



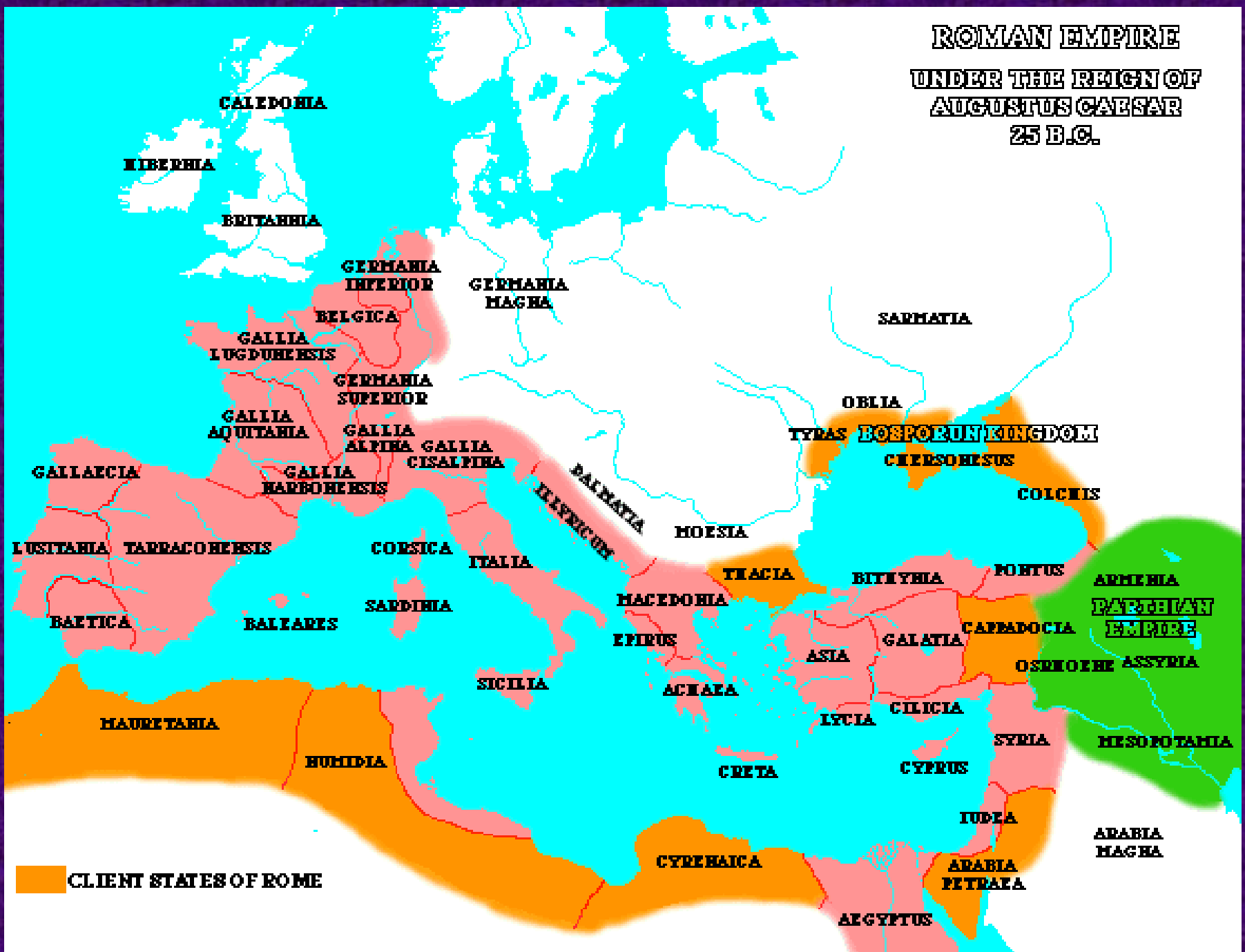
ROME: RISE AND FALL OF AN EMPIRE

The Age of Augustus



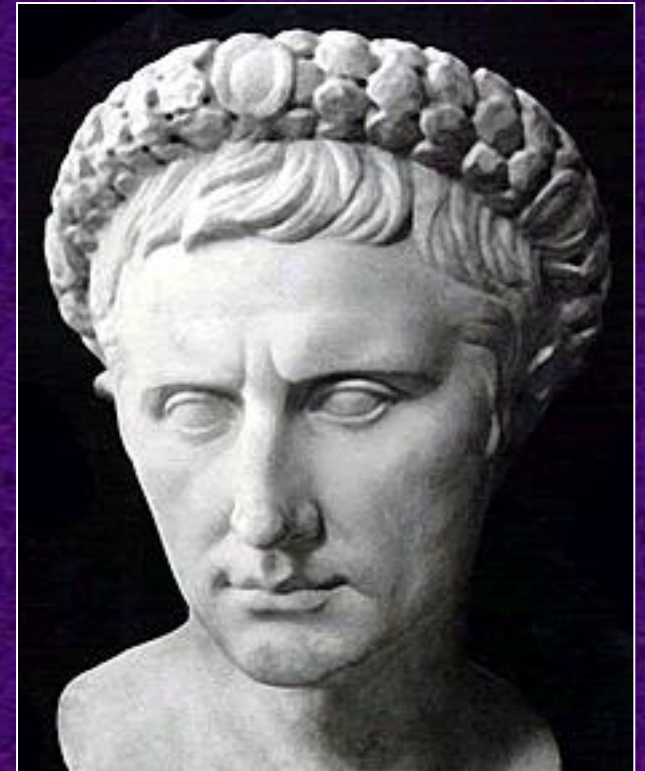
- Octavian came to power in 31 B.C.E.
- Saw disorder and instability in the empire; believed that the empire had become too large for republican rule.
- Although he kept all power for himself, he won the support of the Senate by asking its advice, permitting it to run some of the provinces, and have its own treasury.

**ROMAN EMPIRE
UNDER THE REIGN OF
AUGUSTUS CAESAR
25 B.C.**



The Age of Augustus

- In 27 B.C.E., the senators bestowed the title of “Augustus” on Octavian, a meaning “honored and majestic,” and one formerly only bestowed on gods.
- From that point forward, Octavian became “Augustus Caesar,” emperor of the entire Roman world.



