

Byzantine Empire

(395-1453 AD)



The Hagia Sophia was a temple built by Justinian, completed in 537. With its dome rising 182 feet, it was the largest temple in existence for a thousand years until the cathedral in Seville, Spain.

330	Constantine starts construction of a new capital city on the site of the old Greek colony of Byzantium
395	At the death of Theodosius I, the Roman Empire is split into two halves for the last time.
527-565	Justinian I rules. He re-conquers much of the western Roman empire (from the local Germanic tribes)
627	Last of major battles between Persians and Byzantines; defeat of Persian forces at Nineveh
636	Battle of Yarmuk; Muslim Arabs defeat Byzantine forces
1071	Defeat of Byzantine forces by Seljuk Turks at Manzikert
1204	Fourth Crusade results in sack of Constantinople
1354	Turks crossed over into Europe and initiated conquests of Slavic tribes that provided them with huge manpower resources
1453	Turks conquer Constantinople, the last outpost of Greek civilization

Major issues:

- Hostile neighbors from all sides
- Government intervention in religious disputes created disloyalties
- Separation from Egypt and Syria hamstrung imperial finances