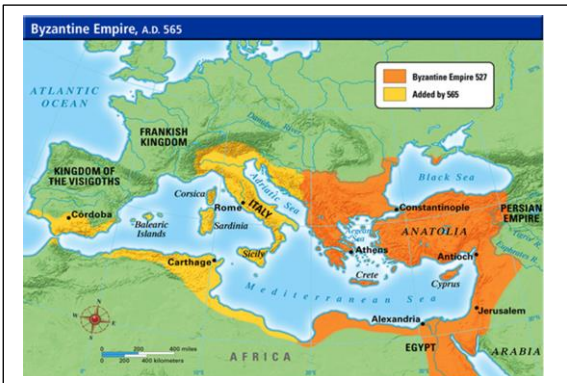
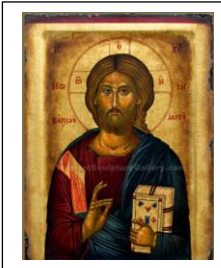
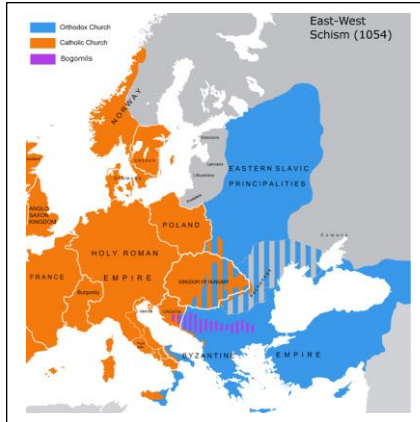


Aim #23: How does the Byzantine Empire prosper & fall?

The Byzantine Empire

NYS SS Framework: 9.4a. 4c. 9.5b



Mini Lecture

- The Roman emperor Constantine rebuilt the city of **Byzantium** & renamed it Constantinople. Constantinople grew wealthy from trade due its strategic location between Europe & Asia.
- In 330, Constantine made Constantinople the new capital of the Roman Empire. In time, the Eastern Roman Empire became known as the **Byzantine Empire**- “New Rome”
- The Byzantine Empire reached its peak under **Justinian** (golden age). Byzantine armies reconquered North Africa & parts of southern Europe. However, these victories were only temporary, as Justinian’s successors later lost these lands.
- After a fire in 532, Justinian made Constantinople even grander. One of his most important achievements was rebuilding the church of **Hagia Sophia**.
- Justinian also had a commission collect & organize the laws of Rome. This collection became known as **Justinian’s Code**. It helped unify the empire, which Justinian ruled as an **autocrat**, or with complete authority.
- His wife, **Theodora**, served as his advisor & co-ruler
- Christianity was practiced differently in the Byzantine Empire than in the West. The Byzantine emperor controlled Church affairs & appointed the **patriarch**, or highest Church official in Constantinople.
- Byzantine Christians rejected the pope’s claim to authority over all Christians.
- During the Middle Ages, the eastern & western branches of Christianity grew further apart, partly due to a dispute over the use of **icons**, or holy images.
- In 1054, other controversies caused a complete split known as the **Great Schism**. The Byzantine church became known as the **Eastern Orthodox Church**. The western branch became known as the **Roman Catholic Church**.
- By this time, the Byzantine Empire was in decline. In the 1090s, the Byzantine emperor asked the pope for help in fighting the Muslim **Seljuks**. This started the **First Crusade**.
- In 1204, knights on the Fourth Crusade attacked Constantinople. The Byzantines lost control of trade & much of their wealth.
- In 1453, **Ottoman Turks** conquered Constantinople, renamed it **Istanbul**, & made it the capital of their empire.
- The Byzantines left an influential heritage. They were the enduring symbol of Roman civilization. They preserved & spread Greco-Roman learning/culture.
- They greatly influenced Russia & Eastern Europe.
- Their civilization combined Christian beliefs with Greek science, philosophy, & arts.
- Byzantine artists created unique religious icons & mosaics.
- Byzantine scholars preserved Greek literature & produced their own great books. especially in the field of history.

