# KAY 492
# Turkish Administrative History

## Week 2: Ortaylı, pp. 29-49

## Eastern Roman Empire



BYZANTIUM NOVUM

# EASTERN ROMAN (BYZANTINE) EMPIRE (330-1453)

- ☐ Starting Point
  - ■ 330 A.D.
    - ☐ Roman Emperor Constantine I dedicated a "new Rome" on the site of the ancient Greek colony of Byzantium.
  - ■ The Migration Period & partition of the Roman Empire
- ☐ Lasted for 11 centuries
  - ■ A dynamic organism
  - ■ Continuous interaction with Iran, Islamic Empire & Italian states of the Mediterranean
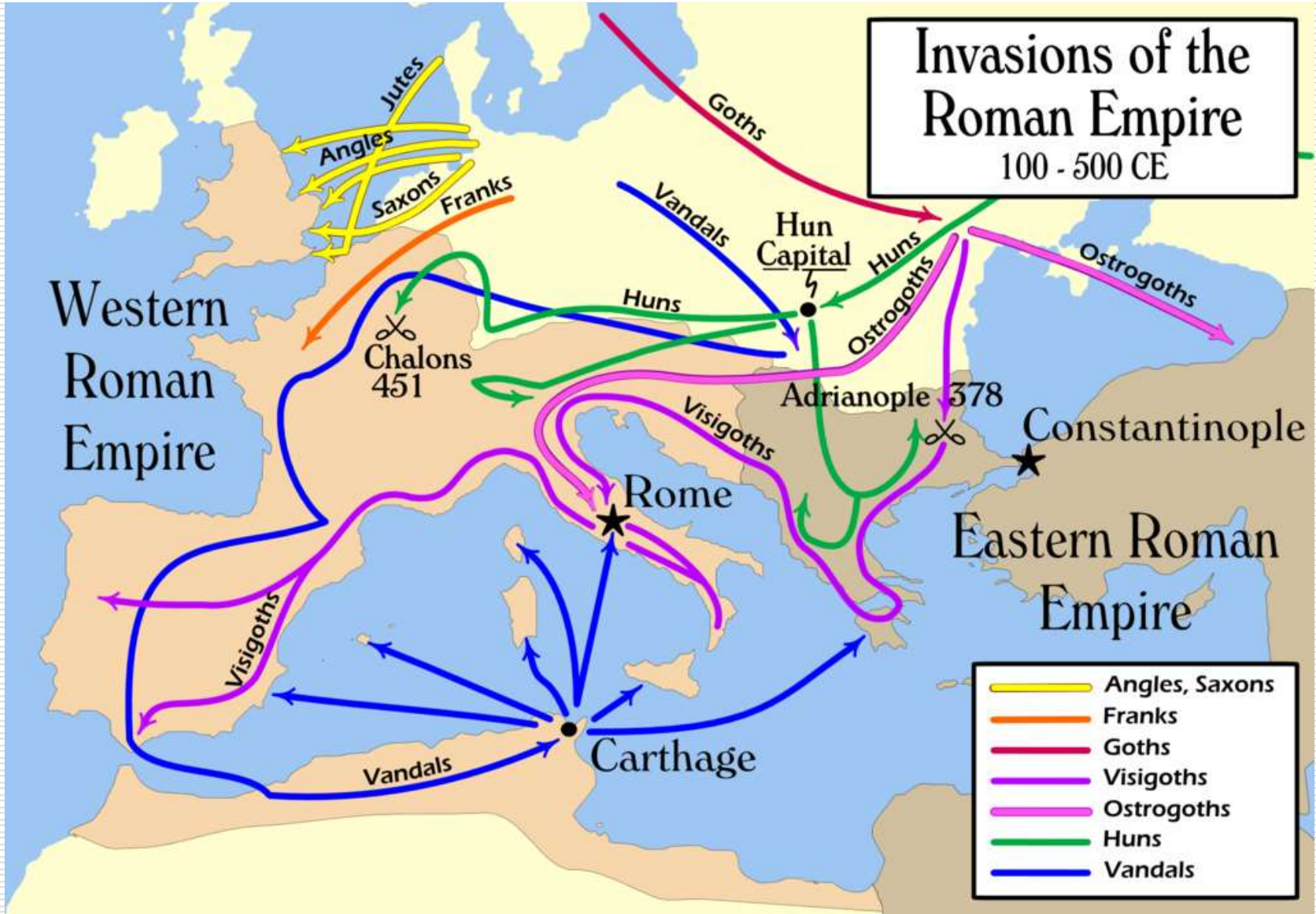
# Evolution of the Eastern Roman Empire

