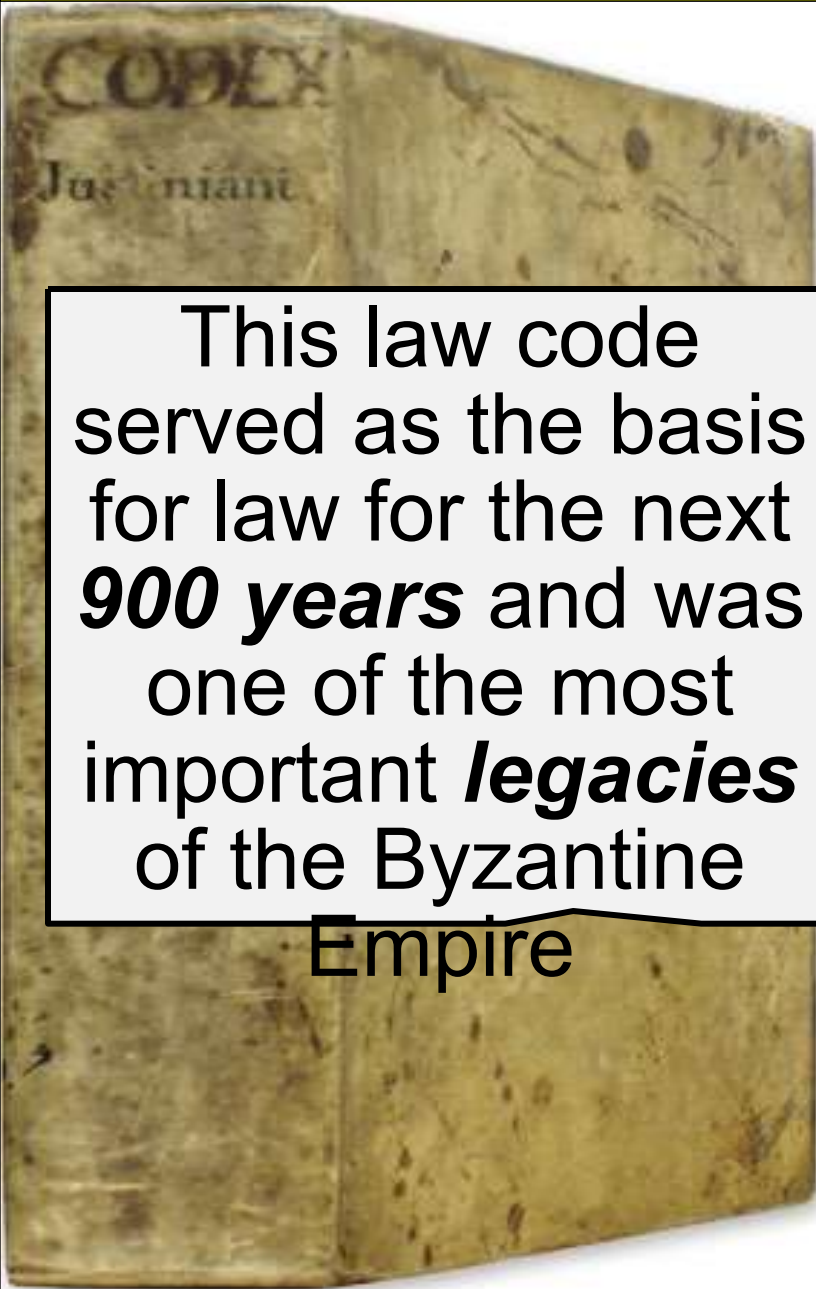
To oversee his empire, Justinian ordered **legal experts** to consolidate Roman laws into a single law

