


**The Decline and  
Fall of the  
Roman Empire**

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- **Rome became so big that it was difficult for Rome to handle all of the issues of Rome**
  - **There was a split in the Empire: East and West**

# **Late Emperors**

- **Over the 3<sup>rd</sup> century the Roman Empire started to a new phase of history**
- **Expansion of the Empire had ended, Rome was now in a phase to retain their lands.**

# **The Last Great Emperors**

- **In 268 Rome was hit with two situations. The death of Emperor Gallienus and the invasion of the Goths in central Europe.**
- **The Emperor that succeeded Gallienus was Claudius II. He was able to defeat the Goths and stabilize the government. However, he died of disease in 270.**

# **Aurelian (214-275) (r.270-275)**

- **Aurelian was able to remove all enemies from Rome and also construct new defensive walls for the protection of the city.**



# **Aurelian (214-275) (r.270-275)**

- **After the defense of Rome, Aurelian attacked forces in Egypt and Asia Minor. He also attacked the Gauls in France.**
- **Through these campaigns he was able to improve relations between the eastern and western halves of Rome.**

# **The new face of the Roman Emperor**

- **Prior to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century Emperors stayed put and ruled from the seat of government.**
- **Invasion and insurrection cause the Emperor to move about the Empire and this means the most important and closest people to the Emperor was his military staff.**

# **Diocletian (245-313) (r. 284-305)**

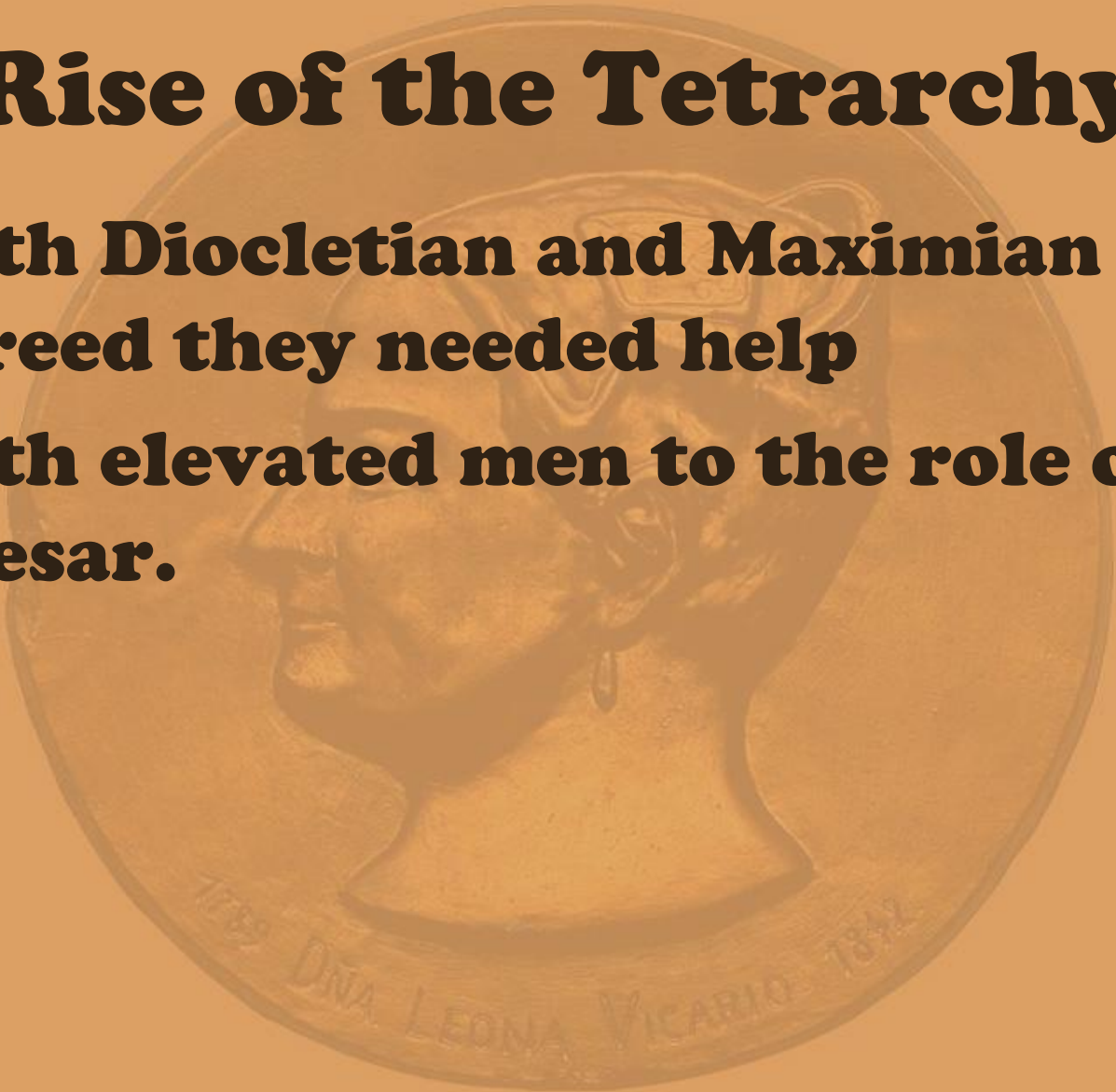
- **Diocletian came to power after Rome went through 4 different Emperors.**
- **Diocletian made many important decisions for Rome:**

