The Byzantine Empire-Summary

In this section, you learned about the founding of the Byzantine Empire and the Eastern Orthodox Church.

Constantinople and the Byzantine Empire  In 330 C.E., the Roman emperor Constantine moved his capital to Byzantium, later called Constantinople. After the fall of Rome, the eastern half of the empire continued on there. Today, it is referred to as the Byzantine Empire.

The Reign of Justinian I  One of the greatest Byzantine emperors was Justinian I. He rebuilt Constantinople after it was destroyed by rioting in 532 and worked to reclaim some of Rome’s lost territory. His most lasting contribution is probably the Justinian Code, which became the basis for many other, later legal codes in the western world.

The Eastern Orthodox Church  The Byzantine Empire was a Christian state. The Eastern Orthodox Church was at the center of daily life and inspired distinctive and magnificent art and architecture.

Conflict Between East and West  Byzantine emperors and patriarchs in Constantinople clashed with popes in Rome over a number of issues. These disagreements led to a schism between the Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church in 1054.