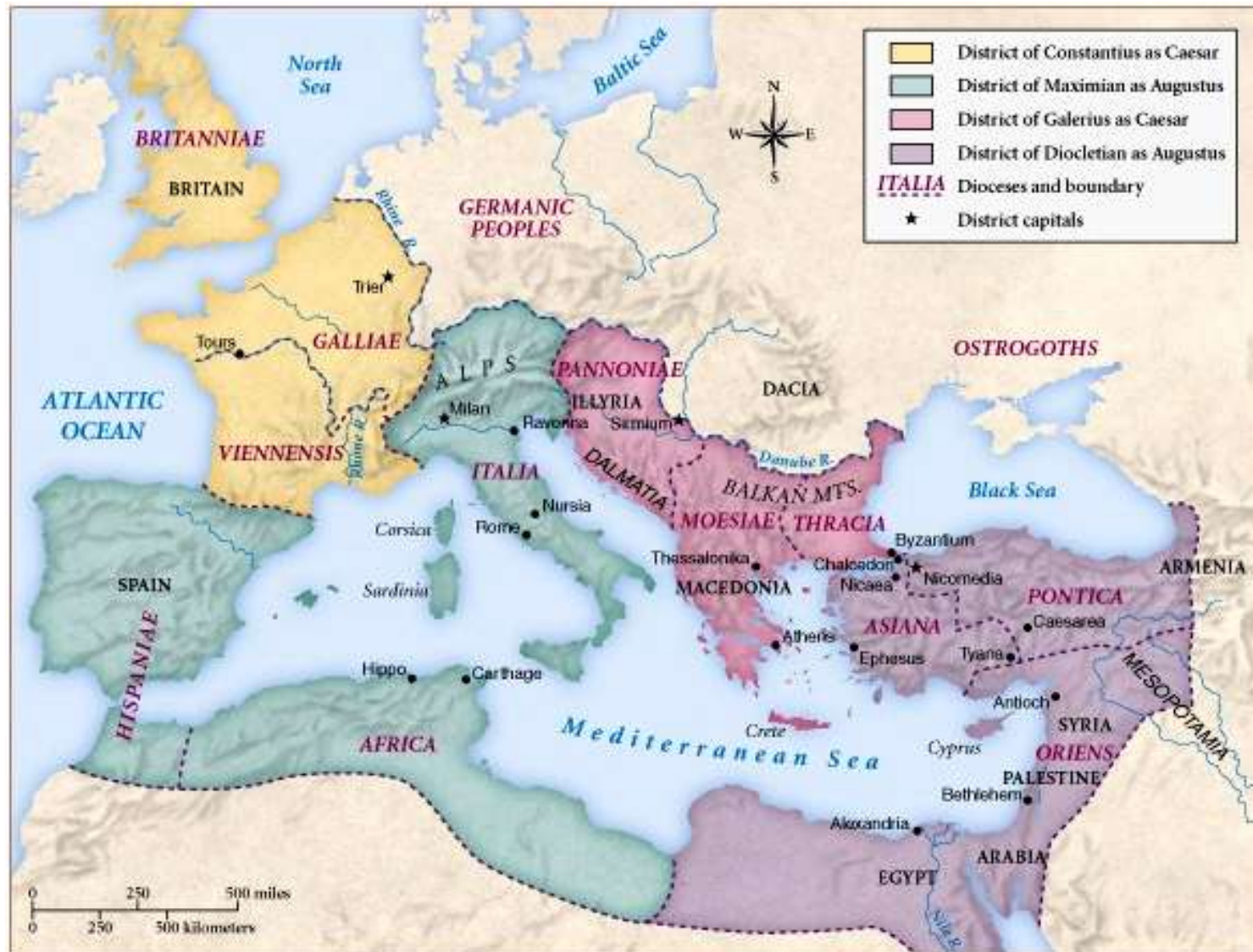


Part I: The Byzantine Empire - A Quick Overview

The Roman Empire Divided



Constantine's City-- *Constantinople*



The Byzantine Empire

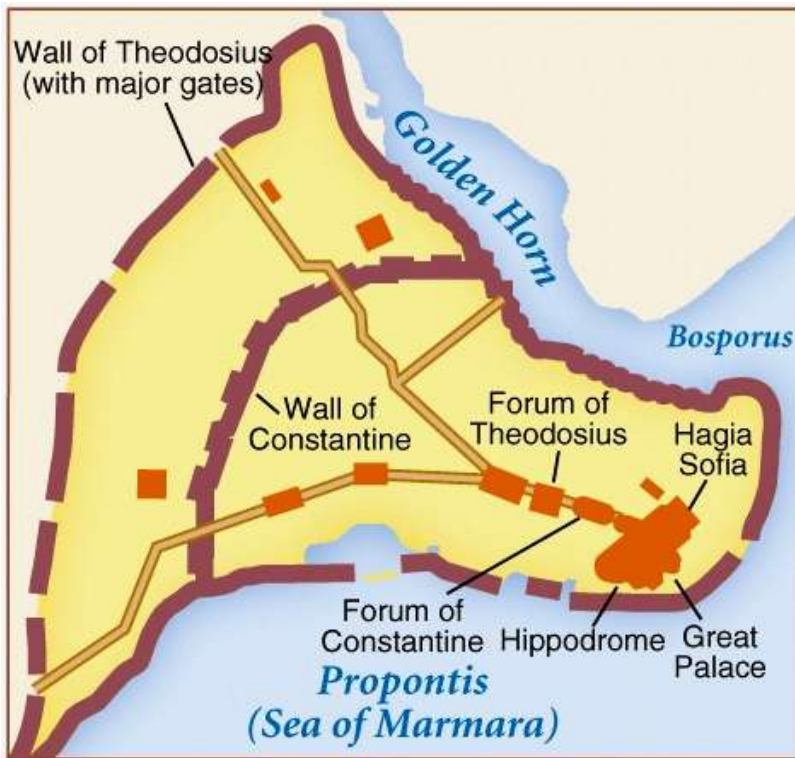
I. Origins of the Empire

A. Started as eastern part of Roman Empire

1. Constantine divides the Roman Empire
and makes Constantinople the capital
(330s)

B. Culturally Greek

Constantinople: A Greek City (Istanbul Today)



Sunset on the “Golden Horn”



II. Byzantine Empire (ca. 500-1450)

A. Emperor Justinian (527-565)

1. attempted (& failed) to restore entire empire (Roman)
2. rebuilt Constantinople
3. built Hagia Sophia
4. improved upon Roman law
5. tried to expand empire

Emperor Justinian [r. 527-564]



Empress Theodora



Justinian's Empire at its



Church of *Hagia Sophia* [Holy Wisdom]



Interior of the Church of *Hagia Sophia*



B. Under attack

1. constant attacks from Arab Muslims
 - a. Byzantine's defend with new technology: Greek Fire
(petroleum, quicklime & sulfur)
2. pressure from Slavic kingdoms
3. all of this weakened the empire
 - a. greater taxes

C. Society & Politics

1. Emperor

- a. head of church & state
- b. ordained by God
- c. appointed church bishops & other head church officials
- d. passed religious & secular law
- e. women held throne
- f. elaborate bureaucracy
 - 1. dominated by aristocrats but talent can ensure success
- g. elaborate system of spies
 - * preserves loyalty but creates intense distrust –
i.e. “Byzantine”

2. Military

- a. recruited soldiers locally
- b. rewarded them with land
- c. military service hereditary

3. Economy

- a. bureaucracy regulated all trade
- b. food prices were kept low
- c. taxes on peasants were high
- d. traded with Asia, Middle East and Europe
- e. produced silk
- f. merchant class never gains significant political power

4. Culture

- a. centered on Hellenism & Eastern Orthodox Christianity
- b. preserved and commented on old forms
- c. art: created religious mosaics & icon painting (paintings of saints and other religious figures)

D. Split between Eastern & Western Christianity

1. growing distance: each branch was developing their own ideas & styles
2. 1054 a church leader in Constantinople brought up some particular issues (bread at last supper) and attacked some Roman Catholic practices (celibacy for priests)
3. Roman Pope excommunicates Eastern church leader
4. Eastern church leader excommunicates all Roman Catholics
5. there you go...the split
6. Eastern Orthodox missionaries converted people in the Balkans

