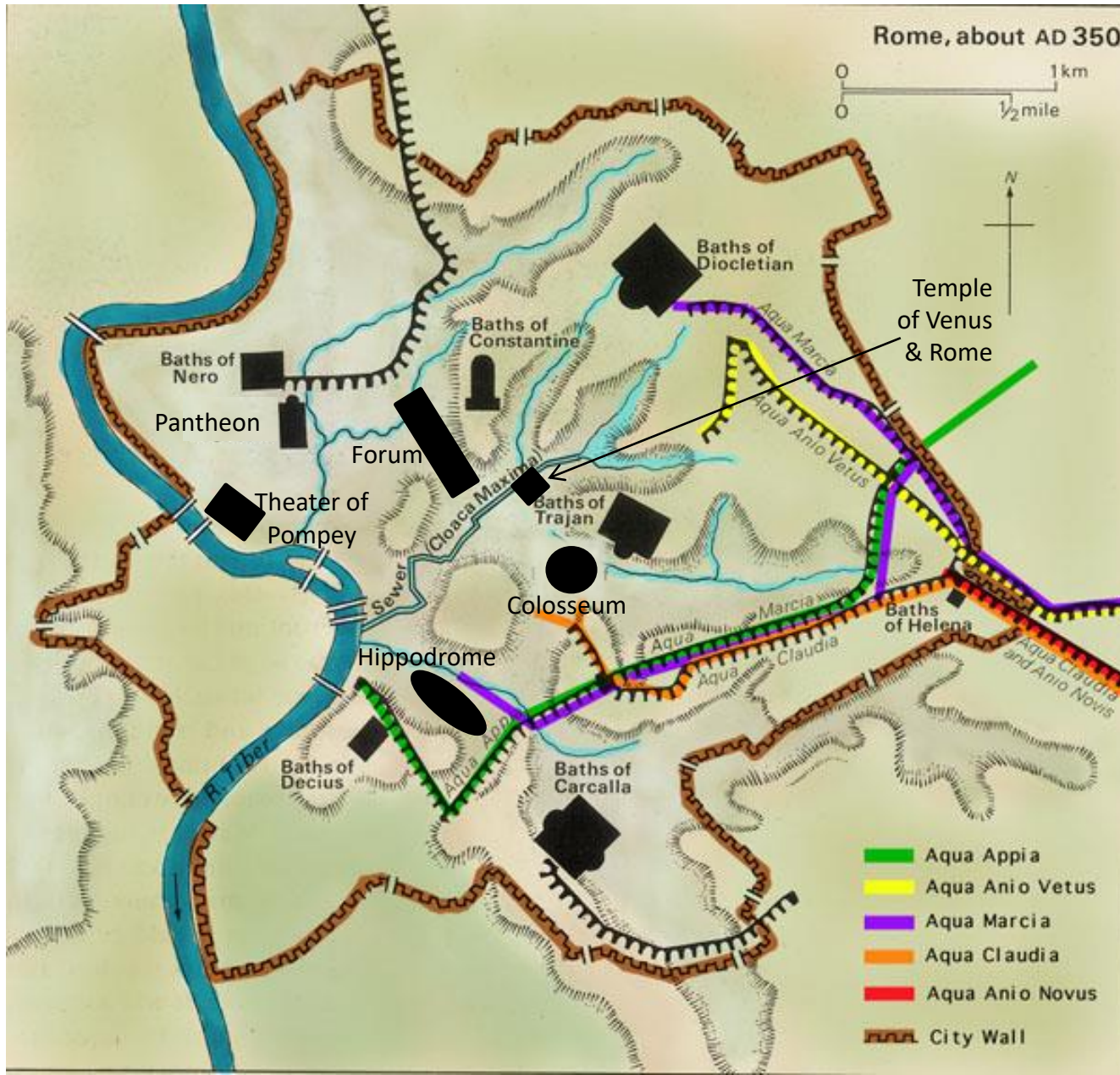


Byzantine vs. Rome Comparison

1: Capital (Rome)

