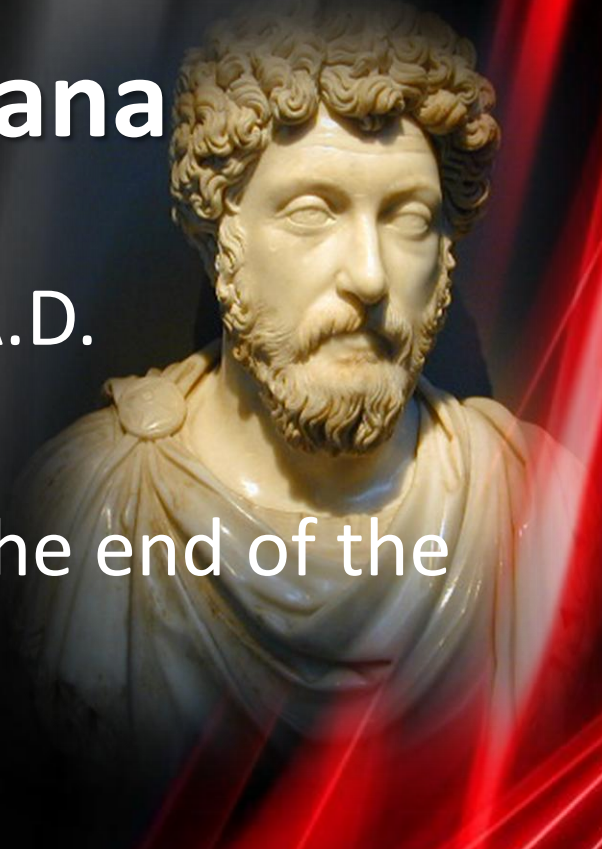


Ch. 13/Sec. 5

Decline of the Roman Empire

The End of the Pax Romana

- Rome began to decline in 200 A.D.
 - Took about 300 years
- Marcus Aurelius' death marks the end of the Pax Romana
- Causes:
 - Commanders began to challenge emperors
 - Civil wars became frequent



Imperial Crisis

- Lasted from 235-284 A.D.
- Rome was torn apart by civil wars and split into pieces
- Generals became emperors one after another
 - Killed or defeated the previous



Economic Problems

- Civil wars led to financial problems
- War expensive
 - Generals would bribe soldiers to follow them
- Emperors raised taxes
- Wars made trade dangerous



Foreign Invasion

- Romans were busy fighting each other
 - Vulnerable to attack
 - Troops couldn't move quickly enough to fight invaders
- Persians attacked Rome and executed the Roman emperor Valerian
- Germans also invaded Rome
 - Romans called them barbarians



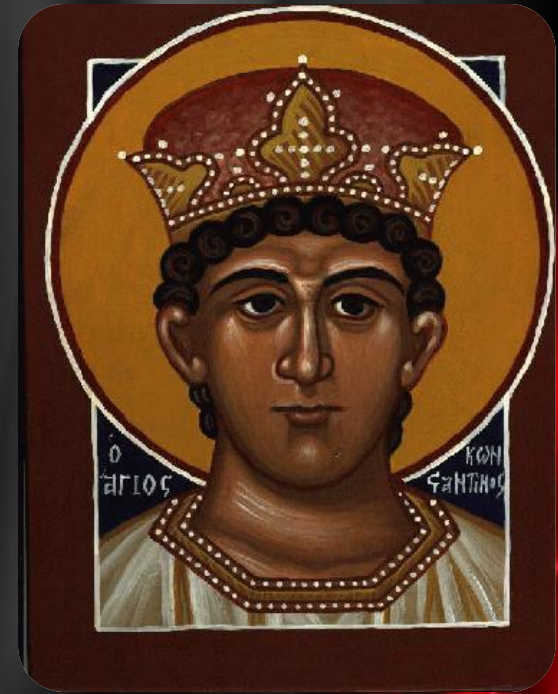
The Late Empire

- Emperor Diocletian brought peace in 284
 - Reorganized the government
 - Sent troops to different areas to restore peace
 - Persecuted Christians because he believed they made the gods angry
- Divided the empire into 2 halves and had a co-emperor
 - Diocletian ruled the east and Maximian ruled the west



Constantine

- Took control after Diocletian's death
- Built Constantinople in present-day Turkey
- Made Christianity legal



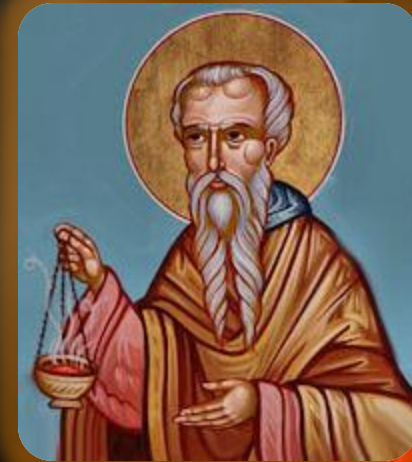
The Huns

- Nomadic tribes from Central Asia
 - Moved into Europe in the 300s and eventually attacked Rome
 - Fierce warriors
 - Leader: Attila



Theodosius

- Last emperor to rule all of the Roman empire
 - Supported Christianity
 - Made Christianity the official Roman religion



The Fall

- Western empire began to feel after Theodosius' death
 - German's attacked and took over
 - The emperors lost power
- Germans/Goths captured Rome in 410
 - Rome never recovered from the attacks

