

## Byzantine Empire: "A New Rome"

- I. Constantinople
  - A. capital of the eastern Roman Empire in 330
  - B. key location for trade routes between Western Europe and Asia
    - 1. access to the Mediterranean sea and the Black sea
  - C. Was the only "Roman" city left after Western Europe fell to viking invasions
- II. Justinian
  - A. empire reached its peak when he ruled
  - B. determined to revive Rome to its greatest extent by recovering lost land
  - C. built the Hagia Sophia
    - 1. an huge domed Christian church which paid tribute to previous Roman churches
  - D. Justinian's Code
    - 1. a collection of laws
    - 2. 500 years later Western monarchs modeled their laws after Justinian's code
  - E. ruled as an absolute ruler, or autocrat
- III. Theodora
  - A. Justinian's wife and advisor
- IV. Achievements
  - A. Very strong military
  - B. powerful government and economy
- V. Empire's decline
  - A. The empire was attacked by the Muslim Seljurk Turks
  - B. Asked for aid from Western Europe
  - C. Crusades led to a decline of the city and eventually lost power to the Ottoman Turks
    - 1. City was renamed to Istanbul and became a Muslim center of power and culture