

# THE BYZANTINE EMPIRE



- **Founded in 330 AD by Constantine the Great.**
- **The Byzantine Empire emerged from 395 AD and lasted to 1453 AD**
- **The term Byzantine was given to this territory by 18<sup>th</sup> century historians**

- **The Byzantine Empire is the combination**

- **1. Roman Government**

- **2. Hellenistic (Greek) Culture**

- **3. Christian Religion**

- **Many cultures/countries emerged from this area:**

- **Greeks**

- **Vlachs (Albanians)**

- **Armenians**

- **Jews**

- **Egyptians**

- **Syrians**

- **Slavs (see map)**

# Slavic Countries



## EAST SLAVIC

- Russian
- Ukrainian
- Belarusian

Stripes indicate areas where bilingualism is common.

## WEST SLAVIC

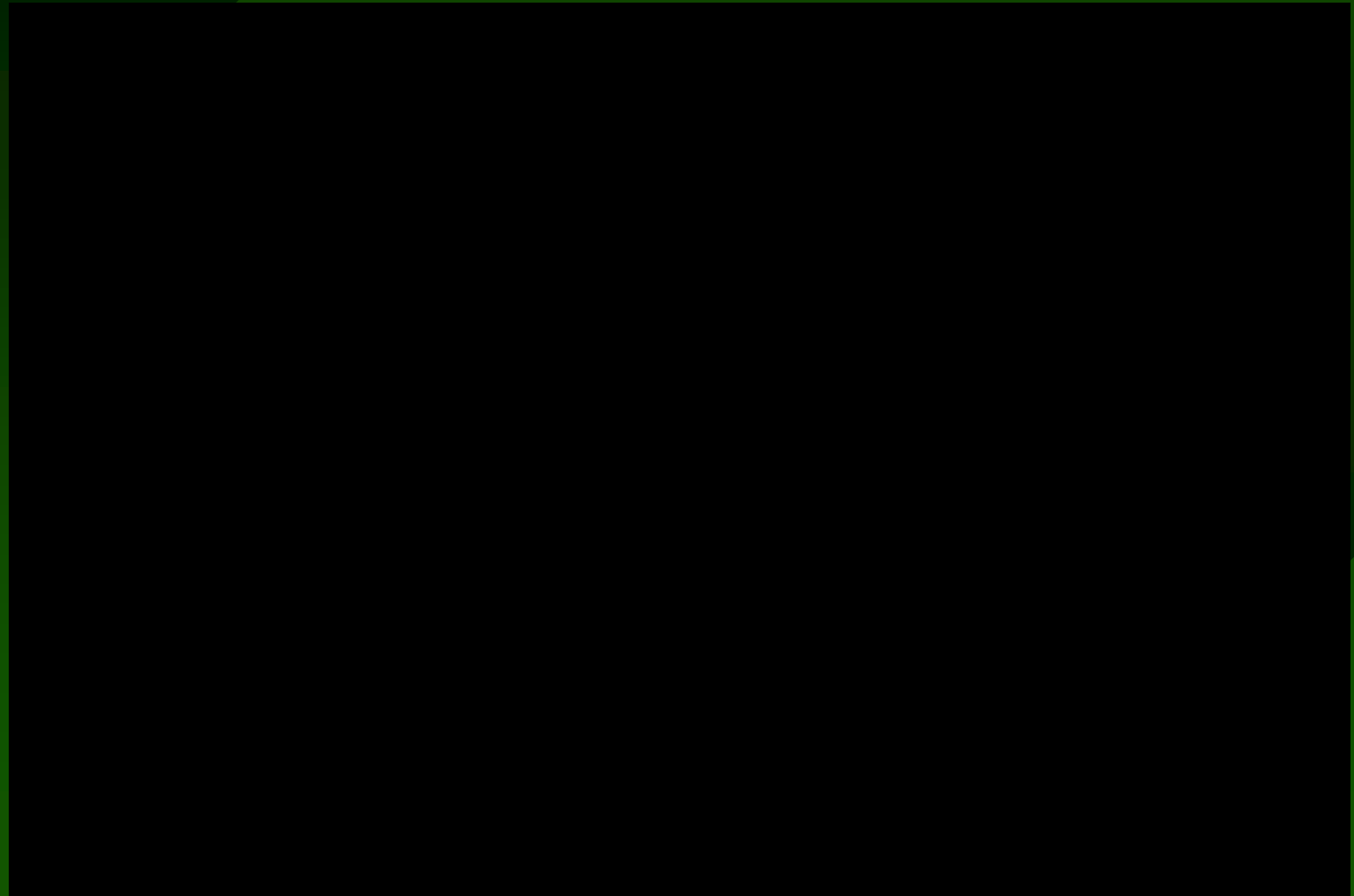
- Polish
- Kashubian
- Czech
- Slovak
- Sorbian