Augustus' Reforms

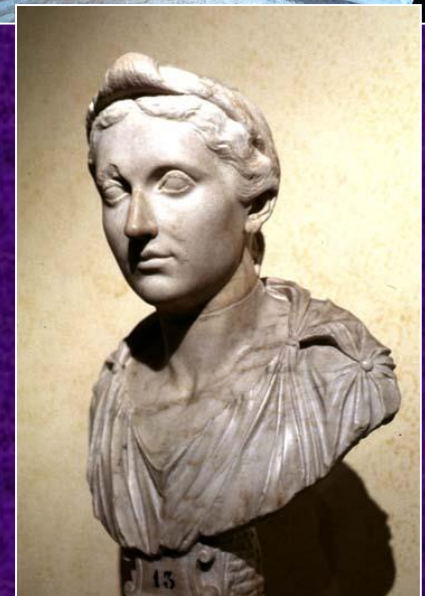
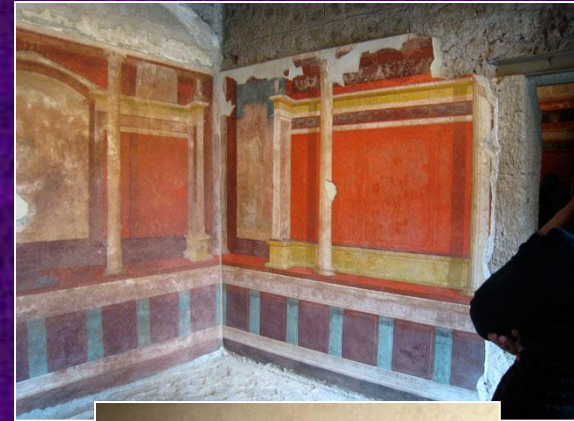


- Took control of the Roman army in order to abolish the tradition of dictator-generals
- Granted citizenship to people in the provinces (led to increased loyalty)
- Used army to control troublesome provinces; gave Senate control of peaceful ones

Why were Augustus' reforms more successful than Julius Caesar's?

Augustus' Reforms

- Restored traditional Roman values:
 - Patriotism, close family ties, hard work, discipline, simple living
 - Banished his own daughter as punishment for her promiscuity!
- Passed laws encouraging early marriage and raising large families
- Helped the poor by providing free or low-cost grain
- Sponsored public works projects: roads, buildings, water systems (improved life for Romans and provided jobs for those in need)



Pax Romana

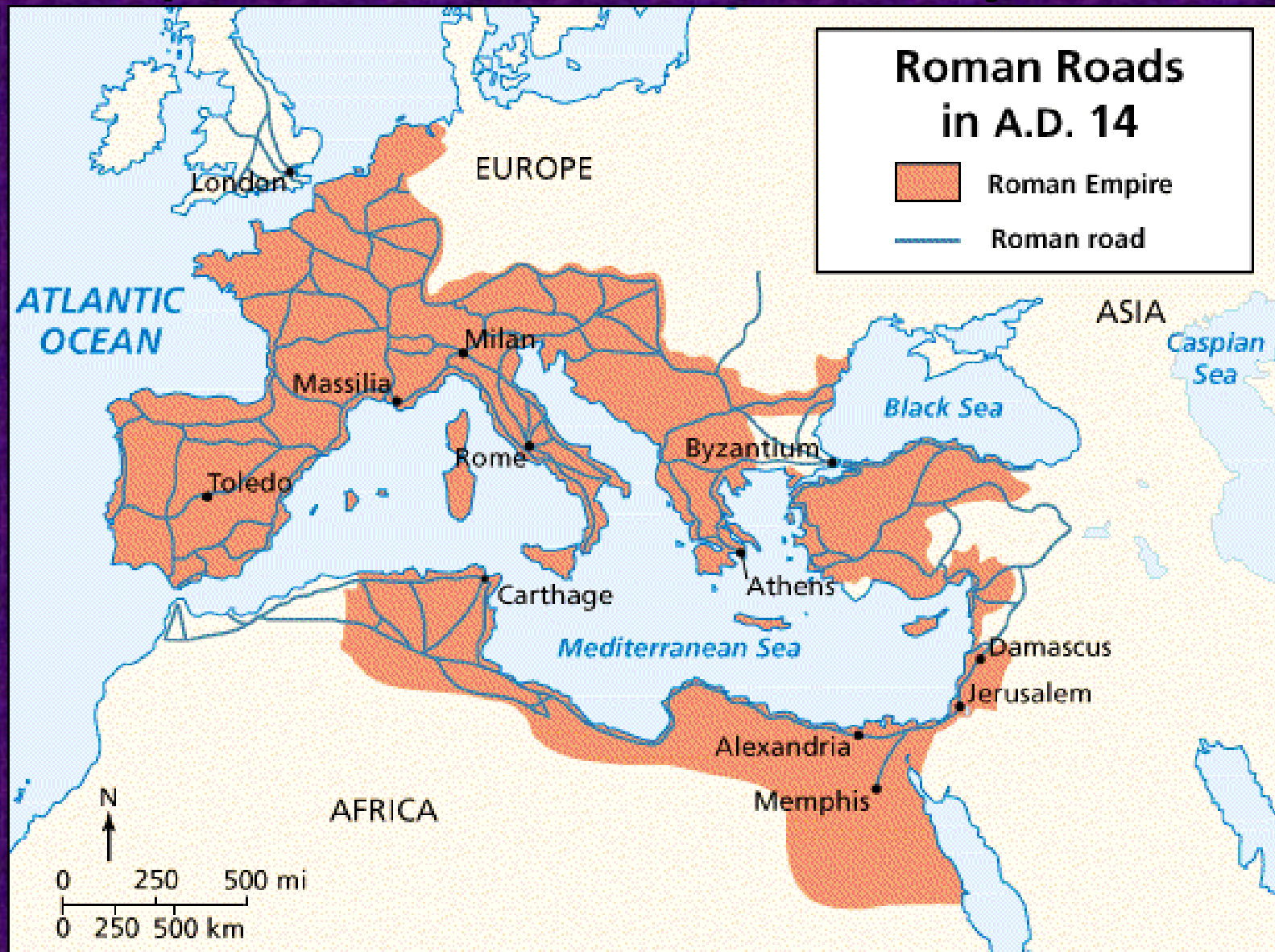
“The Roman Peace”

- Time of stability, expansion, power, and prosperity that lasted over 200 years (27 B.C.E. to 180 C.E.; Augustus died in 14 C.E.)



(We're in the "C.E.s! No more backward counting!)

Imperial Roman Road System



Augustus' Successors: An Overview

- At the time of Augustus' death, the empire had no law of succession – no rule stating how the next emperor would be chosen.
- The first four emperors after Augustus were related to him or to his second wife, Livia.



Augustus' Successors: An Overview



Tiberius (14-37 C.E.)

