

Eastern Roman Empire

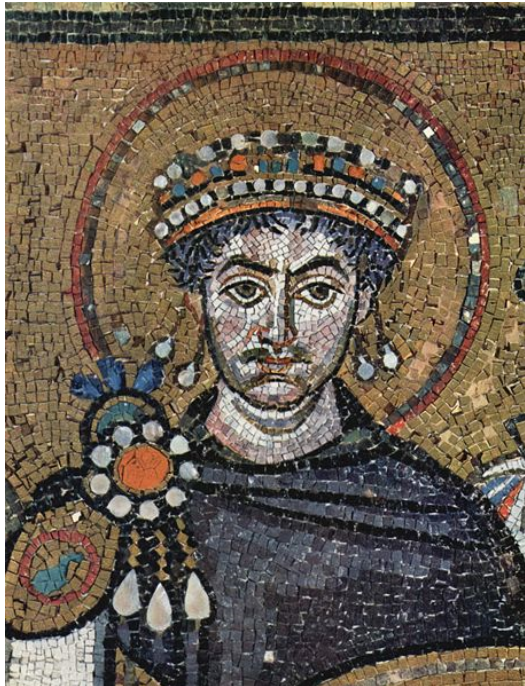
The new capital built by Constantine was at Byzantium. It was later re-named Constantinople (and even later re-named Istanbul).

From the name Byzantium, the Eastern Roman Empire gets its name: The Byzantine Empire



Emperor Justinian

- Justinian becomes most famous Emperor of Byzantine Empire (late 400's-early 500's)
- He collects all Roman laws and categorized (codified) them = the Justinian Code (the basis of Western law)
- He tries to re-conquer the West – he succeeds but it turns out too expensive to control
- The Greek language comes to dominate the Byzantine Empire
- The Orthodox Church comes to be the dominant Church (Latin and the Catholic Church dominates the West)



- Around AD 1000, Constantinople is attacked by Muslims.
- The Emperor asks the Pope for assistance from the West.
- Pope Urban II calls for a Holy War against the “infidels” in the Holy Lands (Crusades = Crux)
- At least 12 Crusades: some “Holy” some “political”
- 1st Crusade captured Jerusalem – which is later recaptured by Saladin (Muslim)
- One of the last Crusades is financed by the merchants in Venice and is aimed at Constantinople.