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

**THE DIGEST:** summarized Romans' *opinions* about


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

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



# 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,



# Empress Theodora

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

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

Theodora encouraged the **building** of Christian churches and cathedrals





# Empress Theodora

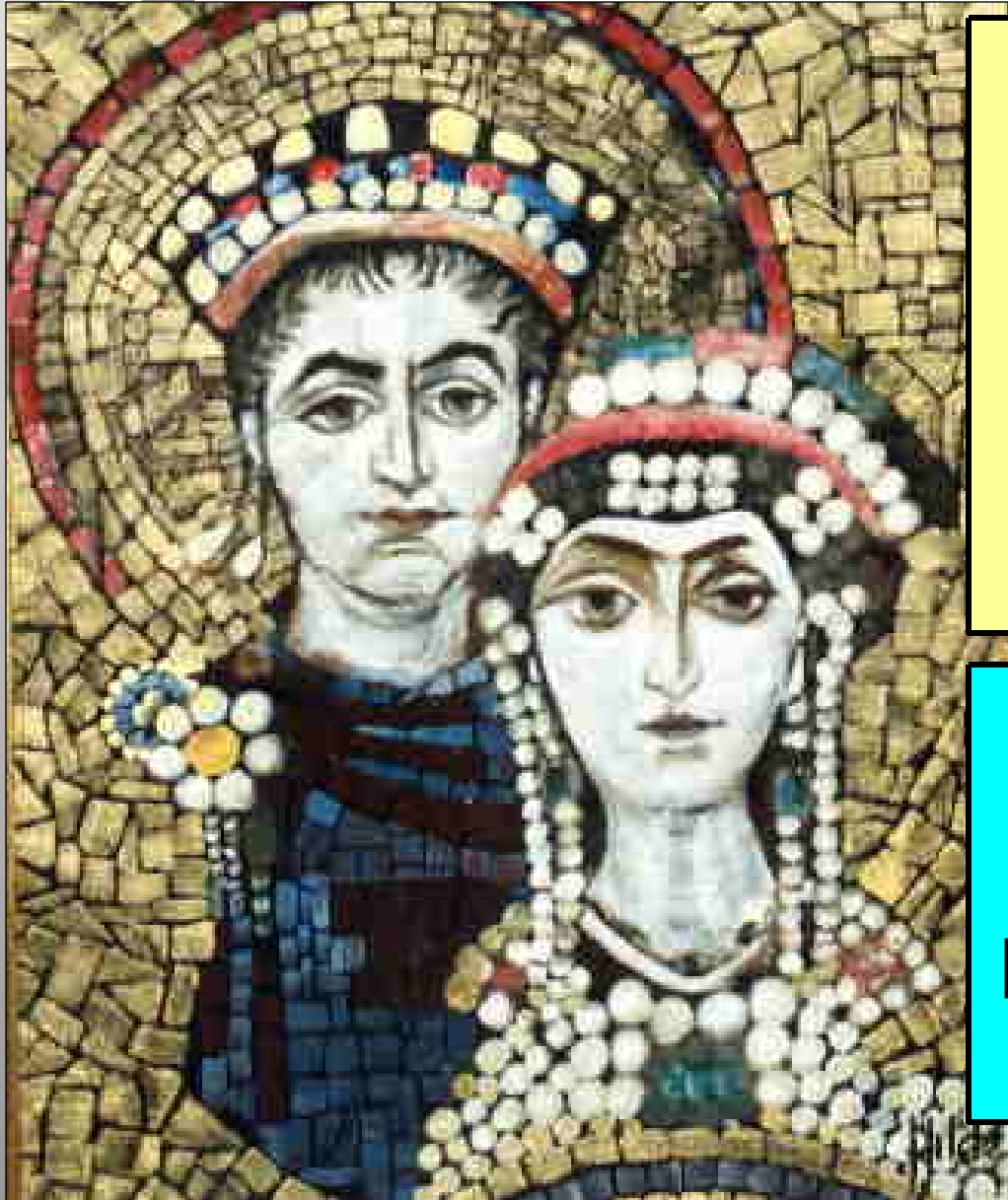


Theodora was a woman of ***great beauty*** and did many things to help her husband Justinian, but she had a dark side to

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

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

# Justinian and Theodora



Justinian is remembered as one of the Byzantine Empire's ***greatest*** emperors while Theodora is one of the most ***notorious***

