

Post-Classical Era

- Stage 1
 - 500 to 1250 Rise of Post-Classical Empires
- Stage 2
 - 1250 to 1350 Mongol Empire
- Stage 3
 - 1350 to 1500 Recovery and Expansion

Unit Overview: Post-Classical 600 to 1450

Two Main Eras

1. Rise and growth of Empires, 500 to 1250 (pre-Mongols)
 - The Byzantine Empire
 - Islamic Empire
 - The Life of Muhammad and the birth of a religion
 - The Umayyad Dynasty, 632 to 750 CE
 - The Abbasid Dynasty, 750 to 1258 CE
 - Chinese Empire
 - Sui Dynasty
 - Tang Dynasty
 - Song Dynasty
 - Americas: Maya, Aztec, Inca
2. The Mongol Era and it's Aftermath, 1250-1500
 - Approximately 100 Years of Mongol Rule
 - 4 Khannates (including Yuan China)
 - Recovery and Re-Building
 - Ottoman Islam
 - Ming China
 - Emerging Europe
 - Tsarist Russia
 - Mughal India

Continuation of Rome via the Byzantine Empire



Byzantine State: Characteristics

- Highly centralized rule
 - City of Constantinople
- Emperor highly exalted
 - Was above the law
 - Head of both church & state (Caesaropapism)
 - Sumptuary laws reinforced hierarchy
 - Purple and silk garments reserved for the emperor & family/staff
- Complex bureaucracy
 - Pyramid of government officials to do the work of government.



Byzantine Social and Economic

- Eastern Orthodox Christianity
 - Byzantine Emperor claimed to be the true Pope.
 - Emphasis on Holy Trinity.
- Trade Flourished
 - Western end of the Silk Road.
 - Ideal location between Asia and Europe.



- Byzantine Empire spreads religion and the Cyrillic Alphabet to East Europe & Russia

Кириллица



The Byzantine Empire



Barbarian Invasions of the Roman



Constantinople: A Greek City



capital

Easily fortified location; armies could respond quickly to threat

Sunset on the “Golden



Emperor Justinian [ruled 527-564]



Empress Theodora



Justinian's Empire at its

Byzantine Empire, 565



Church of *Hagia Sophia* [Holy



Interior of the Church of *Hagia*



Justinian's Code

Corpus Juris Civilis:

