

BYZANTINE EMPIRE AND EASTERN EUROPE:



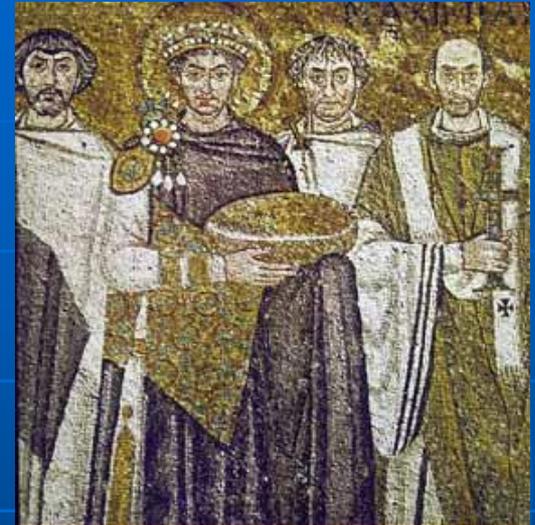
FROM CLASSICAL
SURVIVOR TO
ORTHODOX
CHRISTIANITY

FROM ROMAN EMPIRE TO BYZANTINE EMPIRE

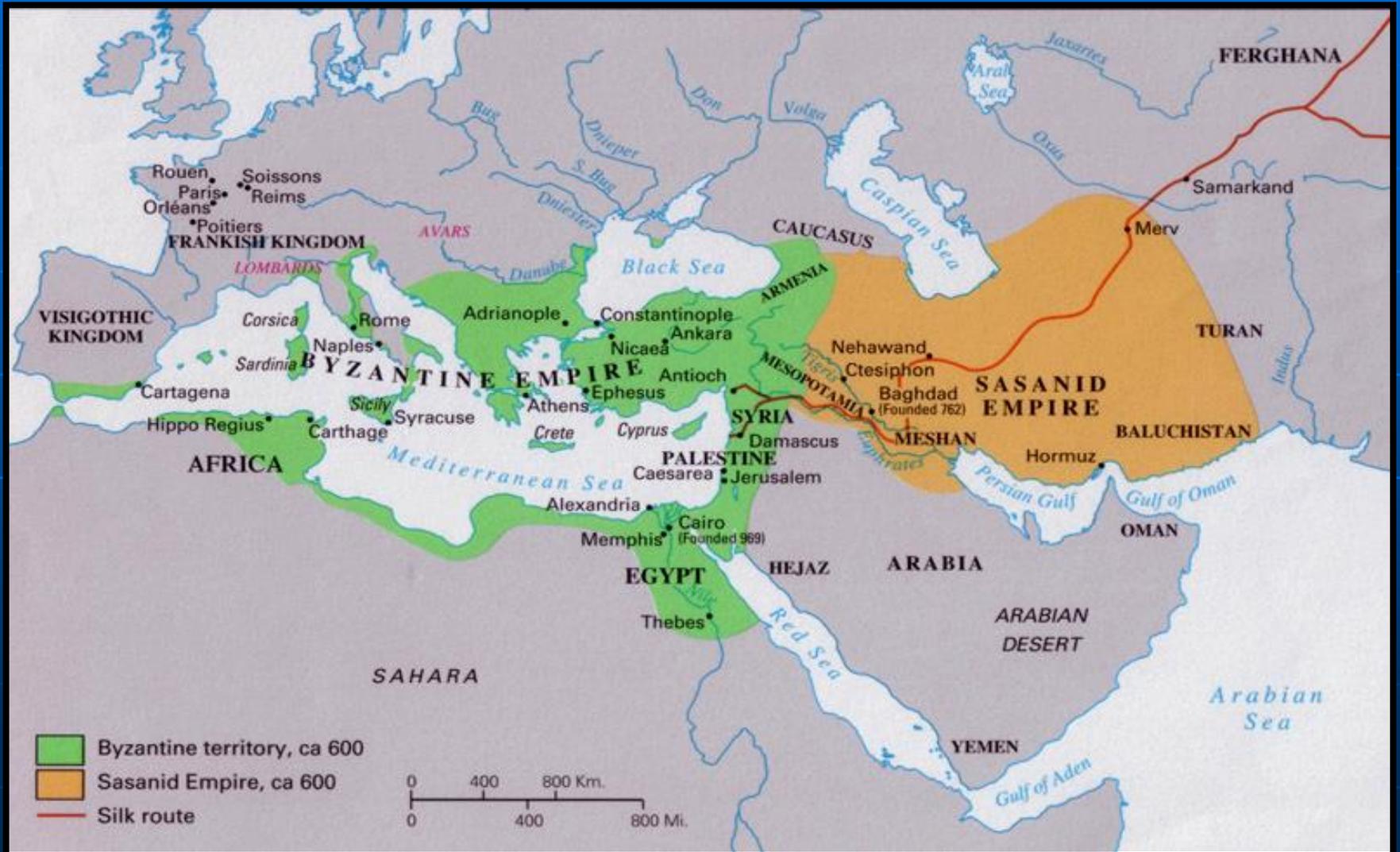
- **The later Roman empire**
 - **Western half crumbled, eastern half remained intact**
 - Eastern half was largely Christian and Greek speaking
 - Eastern half also contained different Christian sects
 - Great wealth and large population
 - **The Byzantine emperors faced different challenges**
 - Conflict with Sasanid dynasty (226-641 C.E.) in Persia
 - Invasions of migratory peoples from the north and east
- **The early Byzantine State**
 - **Tightly centralized rule of a highly exalted emperor**
 - **Caesaropapism: Emperor is both caesar and pope**
 - The state and church are separate
 - Emperor appoints patriarchs, influence over pope
 - **Emperors also stood above the law**
 - Dress and court etiquette designed to enhance rulers' status
 - Adopted Oriental style monarchy with all the symbols

