



CHAPTER 11
BYZANTINE, RUSSIANS AND TURKS
INTERACT
500-1500
#3

NEW ROME

- Western Roman Empire crumbled in the 5th century.
- Empires were divided into east and west.
- Unified 2 Empires Greece and Italy
- Byzantine becomes the capital of the Eastern Empire.
- Byzantine thrives as the capital.
- 527 Justinian (nobleman) took the throne of the Eastern Empire, ruled with absolute power.
- Justinian successfully won parts of Italy, Spain and Africa.



LIFE IN NEW ROME

- Byzantine Empire adopted its own character:

1. sharing Roman traditions but spoke Greek

2. Laws combined Roman and Greek codes of conduct to create a unified code = Justinian Code

- Justinian Code -

- 1. The Code – 5,000 Roman laws that were still useful to the Byzantine Empire
- 2. The *Digest*- 50 volumes of Rome's legal thinkers
- 3. The *Institutes*- law textbook
- 4. The *Novellae* (New Laws)- legislation

- Overall = decided legal questions, marriage, slavery, property, inheritance, women's rights, and criminal justice throughout the Byzantine Empire.

CREATING THE IMPERIAL CENTER

- Justinian launched the most ambitious public building program ever in the Roman world.
- Rebuilt crumbling fortifications in Constantinople, churches, baths, aqueducts, law courts, schools, and hospitals.
- Restored Greek- Roman education to make Byzantine Empire stronger.



- Constantinople (modern day Istanbul)- busy high paced city.
- Adopted both cultures.
- Merchants lined the streets selling products from Asia, Africa and Europe.
- Free entertainment, chariot races.
- Ortakoy Mosque – Istanbul

THE EMPIRE FALLS

- Justinian dies 565 – empire faces many set back.
- Street riots, religious quarrels, and foreign dangers.
- Plague – probably arrived on Indian ships infested with rats. Killed 10,000 people a day. Broke out repeatedly for over 100 years.
- Byzantine Empire under attack from Persia, Arab armies, and Russians.
- Religious division- Roman Catholic (pope, pope authority, priests not married, no divorce) v. Eastern Orthodox (patriarch, emperor claims authority, priests may be married, divorce).