- Augustus' stepson – ran the empire well



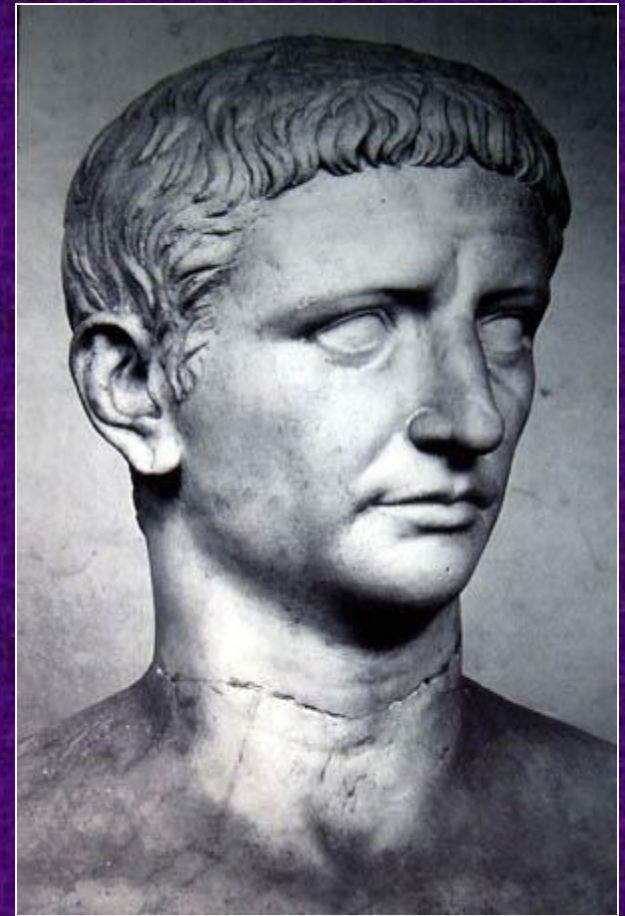
Caligula (37-41 C.E.)

- Cruel, incompetent, and bizarre (made his horse a consul?)
- Assassinated by members of the royal guard

Augustus' Successors: An Overview

Claudius (41-54 C.E.)

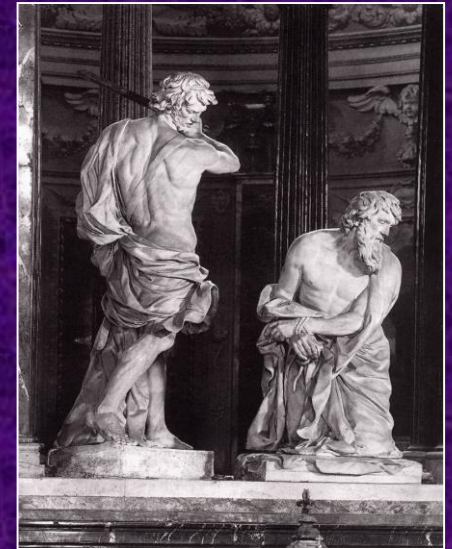
- Scholar chosen by the royal guard to be emperor
- Restored order and stability
- Sponsored military expeditions, one of which added Britain to the empire



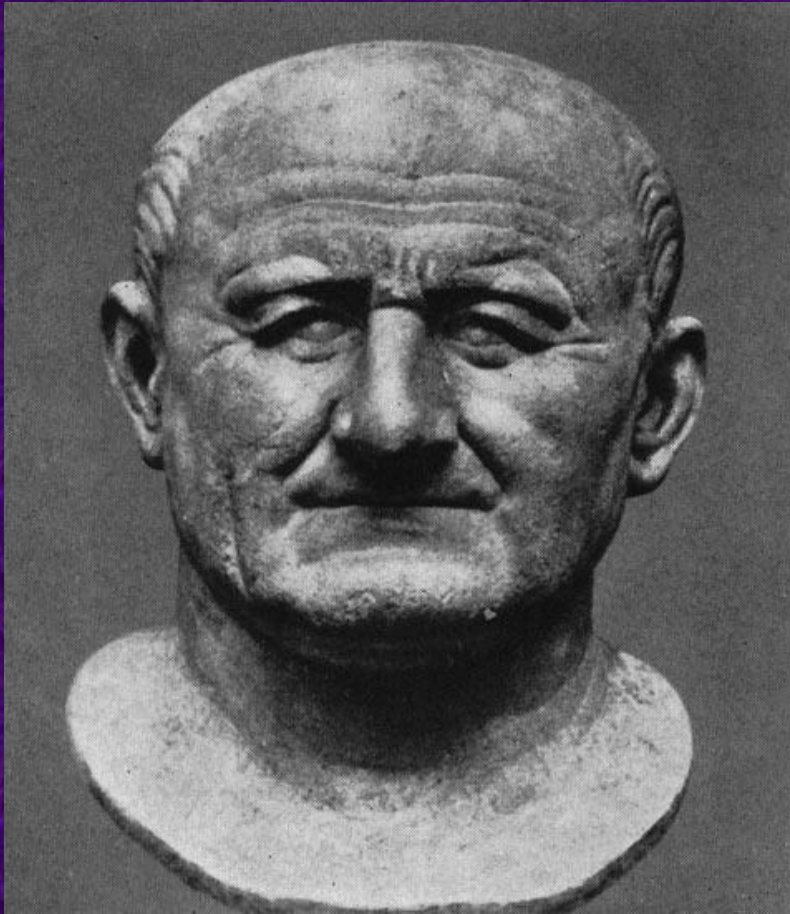
Augustus' Successors: An Overview

Nero (54-68 C.E.)

- Claudius' stepson; over time, his reign became increasingly bloodthirsty
- Many historians believe that he started the infamous fire which destroyed Rome in 64 (good point: it allowed Rome to be rebuilt in Greek tradition).
- Committed suicide in 68 when the army rebelled against him



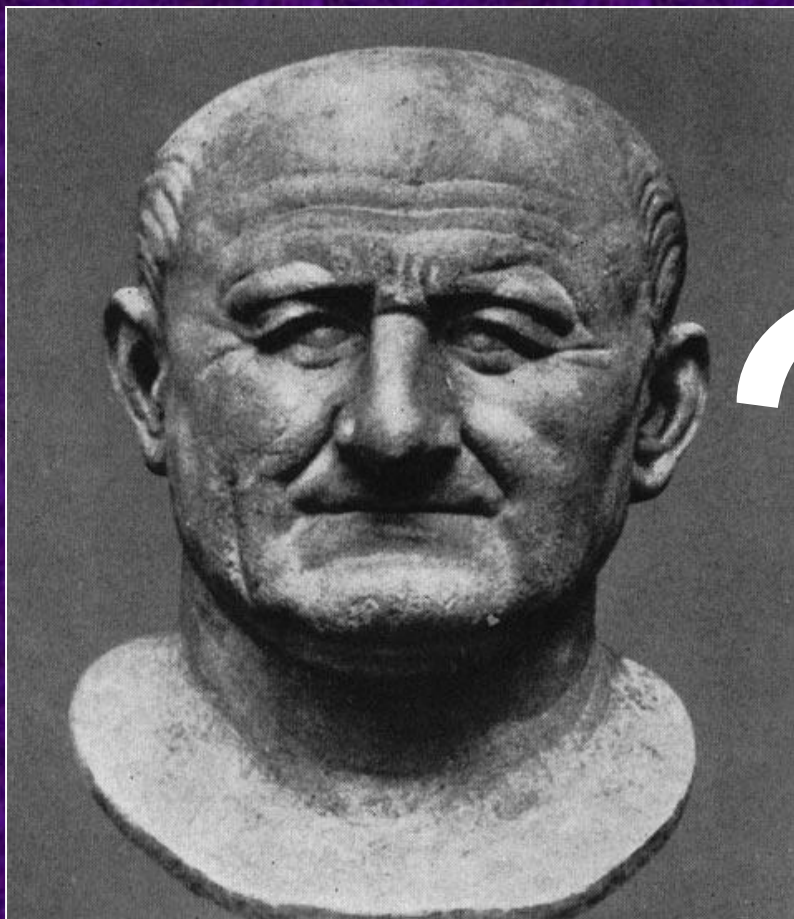
The Military Emperors



- Following Nero's death, lawlessness swept Rome as military commanders battled for the throne.

