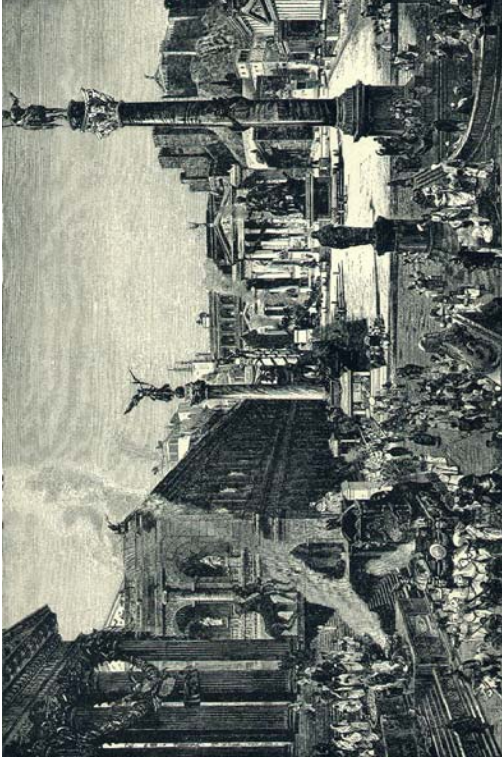


# SMA Co-op Spring 2016 Ancient Rome – Fall of Empire



- 235-285 Military Anarchy
- 285-305 **Diocletian** divides Empire
- 306-337 Rule of **Constantine the Great**
  - 313 Edict of Milan legalizes Christianity
  - 330 City of Constantinople is founded, Capital moved east
- 362 **Julian the Apostate** tries to restore Christianity.
- 372-395 **Theodosius** reigns in the East, briefly unites Empire
- 410 **Alaric the Visigoth** invades Rome
- 451 Visigoths and Romans fend off **Attila the Hun** at Chalons
- 455 **Generic the Vandal** sacks and plunders Rome
- 476 Imperial leadership passes to barbarian King **Odoacer**
- 486 **Clovis** defeats the last Roman governor in Gaul
- 493 **Theodoric the Ostrogoth** reunites Italy
- 527-565 Reign of **Justinian the Great** in Eastern Roman Empire
  - 533 **Belisarius** reconquers **Vandal Kingdom of Africa**
  - 538 Belisarius besieges Ravenna, regains Italy for Empire

## Fall of Empire – Timeline

Military Anarchy to Justinian I—235 to 565 A.D.

## Military Anarchy—235 to 284 A.D.

- 49 years **Maximinus Thracian** 235 238 (3) lynched by soldiers
- 12 emperors **Gordian I** 238 238 (\*) suicide
- 10 pretenders **Gordian II** 238 238 (\*) killed in action
- 1 natural death **Balbinus** 238 238 (\*) lynched by soldiers
- Average reign 4 years **Pupienus** 238 238 (\*) lynched by soldiers
- **Gordian III** 238 244 (6) killed in action
- **Philipppus the Arab** 244 249 (5) killed in action
- **Decius** 249 251 (3) killed in action
- **Hosilitian** 251 252 (\*) plague
- **Trebonia the Gaul** 251 253 (2) lynched by soldiers
- **Aemilian** 253 253 (\*) lynched by soldiers
- **Valerian** 253 262 (9) died in captivity
- **Gallienus** 253 258 (5) lynched by soldiers
- **Claudius II** 258 270 (12) natural death
- **Quintillus** 270 270 (\*) lynched by soldiers
- **Aurelian** 270 275 (5) murdered by secretary
- **Tacitus** 275 276 (\*) unknown
- **Florian** 276 276 (\*) lynched by soldiers
- **Probus** 276 282 (6) lynched by soldiers
- **Carus** 282 283 (\*) struck by lightning
- **Carinus** 283 285 (2) killed by a soldier
- **Numerian** 282 284 (2) killed by father-in-law