THE JUSTINIAN CODE

- To oversee his new empire, Justinian ordered legal experts to consolidate old Roman laws into a single law code
 - The Justinian Code served as the legal basis for criminal justice, marriage, property, slavery, & women’s rights
 - The law code became one of the most important legacies of the Byzantine Empire & served as the basis for laws for the next 900 years

Review Questions:

1. How did Constantinople become a wealthy city?
2. How did the Crusades help to weaken the Byzantine Empire?
3. What was the Great Schism?

Resources/Documents:

- Maps & excerpt on the Byzantine Empire & Trade
- Excerpts & charts on the government power of the Byzantine Empire. *The Justinian Code*
- Video- History Channel’s *Engineering an Empire*

Further Reading: Chapter 9, Section 1

How did geography and its location affect the development of the Byzantine Empire?

Where was the Byzantine Empire (330-1453)?

Directions: Examine the map of the Byzantine Empire below, then answer the questions that follow.



1. Identify **three continents** on which the Byzantine Empire controlled land.

2. Describe the location of the Byzantine Empire relative to **two regions**.

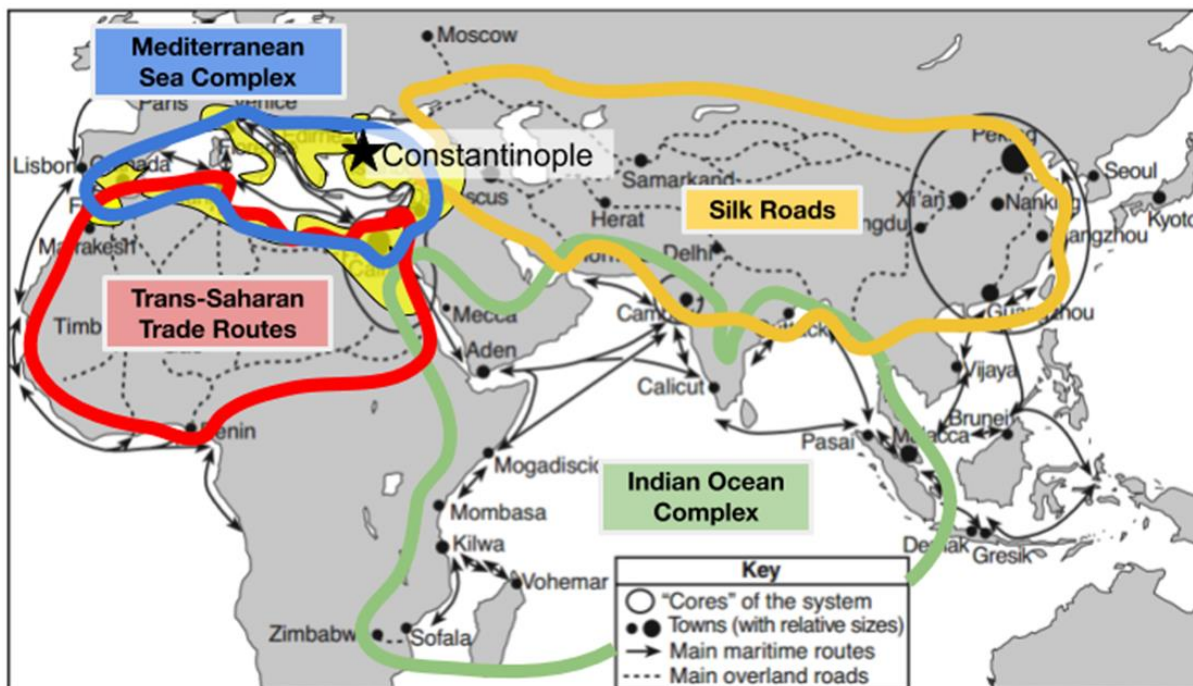
3. Describe the location of the Byzantine Empire relative to **two bodies of water**.

4. In 1-3 sentences, describe the location of the **Byzantine Empire** relative to **four** different locations or geographic features.