# **Diocletian (245-313) (r. 284-305)**

- **Diocletian and Maximian were depicted like Jupiter and Hercules**
- **Beside a popular belief about multiple capitals, many after Diocletian believed that there should be a college of Emperors ruling Rome.**

# **Rise of the Tetrarchy**

- **Both Diocletian and Maximian agreed they needed help**
- **Both elevated men to the role of Caesar.**



# Young Constantine

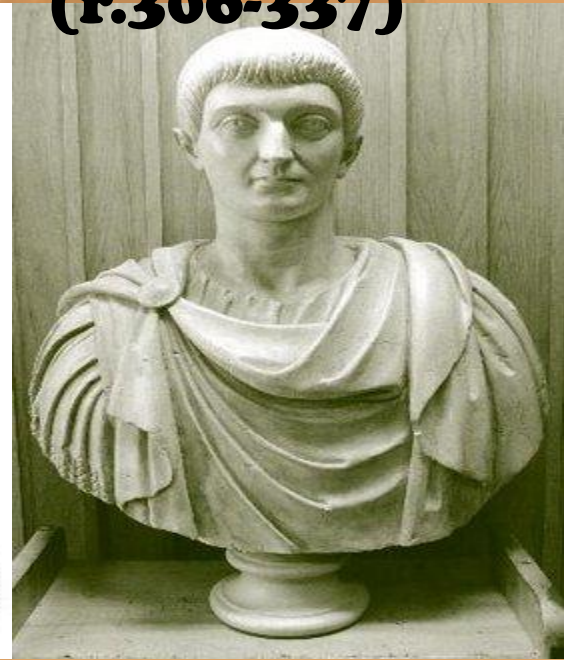
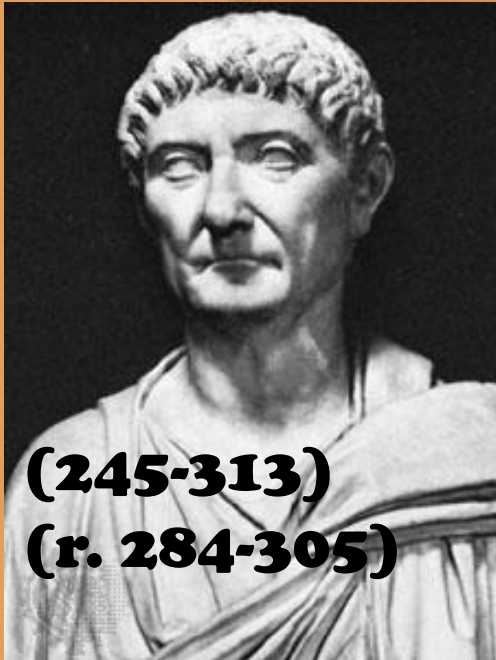


