Section 2 Decline & Fall of Rome
The Romans are no longer a world superpower so what the heck happened?

1. Military Problems
2. Economic Problems
3. Political Problems
4. Social Problems
Social & Political Upheavals

• Civil Wars & Power Struggles
• Invasions
  – Sassanid Persians from the east
  – Germanic tribes into Balkans, Gaul & Spain
• Plague & Economic Problems
  – Labor shortage (military & civilian)
  – Trade, industry & agriculture prod. Decline
  – Roman army begins to hire Germanic warriors
Reforms of Diocletian & Constantine

• Diocletian’s Establishment of Tetrarchy
  – Reforms establish “Late Roman Empire”
  – Divides rule among four leaders

• Constantine moves capitol to Constantinople
  – Formally Byzantium

• Enlargement of bureaucracy & army
  – Better defense for the Empire, but drained economy

• Economic & social policies
  – Workers to remain on their jobs
What were some of the reforms of Constantine?

• Dividing Empire into units
• New capitol
• Enlarge military & civil service
• Establish control over economy & social mobility
Germanic or Germany

- Germanic is a language that is Indo-European (Vandals & Visigoths)
- Germany is a country that exists today, German or Germany came from the word Germanic
Germanic Society

- Germanic people married Romans
- Male dominated
  - Women obeyed their father until they were married then they obeyed their husband
- Roman law meant a trial for crimes
- Germanic law meant a blood-feud!
  - Wergild Compromise: $$ for death, put a value on a person
- Determining guilt:
  - Ordeal - put someone through physical pain, if divine intervention saved them, they were innocent. (hot iron)
Fall of the Western Roman Empire

• Widening split between east & west
  – Rivals fight for the throne
  – East & west become independent of one another

• Visigoths’ entry into the empire
  – Huns move into western empire
  – Visigoths looked for safety in Roman Empire
  – War starts with empire and Rome falls in 410
Fall of the Western Roman Empire Cont.

• Other Germanic tribes
  – Vandals invade western empire & set up independent kingdoms

• Deposition of Romulus Augustulus
  – In 486, Germanic military official deposed last Roman emperor in west
  – Many consider this the end of the Western Roman Empire

• Explanations for the empire’s decline & fall
Germanic Invasions

This map shows the breakdown of the Roman frontier in the late fourth and early fifth centuries CE. Great cities including Augusta Treverorum (modern Trier) and Rome itself were sacked by invading barbarian forces. Historians debate the reasons for what happened, but one of them was the rise of the Huns in Central Asia. They moved westwards, they pushed against the various Germanic and Gothic tribes. These, in turn, looked for refuge and plunder inside the Roman Empire.
The Western Empire Crumbles

– Germanic Invasions

• A.D. 370 the Huns move into Europe causing the Germanic peoples to flee into Roman territory.
• A.D. 410 Germans invade and overrun Rome itself and plunder it for three days.

Attila the Hun

• In 444 the Huns unite under Attila and terrorize both halves of the empire.
• In 452 the Huns advance against Rome, but fail in conquering the city due to famine and disease.
• Attila dies in 453.
The Western Empire Crumbles

– An Empire No More

• 14-year-old emperor Romulus Augustulus ousted by German forces in 426.
  • Roman power in the western half of the empire ceases to exist.
  • The eastern half of the empire comes to be called the Byzantine Empire, and flourishes for 1,000 years.
• The Byzantine emperors ruled from Constantinople.
• The Byzantine emperors saw themselves as heirs to the power of Augustus Caesar.
Section 3
The Early Christian Church
Organization of the Church

The Hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church

A. Pope
Bishop of Rome

B. Cardinals
193 Worldwide

C. Archbishops
Serve over several dioceses

D. Bishops
Preside over one diocese, many parishes

E. Priests
Service one parish

F. Deacons
Aid the Priest for Mass

G. The Laity
The people
Gregory I

- Western Christians came to accept the Pope as the head of the church
- Reigned 590-604
- Strengthened papacy & church
- Became known as Gregory the Great
- Took power of Rome, later known as papal states
- Worked to convert non-christians with monastic movement
Monasticism

- Separate themselves from society to search for spirituality
- Lived in a community called a monastery p. 161
- Completely devoted to God
Women in Monasticism

• Nuns withdrew from society living in convents
• Convents were headed by abbesses
• Active in missionary movement in 7th & 8th centuries
• Provided $ and books for missionary activities
• Established in newly converted areas
Section 4
The Age of Charlemagne
New Germanic Kingdoms

- Germanic peoples began moving into lands of the Roman Empire by 3rd century CE
- Western Roman Empire declines & falls
- Replaced by separate & Germanic kings, Romans were excluded from holding power
New Germanic Kingdoms Cont.

• 500 CE settled throughout Europe
  – Visigoths/Spain
  – Ostrogoths/Italy
  – Angles & Saxons/Britain
  – Franks/France & Western Germany

• Clovis emerges as strong military leader & defeats neighboring Germanic tribes
  – Establishes Frankish kingdom (today France & Western Germany)
  – First Germanic leader to convert to Christianity & gains support of the Roman Catholic Church
Carolingian Empire
(Charlemagne aka Charles the Great)

- Ruled from 768-814CE
- Expanded Frankish kingdom creating the Carolingian Empire
- Covered much of central & western Europe
- Administration made up of counts (German nobles) & household staff
- Missi dominici/messengers of the King would guarantee his orders were carried out
Carolingian Empire
(Charlemagne aka Charles the Great)

• Fierce warrior, strong ruler & pious king
• Promoted learning throughout his kingdom
  – Carolingian Renaissance revived interest in ancient Greeks & Romans
  – Monasteries played central role in cultural renewal
• 800CE the Pope crowned him the emperor of the Romans
  – His coronation strengthened idea of enduring Roman empire & symbolized joining of Roman, Christian & Germanic cultures
Carolingian Empire at Its Height

Carolingian Empire

Map showing the extent of the Carolingian Empire at its height, including Charlemagne's empire at his accession in 768, territories added before his death in 814, and tributary states.
Section 5
The Byzantine Empire
Early Rome & the Empire (Roman Law)

- Romans lived by laws developed through centuries of customs.
- This customary law was handed down over generations and applied to citizens (civil law).
- The patricians made decisions and ruled in questions of customary law, giving them an advantage over the plebians.
- The plebians agitated to gain more equality and pressed for the law to be written down, so they could anticipate decisions and understand the law.
The Twelve Tables

- A committee of ten men produced the Twelve Tables in 449 BCE, documenting the centuries-old customary laws
- Earliest Roman Laws
- These Twelve Tables became the foundation of Roman law for over 1000 yrs.
- Addressed civil procedure, debt, parents & children, property, marriage, funerals, etc.
The Twelve Tables
449 BCE
From Republic to Empire

- As the Roman republic grew and transformed into an empire, the population became more diverse.
- Legal questions involved Roman citizens as well as non-citizens to whom the civil laws did not apply.
- This led to the development of the “law of nations” that applied to everyone.
Justinian and Byzantine Empire

- Justinian ruled (527-565 CE) the Eastern or Byzantine Empire after the Western Empire collapsed in 476 CE.
- Justinian sought to unify the empire by compiling all Roman law into one document.
- This document became known as “Justinian’s Code.”
Justinian’s Code

• The Code was actually only one of three parts of this compilation
• Addressed marriage, parents, slaves and freedmen, guardianships, adoptions, etc.
• Justinian’s Code was rediscovered, studied, and reproduced in Italy in the 11th century
Why is Justinian’s Code Significant?

• All later systems of law in the West borrowed heavily from it, including English and American law
• Considered Justinian’s greatest contribution to the history of Western society
Roman to Byzantine Empire

- Eastern Roman Empire has too much territory to defend far from Constantinople
- Money is low
- Population is declining after the plague
- There are threats from outside the borders
- Islam begins to rise in the Eastern Empire
Islam & the Eastern Roman Empire

• Rise of unified Arab tribes creates a powerful new force
• Muslim armies swept through the Eastern Roman Empire
• Eastern Roman Empire loses Syria & Palestine after defeat of Yarmuk in 636CE
Origins of the Byzantine Empire

- Western Empire falls to Germanic tribes, Eastern Empire continues
- Arabs swept through the East and captured much of the empire’s territory
- By 8th century a smaller Eastern Roman Empire became a unique territory called the Byzantine Empire
  - Greece & Christian Empire
  - Emperor in control of both church & state
Byzantine & Catholic Divide

**West**
- Home of the Catholic Church
- Church headed by Pope
- Believed Pope was sole head of the Church
- Excommunicated Patriarch Michael Cerularius

**East**
- Home of Eastern Orthodox Church
- Unwilling to accept Pope’s claim as sole head of church
- Church headed by patriarch appointed by emperor
- Excommunicated Leo IX
- Emperor Leo III outlawed worshipping of images, known as icons