How interconnected was the Byzantine Empire in the post-classical era?

Directions: Examine the map below and answer the questions that follow.

The map below shows trade routes in existence before the 16th Century, most of which existed during the post-classical era. The Byzantine Empire, at its height, is highlighted in yellow.



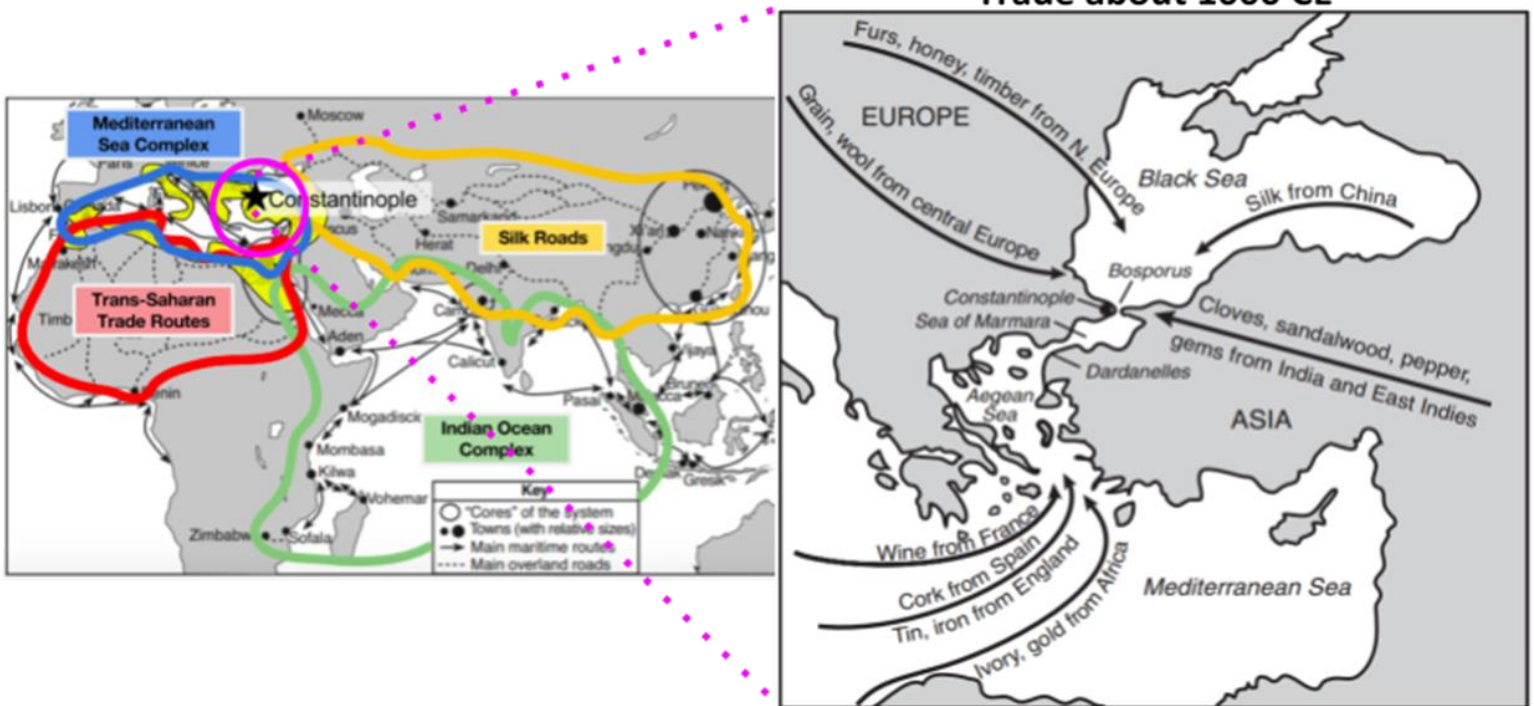
1. Which trade networks connected to the Byzantine Empire?

2. Identify four cities that the people living in Constantinople could have traded with.

3. How might living at the intersection of several trade networks have affected the lives of people in the Byzantine Empire during the post-classical era?