E. Decline

1. long period of decline, begins shortly after 1054
2. eventually falls to Ottoman Turks in 1453

Part II: The Slavic Peoples

I. Who are the Slavs?

A. Originally, a unified culture of central Eastern Europe

B. Eventually, they migrated to different parts of Eastern Europe and became separate sub-groups (between the 400s - 600s CE)

1. Western Slavs – Poles, Czechs, Slovaks

*. Eventually converted to Catholic Christianity via influence from neighboring Germanic Peoples

2. Southern Slavs – Slovenes, Serbs, Croats, Bulgarians, Bosnians

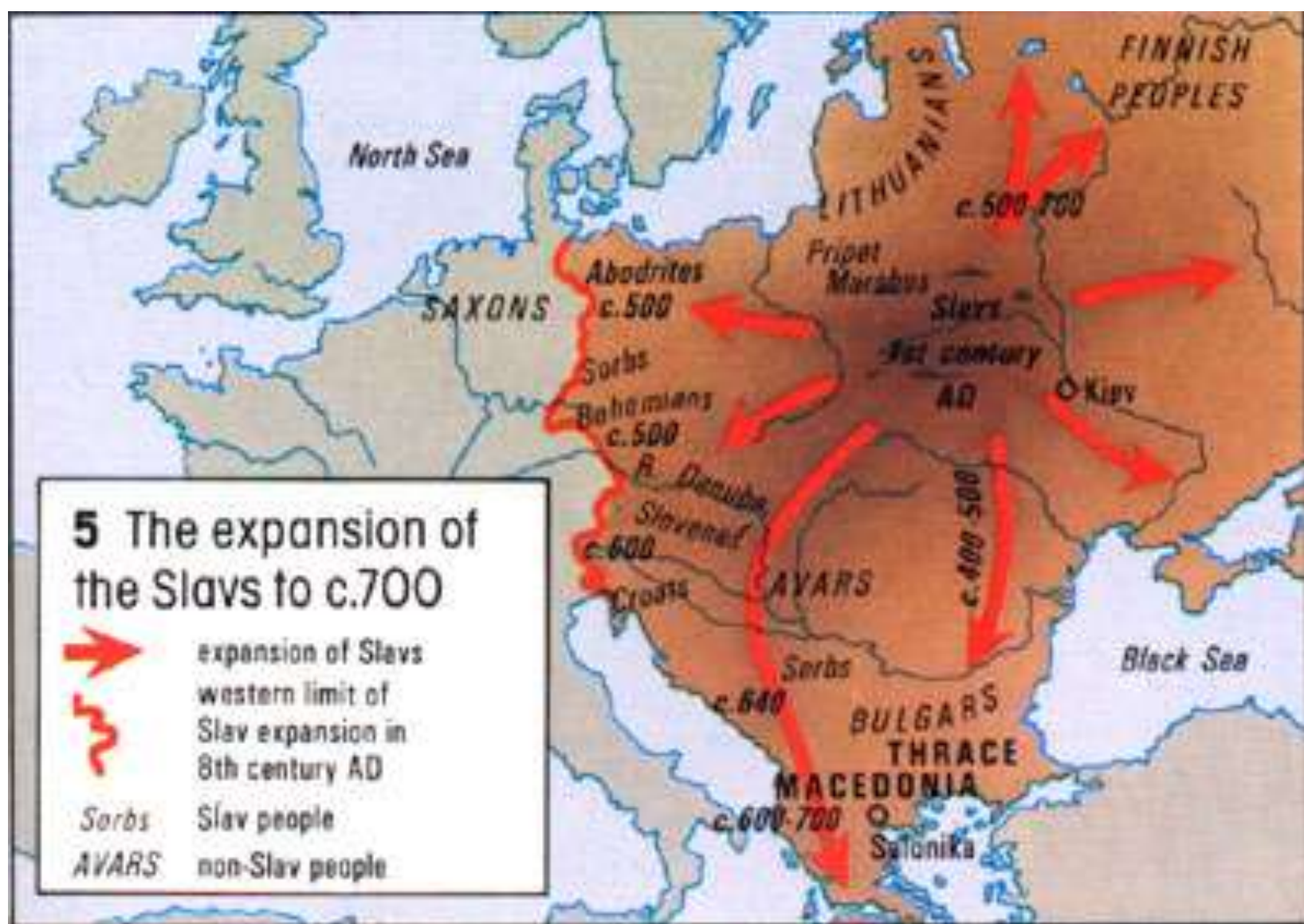
a. Eventually converted to Orthodox Christianity via influence (or domination) by the Byzantine Empire