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

# Byzantium

## Reasons for Survival

- ❖ Location
- ❖ Culture
- ❖ Government
- ❖ Large Army

## Reasons for Decline

### Emperor Justinian

Restoring the Empire  
Code of Laws  
Hagia Sophia

### A New Christianity

Eastern vs. Western  
Patriarch  
Icons  
The Schism



# Why did it Decline?



## Mysterious Plague of Justinian

**Bubonic Plague** broke out in 542 CE killing thousands each day

Plague returned every **8-10** years, decreasing the **population**



## The Crusades



Armies of knights from **Western Europe** pillaged the capital



## Invasions



Frequent attacks from **east & west** shrank the size of the empire

Constantinople fell to the **Ottoman Turks** in 1453

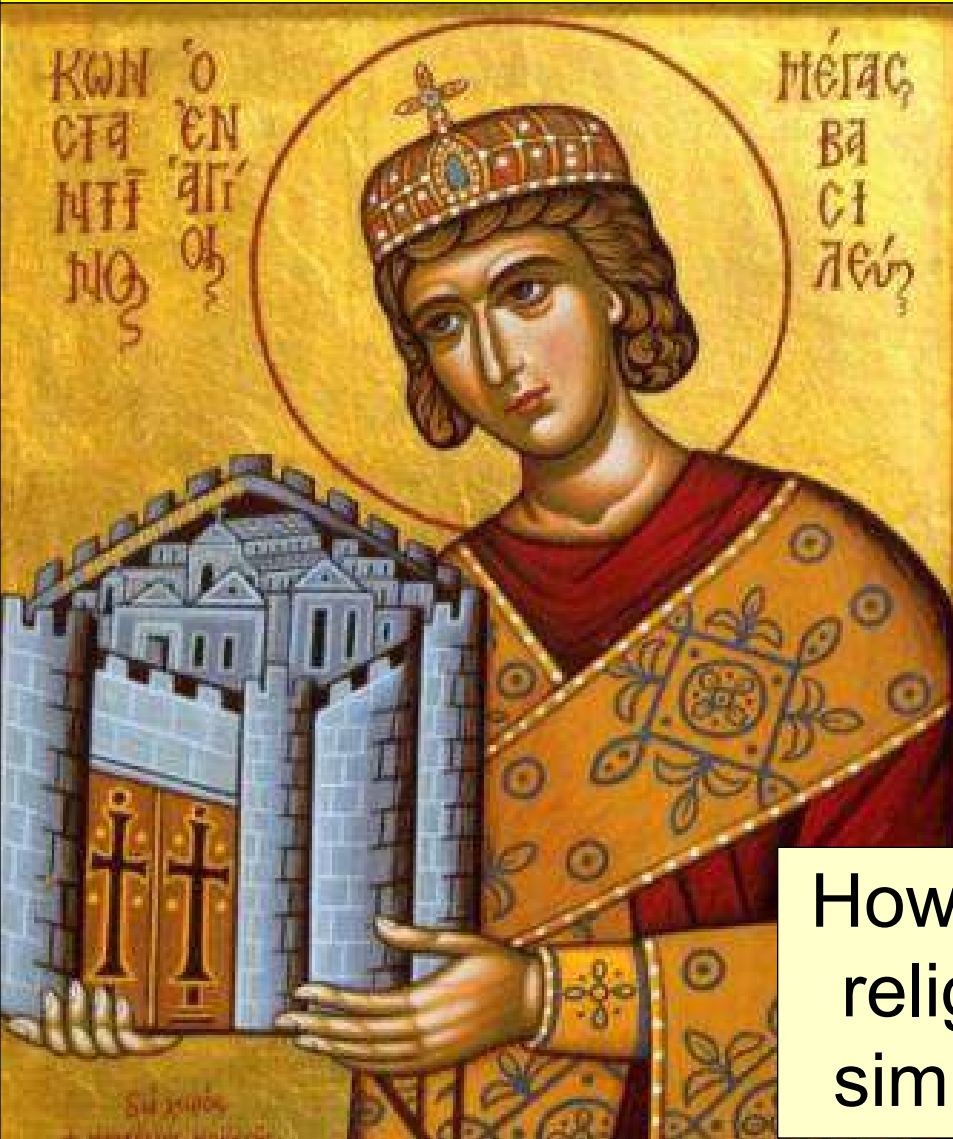


## Essential Question:

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



# Religion of the Byzantine Empire

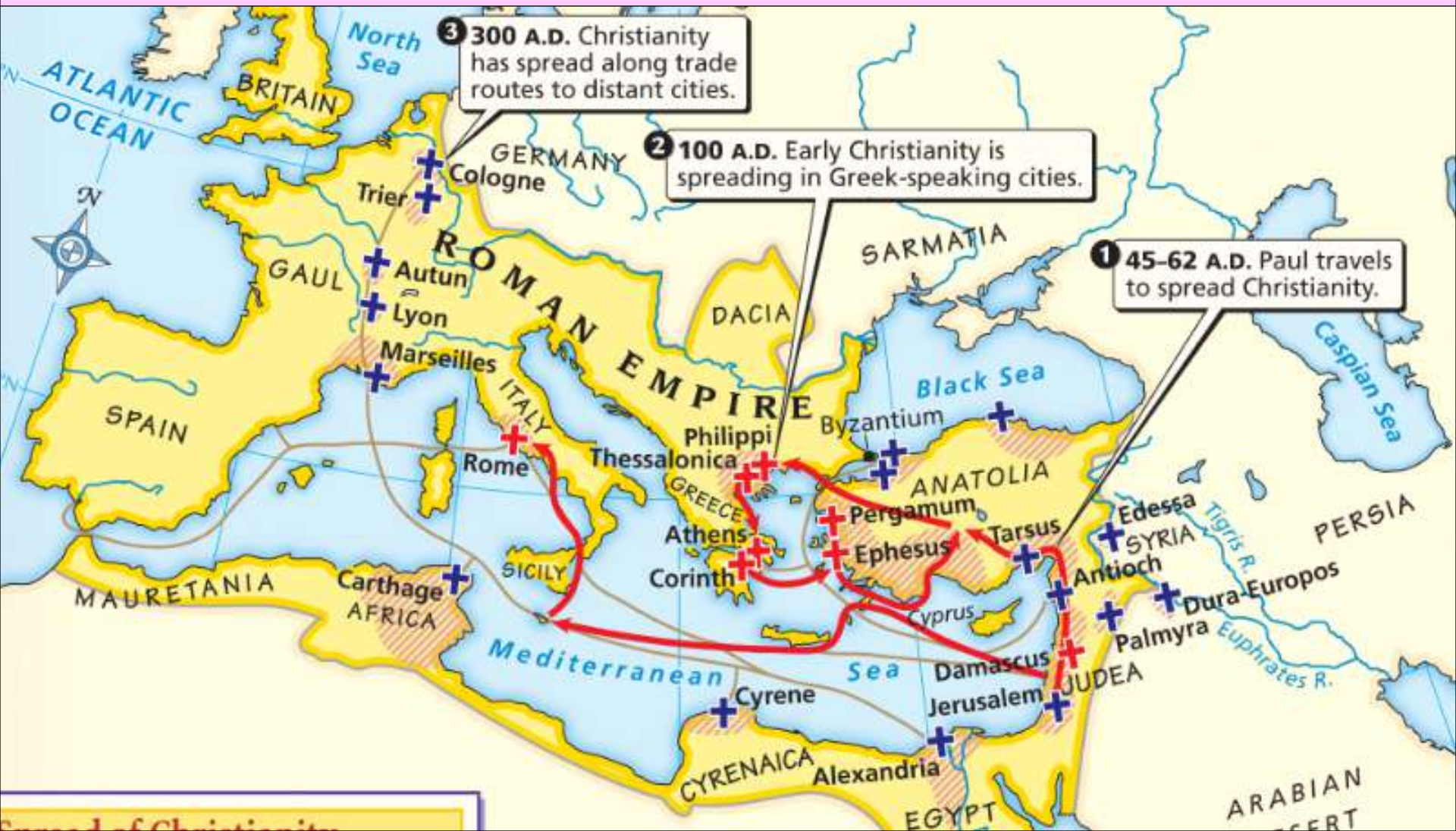


How was religion similar?