How did the location of Constantinople affect its development and that of the Byzantine Empire?

Directions: Examine the map and text below, then complete the tasks that follow.



1. Describe the location of Constantinople, the capital of the Byzantine Empire, relative to **two continents**.
2. Describe the location of Constantinople, the capital of the Byzantine Empire, relative to **two bodies of water**.
3. Based on the map above, describe how geography and its location affected the development of Constantinople.

Benjamin of Tudela's Description of Constantinople

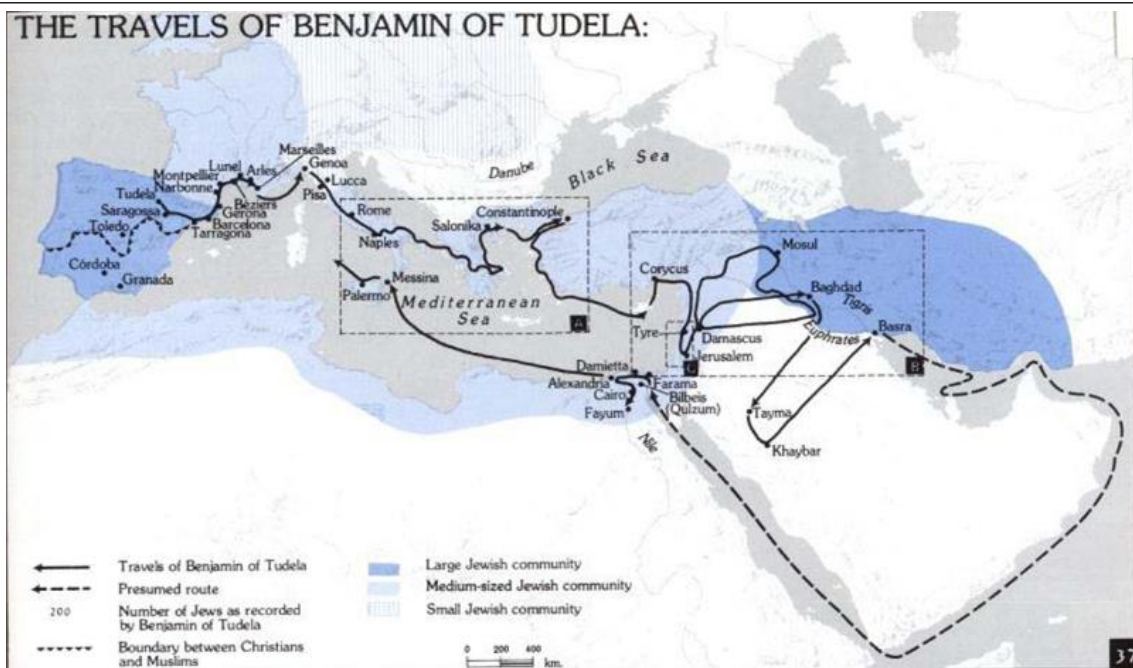
Directions: Read the information about Benjamin of Tudela, examine the map of his travels, and read his account, then complete the tasks that follow.

Benjamin of Tudela was a Jewish traveler from the Kingdom of Castille, in modern-day Spain in the 12th century. He traveled throughout Europe, the Middle East and North Africa visiting Jewish communities and writing about his travels. His book, *The Tales of Benjamin* provide historians with descriptions of the Mediterranean world during the post-classical era.

Benjamin of Tudela's Description of Constantinople

... The circumference of the city of Constantinople is eighteen miles; one-half of the city being bounded by the continent, the other by the sea, two arms of which meet here; the one a branch or outlet of the Russian [Black Sea], the other of the Spanish sea [Mediterranean Sea]. Great stir and bustle prevails [dominates] at Constantinople in consequence of the conflux [meeting] of many merchants, who resort thither [come there], both by land and by sea, from all parts of the world for purposes of trade, including merchants from Babylon and from Mesopotamia, from Media and Persia, from Egypt and Palestine, as well as from Russia, Hungary, Patzinakia, Budia, Lombardy and Spain. In this respect the city is equalled only by Bagdad, the metropolis of the Mahometans [Muslims].