## Before Anarchy— 31 B.C to 235 A.D.

- 266 years **Augustus Caesar** -31 14 (45) natural death
- 18 emperors **Tiberius** 14 37 (23) natural death
- 7 pretenders **Caligula** 37 41 (4) lynched by soldiers
- 10 natural deaths **Claudius** 41 54 (13) poisoned by wife
- Average reign 15 years **Nero** 54 68 (14) forced suicide
- **Year of 4 Emperors and Flavians\***
  - Galba** 68 69 (\*) lynched by soldiers
  - Otho** 69 69 (\*) suicide
  - Vitellius** 69 69 (\*) lynched by soldiers
  - Vespasian** 69 79 (10) natural death
  - Titus** 79 81 (2) natural death
  - Domitian** 81 96 (15) murdered by courtiers
- **Year of Five Emperors (plus Commodus)\*\***
  - Nerva** 96 98 (2) natural death
  - Trajan** 97 117 (20) natural death
  - Hadrian** 117 138 (21) natural death
  - Antonius Pius** 138 161 (23) natural death
  - Marcus Aurelius** 161 180 (19) natural death
  - Commodus** 180 192 (12) murdered by courtiers
- **Year of Five Emperors and Severans\***
  - Pertinax** 193 193 (\*) lynched by soldiers
  - Didius Julianus** 193 193 (\*) lynched by soldiers
  - Septimius Severus** 193 211 (18) natural death
  - Geta** 211 211 (\*) murdered by Caracalla
  - Caracalla** 217 217 (20) murdered by Macrinus
  - Macrinus** 217 218 (\*) executed
  - Elagabalus** 218 222 (4) lynched by soldiers
  - Severus Alexander** 222 235 (13) lynched by soldiers

## After the Anarchy—245 to 364 A.D.

- 120 years
- 14 Emperors and Caesars, east and west
- 6 natural deaths

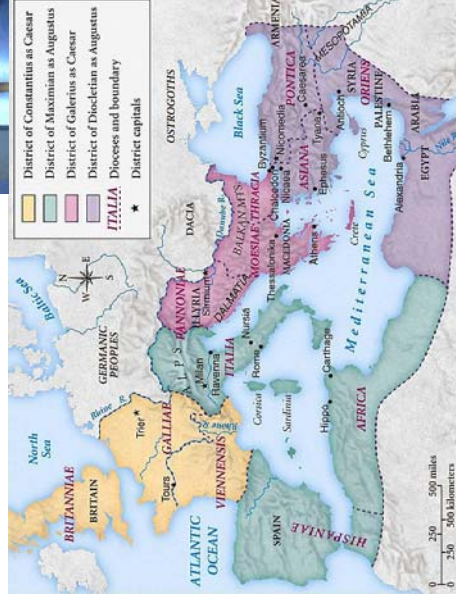
EMPEROR	BORN/REIGNED/DIED	MANNER-OF-DEATH
*DIOCLETIAN SPLITS EMPIRE—4		
Diocletian	245 - 284 - 314 - E	retired-305- natural-death-4
Maximian	250 - 286 - 310 - W	ret-205?-d-in-captivity-4
Constantius I-Chlorus	250 - 305 - 306 - W	natural-Death-4
Galerius	245 - 305 - 311 - E	natural-Death-4
Severus	??? - 306 - 307 - W	murdered-4
*CONSTANTINE RE-UNIFIES EMPIRE—4		
Constantine-the-Great	272 - 306 - 337 - W	natural-Death-4
Maxentius	278 - 306 - 312 - W	killed-in-Action-4
Licinius	265 - 308 - 325 - W	resigned-Executed-4
Maximianus-Daia	270 - 310 - 313 - W	natural-Death-4
Constantine-II	316 - 337 - 340 - W	killed-in-Action-4
Constans	320 - 337 - 350 - W	murdered-by-cousin-4
Constantius-II	317 - 337 - 361 - W	natural-Death-4
Magnentius	303 - 350 - 353 - W	suicide-4
Julian-the-Apostate	331 - 360 - 363 - W	killed-in-Action-4
Jovian	331 - 363 - 364 - W	unknown-4

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## Diocletian— Division of Empire

- Brought end to Military Anarchy
- Ruled as an eastern autocrat
- Made reforms
- Divided empire
- Increased bureaucracy
- Levelled taxes
- Persecuted Christians