JUSTINIAN AND THEODORA

- **From 476 to late 6th Century CE**
 - Empire was weak in Europe
 - Dealt with invasions
- **Justinian and Theodora**
 - Couple came from obscure origins
 - Seized power through bureaucracy
 - Theodora was a strong advisor
- **Justinian Code**
 - Issued *Corpus iuris civilis (The Body of the Civil Law)*
 - The code influenced civil law codes of western Europe
- **Byzantine conquests**
 - Belisarius, Narses reconquered part of western Empire
 - North Africa, Italy, coast of Southern Spain
- **Threats from Sasanids and Slavic peoples**
 - Persians were a constant threat
 - Slavs migrated into Balkans; settled in interior lands



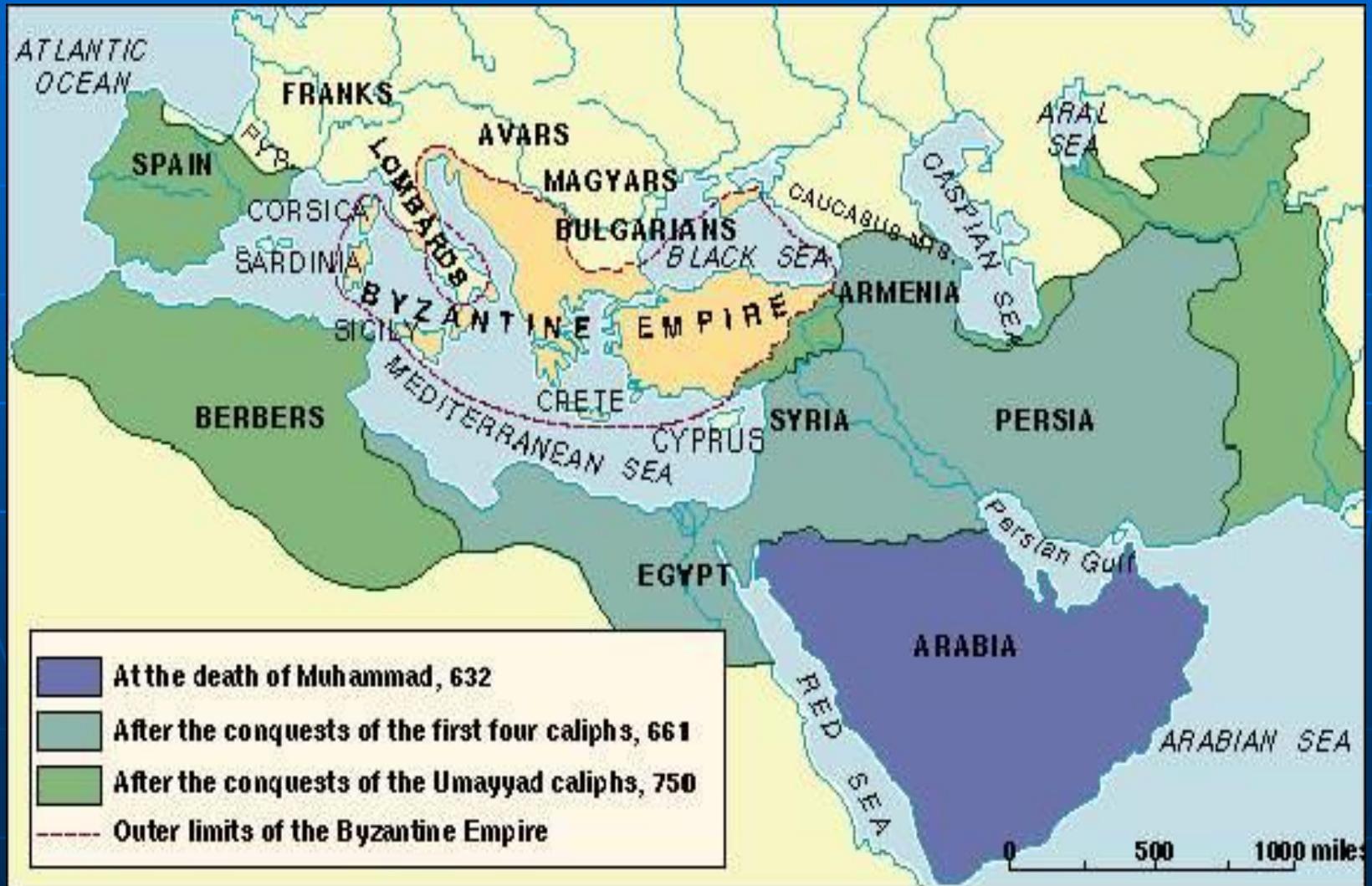
BYZANTINE EMPIRE c. 600 CE



THREAT OF ISLAM

- **The emergence of the Islamic state**
 - Arab peoples conquered Sasanids, part of Byzantium
 - Lost Egypt, North Africa, Fertile Crescent, Crete, Cyprus
 - Prolonged sieges of Constantinople by Islamic armies
 - Byzantine survived partly because of "Greek fire"
- **Imperial organization**
 - Government run by trained bureaucracy, professional army
 - The *theme* system strengthened Byzantine society
 - Under rule of general, who ran army, civil bureaucracy
 - Responsible for protecting peasants
 - Themes were provinces organized on a military basis
 - Local officials recruited troops from within theme
 - Aristocrats limited by army, emperor, bureaucracy
- **The revival of the empire**
 - Reconquered Syria, Crete, Cyprus: 10th century
 - "Basil the Bulgar Slayer," crushed Bulgars in Balkans

THE THREAT OF ISLAM



MAP OF THE EMPIRE



BYZANTIUM & WESTERN EUROPE

- **Tensions between Greeks and Latins**