## SOUTH SLAVIC

- Serbo-Croatian
- Slovene
- Bulgarian
- Macedonian

- **The Byzantine Empire was able to avoid the Barbarian invasions that changed Western Europe**
- **The Byzantine Empire did not cower under the Viking invasions, nor did they enter the world of Feudalism**

# GREEK FIRE



# The Golden Years

- **Late 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> centuries**
- **The Eastern and Western churches were gradually separating until it became official in 1054 AD**

# The Church and Government

- **The Byzantine Empire even though it has Christian roots did not believe in the authority of the Pope**
- **Issues like Iconoclasm, the Holy Spirit, and the life of Christ split them**

# Byzantine Culture

- The city of Constantinople had piped water, sewage system, hospitals, maternity wards, old folks homes, and public baths.

# Byzantine Culture

- They were able to do this because of the preservation of education and the arts
- Ancient texts were not destroyed, but rather studied
- Their gold coin was considered valuable from India to Spain.

# Byzantine Culture

- **The Byzantine Empire was an autocracy**
- **The Emperor controlled all facets of government along with the Orthodox Church**



# Byzantine Culture: Women



- **Women's rights in Byzantine society were better than other parts of the world before, during, and after the Byzantine Empire.**

# Byzantine Culture: Women

- **It was still a patriarchal society, but women held various rights:**
  - **1. Run businesses**
  - **2. Participation in the church**
  - **3. Political affairs**
  - **4. Inherit property**

# Byzantine Culture: Women

- Byzantine women could also learn to read and write, however higher education was still reserved for males.

# Byzantine Culture: Lower Classes

- Byzantine citizens were mostly farmers that lived in communities of over 100 people.
- Strength in numbers made them difficult to attack. Western Europeans lived more isolated lives.

# Byzantine Culture: Lower Classes

- Soldiers were first farmers, then soldiers
- Villagers had either one or two story houses



# Byzantine Culture: Lower Classes

- The diet of the Byzantines were the following: grain, olives, olive oil, fish, beans, vegetables, cabbage, onions

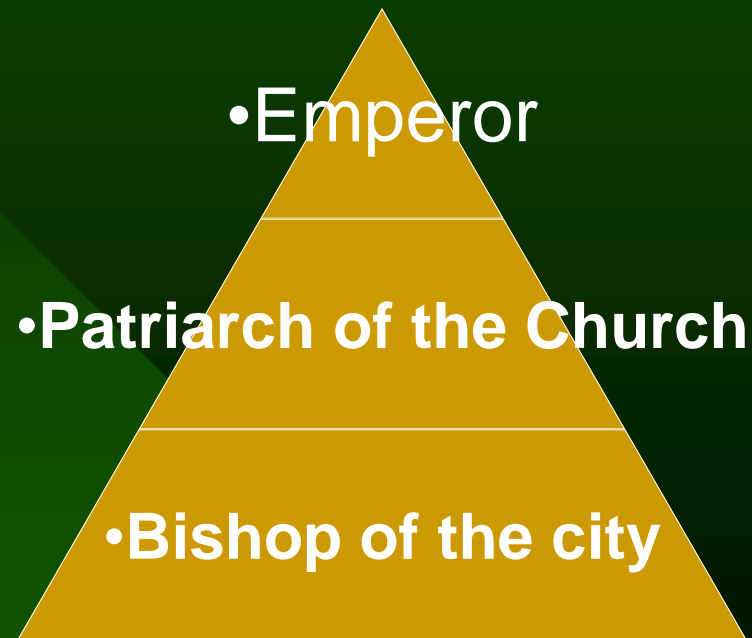


# Byzantine Culture: Religious Order



- The Emperor was considered God's chosen representative on earth, therefore giving him power in the eyes of the church.

# Chain of Command



# Code Justinian

- Best Lawyers and minds of the time rewrote the law code
- 1. All law comes from the Emperor
- 2. All law must be Orthodox
- At the time, socially and legally seen as the most important work since the Bible

# Timeline

- **324: Constantine becomes Emperor**
- **330: Constantinople is declared the capital of Eastern Rome.**
- **518: Justin I becomes Emperor of Byzantium**



# Timeline

- **532: Construction of Haghia Sophia begins**
- **636: Byzantine Empire loses Middle East and North Africa to Muslims**
- **989: Prince Vladimir of Kiev is baptized, bringing Slavic and Russian peoples to the Orthodox religion**

# Timeline

- **1054: Great Schism**
- **1204: 4<sup>th</sup> Crusade; Europeans attack Constantinople for it's riches**
- **1341-1349: Ottoman Turks become a presence.**
- **1453: The Fall of Constantinople, and the end of the Byzantine Empire.**

# Byzantine Empire in Pictures: The Walls of Constantinople



# Greatest Treasures of the Byzantine Empire: Emperor's Palace



# Greatest Treasures of the Byzantine Empire: Hippodrome