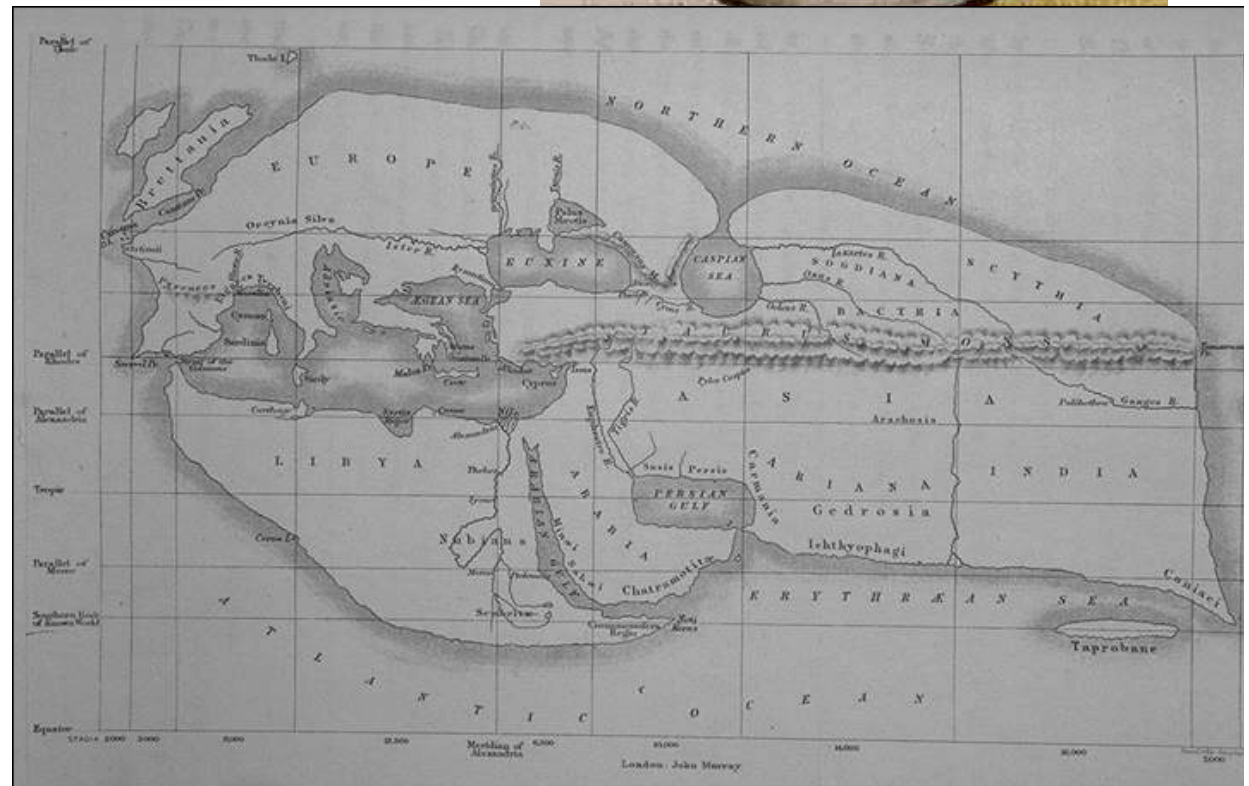
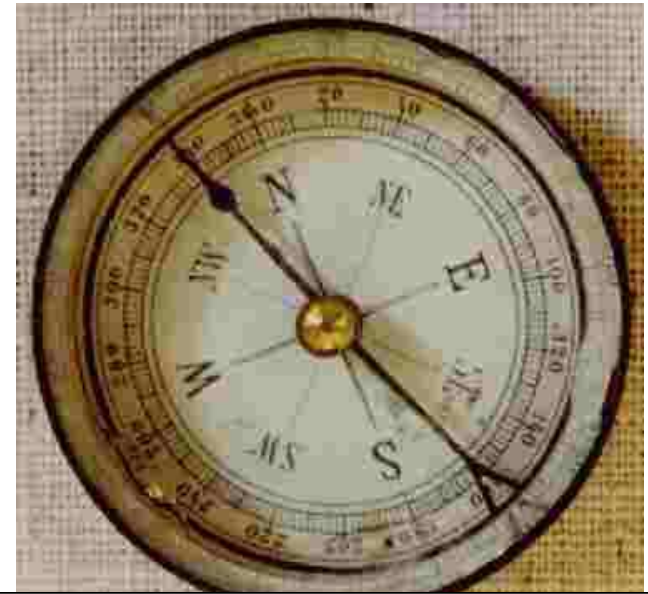


Siege of Antioch



Long term results of Crusades

- 1) Increased trade between Middle East and Europe
- 2) Byzantine Empire is weakened
- 3) New technology in Europe (triangular sail, sternpost rudder, compass, maps)
- 4) European kings became more powerful (compared to lords)



Decline of the Catholic Church

- The Catholic Church had become a political power during the Middle Ages. It begins to face many problems:
- 1) Many Church leaders were not religious (they were political leaders)
- 2) France was becoming more powerful and wanted a French Pope.
1305-1377: French Popes move the capital to Avignon, France
This period known as the “Babylonian Captivity”
- 3) 1377, Pope dies, 1378: riots in Rome to name an Italian Pope and one is chosen. Then a French Pope is chosen (2 Popes)
To solve the problem, a 3rd Pope is chosen (French Pope steps down), but still 2 Popes = “The Great Schism”
- 4) Indulgences (ways to ‘buy’ your way out of hell).
- 5) Black Death – Catholic Church does little to help the people (see #1)
- **Many start questioning the legitimacy of the Catholic Church