

I. Byzantine Empire

- a) Consisted of Eastern Europe, the Balkans and the Middle East
- b) Lasted for 1000 years
- c) Continued Roman practices
- d) Impacted Russia, Ukraine and Belarus

II. Origins

- a) 4th century Constantine moved capital to Constantinople
- b) Used Hellenistic culture
- c) Prosperous economy, trade and location

III. Justinian

- a) 527 becomes emperor
- b) Was head of church and state
- c) Created a spy system which forced loyalty
- d) Reconquered some parts of the west
- e) Belisarius, Justinian's right hand general retakes Italy
- f) Replaced Latin with Greek
- g) Reformed taxes
- h) Built the church Hagia Sofia
- i) Created Justinian's Law Code, similar to Roman laws
- j) Wife was Theodora and gave women rights
- k) Some women were educated and became physicians

IV. Weakness

- a) 565 Justinian dies
- b) Plague hits
- c) Attacked by Slavs, Russians, Arabs, and Turks
- d) 1071: Seljuk Turks overran the empire
- e) 1300's empire was extremely weak and destroyed by Mongols
- f) 1453 the Ottoman Turks finally end the Byzantine Empire