

Eastern Roman Empire (395-1453 AD)



The empire at the death of Justinian I (left), and after Manzikert (right).



- 330 Constantine inaugurates new capital city on the site of the old Greek colony of Byzantium, called *New Rome which is Constantinople*
- 395 At the death of Theodosius I, the Roman Empire is split into two halves (eastern and western) and never again re-united
- 527-565 Reign of Justinian I
- Reconquest of much of the Roman west; bubonic plague from 541 onward
- 627 Last of major battles between Persians and Romans; defeat of Persian forces at Nineveh
- 636 Battle of Yarmuk; Muslim Arabs defeat Roman army
- 1071 Defeat of Roman forces by Seljuk Turks at Manzikert
- 1095 First Crusade launched
- 1204 Fourth Crusade results in sack of Constantinople, creation of Latin Empire
- 1354 Turks crossed over into Europe and initiated conquests of Slavic tribes that provided them with huge manpower resources
- 1453 Turks conquer Constantinople

Major issues:

- Hostile neighbors from all sides: Persia, Slavs, Arabs, Turks, and West
- Romans assimilated many non-Greek peoples, from which some imperial dynasties came
- Government intervention in religious disputes created disloyalties
- Separation from Egypt and Syria hamstrung imperial finances