Most notable: Vespasian (69-79 C.E.)

- Restored discipline to army and government
- Swiftly put down rebellions in Gaul and Judea (located where the state of Israel lies today)



The “Good Emperors”



- Nerva – adopted new tradition of naming a successor



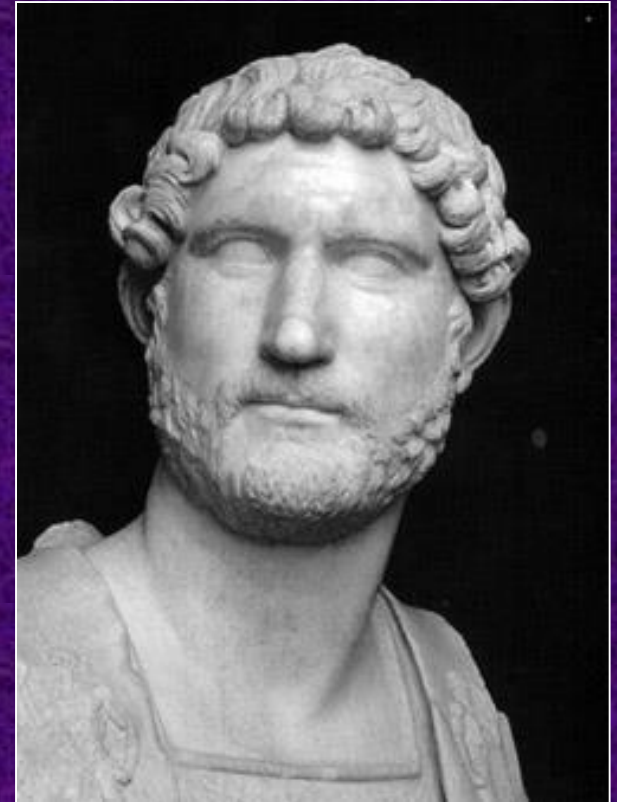
- Trajan – under him, the Roman Empire reached its greatest size

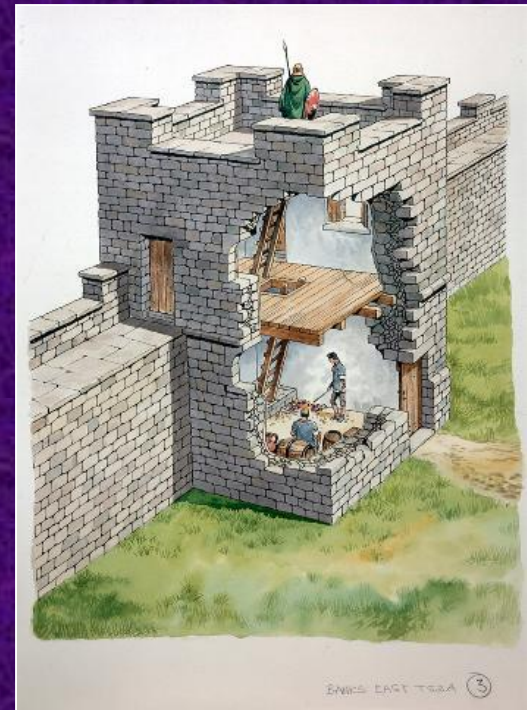




The “Good Emperors”

- Hadrian – devoted his reign to protecting and fortifying Roman borders; most recognizable legacy: Hadrian’s Wall built at the northern frontier of Britain; stretched 73 miles and rose 20 feet high

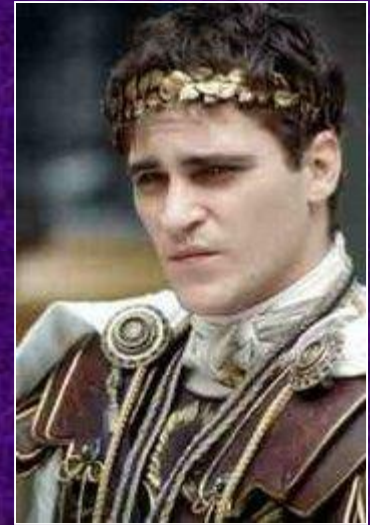




The “Good Emperors”

- Antonius Pius – (not especially notable)
- Marcus Aurelius (161-180 C.E.) – scholarly; influenced by Greek Stoics; forced to concentrate on border wars with Germanic tribes to the north (near Danube River); the reign of his son and successor, Commodus, marked the end of *Pax Romana*.





Effects of *Pax Romana*

This era of political and social stability, military dominance, and economic prosperity would allow the Roman culture to flourish and spread throughout the Western world.

- ART
- ARCHITECTURE
- LITERATURE
- DRAMA
- SCIENCE & MEDICINE
- ENTERTAINMENT & SPORT
- RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY
- LAW

