

Lecture 1: 8/24/2017

Midterm, Final each worth 30 percent

Two 3-5 page papers worth 20 percent

Byzantine: Eastern half of the Roman Empire after the fall of Roman that never fell to the Barbarians. They saw themselves as Romans, not Byzantines - those descended from this to this day (Greeks and Greek Orthodox) still call themselves Romans - means someone from the city of Constantinople

Barbarian: anyone who speaks something other than Greek - only an evaluation of disliking anything not like us

Greek Orthodox coined in 19th century with rise of Nationalism - up until 19th/20th century Ottomans called themselves Romans and had a Greek education

Hermonis Wolf???: influential in how we divide up Byzantine history

Byzas: founded the city of Byzantium coming from Megara - St. Paul in 1st century AD stopped here

Constantinople: Constantine renamed Byzantium after himself so it would be his city - founded as an explicitly Christian capital - this helped move from Jewish sect to imperial religion. Moving the capital isn't bizarre/whimsical - makes sense

Diocletian: soldier-emperor - predecessor to Constantine - under him the Eastern part of the empire started to become the center and yield more taxes and the biggest organized army opposition was in Persia. He divided the empire into four different tetrarchs and each ruled from different capital (2 junior and 2 senior emperors). He also introduced economic system of 16 years. He wanted to move away from Roman traditions - towards an absolute monarchy - elaborate court ceremony introduced from Iran

proskynesis: prostrating in front of ruler - introducing practices from the East and South

dominus: he made himself absolute ruler away from Roman practice - term senator loses meaning it had earlier although the concept is still there - advice Alexander the Great conquering the east heavily Hellenized the East. Most important function is to collect taxes - keep this in place and also keep language. Once Diocletian died, the other tetrarchs fought and Constantine remained standing and he chose capital

Why is it Roman?

- Roman Legal System: Byzantine empire run through the Roman legal system, although there was some new legislation - only gotten rid of in 1948 although some Orthodox Christian in Lebanon, Israel, Egypt in 1950s
- Roman Imperial Ideal: loyalty to the office of the emperor - doesn't guarantee personal loyalty but instead the system
- Territorial Nucleus remained largely the same until 1262 after the fourth crusade

Byzantine History: driven by Reformation period (Protestant) effort to convert oriental christians as well as Byzantium as a model for absoluteness - Louis the 14th in France looking for models on which to found his own. The French monarchy admired the organized bureaucratic system that allowed tax collection which is also why it's looked down on now

- 284 accession of Diocletian: made lots of political reforms
- 324 Constantine's monarchy, decision to found Constantinople: this took a few years to reorganize the new capital
- 330 inauguration of Constantinople
- 395 final division of the Roman empire into Eastern and Western
- 476 fall of the Western Roman empire
- 565 death of Justinian I: important 6th century emperor
- 610 accession of Heraclius
- 717 accession of Leo III

Other division (how the professor divides Byzantine period):

- Early Byzantine period: 324-610 (Constantine I to the fall of emperor Phocas): also called late antiquity or early Christian period (actually ends late sixth/early seventh century) - not the fall of the Roman but a lot of change such as a new religion. Peter Brown is the father of late antiquity but he has opposition who says his term is too general
- Middle Byzantine period: 610-1081 (Heraclius to Nikephoros Botaneiates): Heraclius loses to the Arabs the territory of Egypt and Syria which had a lot of economic importance
- Late Byzantine period: 1081-1453 (Alexios I to the fall of Constantinople to the Ottomans) Alexios I brings a lot of administrative changes

Direct source: no human mediation, minutes records from meetings, writings from an emperor

Indirect source: someone writes a narrative at the time - we need these to put the pieces together