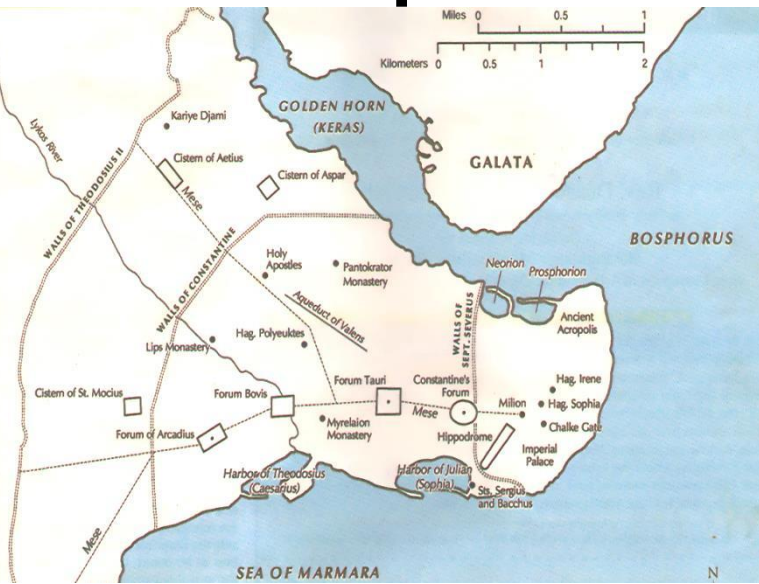
Rome



← These are all aqueducts.

1: Capital (Byzantine)

Constantinople



Constantinople is former capital of the Byzantine Empire ; since 1930 officially it is called Istanbul. It was founded (A.D. 330) at ancient Byzantium as the new capital of the Roman Empire by Constantine I, after whom it was named.

The basic criteria for choosing this location were: its strategic geographical position between Europe and Asia, its strategic value for the command of the seas and of the main routes over-land from East to West and from North to South, as well as its central location to the empire.

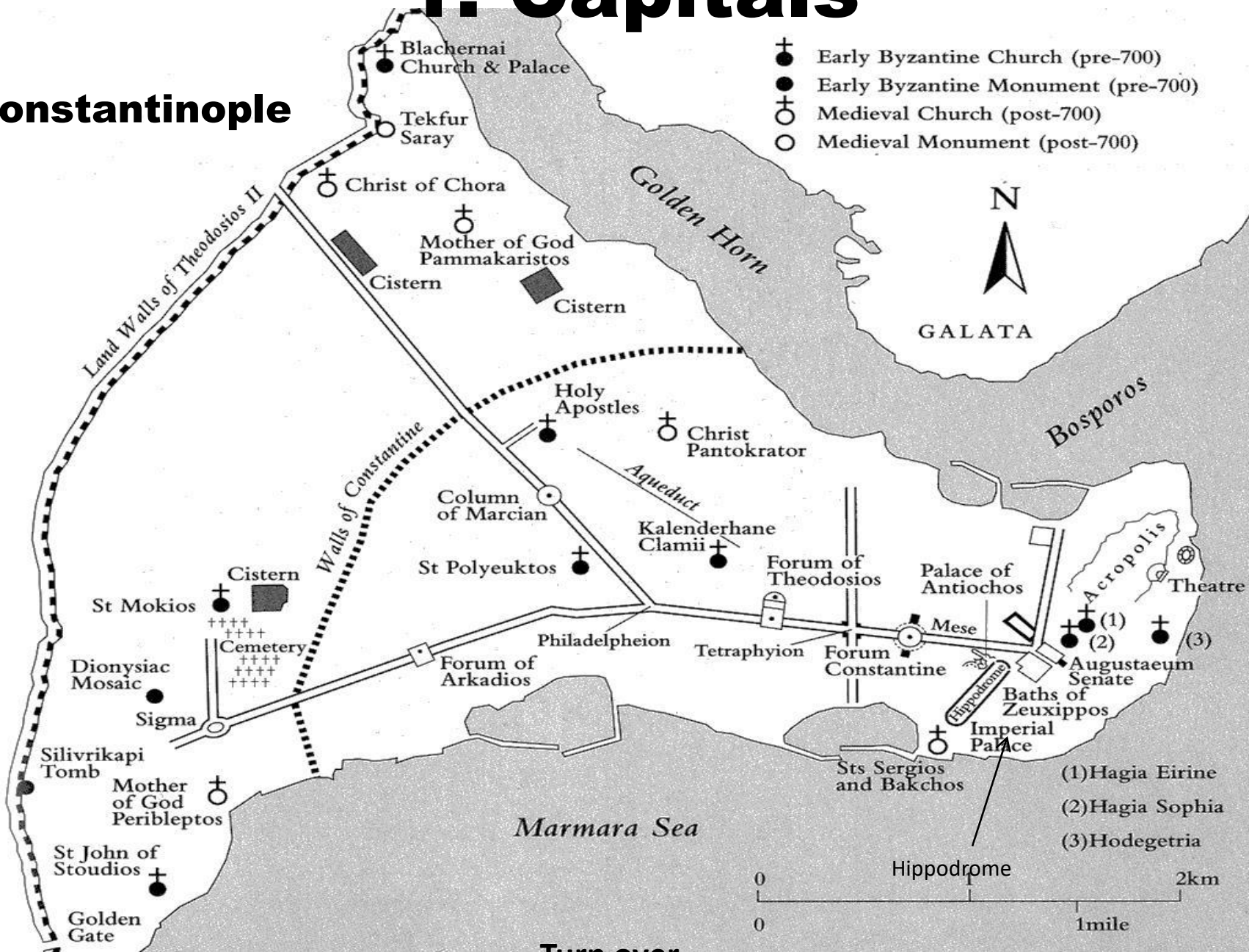
The substitution of the Old Rome was possible only with the creation of a “New” Rome, (Constantinople is often called the **Second Rome**) which would typify in its structures and in its function this new reality. Thus the drawing of the plans for the Palace, the Forum, the Hippodrome, the Squares and the other monumental edifices of the new capital was combined with the parallel location of the churches of Hagia Sophia and of the other churches in the construction design.