... — Rabbi Benjamin of Tudela, Manuel Komroff, ed., *Contemporaries of Marco Polo*, Boni & Liveright from the NYS Global History and Geography Regents Exam

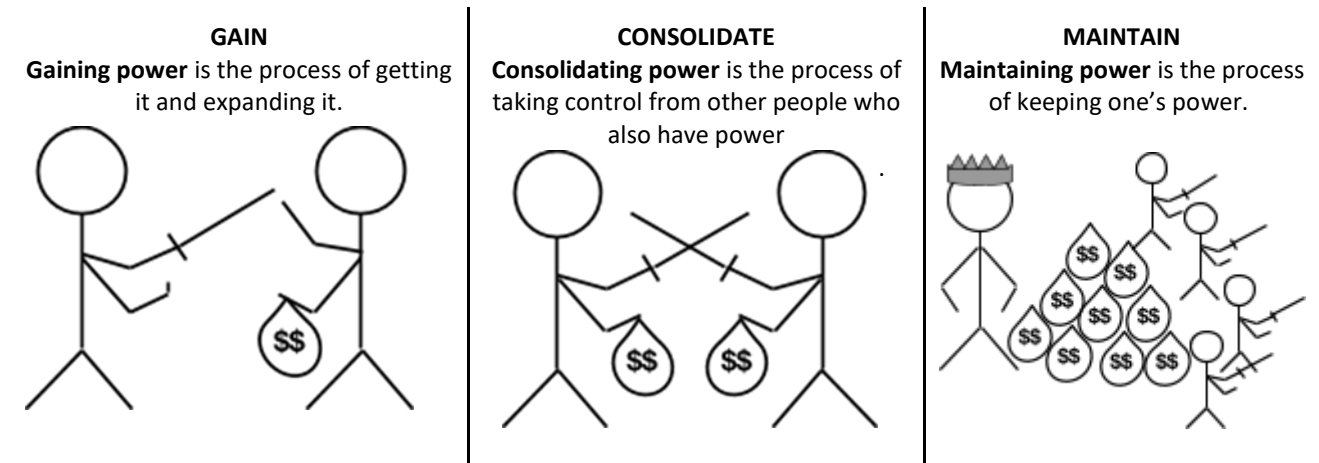


4. Who was Benjamin of Tudela?
5. When did Benjamin of Tudela write his description of Constantinople?
6. Based on Benjamin of Tudela's account, identify three locations merchants came to Constantinople from.
7. According to Benjamin of Tudela's account, why did "Great stir and bustle" prevail [dominate] in Constantinople?
8. Explain the extent to which Benjamin of Tudela's account is a reliable source of evidence about **Constantinople in the 1100s.**
9. Identify and explain a cause and effect relationship between what is depicted in the map of Constantinople entitled "Trade about AD 1000" and Benjamin of Tudela's description of Constantinople.

Questions to consider when describing a source's reliability:

- Does the source include evidence about the given topic? (Constantinople in the 1100s)
- Is the source primary or secondary?
- Is the author biased?
- What are the limitations of the source to give evidence about the topic?

How did Justinian and Theodora gain, consolidate, and maintain power in the Byzantine Empire?



Directions: Use the information you will learn in the documents below to then write a claim that addresses the prompt below and supply three pieces of evidence that supports it.

Task: Read through the Enduring Issues Essay introduction below, then write a topic sentence for the first body paragraph and identify the evidence from the documents you will read about the Byzantine Empire that you would use to support that topic sentence.

Introduction

One enduring issue throughout history is that people and governments have tried to gain, consolidate, and maintain power. This desire to get and keep power is a significant enduring issue because individuals and states since the beginning of human history to today have sought power and people all over the world have been impacted by the short and long term effects of the methods used to gain, consolidate, and maintain power. Evidence of the people's thirst for power and the strategies they have used to keep it can be seen in *the Byzantine Empire under the reign of Justinian and Theodora*, the British Empire, and the Russian Revolution.