ROMAN RELIGION

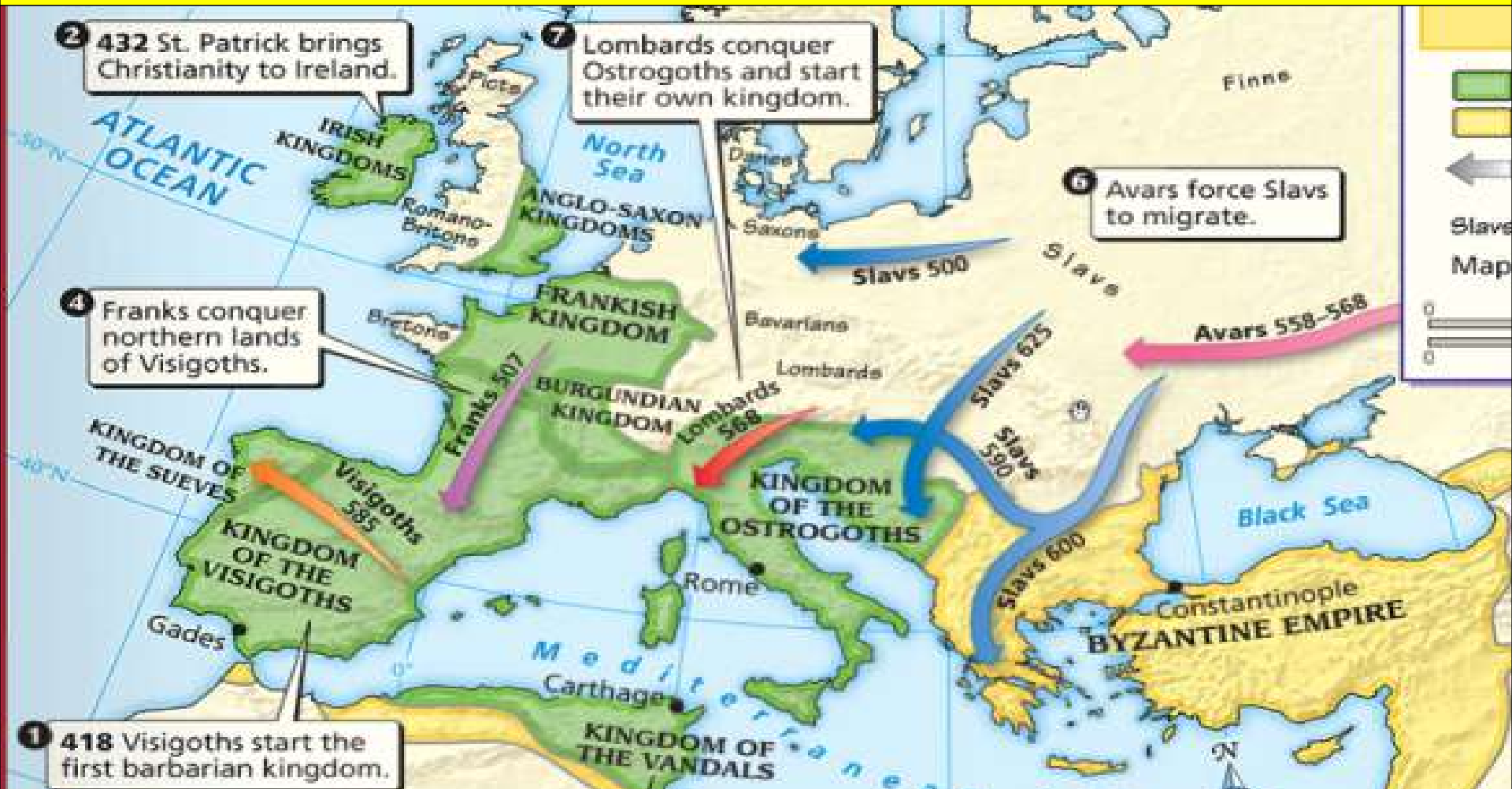
BYZANTINE RELIGION

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

# The Division of Christianity

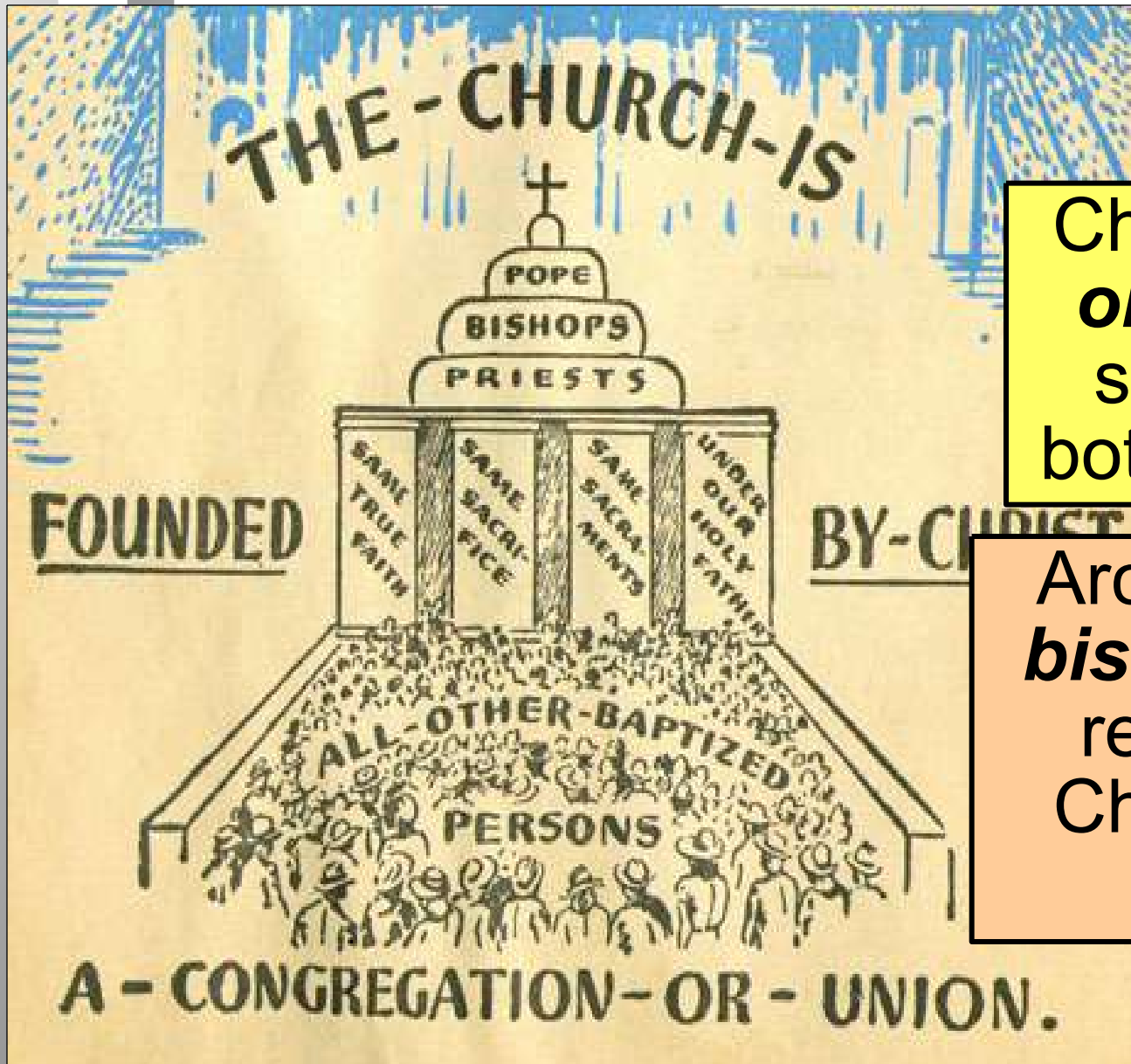


All Christians, both in the East and the West, based their faith on **Jesus Christ** and the **Bible**