Built on seven hills, the city on the Bosphorus Strait presented the appearance of an impregnable fortress enclosing a sea of magnificent palaces and gilded domes and towers. In the 10th century, it had a cosmopolitan population of about 1 million. Constantinople had a great wealth of artistic and literary treasures before it was sacked in 1204 and 1453.

-Turn over-

1: Capitals

Constantinople



-Turn over-

2: Law Codes (Rome)

The Twelve Tables (Rome)

The Roman Republic wanted everyone to know what the laws were. They also wanted to make sure that the law applied to everyone, rich and poor alike. So they engraved the law on tablets of metal and put them in the forum for everyone to read. They remained there, on display, throughout the time period that Rome was a republic. These laws were called the Twelve Tables because there were twelve different sections. These laws were about crime and property and family matters like marriage and inheritance. It didn't matter if you were rich or poor; the law applied to every citizen.

- All citizens are equal under the law
- An accused person is innocent unless proven guilty
- An accused person has the right to know his or her accuser
- People should not be punished for what they think
- An accused person has the right to a trial by jury (first practiced by the Greeks)
- Records of judges' decisions are kept for use in subsequent cases



The Twelve Tables

2: Law Codes (Byzantine)

Justinian Code (Byzantine)

Emperor Justinian looked at his empire and saw that the laws were a mess. Because they weren't written down, the laws in one part of the empire might be different than the laws in another part of the empire. Justinian wanted all of his people to be treated the same way, so Justinian had his judges and lawyers get together and write down all the laws of the land. They also wanted to write down the laws that began in ancient Rome, the laws called the Twelve Tables.

Once they had written down all the laws and made sure that laws did not conflict with each other, they gave this body of law a name. They called it the Justinian Code.

Many countries in the world have used the Justinian code as the basis for their own laws.

The Justinian Code decided legal questions that regulated whole areas of Byzantine life. Marriage, slavery, property, inheritance, women's rights, and criminal justice were just some of those areas. Although Justinian himself died in 565, his code served the Byzantine Empire for 900 years.

3: Military (Rome)

The Roman military was the most successful and powerful in history, dominating the Western world for over a thousand years. The size, strength and organization of their infantry force wouldn't be equaled again for another thousand years. The Romans believed themselves to be descendants of Mars, literally the sons of the war god. They were a proud and uncompromising people who above all else excelled at the art of warfare.

The core of Rome's military strength lay in the professionalism of their heavy infantry. A force that was organized and reorganized as it evolved and adapted to survive the assaults of its mortal enemies, and conquer the Western world. What had started as a regional force of citizen soldier farmers evolved into a massive full time professional army, the world's first.