## After the Anarchy—364 to 476 A.D.

- Chaos in West
- 2 of 12 natural deaths
- Orderly succession in East
- 6 of 6 natural deaths

WEST-EMPEROR	BORN/REIGNED/DIED	MANNER-OF-DEATH
*DIVISION-OF-EMPIRE-FIRMLY-ESTABLISHED—4-4		
Valentinian-I	321 - 364 - 375 - W	natural-Death-4
Gratian	359 - 367 - 383 - W	murdered-4
Valentinian-II	371 - 375 - 392 - W	murdered-by-Arbogast-4
Magnus-Maximus	?? - 383 - 388 - W	executed-4
*CITY-OF-ROME-ATTACKED-BY-GOTHIS-HUNS—4		
Honorius	?? - 393 - 423 - W	natural-death-4
Johannes	?? - 423 - 425 - W	executed-by-east-troops-4
Valentinian-III	?? - 425 - 455 - W	murdered-by-Maximus-4
Maximus	396 - 455 - 455 - W	lynched-by-soldiers-4
Avitus	400 - 455 - 457 - W	resigned/died-soon-after-4
Majorian	420 - 457 - 461 - W	murdered-by-Ricimer-4
Libius-Severus	?? - 461 - 465 - W	murdered-by-Ricimer-4
Anthemius	420 - 467 - 472 - W	murdered-by-Ricimer-4
Olybrius	?? - 472 - 474 - W	natural-death-4
Glycerius	?? - 473 - 474 - W	resigned, died-much-later-4
Julius-Nepos	?? - 474 - 475 - W	resigned, made-bishop-4
Romulus-Augustus	?? - 475 - 476 - W	resigned, died-much-later-4
EAST-EMPEROR		
*DIVISION-OF-EMPIRE-FIRMLY-ESTABLISHED—4-4		
Valens	328 - 364 - 378 - E	killed-in-Action-4
Theodosius-I	347 - 379 - 395 - E	natural-death-4
Arcadius	377 - 383 - 408 - E	natural-death-4
Theodosius-II	401 - 408 - 450 - E	natural-(accidental)-death-4
Marcius	392 - 450 - 447 - E	natural-death-4
Leo-I	401 - 457 - 474 - E	natural-death-4

## Persecutions of Diocletian/Galerius

- First Empire-wide persecutions in 250's during Military Anarchy, followed by 40 years of tolerance, then worst persecutions of all under Diocletian.
  - Martyred under Decius/Valerian (250s): St. Fabian, St. Agatha, St. Cyprian of Carthage, Pope Sixtus II, St. Lawrence, St. Cyril
  - Martyred under Diocletian/Galerius (300s): St. Alban in Britain, Pope Felix, St. Denis of Paris, St. Maurice, St. Sebastian, St. Lucy, St. Agnes, St. Dorothea of Caesarea



## Persecutions of Diocletian/Galerius

- **Diocletian** actively opposed Christianity; thought it was a threat to the state.
  - Surrounded his court with anti-Christians
  - Called for **Universal Sacrifice** to Roman Gods.
  - Ordered General persecution in 303
  - Persecutions enforced mainly in the east.
  - Purged Christians from army



## Constantine the Great (306-337)

- Conquered **Maxentius** in Rome under sign of cross
- Re-unified Empire; ended civil wars.
- Reformed government and military—First Christian Emperor
- Introduced “solidus” – gold coin used for 700 years.
- **Edict of Milan** made Christianity Legal throughout empire

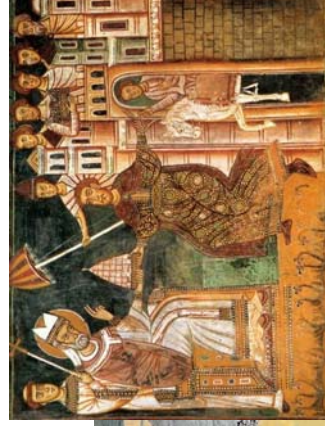


Battle of Milvian Bridge [www.Heritage-History.com](http://www.Heritage-History.com)

Baptism of Constantine

## Constantinople

- Built by Constantine as Capital of Eastern Empire.
- Located at Bosphorus Strait, controlling Black Sea, and crossing to Asia-minor.
- Overshadowed Rome by end of 4<sup>th</sup> century.
- Capital of Byzantine Empire (fell to Moslems 1453).



