



# The Byzantine Empire

# Outlasting the Western Empire

- Historians call Eastern Empire Byzantine Empire
  - Byzantine Empire lasted about 1,000 years after Western Empire
- Emperors were absolute rulers
  - lost much land to invaders

# Justinian



- Justinian was emperor from A.D. 527 to 565
  - reconquered lost Eastern Empire lands in Italy, Africa, Spain



# Inter-Regional Growth



# Rebuilding Constantinople



- Justinian began rebuilding the capital, which was damaged in a revolt
  - rebuilt city walls; built schools, hospitals, courts, churches
  - most famous church was Hagia Sophia



# Regional Identity



- Justinian Code—uniform code of law based on Roman law
  - Included laws on marriage, slavery, property, women’s rights, crime
- Byzantines spoke Greek, but considered themselves culturally Roman
  - Studied Latin, Greek, Roman literature and history

# Critical Thinking



What are three advantages of a unified code of laws based off the Roman laws and new laws?

# Inter-Regional Interaction: Western Europe

- In east, emperor had control over head of church
  - Western pope claimed control over churches in both east and west
  - Eastern church rejected authority of pope
  - Christian Church split in 1054
- Split led to creation of two separate European civilizations
  - Catholic in the west, orthodox in the east



# Critical Thinking



Why would the Byzantines be at such a disadvantage in facing the Muslims to their east after the division of the church?

# Inter-Regional Interaction: The Middle East

- New Arabian religion of Islam began in 600s
  - Muslim armies attacked Constantinople
  - Civil wars, attacks by Ottoman Turks, Serbs hurt Byzantine Empire
- Only small section of empire remained by 1350
- Ottoman Turks captured Constantinople in 1453
  - Ended Byzantine Empire