They became the supreme predator of their day, unmatched in battle and relentless in conquest. From their unremarkable origins the brutal Roman military conquered the Mediterranean world from Mesopotamia to Scotland until finally being absorbed and defeated by waves of barbarian invasions and internal decay. They were, perhaps, victims of their own success, having grown too large. It was a remarkable run though, spanning from their founding traditionally placed at 753BC until the last western Roman emperor was deposed in 486AD. Their success was made possible through both ruthless military might and a focused, determined population.

3 Military (Byzantine)

Since Constantinople was a major port, surrounded by water on three sides, a strong navy was also necessary for the empire's survival. Byzantine ships were fairly typical oar-driven galleys of the time, but they possessed a great technological advantage over other navies: a weapon known as Greek fire. This was a highly flammable mixture that could be thrown on enemy ships in pots from catapults, or pumped by siphons directly on their decks, breaking into white-hot flames on contact. If water was poured on Greek fire, it burned even hotter. One of the great secrets of the ancient world is the exact composition of Greek fire, but it probably contained pitch, kerosene, sulfur, resin, naphtha, and quicklime. Whatever the mix, it was a terrifying weapon that was almost impossible to defend against. With Greek fire, the Byzantine navy reigned supreme for centuries on the Black Sea and the eastern Mediterranean.

The Great Chain was a giant chain suspended between two large towers, which guarded the mouth of the Golden Horn harbor in Constantinople. When raised across the entryway, it prevented ships from entering or leaving the inlet, serving as a simple but efficient form of defense.

After its construction in around 1000 CE, the chain was mainly used to keep enemy ships from entering the waterway, and attacking any of the undefended ports within Constantinople. It did so successfully for more than 400 years, with only rare cases of men circumventing it.

3: Military (Byzantine)

Greek Fire



Great Chain



-Turn over-

4: Emperors (Rome)

Bad Emperors

Caligula (37 CE - 41 CE)

- Mentally disturbed

Nero (54 CE - 68 CE)

- Good administrator but vicious
- Murdered many
- Persecuted Christians

Domitian (81 CE - 96 CE)

- Ruled dictatorially
- Feared treason & executed many

Good Emperors

Trajan (98 CE – 117 CE)

- Empire reached largest extent
- Vast building projects
- Enlarged social welfare

Hadrian (117 CE – 138 CE)

- Reorganized the bureaucracy

Marcus Aelias (161 CE – 180 CE)

- Empire at height of economic prosperity
- Defeated invaders
- Wrote philosophy

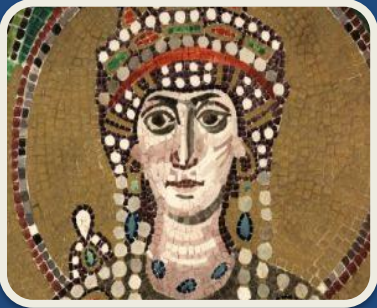
4: Emperors (Byzantine—Justinian)

Emperor Justinian



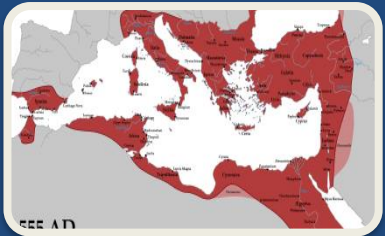
527 CE – 565 CE: Justinian's accomplishments made this one of the greatest periods in Byzantine history

Advisors: well chosen



- One of his advisers was his wife, Theodora.
- She urged him to change laws to affect the status of women.
 - Altered divorce laws to give greater benefit to women
 - Allowed Christian women to own property equal to the value of their dowry (money brought to her husband at marriage)

Expansion:



- He won former Roman lands back from the Germanic tribes.
- Thus during Justinian's reign the Byzantine Empire reached its greatest size.