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



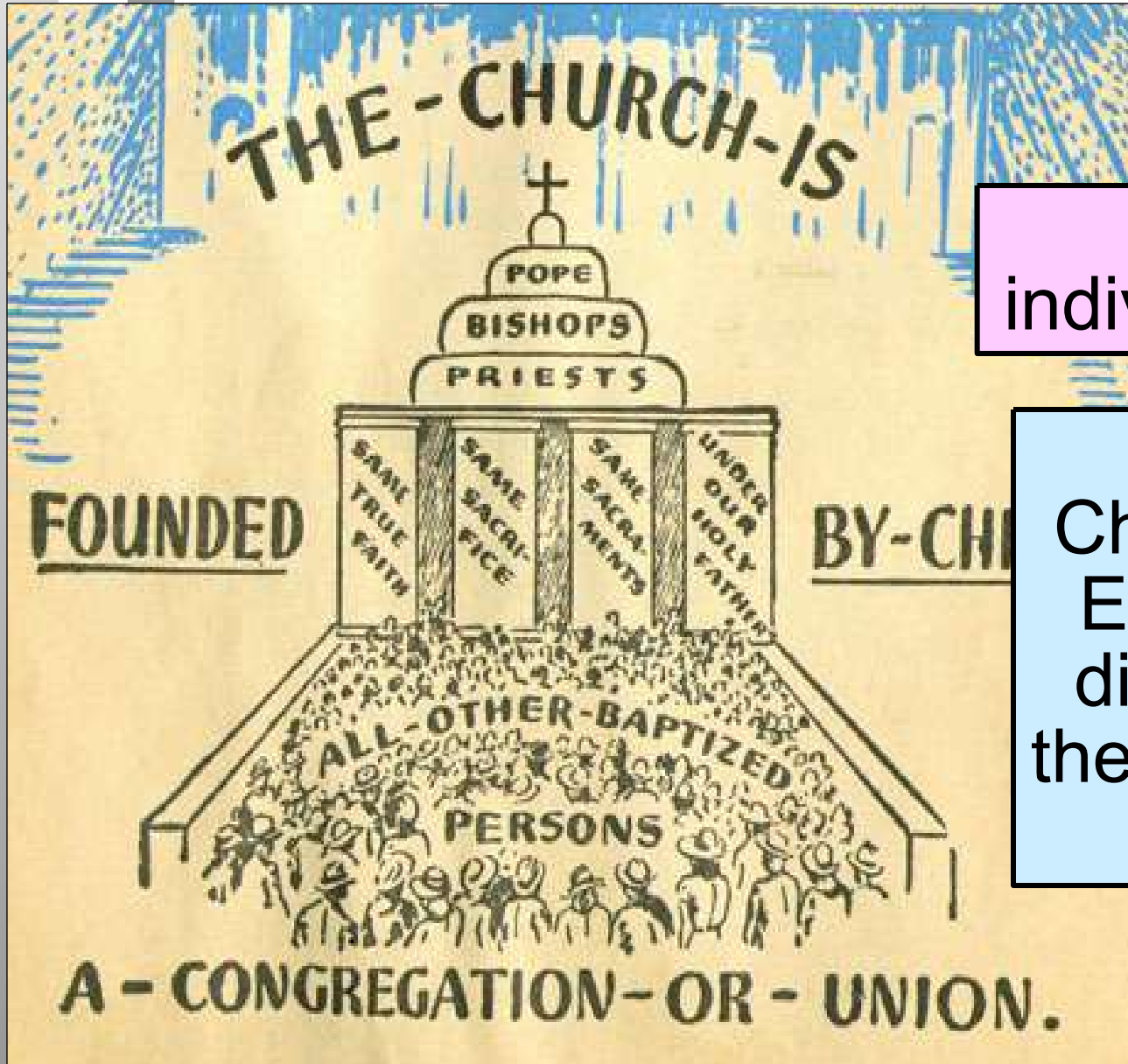
# The Division of Christianity



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

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

## Leaders of the Two Churches



Pope John Paul II (right) is the supreme head of the Roman Catholic Church. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew (left) holds a slightly different position in the Orthodox Church. Eastern Orthodox churches pay him their highest honors because he heads the ancient Church of Constantinople, but they do not consider him their supreme authority.

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

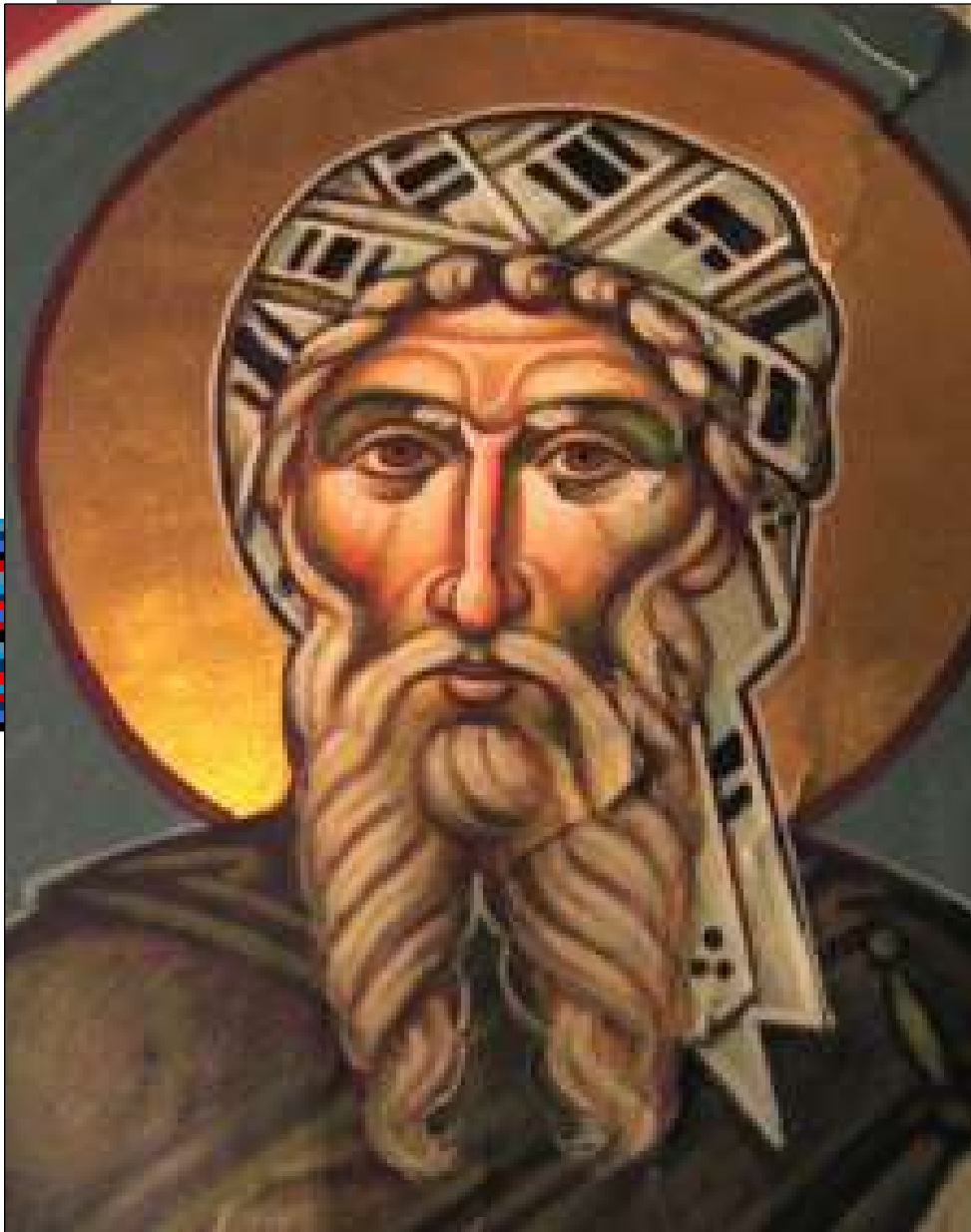
# The Division of Christianity

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





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)