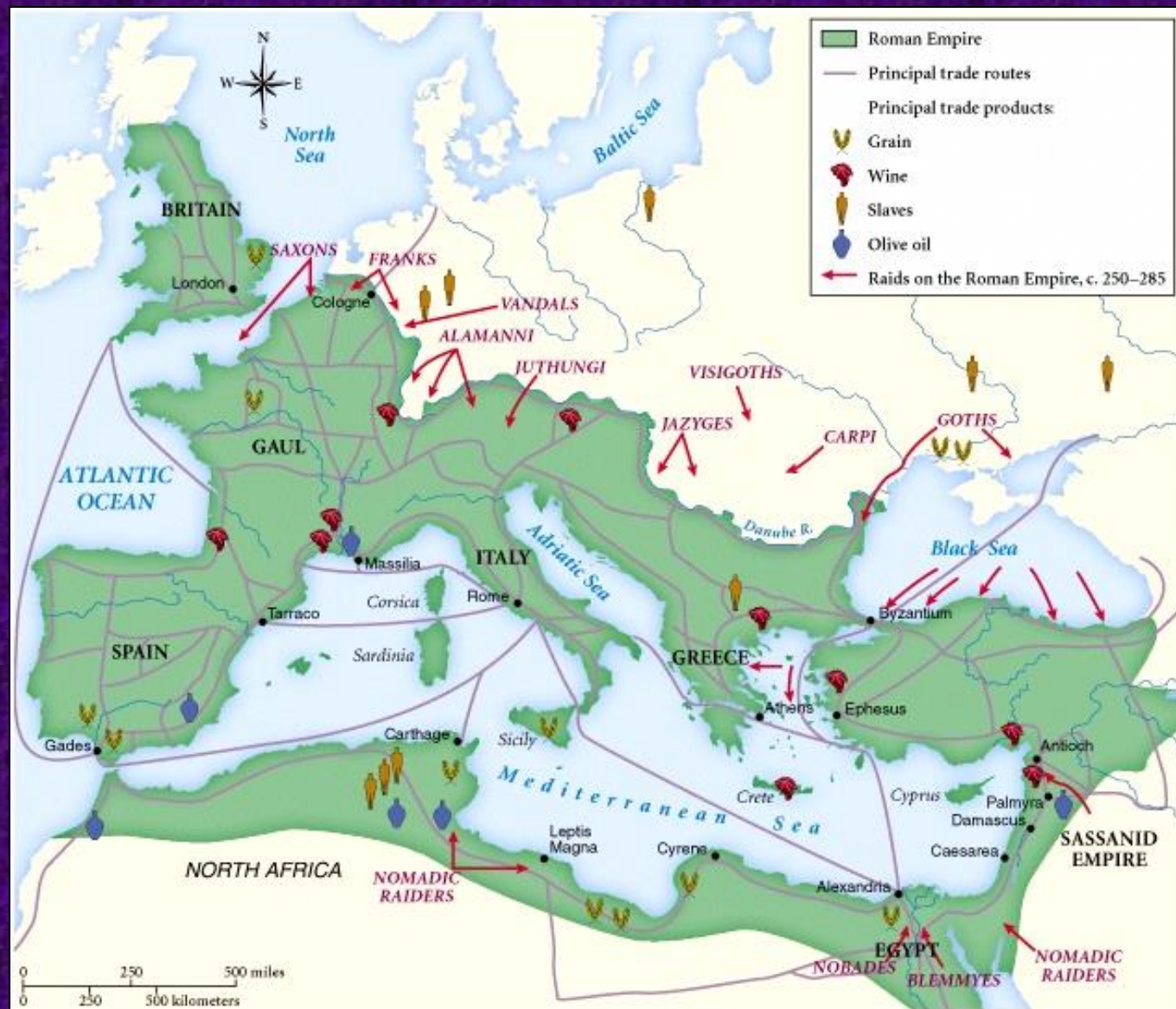


Crisis in the 3rd Century

1) Weakened defenses

- Barbarian invasions began on the northern frontier as well as in Greece, Spain, Asia Minor
 - Sassanians (an Iranian dynasty) seized control of Mesopotamia in the East and began to penetrate far Roman territories.

Empire in Crisis, 3rd Century C.E.



Invasions of the Roman Empire 100 - 500 CE

Western
Roman
Empire

Chalons
451

Rome

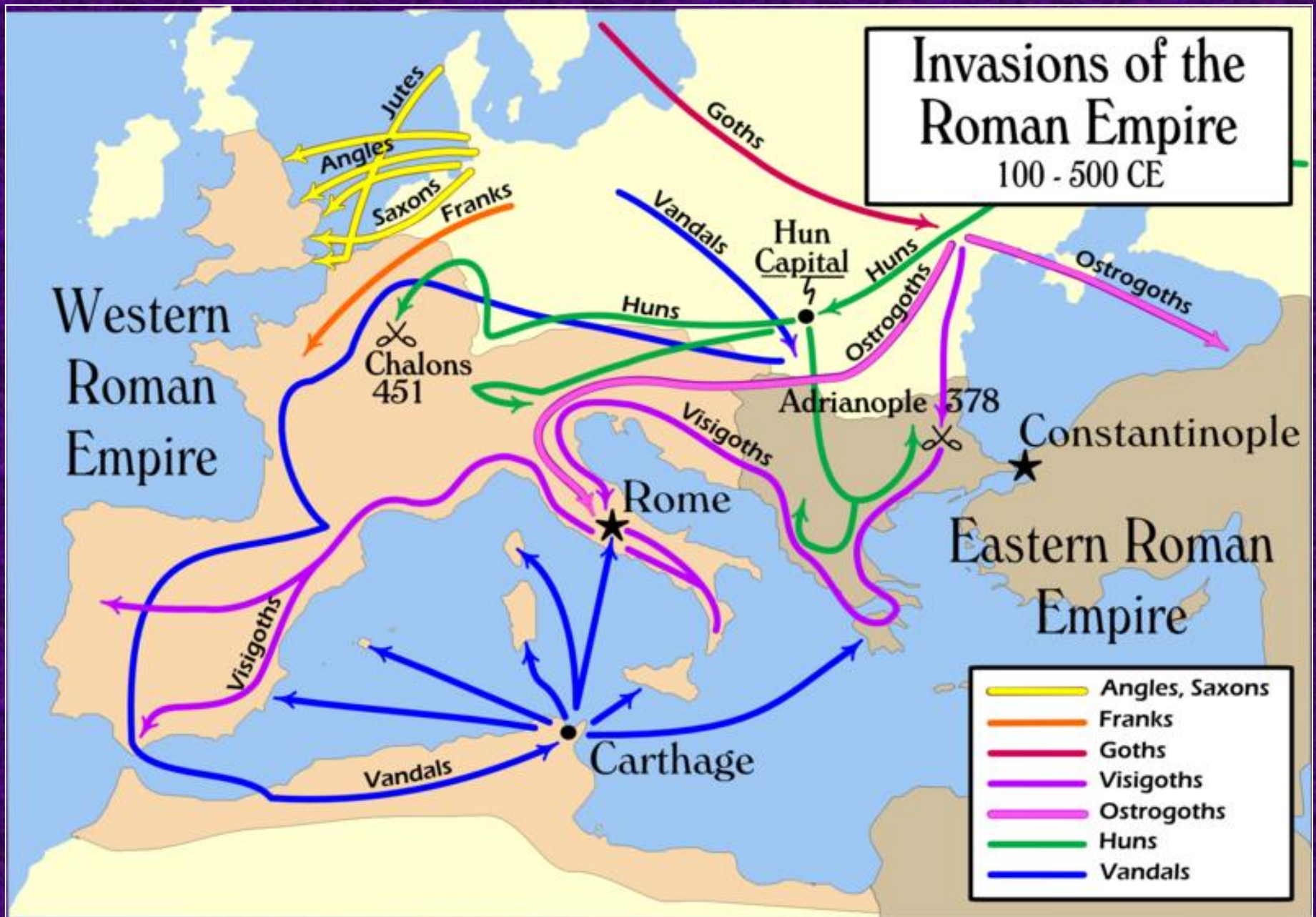
Carthage

Hun
Capital

Adrianople 378

Constantinople
Eastern Roman
Empire

- Angles, Saxons
- Franks
- Goths
- Visigoths
- Ostrogoths
- Huns
- Vandals



Crisis in the 3rd Century

2) Weak, ineffective government

- 235-285 C.E. – over 20 emperors held power
 - Some reigned for less than 1 year
 - All but 1 were assassinated!
- Emperors and their armies often fought one another for power.
 - Armies were increasingly made up of mercenaries (“guns for hire”) who were loyal to whomever paid them the most!