Built Hagia Sophia (See Architecture section)



Justinian's Code—law code (see Law Code section)

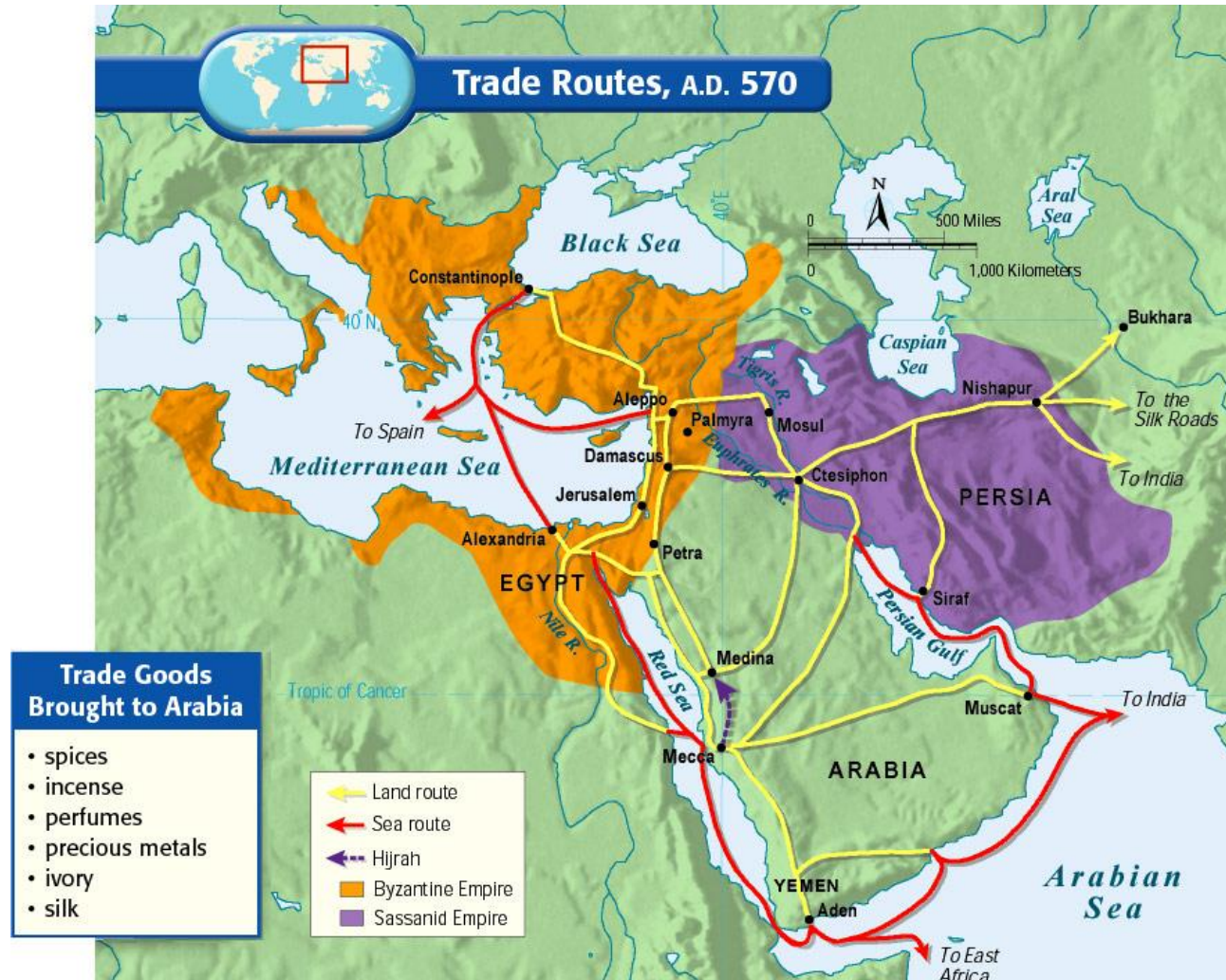
5: Trade (Rome)



Agriculture was the most important industry in the empire. All else depended on it. About 90 percent of the people were engaged in farming. Most Romans survived on the produce from their local area. Additional food (when needed) and luxury items for the rich were obtained through trade. In Augustus's time, a silver coin called a denarius was in use throughout the empire. Having common coinage made trade between different parts of the empire much easier.

Rome had a vast trading network. Ships from the east traveled the Mediterranean protected by the Roman navy. Cities such as Corinth in Greece, Ephesus in Anatolia, and Antioch on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean grew wealthy. Rome also traded with China and India. A complex network of roads linked the empire to such far-flung places as Persia and southern Russia. These roads were originally built by the Roman army for military purposes.

5: Trade (Byzantine)



The Byzantine economy was among the most robust economies in the Mediterranean for centuries. Constantinople was a prime hub in a trading network that at various times extended across nearly all of Eurasia and North Africa. Some scholars argue that, up until the arrival of the Arabs in the 7th century, the Byzantines had the most powerful economy in the world.