1. Digest
2. Code
3. Institutes



Byzantine & Sassanid Empires,

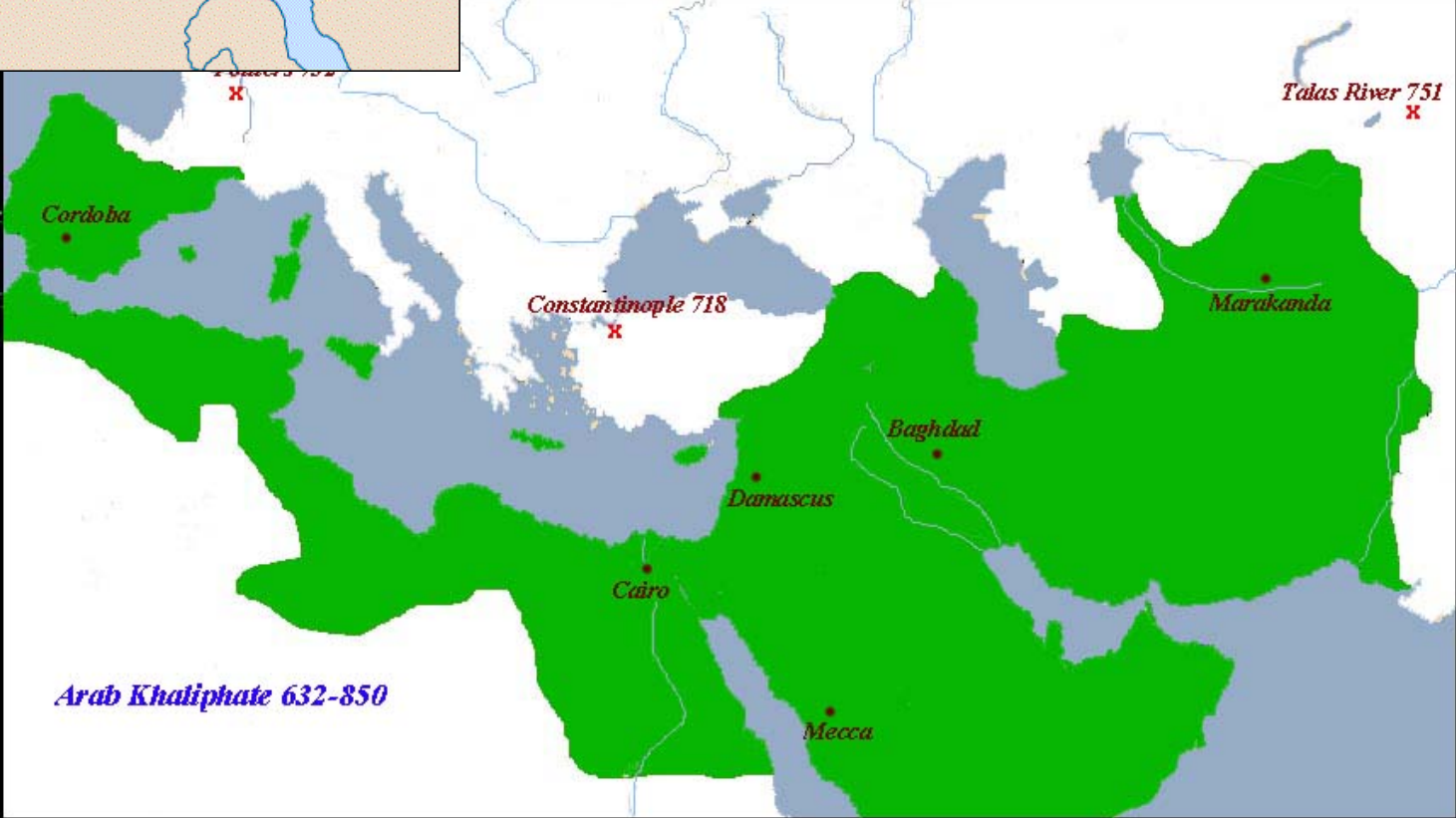


6th c. Arabia: A threat to the Byzantines or Persians?

Byzantine Empire, 565




Contrast these maps



Byzantine Empire, 814



 The Byzantine Empire in 814. By the ninth century, the Empire had lost all its territories but Asia Minor, Greece, the boot of Italy, and the islands of Sardinia and Sicily.

The Middle Byzantine Era, 843-1261

Emperor =
representative of
Christ and
absolute ruler.

Government
centered at his
palace.

Educated
bureaucrats
throughout the
empire to carry
out imperial
legislation and
operations,
including the tax
and justice



Theme System



- Provinces for administrative and military purposes
- Under rule of general appointed by Emperor

Orthodox Christianity: Differences from Western Christianity



Role of the emperor in matters of faith

West = Primacy of the Pope in matters of faith due to disintegration of centralized authority in Europe and the proliferation of European kingdoms

East = Supremacy of the Emperor

This would eventually create a permanent breach in the world of Christianity between west and east highlighted by the to the Schism of 1054.

Eastern Orthodox Practice

- Ascetics
- Monasticism
- Greek language for Bible
- Vernacular language for services
- Non-celibacy for priests
- Icon veneration



Icons—Greek for Image



Iconostasis = series of icons typically surrounding church altars and often told a biblical stories)for the illiterate masses.

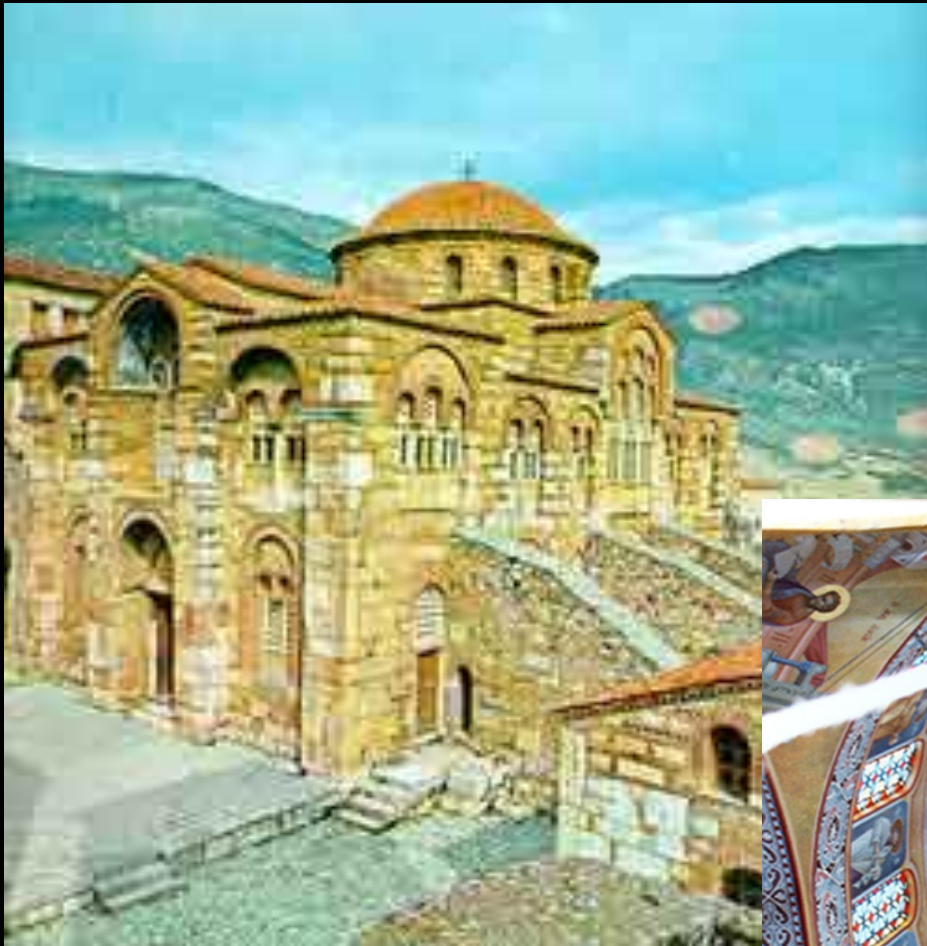




- Brought out for special occasions
- Carried in processions
- Used to protect cities in wartime
- Bowed to, prayed to, sung to, and kissed; they were honored with candles, oil lamps, incense, precious-metal covers