# Rise of the Tetrarchy

• **Dioclecian=Constantius=**  
**Constantine**

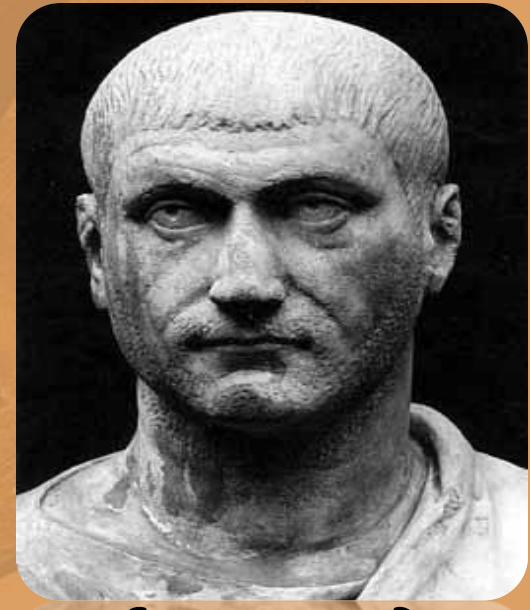
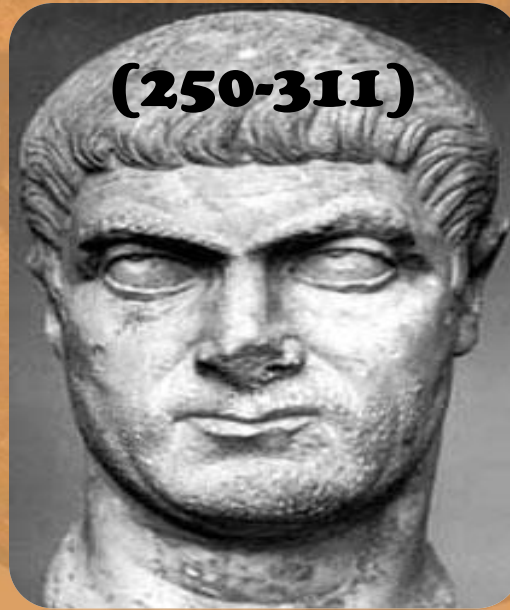
**(275-337)**

**(r.306-337)**



# Rise of the Tetrarchy

- **Maximian=Galerius=Maxentius**



# **Fall of the Tetrarchy**

- **Diocletian did not want to die in office, he wanted to retire, but he had to find the perfect time.**
- **He believed that both Maximian and himself should retire at the same time so the Caesars could become Augustus**
- **Constantius and Galarius become rulers**

# **Fall of the Tetrarchy**

- **Constantius wished the return of his son Constantine from the court of Galerius**
- **Constantius died and in 306, one year after the retirement of Diocletian and Maximian, Constantine is now equal to all of them**

# **Fall of the Tetrarchy**

- **Galerius felt the need to invade Italy, but Constantine did not support his invasion in 307.**
- **Constantine was at an advantage since he was a gifted military leader**

# Battle of the Milvian Bridge 312 AD



# **Emperor Constantine (275-337) (r.306-337)**

- **The Empire was split between Constantine and Licinius**
- **There was little that both agreed on.**
- **At first both agreed the neither of their sons should be heirs to the throne.**

# **Emperor Constantine**

- **Constantine and Licinius' arrangement went sour and between the years of 317-324 both men fought over the control of the Empire.**
- **Licinius is defeated and killed in 324.**
- **Constantine is the last of the great Emperors**