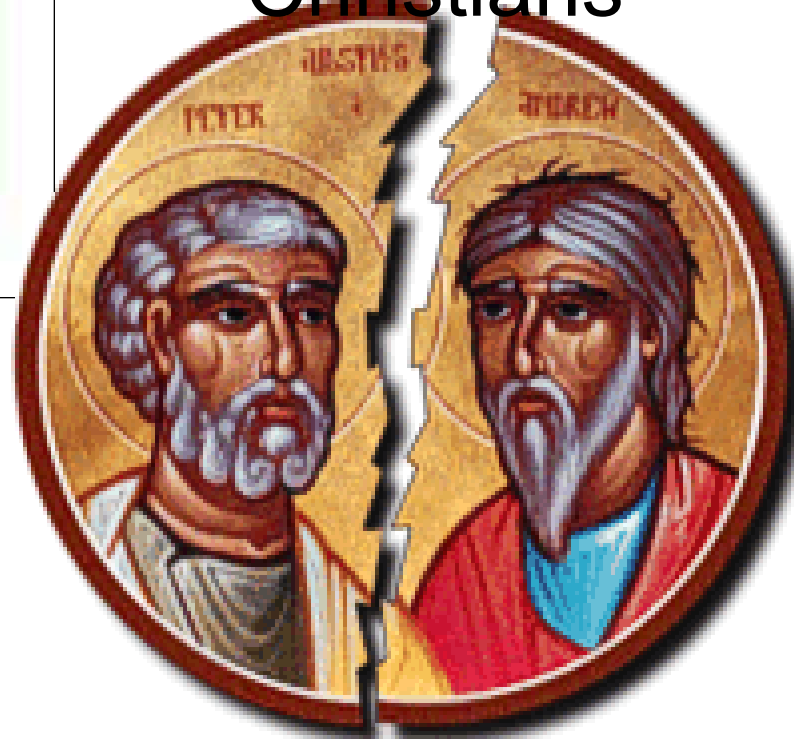
The **Pope** in Western Europe supported the use of icons and called Leo III a **heretic** (a believer of false religious ideas)

