



CHANGE OVER TIME- BYZANTIUM

600-1450 CE
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BASIC BEGINNING FEATURES — 600 CE

Byzantium is continuation of Roman Empire

Not long after Justinian's reign

Justinian's Laws have taken effect and will be influential for a millennium

POLITICAL

Change or Continuity?	Event	Year	Analysis
Continuity	Caesaropapism	Duration of empire	Leaders wanted to keep control and represent the church in gov't, usually were adherents to the religion
Continuity	Emperor at head	Duration	As an extension of Roman Empire, kept that tradition
Change	Arabs taking territory	630	Inspired by Islamic jihad, Arabs took Egypt, Palestine, Mesopotamia...

ECONOMIC

Change or Continuity?	Event	Year	Analysis
Continuity	Agricultural Economy	Duration	Prior to industrialization, fertile area
Change	Smuggling of silk	After 6 th century	Wanted a part of lucrative silk trade, prior it was monopolized by Chinese
Change	Plight of free peasantry		Wealthy began to consolidate lands into their hands

RELIGION

Change or Continuity?	Event	Year	Analysis
Change	Great Schism	1054	Split from Roman Catholicism, different customs from the west
Continuity	Christianity	Duration	Kept basic beliefs/structure of Christianity
Change	Different customs		Started to move away from traditional RC, eg beards and marriage

SOCIAL

Change or Continuity?	Event	Year	Analysis
Continuity	Aristocratic living	Duration	Byzantine opulence allowed for elaborate homes and luxurious lifestyles
Continuity	Public entertainment	Duration	In keeping with the Romans, Byzantine life included horse races, theaters, etc
Change	Peasant life		As mentioned, as the rich began to take more land, life became harder for peasants, lowering the standard of living

INTERACTIONS

Change or Continuity?	Event	Year	Analysis
Continuity	Kept ties with west	Duration	Customs and encounters between the two empires were a fixture
Continuity	Mediterranean domination	Duration	Byzantine empire exerted influence on many European/Mediterranean people due to proximity and trade
Change	Arab encounters	630	As Arabs invaded and took lands, culture spread

ARTS & SCIENCES

Change or Continuity?	Event	Year	Analysis
Continuity	High literacy rate	Duration	Affluence and need for educated workers created state-sponsored schools
Continuity	Use of icons	Duration	Unlike some other religions, the Byzantines/Eastern Orthodox Christians used icons extensively
Change	Icon controversy	~720	Leo III caused a century-long controversy, thought that icons themselves were being worshipped

NEAR: GEOGRAPHY

Change or Continuity?	Event	Year	Analysis
Continuity	Headed from Constantinople	Duration	Constantine made the city the capital near the end of the western Roman empire's prevalence and it stuck
Continuity	Peninsula, access to the Eastern world	Duration	Allowed for Byzantine dominance, important areas could be easily reached
Change	Lands seized by Arabs	630	Arabs took control of certain important lands, weakening the empire

BASIC ENDING FEATURES

Crusades nearly destroyed Constantinople, leaving the empire fragile

Plight of free peasantry lowered tax revenue and pool of military recruits

Invasions from Saljuqs

Turks took Constantinople in 1453, ending the empire