Crisis in the 3rd Century

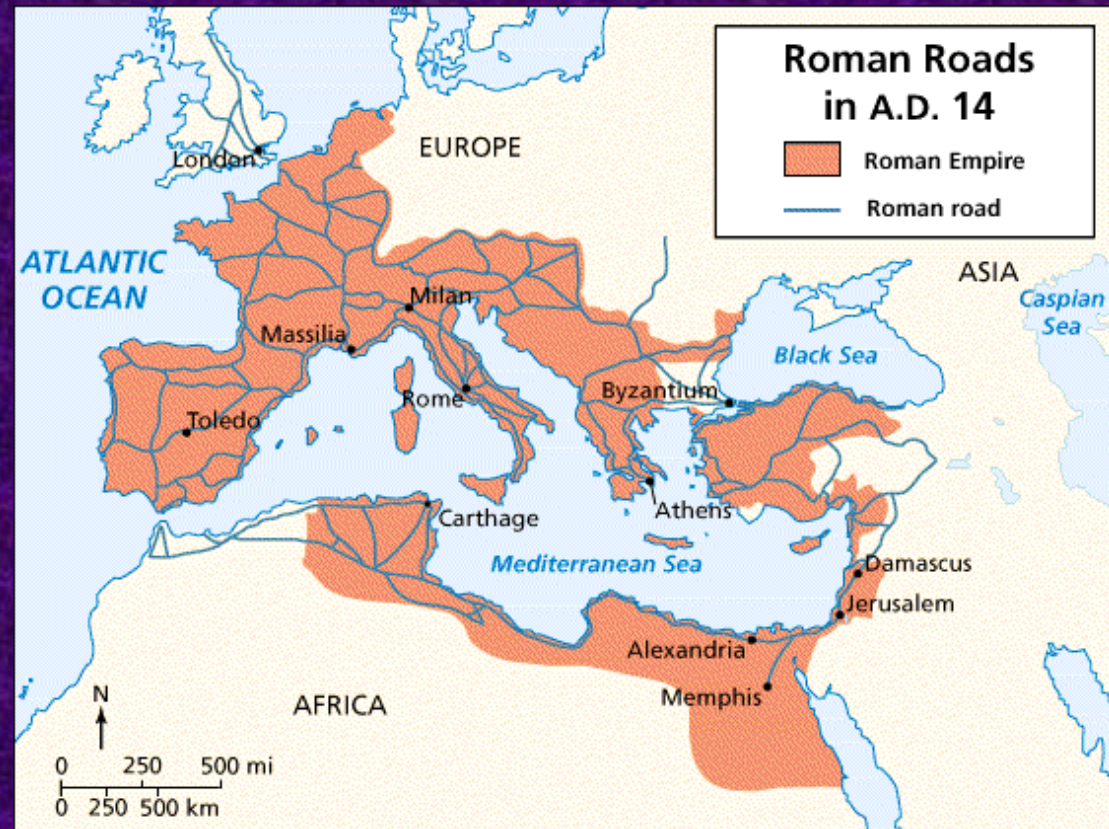
2) Weak, ineffective government, continued

- Effects on social order:
 - All power was in the hands of the emperor
 - Senate/ruling class were practically gone
 - Two distinct classes emerge:
 - Honestiores – aristocrats (nobility, senators, equestrians, high-ranking soldiers)
 - Humiliores – lower classes
- ★ *This situation foreshadows the social system of the Middle Ages!*

Crisis in the 3rd Century

3) Drained imperial treasury

- An attempt to lower the value of coins backfired; people lost confidence in Roman money and turned to barter
- Domino effects:
 - Deteriorated roads (hindered trade)



Crisis in the 3rd Century

- Domino effects, continued:
 - Provincial revolts (needed large, costly army to put down rebellions)
 - Large farms had wiped out smaller ones, leading to:
 - Shortage of jobs
 - Decreased production of food
- ★ *This situation foreshadows the economic system of the Middle Ages.*
- Increased taxes (to pay for the army and the emperors' extravagant lifestyles)
 - Some emperors sold off their palace furniture to raise money!



Crisis in the 3rd Century



4) Environmental Problems

- Plague
- Famine
- Soil exhaustion
- Possible weather changes (global cooling?)

Crisis in the 3rd Century

5) The impact of Christianity

ROMAN VALUES

- Cult of Emperor (Emperor is divine)
- *Dignitas*: How peers judge you
- Loyalty to Empire
- Ideal citizen is the soldier/farmer
- Violence is a way of life
- Rewards come in this life

CHRISTIAN VALUES

- Religion before government
- Morals: How God sees you.
- Loyalty to God
- Ideal citizen follows JC's teachings
- Non-violence
- Rewards in the afterlife

