

## Ancient Rome: The End of the Roman Empire Notes\*

- The Romans ruled the entire Mediterranean region
- Some people believed the Empire was too large
  - Too hard to Govern
  - Too hard to defend
- Tribes of Warriors from Germany attacked the northern border of the Empire
- Persians invaded from the east
- Romans were able to hold off these groups for 200 years
- People on the borders of the Empire were Nervous
- Roman government had some German farm land in the Empire
  - The Germans in Roman territory ignored whatever rules the Roman government laid down
- Germans were not listening to the Roman government in the north
- Disease was spreading throughout Rome
- Taxes were increased, making people angry
- No strong Emperor to take Control and fix everything
- Diocletian became Emperor in the late 200sCE
- The Roman Empire was split in two
  - Eastern and Western
- After Diocletian, Constantine became Emperor
- Constantine moved the capital city from Rome to Constantinople (Istanbul) in Turkey
  - Also made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire
- One of the first groups to invade were the Huns
  - From Central Asia
  - Their fiercest leader was Attila
- The Huns battled the Goths (from Southeastern Europe)
  - The Gothic groups fled into Roman territory
- Eastern Roman Empire fought the Goths and pushed them into the Western Roman Empire
- Western Rome was defeated by the Goths
- 410 - Goths marched into Rome and destroyed the city

- After Gothic victories, other groups attacked the Western Roman Empire
- The Huns continued to attack the Eastern Roman Empire
  - Were never successful in conquering it
- Military leaders took control and ruled Rome
  - The military leaders often argued and fought
- 476 - The last Roman Emperor was overthrown
  - 476 - The end of the Western Roman Empire
- The Roman Empire was too large
  - Communication and defense was difficult
- Corruption was all over the place
  - Corruption - Decaying of people's values
- Government sought money before helping people
- Private armies were created
- Taxes raised, schools closed population fell
  - The city of Rome declined, and so did the Empire
- As the Western Empire fell, the Eastern Empire grew in power
  - Called the Byzantine Empire
  - Capital city - Constantinople
  - Byzantine Empire - Society that developed in the Eastern Roman Empire
  - Emperor Justinian re-wrote the laws so they were Christian
  - Called Justinian's Code of Laws
- Justinian was responsible for creating a lot of wonderful buildings and architecture
  - Church of Hagia Sophia
- Justinian died in 565
- After Justinian died, the Byzantine Empire began to decline
- Eventually, the Ottoman Turks conquer the city in 1453
  - They rename the city Istanbul
  - 1453 - The end of the Byzantine Empire