

# FALL OF THE WEST—TIMELINE

235 TO 565 A.D.

## MILITARY ANARCHY TO THE REIGN OF JUSTINIAN I

- 239 Alexander Severus is assassinated —throne usurped by barbarian chief [Maximinus](#).
- 239-284 **Military anarchy.**
- 259 Emperor Valerian taken prisoner by the Persians after the *Battle of Edessa* and tortured to death.
- 270 [Civil War in the East](#) with [Zenobia of Palmyra](#), Queen of Palmyra.
- 285-305 [Diocletian](#) takes control of the Roman government and divides it into four provinces.
- 306 [Constantine](#) proclaimed Augustus by his legions after the death of his father.
- 312 **Constantine gains Control of the Western Empire at *Battle of Milvian Bridge*.**
- 313 **Edict of Milan: Christianity is made legal throughout Roman Empire.**
- 324-337 Constantine becomes sole ruler of both Eastern and Western Empires.
- 325 First Council of Nicaea is held to combat the Arian heresy.
- 330 The City of Constantinople is founded as the capital of Constantine's empire.
- 337-361 Empire languishes under warring sons of Constantine.
- 362 [Julian the Apostate](#) tries to restore paganism.
- 379-395 [Theodosius](#) reigns in the east. Fends off Usurpers in the West and briefly reunites the empire.
- 410 [Alaric the Visigoth](#), leader of the Visigoths, [invades Rome](#).
- 451 **Visigoths and Romans [Fend off Attila](#) and his Huns at the *Battle of Chalons*.**
- 455 [Genseric](#) [sacks and Plunders Rome](#).
- 468 Failed [expedition against the Vandals](#) of Africa sent by Emperor Leo.
- 476 Imperial leadership passes to a barbarian king, [Odoacer](#).
- 486 [Clovis defeats Syagrius](#), the last Roman governor in Gaul, at the *Battle of Soissons*.
- 496 [Clovis](#) is baptized as a Catholic Christian in Reims on Christmas Day..
- 493 [Theodoric the Ostrogoth](#) reigns in the Ostrogoth kingdom of Italy.
- 527-565 **Reign of [Justinian the Great](#) in the Eastern Roman Empire.**
- 533 [Belisarius](#) [reconquers Vandal Kingdom](#) of Africa.
- 538 Belisarius [besieges Ravenna](#), and regains Italy for the Eastern Kingdom.
- 572 The Lombards, under Alboin, cross the Alps and [conquer Italy](#).