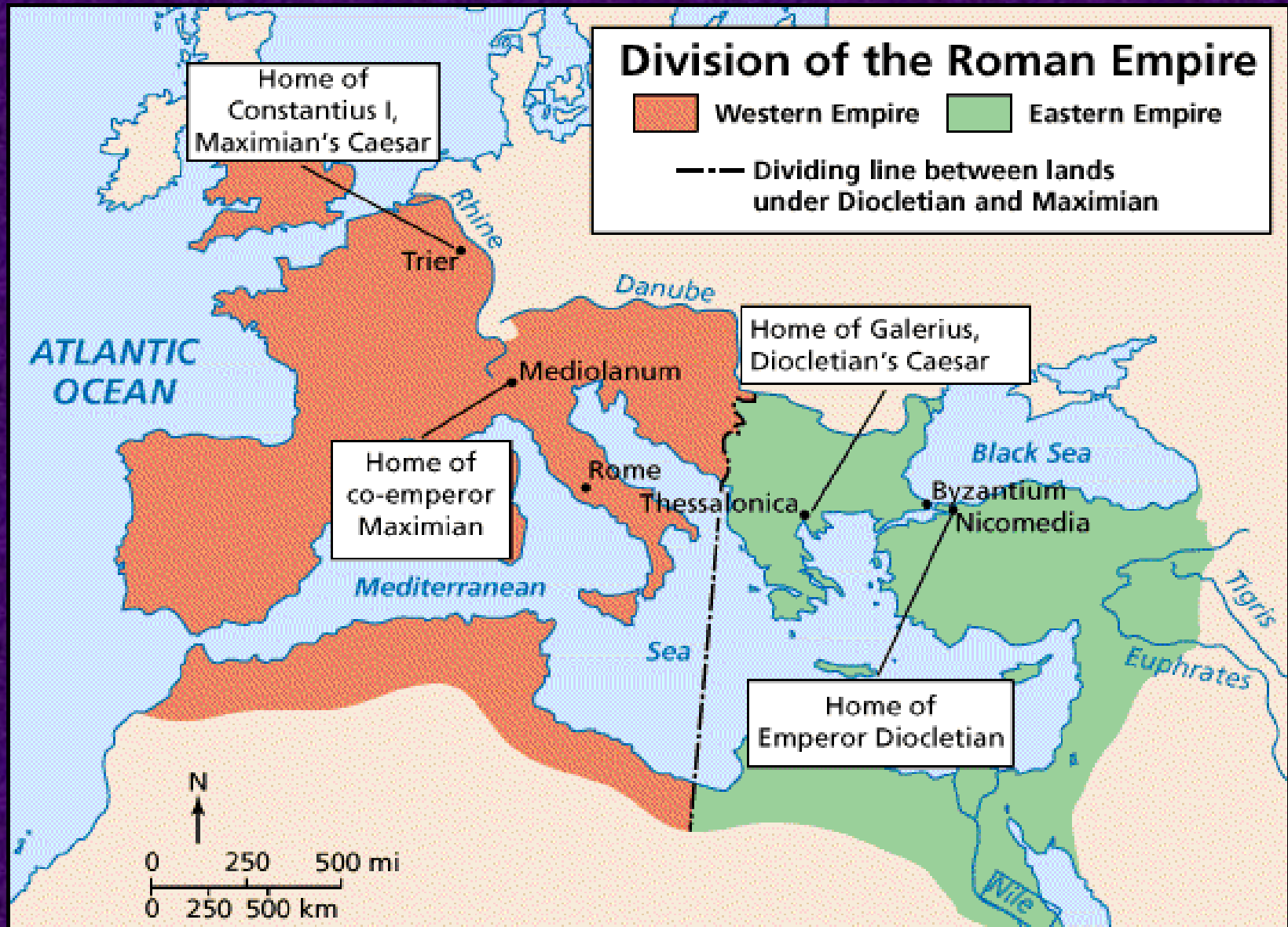
Crisis in the 3rd Century

6) The “Tent Effect”

- Simply put: the empire got so big that it could not sustain itself. It simply collapsed.



Diocletian Splits the Empire in Two: 294 C.E.



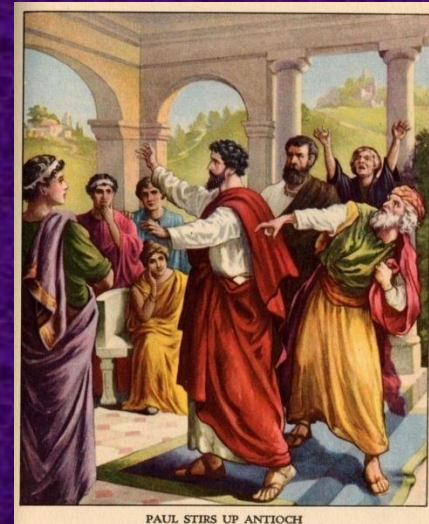
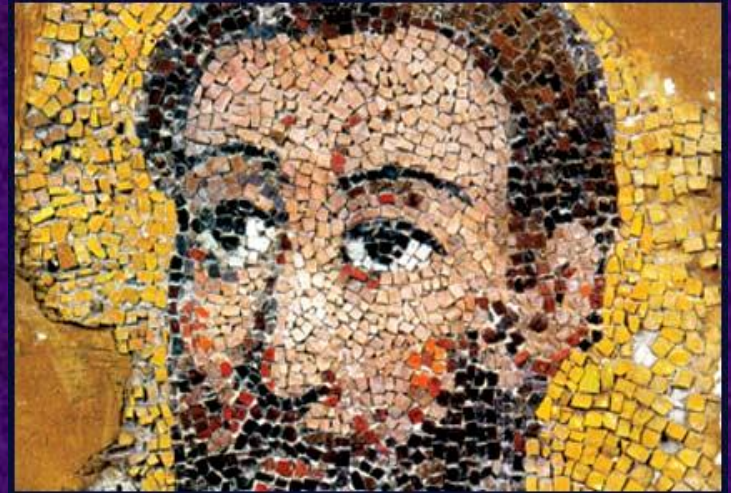
The Rise of Christianity



- Christianity began as a cult.
- The Gospels indicate that Jesus accepted Jewish laws and traditions of the Old Testament.
- Renewed emphasis on love, compassion, and a relationship with God.

The Rise of Christianity

- Jesus' popularity was threatening.
 - Jewish leaders did not accept him as the Messiah (savior)
 - Roman leaders (especially the emperors) feared he would lead a rebellion against the Empire
- Evangelists and disciples followed Jesus' teachings and preached the Gospel very effectively.
 - Ex. Paul of Tarsus

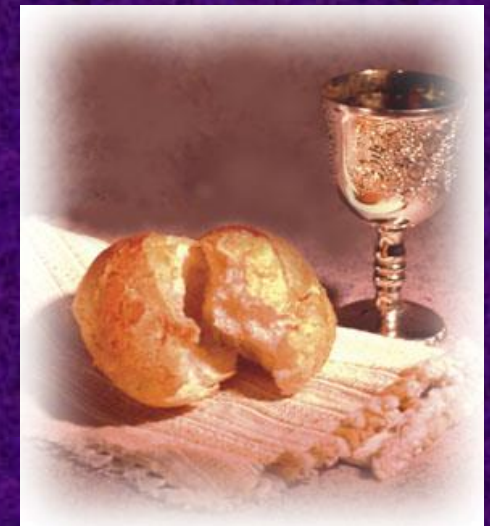


The Rise of Christianity

- Attraction of Christianity
 - Eternal salvation
 - Hope in times of crisis
 - Equality of all people in the eyes of God
 - Importance of charity (important in a time of financial crisis)
 - Enthusiasm of the martyrs (those willing to suffer and/or die for Christ)

The Rise of Christianity

- Persecution of Christians began.
 - Christians did not worship the emperor as a god.
 - Christians did not attend gladiatorial games or other traditional Roman festivals.
 - Christians did not serve in the army.
 - Christians' festivals and customs were seen as strange.
 - Ex. Some perceived them as cannibals who chose to “eat the body and blood of Christ.”