## After Constantine

- Warring Sons of Constantine (337-361)
- **Julian the Apostate** (361-363)
  - Attempts, fails to restore classical Roman Gods
- **Theodosius the Great** (379-395)



- Fends off Goths and Reunites Empire

- Supports Christian Church, opposes **Arian Heresy**

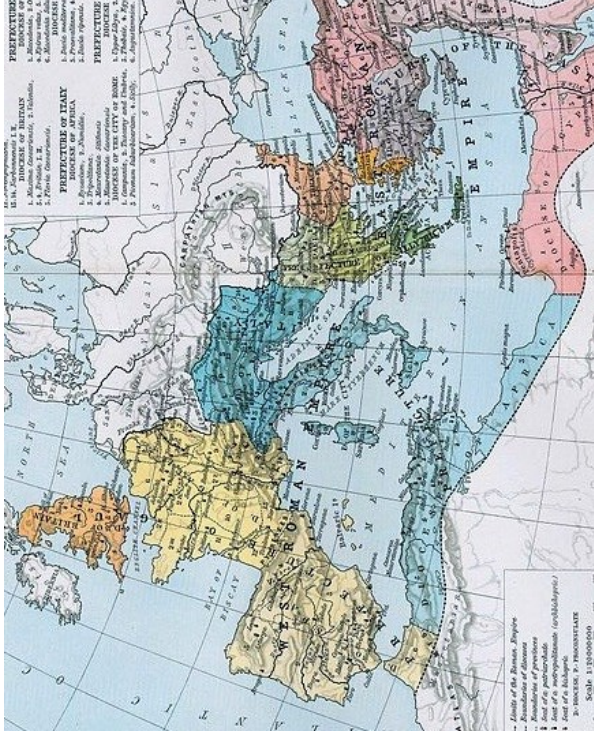
- Public penance to **Ambrose**, Bishop of Milan



## Causes of the Fall of Roman Empire

- Prolonged economic contraction
  - No wars of conquest to expand empire
  - Civil Wars decreased commerce
  - Population decline among native Romans
- Deficit spending debased the currency
  - Larger, more corrupt government
  - Soldier pay reduced, loss of glamour
- Mass Migration of German tribes
  - Army was primarily foreign, Roman patriotism declined
- High taxes decreased commerce and enterprise
  - Private farmers became tenants
  - Decrease in marriage, family formation

## Empire on the Eve of Collapse



- **Theodosius** splits Empire
  - East to **Acadius**
  - West to **Honorius**
- Western Empire Collapsed 404-476 AD
- East Empire Survived Until 1453

## Fall of the West

- 410 **Alaric the Visigoth** invades Rome
- 451 Visigoths and Romans fend off **Attila the Hun**
- 455 **Generic the Vandal** sacks and plunders Rome
- 476 Empire passes to barbarian King **Odoacer**
- 486 **Clovis** defeats the last Roman governor in Gaul



## Fall of the West

- Theodosius last notable ruler of the West
- Succeeding emperors were puppets—**power was in the hands of generals.**
  - **Stiicho** (Vandal) ruled 383-408, kept **Visigoths** at bay, kept order in Empire, murdered by Honorius
    - [\(Visigoths sacked Rome in 410\)](#)
  - **Aetius** (Ostrogoth) ruled 433-454, defeated **Attila the Hun** at Chalons, murdered by Valentinian.
    - [\(Vandals sacked Rome in 455\)](#)
  - **Ricimer** (Visigoth) ruled 456-472, tried to fend off Vandals, improve relations with East. Deposed or murdered several puppet emperors.
    - [\(Empire Passes into Barbarian hands in 476\)](#)