# Constantine and Constantinople



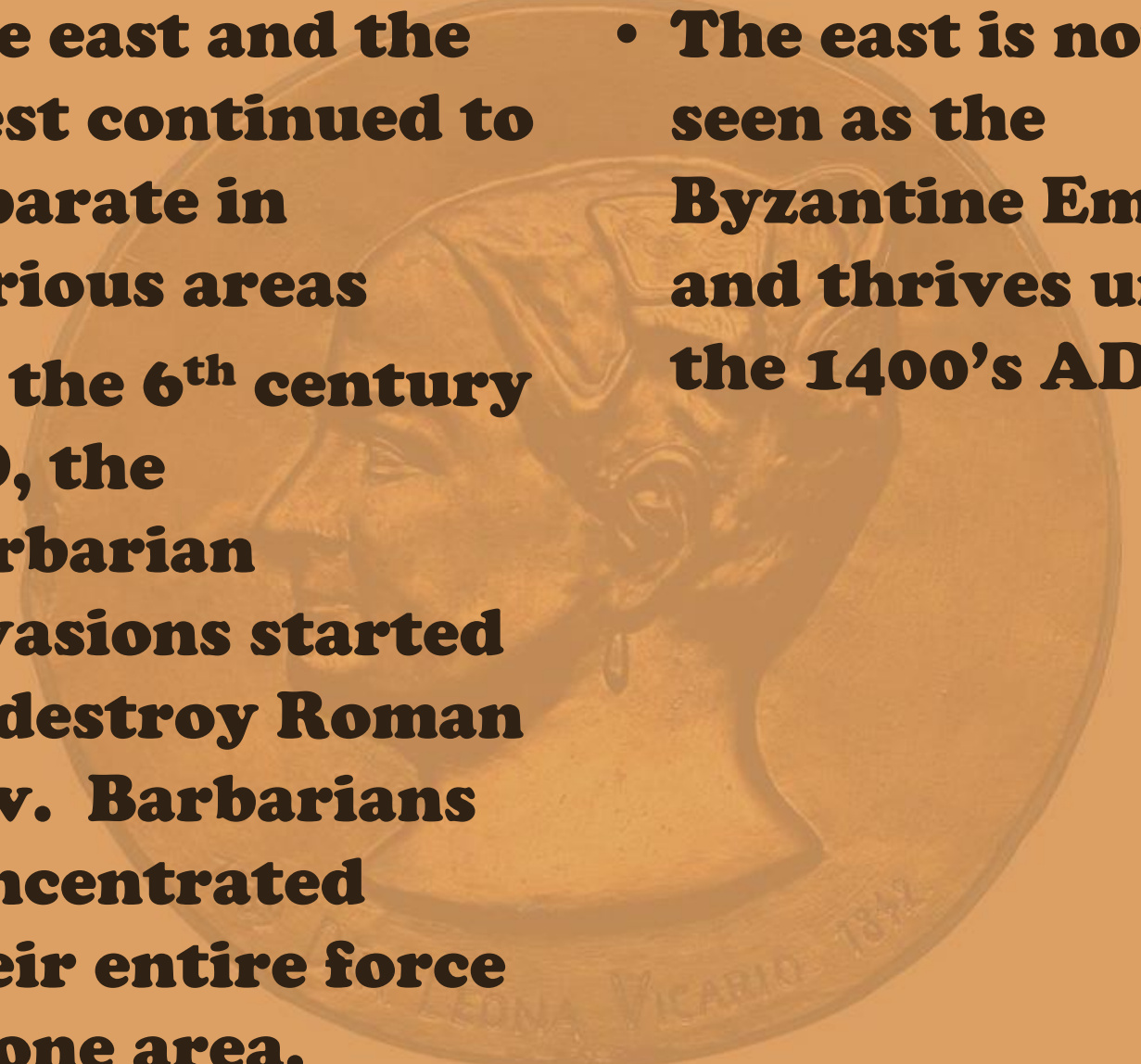
# Emperor Constantine



- **The lasting impact of Emperor Constantine**
- **Creates the city of Constantinople as a second capital**
- **Rearranges the Imperial Court**
- **Tries to create a seat of government not bogged down in past traditions**

# **After Constantine**

- **Constantine's heirs were more ambitious towards each other and Rome went back to an agenda of self-advancement**
- **Later in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries Barbarian invasions along with lack of leadership, break away factions, inflation, and the overall size of Rome slowly bled Rome to death.**

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- **The east and the west continued to separate in various areas**
  - **By the 6<sup>th</sup> century AD, the Barbarian invasions started to destroy Roman law. Barbarians concentrated their entire force to one area.**
  - **The east is now seen as the Byzantine Empire and thrives until the 1400's AD**

# Fall of Rome






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# **What makes a Barbarian?**

- **Barbarian tribes originated in various areas**
- **Pushed out by early Roman Expansion**
- **Re-entered for a need for land, barbarian wars, Rome's decline**