The Impact of Constantine



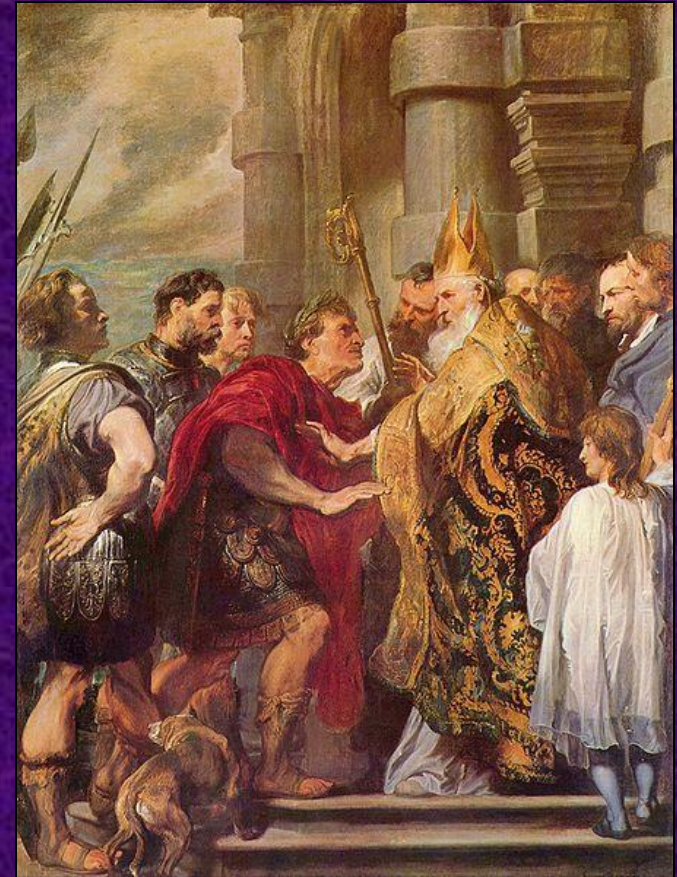
- Moved the capital from Rome to Byzantium (330 C.E.); renamed the city Constantinople.
- Why move the capital?
 - Port city – great for trade and commerce
 - Strategic location – surrounded on three sides by water; easy to defend
 - It's NOT Rome – Rome seen as a “pagan city” plagued with problems.

Constantinople: “The 2nd Rome”



The Power of the Catholic Church

- As the Christian population grew, so did the power of the Church and its officials.
 - Ex. Emperor Theodosius did penance, as ordered by St. Ambrose, Bishop of Rome.
- Eventually, the highest office of the Roman Catholic Church became the papacy (held by the pope).
- The term Catholic means “universal” (also related to a Greek adjective meaning “complete”)
 - The Roman Catholic Church, as it is known today, began during the reign of Theodosius



The Spread of Christianity



The Byzantine Emperor Justinian

Under Justinian's leadership, the western portion of the Roman Empire was reconquered. However, this unity would be short-lived.



In the West, barbarian tribes threatened the borders, and in the east, Muslims from Arabia sought to capture the critical trading port of Constantinople.

The Byzantine Empire during the Reign of Justinian



The Hagia Sophia (Istanbul)



Under the orders of Justinian, construction of the Hagia Sophia (“Holy Wisdom”) was constructed in 532 and took only five years to complete. Famous for its massive dome, it is considered one of the best examples of Byzantine architecture.

When Constantinople was conquered in 1453 by the Ottoman Turks, the church was converted to a mosque. The four minarets were added and the interior walls were redesigned to reflect the Muslim faith.

Legacy of the Roman Empire

- Cultural contributions

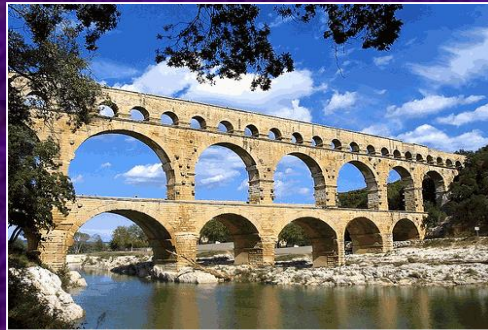
- Art
- Architecture
- Science
- Literature

I	V	X	L	C	D	M
1	5	10	50	100	500	1000



Legacy of the Roman Empire

- Roman Engineering
 - Aqueducts
 - Sewage systems
 - Dams
 - Cement
 - Arch



Legacy of the Roman Empire

- Cultural contributions
 - Latin
 - unifying language; foundation of many other Romance languages
 - also the language of the Catholic Church

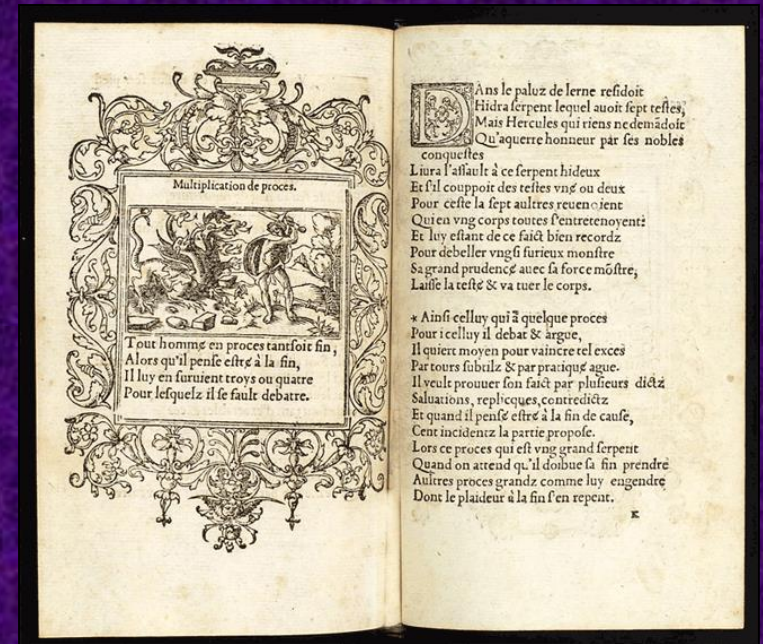
Caveat emptor!
Buyer beware!

Et tu, Brute?
And you, Brutus?
(Julius Caesar)

Carpe diem!
Seize the day!

Amor vincit omnia.
Love conquers all.

veni vidi vici.
I came, I saw, I conquered .
(Julius Caesar's report of victory in 47 B.C.E. over Pharnaces, king of Pontus)



- Law and Politics
 - Republican government
 - Legal codes (*Jus Gentium* – the Laws of the People)

Legacy of the Roman Empire

- Roman Catholicism and European Unity
 - The idea of a united Europe will continue to inspire leaders well into the Middle Ages
 - Christianity becomes the uniting religious force in Western civilizations.