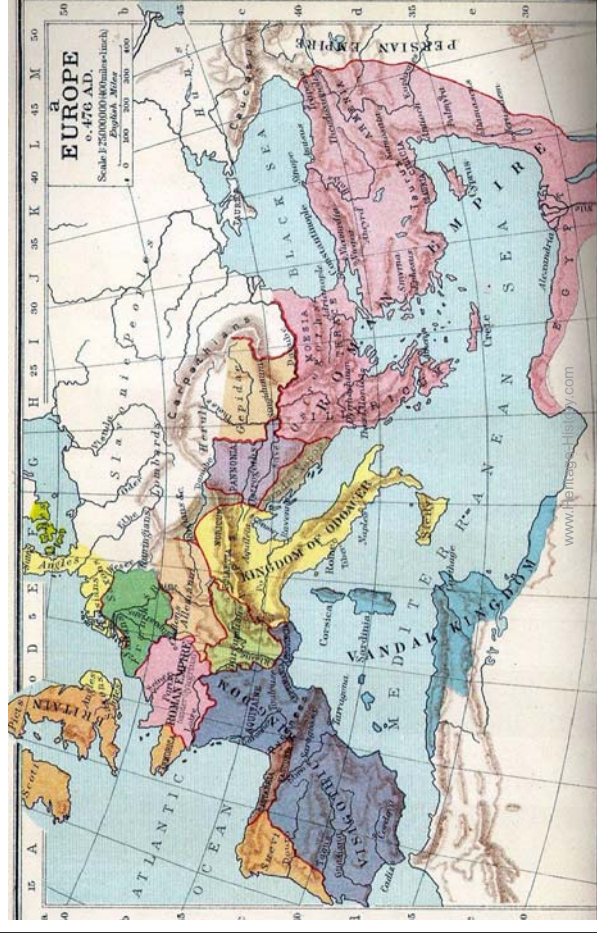
## Two Empress-Regents

- During the early 5<sup>th</sup> century Empress-Regents worked with Generals to rule Empire.
- East—**Pulcheria**, (granddaughter of Theodosius), regent 414-453, pious ruler, Sainted by Orthodox Church
- West—**Placidia**, (daughter of Theodosius), regent 423-437, influential until death in 450. More scandal, less piety. Granddaughter also named Placidia.



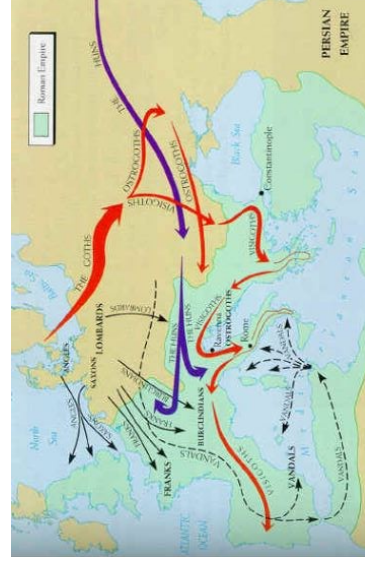
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## Barbarian Kingdoms 476 A.D.



## Barbarian Kingdoms

- Migration to Rome was gradual, increased 5<sup>th</sup> century.
- Many Romanized-Germans were Arian Christian.
- Only strong leaders made impression on history.
- Barbarian tribes associated with final destinations:
  - Visigoths—Spain
  - Saxons—Britain
  - Vandals—Africa
  - Ostrogoths—Italy
  - Franks—France
  - Burgundians—France
  - Lombards—Italy
  - Huns—?Hungary?



## Visigoths

- Crossed into Roman territory 251
- Settled in Dacia, became Arian Christians
- Crossed Danube in 376, **Hadrianople**
- **Alaric** king of Goths in 395,
  - Served as under Theodosius, but didn't recognize successor.
  - Conquered Greece/Athens (top)
  - **Stilicho** held Goths at bay for 8 years (then murdered).
  - Demanded territory, recognition as Roman governor.
  - Sacked Rome, 410, spared churches
  - Died soon after Sack of Rome (bottom)



## Visigoth Kingdom of Spain

- 418 Settled in South Gaul, capital at Toulouse
- 451 Allied with **Aetius** against **Attila the Hun** (left).
- 507 Drove Vandals and Suevi out of Spain.
- 589 **Reccared I** converted to Catholicism (right).
- 711 **Roderic** Overthrown by Moslem invaders.