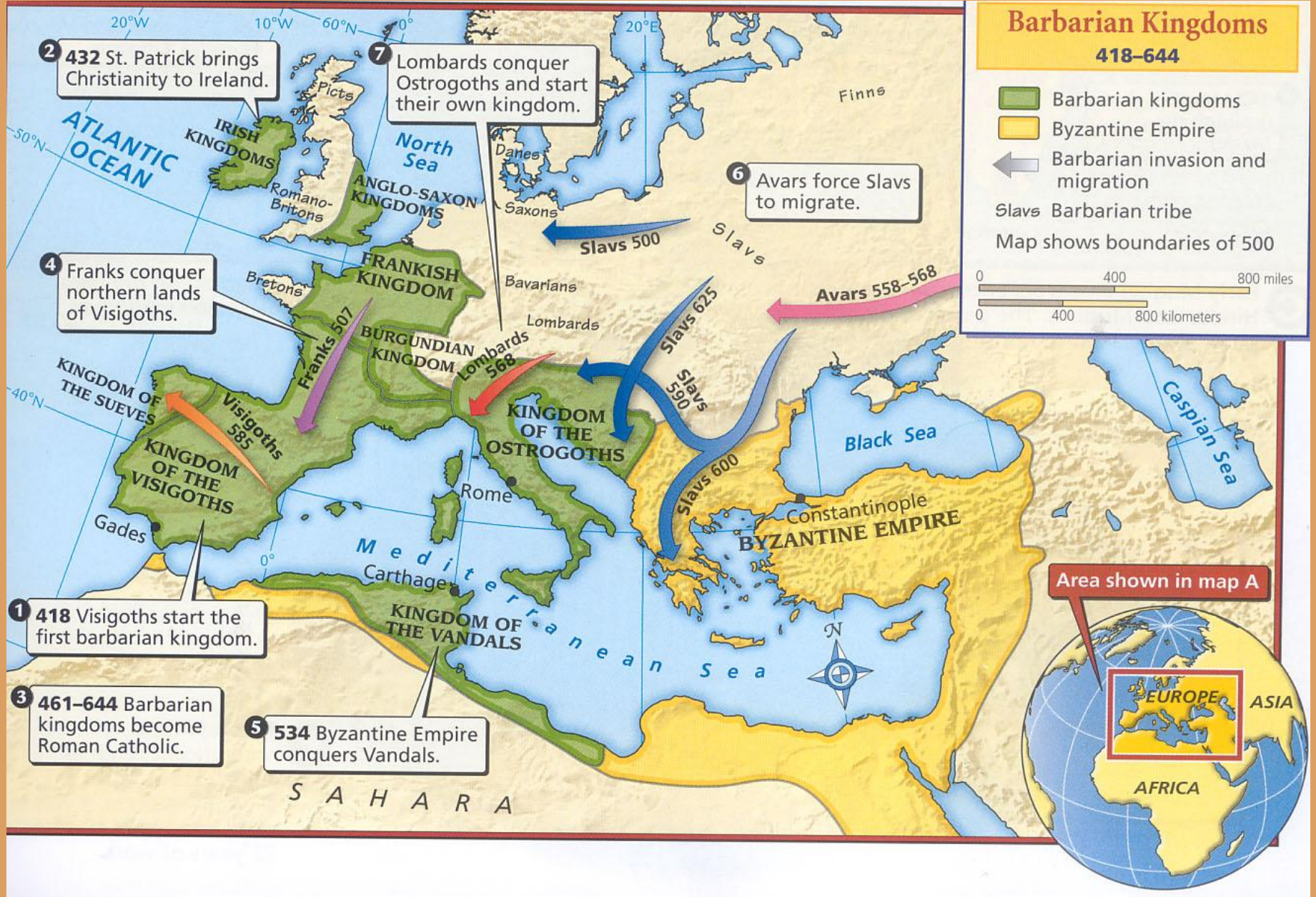
# Barbarian Kingdoms

418-644

-  Barbarian kingdoms
-  Byzantine Empire
-  Barbarian invasion and migration

Slavs Barbarian tribe

Map shows boundaries of 500



Area shown in map A



# Major Barbarian tribes

<b>Tribe</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Originated</b>	<b>Settled</b>
<b>Visigoths</b>	<b>416-711</b>	<b>Bulgaria, Romania</b>	<b>Gaul, Spain</b>
<b>Ostrogoths</b>	<b>493-552</b>	<b>South Russia</b>	<b>Hungary</b>
<b>Vandals</b>	<b>400-534</b>	<b>Hungary</b>	<b>Italy</b>
<b>Burgundians</b>	<b>413-534</b>		<b>France</b>
<b>Lombards</b>	<b>568-773</b>	<b>Poland</b>	<b>North Italy</b>

# Major Barbarian tribes

<b>Tribe</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Originated</b>	<b>Settled</b>
<b>Franks</b>	<b>476-751</b>	<b>Black Sea</b>	<b>France, Germany</b>
<b>Huns</b>	<b>372-469</b>	<b>Black Sea, Caspian Sea Mongolia</b>	<b>Eastern Europe</b>
<b>Saxons</b>	<b>650-</b>	<b>Northern Europe</b>	<b>England</b>