

112911 - Byzantine Empire Intro:

Greek Speaking

Eastern Roman Empire after the split in 395 CE  
(4<sup>th</sup> Cent)

Still called themselves Romans until the very end  
1453 CE (Fall of Constantinople by the Ottomans)

Why called the Byzantines – The Capital  
Constantinople was built at the Greek city of  
Byzantium.

Built on the Bosphoros – strait between the  
Aegean and Black Seas.

Byzantine – adjective – having layers of regulation  
and bureaucracy

In 323 AD Constantine calls for the Council of  
Nicaea – Canonize the New Testament (mostly  
Greek and Aramaic)

In 300 BCE, the Jews canonized the Old Testament  
in Jerusalem during the Second Temple period.  
Canonize – take all of the writings and stories and  
decide what is official and supports the beliefs of  
the religion.

Canonization – incorporation of history, moralistic stories, mythological elements

Expels contradictory beliefs –

Including –

Jesus was just a man

Jesus had a child with MM

Dualistic stories from other religions – angels like gods,

Early Christians developed many sects (branches of the religion) based on different early beliefs.

Boundaries are usually cultural.

Constantine organizes the Empire into military regions, where each regional leader must maintain their army and pay and collect taxes. (basic feudalism)

476 AD Western Empire collapses, last Western

Emperor dies. Most of the W. Roman lands are controlled by the Goths (Spain, Italy, Germany and North Africa) or the Franks (Northern France).

Stopped at end of P1

Eastern Roman Emperor Justinian, ruled 527 – 565 AD. Goal is to reunify the entire Roman Empire. He takes over Italy, N. Africa, parts of Spain. (map p.62)

He cannot defeat the Berbers (No. Africans), the Goths of Spain or the Franks.

The wars cost so much money, that it bankrupts the Empire. Also invaders from the North are always a problem.

By 565 AD (Death of Justinian) the Byzantine Empire control Egypt, the Levant, Asia Minor and the Balkans.

Other major power – Persian Empire. Fought several wars over Mesopotamia and the Levant (Eastern Med shore)

By 570 CE (AD) (Birth of Mohammed) both the Byzantine and Persian Empires are bankrupt from constant warfare and from stopping invasions

from the North.