## Vandals

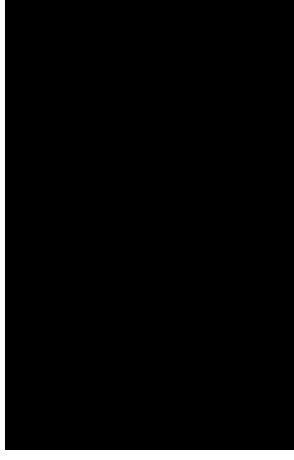
- Insignificant until rise of **Genseric**
- More vicious than other tribes.
  - Plundered, rather than governed
  - Pirates, not merchants
  - Hastened collapse of Rome
  - Terrorized the population
- Rise of Genseric in 428
  - Captured Roman port/fleet
  - Welcomed pillagers of all races
  - Invaded Northern Africa
  - Besieged **Augustine in Hippo**
  - Captured Carthage
- Expedition against Vandals failed in 460, Africa reconquered in 533.



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## Ostrogoths

- Arian Christians, settled in East Empire as unruly allies.
- **Theodoric** became king in 473
  - Raised in Constantinople.
  - United Ostrogoths, reconquered Italy with help from East Empire.
  - Ruled Italy, 493 to 526, capital in Ravenna (top).
  - Made alliances with other German kingdoms: Franks, Burgundians, Visigoths.
- Italy, reconquered by East Empire in 553 by **Belisarius**.
- Italy invaded by **Lombards**, 568 (bottom).



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## Franks

- Germans from Lower Rhine, some tribes settled in Roman territory.
- **Clovis** founds Merovingian Dynasty
  - Clovis's father united Franks (~460)
  - Clovis united all of Gaul at **Soissons** (486) (bottom)
  - Married **Clotilde**, Burgundian Princess (top)
  - Converted to Catholicism (496)
  - Clovis's sister married **Theodoric** (493)
- After Clovis,
  - Gaul became Catholic stronghold.
  - Dynastic wars weakened Merovingians
  - **Charles Martel** victory at **Tours** (732)
  - Merovingians deposed in 752, in favor of Carolingians.



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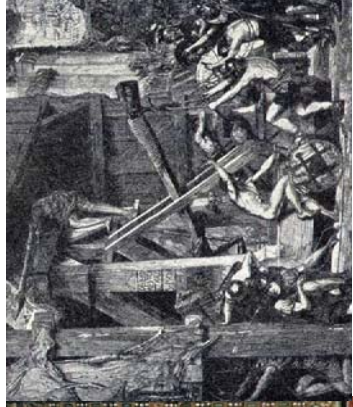
## Saxons, Angles, Jutes

- Romans withdrew from Britain between 392 and 405 (left).
- In 410, Honorius told Britons he would send no help.
- Saxons began migrating to Britain 400's (center).
- **King Arthur** legend—Christian Britons vs. Saxon pagans (right).
- Saxons conversion to Catholicism begins around 600, ends Dark ages of Britain.



## Eastern Roman Empire

- **Pulcheria, Leo, Zeno**, held East together through 5<sup>th</sup> century, fended off rebellions, nominal rule in west.
- **Justinian the Great** reigned 527-565
  - Grew up as shepherd boy, accepted as heir of Justin.
  - Revived greatness of Empire (left).
  - Belisarius reconquered Africa and Italy (right).
  - Established Code of Justinian throughout realm.



## Eastern Roman Empire

- Descendants of Justinian ruled until 602
- **Heraclius** ruled 610-641
  - Began using Greek as language of Government
  - Became "Byzantine" Empire
  - Moslem invasion (634-638) greatly reduced Byzantine territory
- **Leo the Isaurian** ruled 717-741
  - Iconoclast heresy
- **Cyril and Methodius** convert Slavs (top)
- Orthodox break with Rome in 1053
- **Fall of Constantinople to Turks** in 1453 (bottom).



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