**Rome and the Byzantine Empire**

**Chapter 17 notes (441-463)**



**The Glory of Rome**

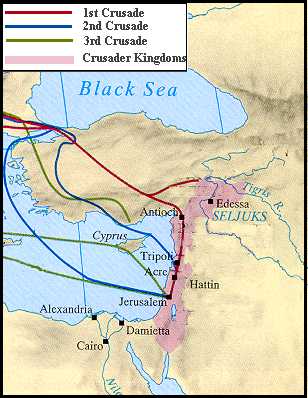
* Founded c.700 BCE
* Strong Central Govt: Republic; Empire
* Powerful military: legions
* Technology: engineering, manufacturing
* Trade: Silk road
* Large and vast empire: (pop = 36-million)
* Becomes Christian under Constantine (4th century CE)

**The Fall of Rome**

* Rome falls in 476 CE to barbarians
* Western Europe enters the Middle Ages 500-1500 CE
  + Sometimes referred to as the “Dark Ages” because much of Greco-Roman knowledge and culture was lost
* Rise of the manorial system (Feudalism): Serfs
  + Decentralized govt.
  + Interregional trade declines
* Western Europe vulnerable: Vikings, Muslims, Central Asian nomads

**Eastern Roman Empire**

* Survives after 476 CE as the “Byzantine Empire”
* Capital at Constantinople
* **Great Schism 1054 CE:** Eastern Orthodox Catholic church breaks from Roman Catholicism
* Interregional trade flourishes (Economic)
  + Eastern Europe – trade with the Rus and Slavs
  + Middle East – Silk road terminus



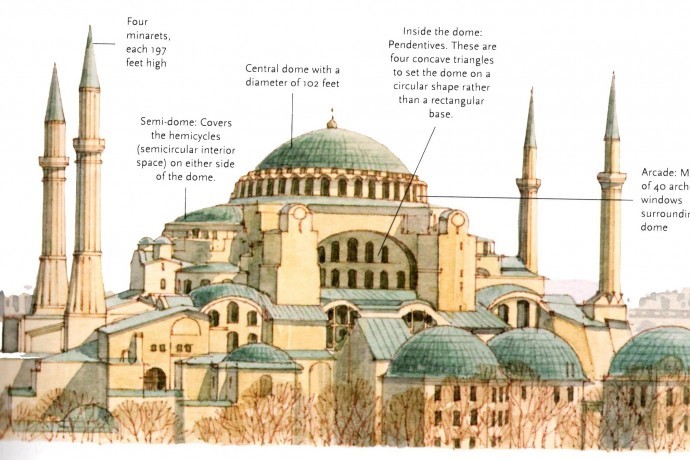
**The Crusades**

* Pope Urban II calls for Christians to take up the cross and reclaim the “Holy Land” – “God wills it!”
  + Motivations?
* Crusaders have some success
  + 200+years of Crusader Kingdoms in the Holy Land
* 4th Crusade sacks Constantinople
* Legacy
  + Exchange of ideas (access to Muslim libraries)
  + Greco-Roman knowledge returns to Europe = **Renaissance**
  + Military technology – castle architecture
  + Further division between Roman Catholicism and Eastern Orthodox Christianity
  + Prelude to the **Reformation**
  + Prelude to Colonialism



**The Fall of Constantinople**

* Shrinking borders
  + Muslims (Ottoman Turks)
  + Barbarians (Huns, Bulgars, Vikings)
  + Italian city-states (Venetians)
* Plague
* Byzantines never recover from sacking of Constantinople 1204 CE



**Byzantine Legacy**

* Eastern Orthodox Christianity
* Preservation of Greco-Roman Knowledge
* Eastern Europe Influence
  + Culture: Cyrillic alphabet, religion, architecture
* Legal System: Justinian’s Code
* Shielded Western Europe (militarily)