Body Paragraph 1:

Topic Sentence:

Evidence 1:

Evidence 2:

Evidence 3:

What was the Byzantine Empire? Who were Justinian and Theodora?



Directions: Watch this excerpt of the [History Channel's *Engineering an Empire*](#) (21:32- 23:42), read the text and examine the images below, then complete the tasks that follow.

The western and eastern provinces of the Roman Empire drifted apart in the fourth century when Diocletian and Constantine began making **reforms**. As invasions increased, the western Roman Empire finally fell to Germanic invaders in 476 CE. Even though the western province collapsed, the eastern province survived and grew into the great Byzantine Empire.

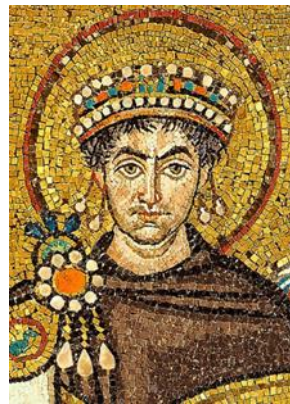
There were many leaders of the Byzantine Empire, but the empire reached its height under **Emperor Justinian and his co-ruler and wife Theodora** in the sixth century. Unlike the fallen Western province of the Roman empire, Justinian and Theodora developed a **centralized government** where all power and decision-making was concentrated in one unit instead of having power in the hands of many different people in different locations. Justinian and Theodora were **autocrats**, sole leaders with complete authority. They had political and religious power. Justinian appointed leaders of the **Eastern Orthodox Church**. Also, as emperor, he was considered Jesus' co-ruler on earth.

The goal that drove Justinian and Theodora's actions was to reconquer Rome and restore its glory under their rule.

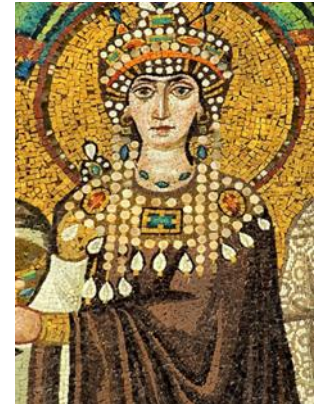
Following the fall of the Western province of the Roman Empire, *divergent societies* emerged in Europe.

WESTERN EMPIRE
Medieval Europe

EASTERN EMPIRE
Byzantine Empire



A mosaic of Justinian I in the Basilica of San Vitale in Italy.



A mosaic of Theodora in the Basilica of San Vitale in Italy.

1. How was Justinian and Theodora's Byzantine Empire different from Western Europe during the same time period?
2. What title did Justinian give Theodora when he became the ruler of the Byzantine Empire? Based on this, what can you infer about their relationship and her power?

How did Justinian and Theodora gain, consolidate, and maintain power in the Byzantine Empire?

Directions: Use the annotation key below while reading the documents that follow to gather evidence to answer the questions: How did Justinian and Theodora gain, consolidate, and maintain power in the Byzantine Empire?

G	C	M	M	M
Place a "G" next to evidence of how Justinian and Theodora GAINED power	Place a "C" next to evidence of how Justinian and Theodora CONSOLIDATED power	Place an "M" next to evidence of how Justinian and Theodora MAINTAINED power	Circle words that are unclear and identify possible meanings.	Write questions in the margins to clarify misunderstandings.