# The "Byzantine" Concept: An Established Mistake

- ☐ «Byzantium» is the 4th century name of the city of Constantinople
  - ■ Byzantine is a term used by Western European historians since the 16th century
  - ■ People of the Eastern Roman Empire called themselves "Roman"
  - ■ The Turks also called these people "Rum" and the country «İklim-i Rum«
    - ☐ Mevlana Celaleddin Rumi

# Before the Migration Period



The Roman Empire in 117 AD, at its greatest extent

# During the Migration Period



Invasions of the Roman Empire 100 - 500 CE

# After the Migration Period



THE ROMAN EMPIRE & BARBARIAN EUROPE, AD 500

# Roman Empire

- Western and Eastern (Roman) States
  - Official division at 395
  - Collapse of western provinces
  - Cultural difference

- Roman character in northwestern and northern Europe represented by
  - Roman law
  - Romanized Christianity
  - Use of Latin as the language

- In the East, Rome's institutions will live
  - A Hellenized area before the arrival of the Romans
  - Roman language and culture have found established cultures and religions when it arrived
  - Interaction in government organization, religion and philosophy

# Roman Legacy

- After the division and collapse, the center of the Roman Empire shifted to the East
  - To Greece, Iran, Mesopotamia and Syria

- The same tribes that destroyed Rome in the 4th & 5th Centuries claimed the Roman legacy
  - With the Renaissance that emerged after the 10th & 11th Centuries
  - In the 15th & 16th Centuries, the Russian Tsardom considered itself as the heir of Rome
  - In the 18th Century, enlightenment philosophers identified Byzantine with despotism and intrigue

# Differences

| Roman Empire | Eastern Roman Empire |
|---|---|
| Diarchie (Emperor & Senate) | Monarchy (Senate is a ceremonial, symbolic institution) |
| Separation of spiritual & secular authority | Emperor is the head of the Church |
| When the Pope crowns the Emperor (It is the recognition of the Emperor) | Cesaro-papism<br>When the Patriarch crowns the Emperor (It is the recognition of the Patriarch) |
| Separate military & civilian authority in provincial administration | The military & civilian authority is merged due to continuous warfare |
| Slavery exists | Slavery is abandoned after the 5th century |

# The Eastern Roman Emperor

- ☐ Becomes emperor with divine will
  - ■ Cesaro-papism: Unity of earthly and divine authority in one person
- ☐ Chief legislator, highest judge, administrative, financial and military authority
  - ■ Power of all appointments & removals from office
- ☐ Forces that restraints his authority
  - ■ Laws
  - ■ The Church
  - ■ Land owners

# The Eastern Roman Subject

- In order to be considered Eastern Roman, a person has to be:
  - A good (Orthodox) Christian
  - Obedient to the Emperor
  - A subject to the rules and practices of the Roman legal system
  - The ethnic origin is <span style="color:red">unimportant</span>

# Culture

- ☐ Literature of advice (Nasihatname)
  - ■ The mission of the Emperor is bringing/restoring justice, to prevent religious deviations, etc.
  - ■ Purpose: To protect the social order
- ☐ With the Renaissance, a new kind of advice -foreseeing a new order- began to be given
  - ■ Less normative & more realist
    - ☐ Machiavelli, Prince

# Organization of the Central Government

- Important Positions/Posts
  - Imperial First Secretary
  - Head of Senate
    - At the same time, the judge and mayor of the capital city
  - In time, a prime minister, such as Sasani's grand vizier, emerged
  - One person each responsible for the administrative & military administration of Anatolia & Rumeli
    - Similar to «beylerbeyi» in the Ottoman Empire
  - Use of «tsavisios» (çavuş) in palace services, postal & intelligence systems
    - Similar situation in Iran

