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 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?
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
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