Byzantine Architecture

Domes & arches



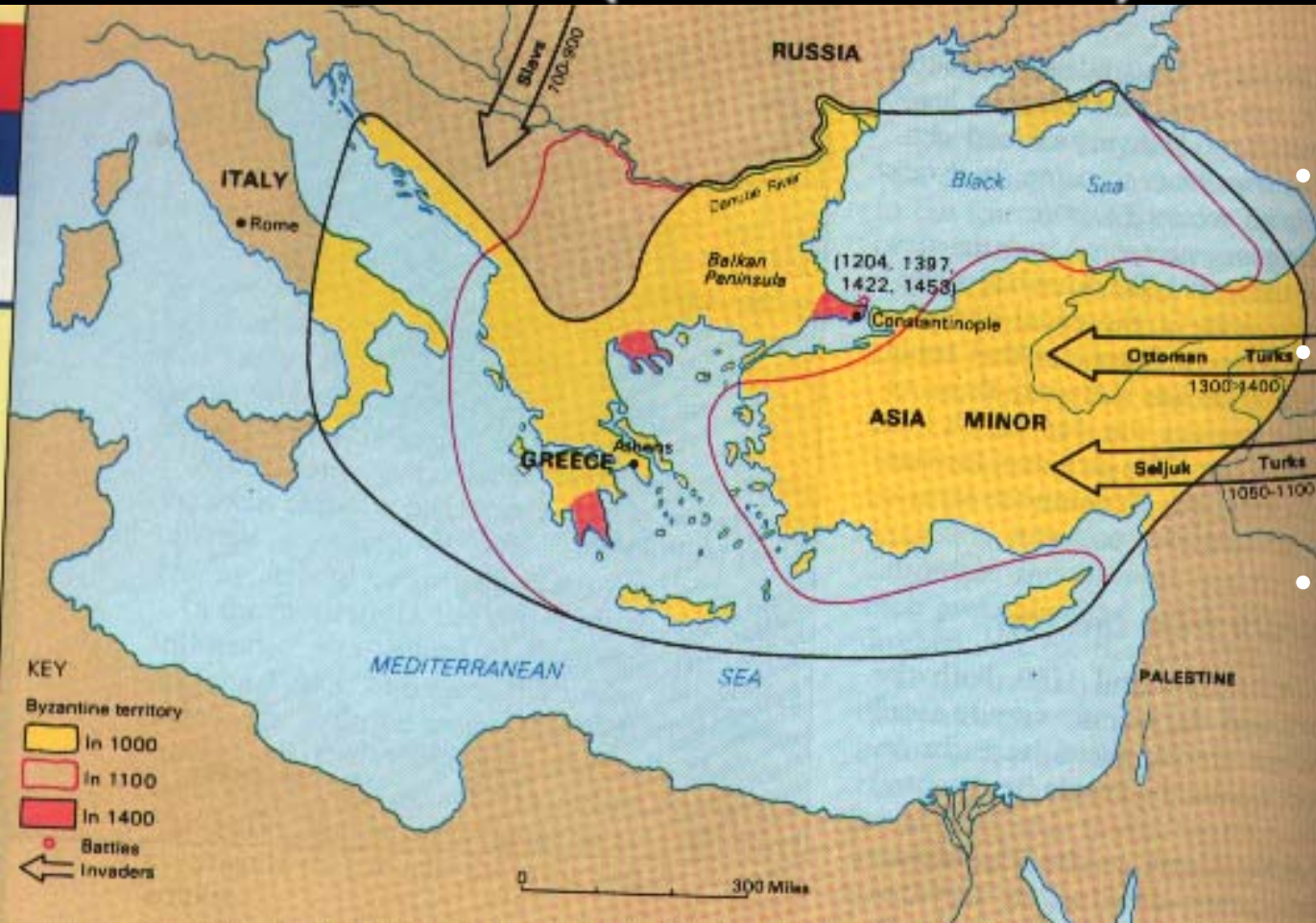
Influence of Byzantium on its Neighbors

Grand **Prince Vladimir** of Kiev became an Orthodox Christian in 988. Byzantium never politically dominated his confederation of principalities, called **Kievan Rus**, which was a composite society of Vikings and eastern Slavs.



Known as “the third Rome,” Kievan Rus artists assimilated the style and iconography of Byzantine art and architecture

The Late Byzantine Period (1261-1453)



- This era continued until the fall of Constantinople to the Ottoman Turks in 1453.
- Continual loss of territory and resources
- Never able to fully quell internal disorders
- Became so impoverished that in 1369 Emperor John V was arrested for debt in Venice as he tried to obtain financial help from the West
- 1453 Fall of Constantinople