# Army

1. Knights especially in the border provinces
   - Responsible from controlling agricultural production as well as defense/combat
2. Imperial Guard (Hassa Army)
3. Navy
   - Could not control the Mediterranean Sea
   - Could not compete first with Arab-Islam, then with the Italian Republic navies
   - There were some admiralty states/estates in Aegean and Mediterranean Sea
     - Kaptanpaşa provinces in the Ottoman Empire

# Diplomacy

- ☐ A life under constant attack
    - ■ Solution: Provoke nomadic tribes against each other, set up & break alliances («Byzantine» style diplomacy)
    - ■ Generous gifts, giving tributes, establishing kinship with marriage, spreading (Orthodox) Christianity among barbarians
- ☐ The authority to resolve border disputes & negotiate with barbarian tribes was given to the border governors
    - ■ The same in the Ottoman Empire
- ☐ All rulers and states in the region are not equal in protocol
    - ■ Like Ottomans and Iranians
    - ■ No permanent embassy delegations in other countries

# Law & Administration

- ☐ Role & mission
  - ■ Developing & transferring the Roman legal system to the World
- ☐ All the Roman laws constitute only a booklet when combined
  - ■ The important things are principles, tradition & interpretations of the laws
- ☐ Civil Law Collection (Corpus Iuris Civilis)
  - ■ First in Latin, then in Greek
  - ■ First personal law, debts & property law
  - ■ Then civil law & criminal law
  - ■ A model for Slavs and Russians, who adopted Christianity
  - ■ Roman laws are used for governing the Orthodox subjects in the Ottoman Empire
- ☐ After the 12th Century, the Western European doctrine of secular law had its origins in Roman Law

# Provincial Administration

- ☐ At first, there were two main provinces
  - ■ Oriens (Asia Minor, Mesopotamia & Syria) & Illyricum (Balkans)
- ☐ At the head of the provinces was a civilian governor and a commander
  - ■ Continuous wars have resulted in a single person, who is responsible for both tasks
    - ☐ Supervision of the central government through bishops and spies
- ☐ Financial officers & judges were appinted by the Center
  - ■ These high-level officers could directly correspond with the emperor
- ☐ Separation of Powers in the provinces
  - ■ Civilian, military & judicial

# Land Management System

- ☐ Classification of Land Systems
  1. Land belonging to the Monarch/Emperor
  2. Land belonging to administrators/soldiers (Miri Arazi- Dirlik)
  3. Church-owned land or private property

- ☐ Land aristocracy
  - ■ Protected its power despite attempts to be crushed
- ☐ Free villagers and serfs
  - ■ The state would not allow immigration and land abandonment
  - ■ Slavery had been abolished after the 5th century

# Land Management System-2

- [ ] In the 5th and 6th centuries, the lands of the monasteries grew in size
  - Monastic feudalism
  - Reaction: Iconoclasticism, the practice of destroying icons
- [ ] The territories given as an award to military men for their services
  - Tahrir process: Taking inventory of the land & people
  - In time these military men has become similar to feudal lords (tekfurs)

# Taxes

- Land tax
- Poll/head tax
  - «Kefaletion" (similar to cizye) from non-Christian urban & peasant groups
  - First given in kind/ocular (ayni), then as money
- Other taxes
  - Land title, feed, grass, barn & marriage taxes/duties

# Cities

- ☐ Guilds (of artisans or tradespeople)
  - ■ Trade controls (controls on quality & quantity of production, employment and determination of sale price)
  - ■ Selection and establishment of market places
  - ■ City administrators and law enforcement officers
  - ■ Provision of certain public services
    - ☐ Navy in battle, in peace provision of goods
- ☐ Selective state control in exports and imports
  - ■ Silk, salted fish, etc.
- ☐ City Police task: Agoranomos
  - ■ «Muhtesip» in the Ottoman Empire
- ☐ Hipparkos (judge and municipal officer)

# Trade

- ☐ Trade lines with China and Middle East
- ☐ Parts outside Anatolia and Thrace could not be fully commercially integrated with the empire
  - ■ Egypt, North Africa and Syria
- ☐ Backward transport technology
  - ■ Waterway and land caravans (kervan)
  - ■ Ships without sails
  - ■ The roads were insecure (thus, mass trade)
- ☐ Merchants was an inferior group
  - ■ Low status
  - ■ No free market conditions
  - ■ No accumulation of capital
- ