

The Byzantine Empire

Ch. 14/Sec. 1

Survival of the Eastern Empire



Who Were the Byzantines?

- Thought of themselves as Romans
- Differences led to historians creating a separate name
 - Most were Christians
 - Spoke Greek
 - Name derived from the place where Constantinople was built.



Location & Trade

- **Constantinople was built on a peninsula.**
 - Surrounded by water on 3 sides
 - Thick walls and a moat
 - Capital of the Byzantine empire
- **Ideal trading center**
 - Trade made Constantinople rich
 - Merchants brought spices from China, and grain from Egypt
 - Traders came from Western Europe to buy products from Asia



Justinian & Theodora

- Great rulers of the Byzantine empire
 - Ruled for 40 years
 - Worked to restore Rome's lost empire
 - Won back Spain, Italy, and North Africa
 - Left the empire with money problems
 - After his death the territories he gained were lost
- Justinian's Legacy
 - Rebuilt Hagia Sophia: the empire's central church
 - Created a law code



Invaders

- The Byzantine empire took about 800 years to fall
 - Many groups invaded and claimed land: Germans, Slavs, Arab, Turks.
 - Byzantine emperors continued to control Greece, western Turkey, and Constantinople.



The Defenses Fail

- The crusaders were the first group to successfully attack Constantinople.
 - Byzantine empire eventually retook its capital
- The Turkish Ottoman empire eventually attacked and defeated the Byzantine empire.