 - **Ecclesiastical tensions**
 - **Constantinople**
 - Greek was religious language
 - Caesaropapist emperors
 - **Rome**
 - Latin was chief language
 - Autonomy from imperial authorities
 - **Rivalry for conversion of Slavs**
- **Political grievances**
 - **First Franks then Germans claimed imperial authority**
 - Charlemagne received imperial crown in 800
 - Otto of Saxony claimed himself an emperor in 962
 - **Byzantines felt they were only legitimate emperor**
 - **Rivalry over Southern Italy and Sicily**

BYZANTINE ECONOMY

■ The Agricultural Economy

• The peasantry

- The backbone of the Byzantine army and economy
- Landless peasants worked as share-croppers
- Invasions of 6th, 7th century led to *theme* system
- Since 11th century, free peasants declined

• Consequences of the peasantry's decline

- Landowners shifted taxes to peasants
- Landowners raised forces on estates
- Pool of military recruits shrank

■ Industry and Trade

• Manufacturing enterprises

- Byzantine craftsmen had high reputation in various industries
- High-quality silk became important industry; imperial monopoly

• Trade

- Constantinople, important for Eurasian, Mediterranean trade
- *Solidus* was the standard currency of the Mediterranean basin
- Byzantium drew enormous wealth from foreign trade

• Banks and partnerships supported commercial economy



URBAN LIFE

■ Urban Life

- The capital was the heart of the empire
- Housing in Constantinople
 - Enormous palaces owned by aristocrats
 - Less splendid dwellings owned by less privileged classes
- Attractions of Constantinople
 - City of baths, taverns, restaurants, theaters, Hippodrome
 - The most popular game - chariot races