6: Architecture (Rome)

Pantheon



The Roman Pantheon is the most preserved and influential building of ancient Rome. It is a Roman temple dedicated to all the gods of pagan Rome.

The dome itself is supported by a series of arches that run horizontally round. Romans had perfected the use of arches which helped sustain the weight of their magnificent buildings. The Romans were aware of the heavy nature of their building materials. So they used lighter materials toward the top of the dome.

No oculus had even dared come close in size to the one in the Pantheon. It is still lined with the original Roman bronze and is the main source of light for the whole building. As the earth turns the light flows in to circle the interior making the viewer aware of the magnificence of the cosmos. The oculus was never covered and rain falls into the interior and runs off the slightly convex floor to the still functioning Roman drainpipes underneath.

6: Architecture (Byzantine)

Hagia Sophia

The Byzantines created great religious architecture. One of the world's great buildings is the church of Hagia Sophia (meaning "holy wisdom") in Constantinople. Justinian ordered the building of the Hagia Sophia in A.D. 532. The Hagia Sophia is a huge building, considered by many to be an architectural and engineering wonder. Justinian devoted a great deal of money and energy to its completion, one reason that it was completed in the amazingly short time of about six years.

Most buildings are designed by architects. However, Emperor Justinian chose two Greek mathematicians to design Hagia Sophia. The resulting church, especially its huge dome, combines Greek balance and proportion with roman engineering skills.

A huge dome sits on top of the church. The dome is 180 feet high and 108 feet wide. Romans and other peoples had built domes before. However, Byzantine architects were the first to solve the problem of placing a round dome over a rectangular building.



-Turn over-

6: Architecture (Hagia Sophia)



The interior ceiling covered with pure gold

7: Religion (Rome)

Roman Religion (Polytheism)

- government and religion were linked
- Important Roman deities:
 - Jupiter, father of the gods
 - Juno, his wife, who supposedly watched over women
 - Minerva, goddess of wisdom
- During the empire, worship of the emperor also became part of the official religion of Rome.

Religious Tolerance

- During much of the Roman Empire, religious tolerance was prevalent
- Greek & Roman pagan religions and many others
- Only required civic duties of making sacrifices to Roman gods and at times worshiping the emperor as a deity
 - This was a problem for Christians and Jews

Christianity

- Emphasized a more personal relationship between God and people—and attracted many Romans
- 312 CE, Emperor Constantine converted to Christianity after winning a battle
- 313 CE, Constantine announced an end to the persecution of Christians
 - He declared Christianity to be one of the religions approved by the emperor.
- 380 CE, the emperor Theodosius made it the empire's official religion

7: Religion (Byzantine)

Originally, Christianity had one church. Because of political conflicts and differences in belief, the western and eastern parts of the Christian Church split apart in 1054. The western church became the Roman Catholic Church, and the eastern church became the **Eastern Orthodox Church**.

Both churches believe in the gospel of Jesus and in the Bible as interpreted by their church. They also believe that God uses sacraments to convey his love to humans. Sacraments are visible signs of something sacred; for instance, the water used in baptism is a sign of God's power to cleanse people of sin.

Eastern Orthodox Christianity:

- Services are conducted in Greek or local languages
- The Patriarch and other bishops head the Church as a group
- Emperor has authority over the patriarch
- Priests may be married
- Divorce is allowed under certain conditions.



8: Causes of Fall of Rome



External threat

- Germanic tribes invaded Rome because they were being invaded by the Huns

Political

- Corruption of government officials
- Division of empire; moving capital

Social

- Moral decay (focus on luxury)
- Contrast between rich and poor widened

Economic

- Trade and commerce fell
- Too much money spent on imports

8: Fall (Byzantine)

Reasons for the Fall:

- Centuries of attacks from their Arab neighbors
- Often practiced diplomacy instead of warfare (ask me to help explain this if needed)
- Weakening military

1453—Constantinople fell to Ottoman Turks (Muslims)

- Byzantine army was only 7,000 soldiers by this point (reduced by other warfare and the Bubonic Plague)
- Turks built a cannon that was able to break through Constantinople's walls
- By this point, it is the last remaining portion of the Byzantine Empire