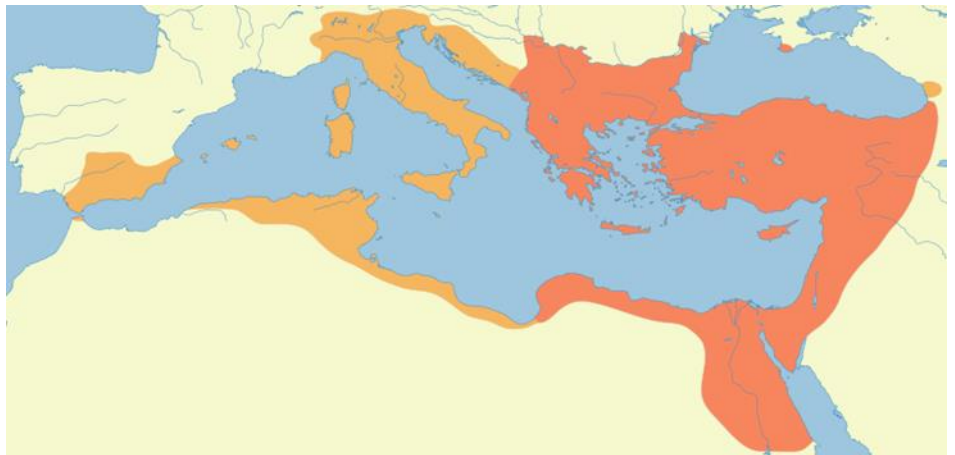
gold and silver in treasury
where a gov't keeps its money

why did Peter the Great want to westernize his country?
Peter th
were ex
an econ
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Document 1: Map of the Expansion of the Byzantine Empire During the Reign of Justinian and Theodora

Map of Byzantine Territory at the end of Justinian and Theodora's Reign (527-565)

Timeline of Military Campaigns	
527-532	War with the Sassanid
533-534	Conquest of North Africa
535-540	War in Italy, first phase
540-562	War with Sassanid Empire
541-554	War in Italy, second phase



The red represents the land controlled by the Byzantine Empire in 527 when Justinian and Theodora started their rule. The orange represents land they conquered.

Document 2: Nika Riots

Watch this excerpt of the [History Channel's *Engineering an Empire*](#) (23:42- 25:23, 26:00-29:40) about the Nika Riots and read the text below.

As a result of increased taxes and harsh laws, the people of Constantinople came together against Justinian and Theodora in 532 CE in an event known as the Nika Riots. The riots started in a stadium called the Hippodrome, where up to 100,000 people gathered regularly to see chariot races and to root on their favorite chariot teams like the Blues, Greens, Reds, and Yellows.

Often where people lived, their political beliefs, and their favorite chariot teams were similar. For example, Emperor Justinian supported the Blues and most of his political supporters and trusted friends rooted for the Blues too. People in Constantinople were usually divided among these lines, but came together in opposition to Justinian and Theodora in 532 CE. They violently protested, burned the city, and tried to crown someone else emperor.

The excerpt below was written by *Procopius*, a Byzantine historian who traveled with Justinian's general Belisarius as his legal adviser and was present during the Nika Riots. In the excerpt below, Procopius describes what happened after Theodora convinced Justinian to stay and fight rather than flee the city. Justinian sent his general Belisarius to the Hippodrome to stop the rioting.

. . . . Belisarius, with difficulty and not without danger and great exertion, made his way over ground covered by ruins and half-burned buildings, and ascended to the stadium. . . . Concluding that he must go against the populace who had taken their stand in the hippodrome—a vast multitude crowding each other in great disorder—he drew his sword from its sheath and, commanding the others to do likewise, with a shout he advanced upon them at a run. But the populace, who were standing in a mass and not in order, at the sight of armored soldiers who had a great reputation for bravery and experience in war, and seeing that they struck out with their swords unsparingly, beat a hasty retreat. . . . [Mundus, another of Justinian's generals] straightway made a sally [sudden charge] into the Hippodrome through the entrance which they call the Gate of Death. Then indeed from both sides the partisans of Hypatius were assailed with might and main and destroyed. . . . There perished among the populace on that day more than thirty thousand. . . . The soldiers killed both [of the leaders of the riots] on the following day and threw bodies into the sea. . . . This was the end of the insurrection in Byzantium.

Document 3: Religious Order and Persecution

Justinian, as the emperor of the Byzantine Empire, appointed leaders of the Eastern Orthodox Church and he was considered Jesus' co-ruler on Earth. He persecuted and oppressed other Christian sects and other religions. Paganism was outlawed in Justinian's Code and his government took actions to destroy it. He closed a school that taught Plato's philosophy in Greece, abolished the worship of the god Amun at an oasis in the Libyan desert and the worship of Isis in Egypt.