■ Greens and Blues

- The two factions of fans for chariot races
- Frequent fights in the street between them
- Joined together in a popular uprising, 532
- The riot left Constantinople in shambles

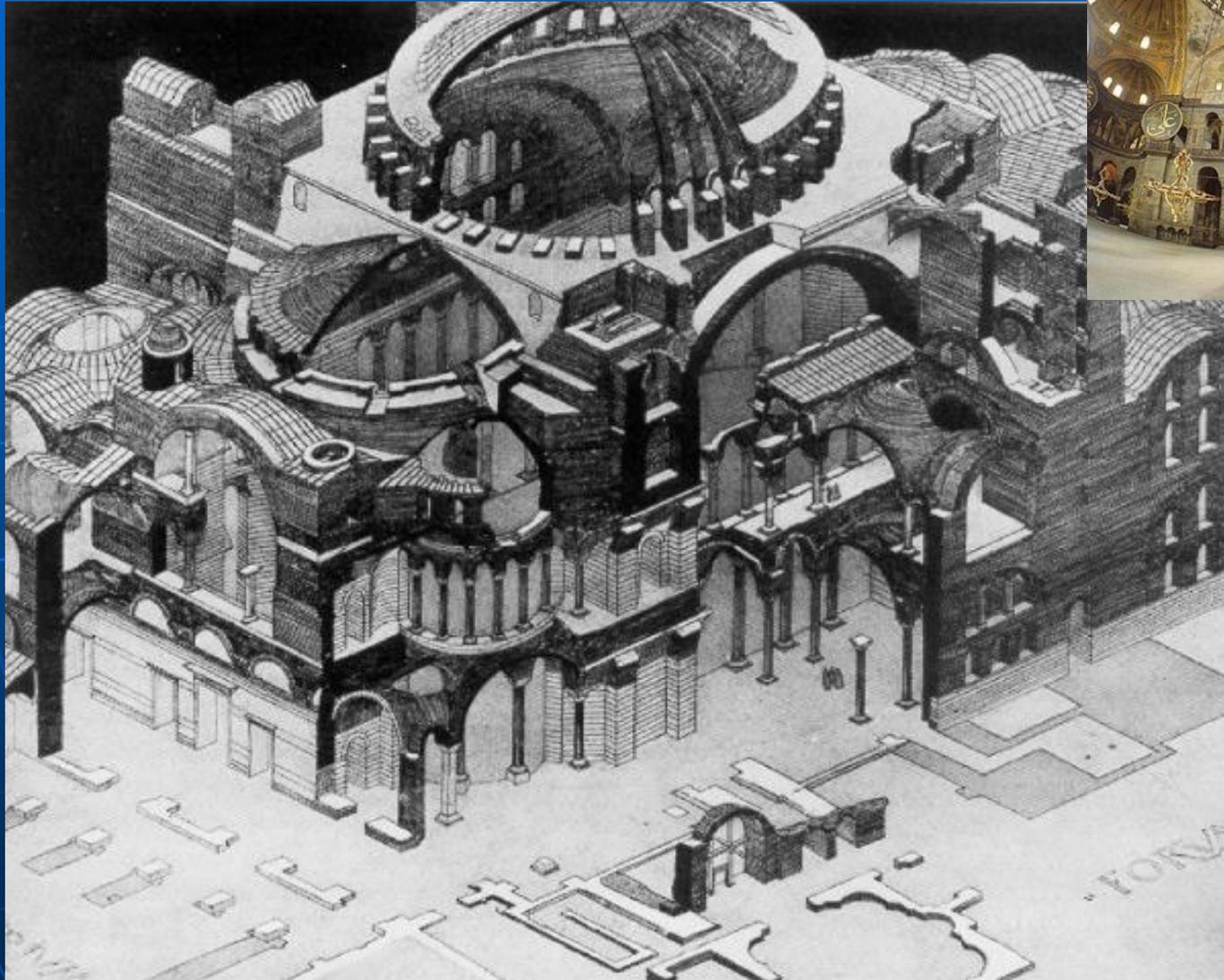
THE CITY OF CONSTANTINOPELE



TWIN LEGACIES

- **Byzantine education**
 - State-organized school system,
 - Schools trained government bureaucrats
 - Private education for aristocratic families
 - Basic literacy was widespread even among lower classes
 - Citizens constantly engaged in intellectual disputes
- **Scholarship**
 - Emphasis on humanities, classics
 - Arts, architecture important for state, church
 - Natural science generally ignored
 - Educated considered heirs of classical Greece
- **Christianity (Church) was other legacy**