b. Croats eventually came to follow Roman Catholicism

c. Bosnians eventually adopted Islam

3. Eastern Slavs – Russians and Ukrainians

*. We'll go into detail about them in a little bit.



II. Major Slavic Kingdoms

A. Bulgaria

1. Its peoples were a mix of Slavs and Bulgars (another group that migrated from central Asia)
2. Kingdom Develops between 600s– 900s CE
 - *. Height under King Simeon I
3. Conquered by the Byzantines in 1018 CE
4. Bulgaria frees itself from Byzantine rule by the late 1100s CE
5. Conquered and ruled by the Ottoman Turks in the late 1300s



B. Serbia

1. By 1100s CE
 - a. Formed a unified kingdom
 - b. Accepted Eastern Orthodox Christianity
 - c. Adopted the Cyrillic Alphabet
2. By the 1300s - Under Emperor Stefan Dusan, conquered territories from the Byzantines
3. Between 1355 and 1389 CE
 - a. Political fragmentation
 - b. Conquest by the Ottoman Turks (at the Battle of Kosovo)
- *. Serbia controlled by the Ottomans for about the next 500 years.



C. Kievan Rus (880 – 1169 CE)

1. Rise:

- a. By the 800s CE, Eastern Slavic peoples had set-up trade routes and towns along the rivers of what is now Ukraine and Western Russia
- b. Supposedly, Rurik a Viking chieftain, was invited by the people of Novgorod (a town in the north of Russia) to rule their lands
 - *. These Slavs called the Vikings “the Rus” (possibly the origins of the name Russia)
- c. Oleg, Rurik’s successor, conquered the city of Kiev, a prosperous trading village located on the Dniepper River, in 880 CE
- d. Soon, Oleg’s comes to dominate other towns along the Slavic trade routes – creating a feudal Slavic kingdom, dominated by Kiev



2. Government Structure – kingdom split into Principalities (semi-independent, feudalistic city-states/territories)
 - a. The Grand Prince of Kiev – top of the system
 1. Ruler of the city-state of Kiev
 2. Received allegiance and tribute from the other Principalities
 - b. In the Separate Principalities
 1. Each Principality was ruled by a prince
 2. Each Principality had a council to advise the prince
 - a. wealthy merchants
 - b. boyars – land-owning nobles
 3. Each principality had an assembly comprised of all free, male citizens
 - a. Ran the day-to-day affairs of the Principality
 - b. Had the ability to remove the prince from office
- *. Later, Princes limited the powers of these Assemblies

3. Trade Systems and Relations

- a. With Byzantines and Moslems - Dniepper River to the Black Sea
- b. With Scandinavians — Dniepper River to the Baltic Sea



4. The Golden Age of Kievan Rus (980 – 1054 CE)
 - a. Adoption of Eastern Orthodox Christianity
 1. The Grand Prince of Kiev, Vladimir, married the sister of the Byzantine Emperor
 2. He converted to Christianity in 988 CE
 3. He then ordered all of his subjects to convert (baptism in the Dniepper River)
 - b. Infusion of Byzantine Cultural Elements
 1. Cyrillic Alphabet
 2. Byzantine Christian Art and Architecture – churches, icons, etc,
 3. Schools for the sons of the wealthy and noble
 4. Grand Prince Yaroslav (Vladimir's son) adopts a legal code (modeled after The Byzantine's Law System, Justinian Code)

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5. Decline and Fall of Kievan Rus

- a. After Yaroslav died, his sons fought for control over Kiev
- b. An alliance of princes captured and sacked Kiev in 1169 CE
- c. Mongol Invasion
 1. Battle of Kalka River in 1223 CE
 2. Mongols sack Kiev in 1240 CE