In addition, the civil rights of Jewish people were restricted in Justinian's Code.

As a result, people from many different religious and ethnic groups converted to Eastern Orthodox Christianity to avoid persecution.



Justinian was one of the first emperors pictured holding the cross, a symbol of Christianity, as he is in the coin pictured above

Document 4a: Justinian's Code, excerpt 1

At the core of Justinian and Theodora's goals as leaders was reestablishing the greatness of the Roman Empire. One of their methods was to draft a new law code called *Corpus Juris Civilis*, or **Justinian's Code**. Justinian set up a commission to collect and revise all of the Roman laws. In 529 CE, Justinian published his first set of laws known as the "Body of Civil Law." The work of compiling and editing Justinian's Code was directed by Tribonian, an official in Justinian's court. The code included laws on marriage, slavery, property ownership, women's rights, and criminal justice. Justinian used the law to unify his empire under his control and provide a sense of stability for his people. Justinian's Code did not only have an effect of the Byzantine Empire. Over the centuries, it became the basis of legal systems in Europe.

Justinian's Code: Book I, Of Persons

Book I, Of Persons

I. Justice and Law

3. The **maxims** of law are these: to live honestly, to hurt no one, to give everyone his due.

4. The study of law is divided into two branches; that of public and that of private law. **Public law** regards the government of the Roman Empire [the Byzantines and most other groups of people at the time referred to themselves as "Romans." Historians started using the term Byzantines to separate this empire from the western Roman Empire]; **private law**, the interest of the individuals.

VIII. Slaves

We now come to another division relative to the rights of persons; for some persons are independent, some are subject to the power of others. Of those, again, who are subject to others, some are in the power of parents, others in that of masters. Let us first treat of those who are subject to others; for, when we have ascertained who these are, we shall at the same time discover who are independent. And first let us consider those who are in the power of masters.

1. Slaves are in the power of masters, a power derived from the law of nations: for among all nations it may be remarked that masters have the power of life and death over their slaves, and that everything acquired by the slave is acquired for the master.

Document 4b: Justinian's Code, excerpt 2

At the core of Justinian and Theodora's goals as leaders was reestablishing the greatness of the Roman Empire. One of their methods was to draft a new law code called *Corpus Juris Civilis*, or **Justinian's Code**. Justinian set up a commission to collect and revise all of the Roman laws. In 529 CE, Justinian published his first set of laws known as the "Body of Civil Law." The work of compiling and editing Justinian's Code was directed by Tribonian, an official in Justinian's court. The code included laws on marriage, slavery, property ownership, women's rights, and criminal justice. Justinian used the law to unify his empire under his control and provide a sense of stability for his people. Justinian's Code did not only have an effect of the Byzantine Empire. Over the centuries, it became the basis of legal systems in Europe.

IX. The Power of Parents

Our children, **begotten** in lawful marriage, are in our power.

1. Marriage, or matrimony, is a binding together of a man and woman to live in an indivisible union.

2. The power which we have over our children is peculiar to the citizens of Rome; for no other people have a power over their children, such as we have over ours.

3. The child born to you and your wife is in your power. And so is the child born to your son of his wife, that is, your grandson or granddaughter; so are your great-grandchildren, and all her descendants. But a child born of your daughter is not in your power, but in the power of its own father.

Book II, Of Things

X. The Making of Wills

6. [...] But women, persons under the age of puberty, slaves, madmen, dumb persons, deaf persons, prodigals [people who waste their money] restrained from having their property in their power, and persons declared by law to be worthless and incompetent to witness, cannot be witnesses.

14. Thus much may suffice [enough] concerning written testaments [wills]. But if anyone wishes to make a testament, valid by the civil law, without writing, he may do so, in the presence of seven witnesses, verbally declaring his wishes, and this will be a testament perfectly valid according to the civil law, and confirmed by imperial constitutions [laws of the empire].