HAGIA SOFIA

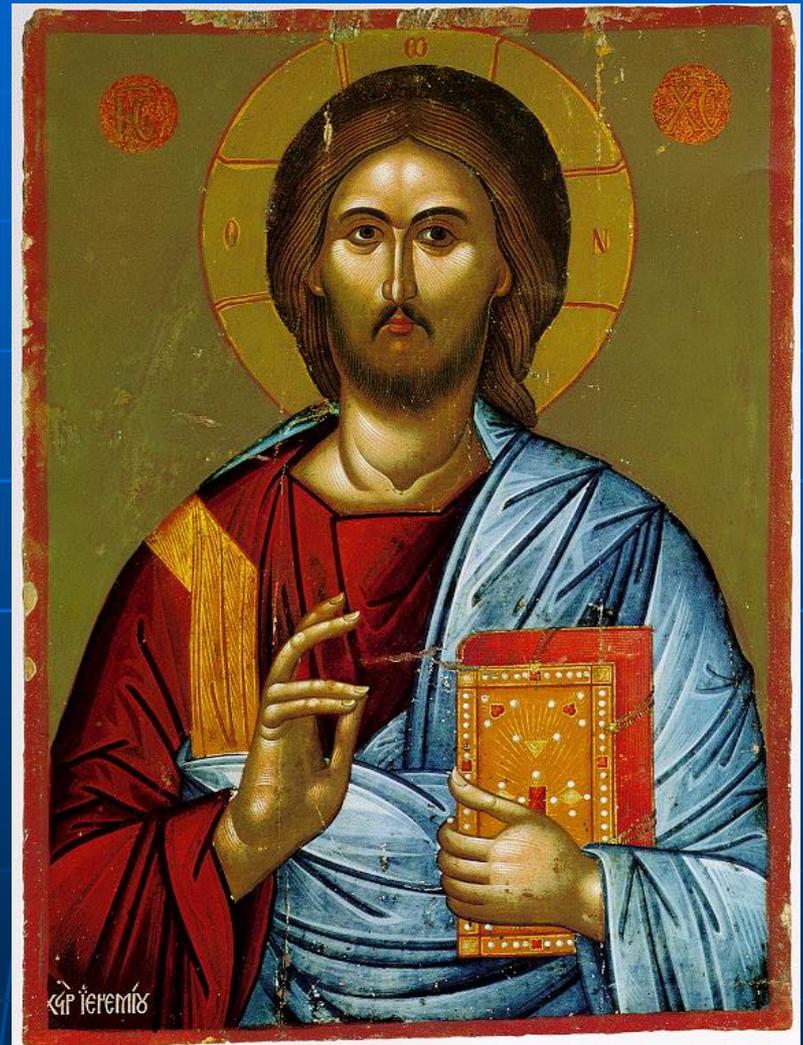


BYZANTINE CHURCH

- **Church and state**
 - Church's close relationship with the imperial government
 - Constantine actively participated in religious debate
 - Under emperors, church was department of state
- **Iconoclasm**
 - Controversy over use of icons in religious services
 - Old Testament prohibition on false images, Islamic influences
 - Iconoclasts wanted to purge all churches of icons
 - Ban inaugurated by Emperor Leo III in 726 C.E.
 - Unpopular policy sparked protests, riots throughout the empire
 - Opposed by Western Christians, Pope
 - The iconoclasts abandoned their effort in 843 C.E.
 - Much protest, excommunications from pope
 - Emperors worried
- **Greek Philosophy and Byzantine theology**
 - Examine theology from philosophical point of view
 - Debate about Jesus's nature, a philosophical issue
 - Arian Heresy
 - Monophysite Controversy

ICONS

The word of God in art used for prayer: Iconographers read Bible passage, paint as a prayer. Icons follow certain styles using specific colors, images.