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

# The Division of Christianity



These disagreements led to *deep divisions* between Christians

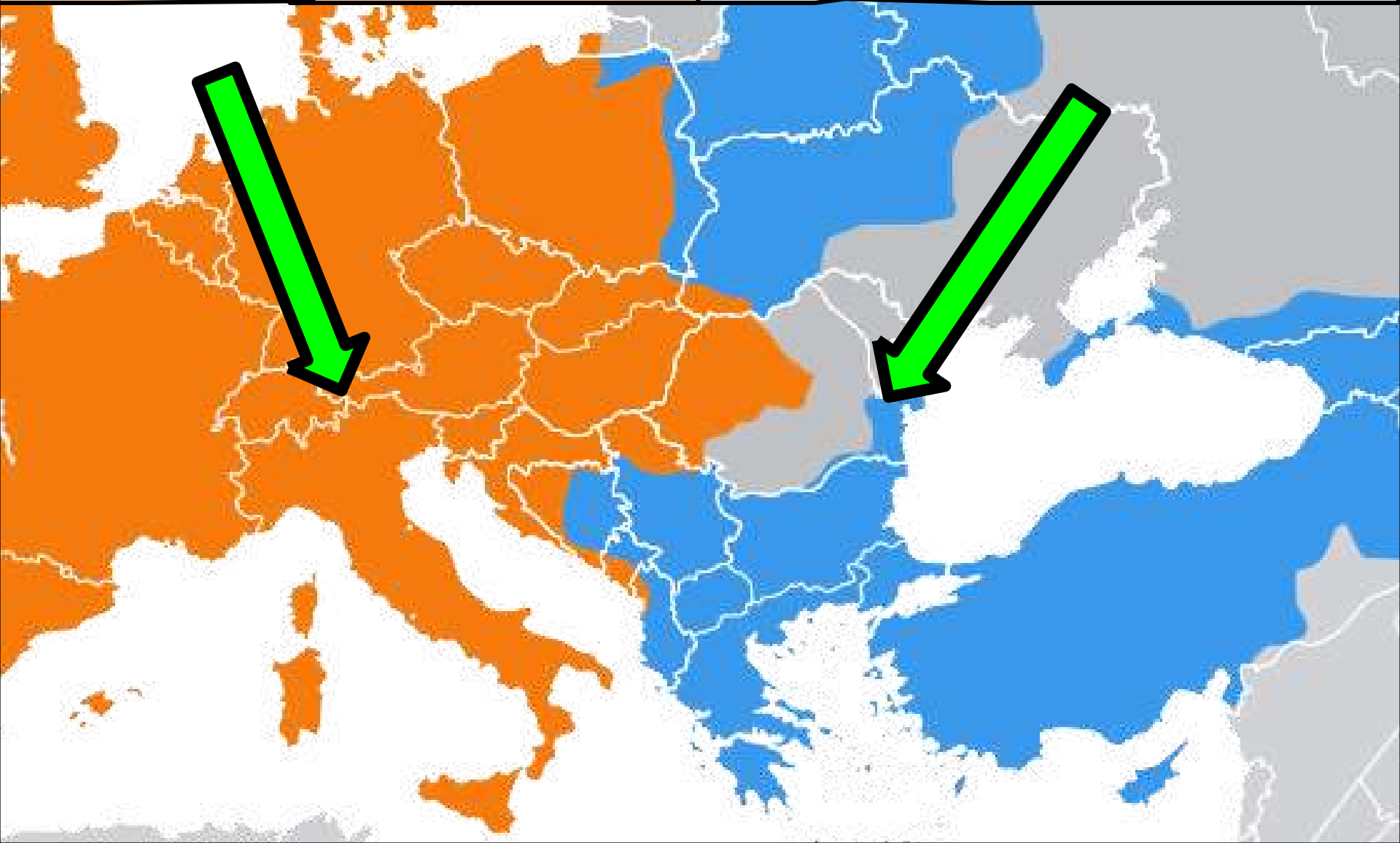


The *Great Schism* (split) occurred in 1054 CE



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**

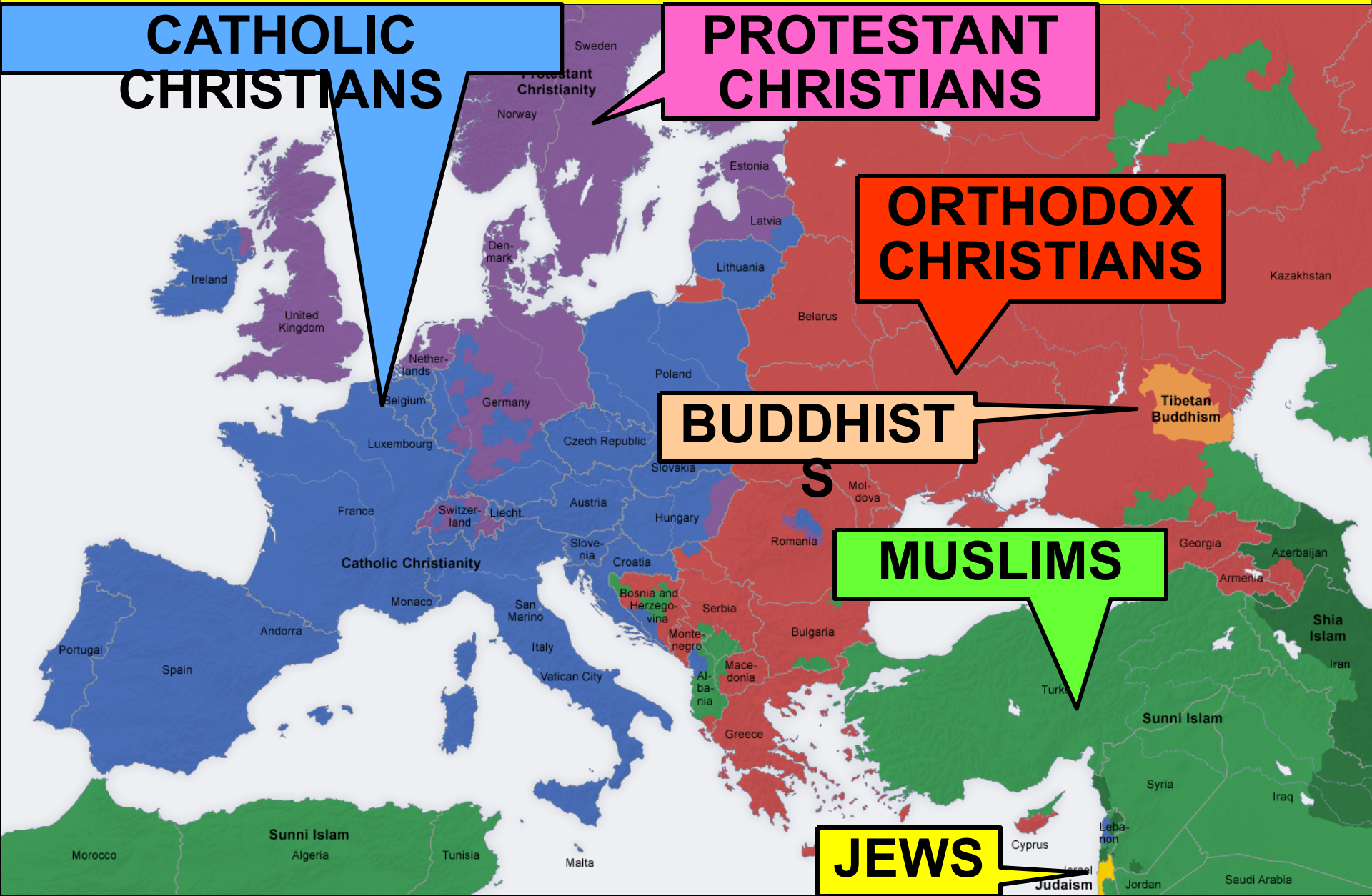
**PROTESTANT  
CHRISTIANS**

**ORTHODOX  
CHRISTIANS**

**BUDDHIST**

**MUSLIMS**

**JEWS**





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