MONASTICISM AND PIETY

- **Asceticism**
 - Extreme asceticism, self-denial by some Christians
 - Many famous, wealthy retreated to monasteries
 - "Pillar saints"
- **Byzantine monasticism and St. Basil**
 - Earliest monasteries of dedicated hermits, ascetics
 - Monasticism began in Egypt area
 - Reforms urged by St. Basil, 4th century C.E.
- **Monasteries provided local social services**
 - Hospitals, orphanages, poor relief
 - Heavily endowed by wealthy
- **Not centers of learning**

THE GREAT SCHISM

- **Constantinople and Rome**
 - **Political rivalry in Central Europe, Balkans, Southern Italy**
 - Popes supported anti-Byzantine Normans, Hungarians
 - Papal missionaries active in Greek areas
 - **Iconoclastic movement in the east criticized by the west**
 - Emperors vs. Popes
 - Who is head of the church – pope or an emperor
 - **Ritual, doctrinal differences**
 - Leavened vs. unleavened bread
 - Marriage of priests
 - Liturgy in the vernacular
 - Council rule versus the monarchical style of the pope
 - Filioque controversy: Holy Spirit – from who does it proceed?
- **Schism**
 - **Power struggle led to mutual excommunication, 1054**
 - Rivalry between pope, patriarch
 - Papal ambassador excommunicated patriarch; vice versa
 - **Origins of Eastern Orthodox & Roman Catholic churches**
 - **It was really post-1054 actions were made split permanent**

DOMESTIC PROBLEMS AND FOREIGN CHALLENGES

- **Social problems**
 - **Generals, local aristocrats allied, a challenge to imperial power**
 - **Free peasants were declining in number and prosperity**
 - **Imperial government had fewer recruits, many fiscal problems**
- **Challenges from the east**
 - **Muslim Seljuk Turks invaded Anatolia, defeat Byzantines, 1071**
 - **Also took control of Abbasid Caliphate, Holy places in Jerusalem**
 - **The loss of Anatolia sealed the fate of the Byzantine empire**
- **Challenges from the west**
 - **Norman army expelled Byzantine authorities in southern Italy**
 - **Normans, western Europeans mounted a series of crusades**
 - **The fourth crusade sacked Constantinople**
 - **Byzantine forces recaptured the capital in 1261**
 - **Byzantines never recovered**
- **Turks gradually push Byzantines out of Asia; into Europe**

MAP OF BYZANTINE PROBLEMS



EASTERN EUROPE

- **Slavs, Avars, Magyars (Hungarians), Vlachs (Rumanians)**
 - **As Germans moved west, Slavs moved into vacuum**
 - Pushed into Balkans, Greece, Central Europe
 - Generally agriculturalists, favored trade
 - **Avars and Magyars were pastoral nomads who invaded area**
 - Settled in Pannonia, area of Danube plain outside Byzantine control
 - Split Northern or Western Slavs from Southern of Jugo-slavs
 - **Vlachs: Latin speaking agriculturalists, herders in Transylvania**
- **Eastern Europe**
 - **Byzantine ruled area up to Danube, into Bosnia**
 - Slavs settled inside imperial boundaries
 - Maintained close contact with Byzantium from the 6th century
 - The peoples included Serbs, Croats, Macedonians
 - **Rise Bulgars**
 - Bulgars were Turkish pastoralists
 - Conquered, settled in Danube area; adopted Slavic traditions
 - Formed very powerful kingdom, threat to Byzantines
- **Missions to the Slavs**
 - **Byzantium sent missionaries to Central Europe, Balkans**
 - **The mission of Saints Cyril and Methodius, mid-9th century**
 - **Cyrillic writing stimulated conversion to Orthodox Christianity**
 - **Split Allegiance of Eastern Europe**
 - **Pope: Magyars, Czechs, Slovaks, Poles, Croats, Slovenes**
 - **Patriarch: Serbs, Bulgars, Macedonians, Russians, Romanians**

SLAVIC MIGRATIONS



RUSSIA

- **Rise of Russia**
 - Area inhabited by Slavs
 - Varangians (Vikings) arrived, used river system
 - Set up state based on trade, conquest around 9th Century
 - State founded by Rurik, people called Rus; capital Kiev
- **The conversion of Prince Vladimir, 989**
 - Converted for trade, commercial reasons
 - Elites baptized by order of prince, often against will
 - Served as conduit for spread of Byzantine culture, religion
 - Conversion led to literacy, use of Slavonic; Greek traditions
 - Byzantine art and architecture dominated Kiev
- **The growth of Kiev**
 - Princes established caesaropapist control of church
 - After 1453 claimed to inherit imperial crown of Byzantium
 - State divided into provinces ruled by princes/boyars
 - Landed nobles called boyars, constant strife with princes
 - Kievan rule was very decentralized
 - Constant threat, war with steppe nomads

MEDIEVAL RUSSIA

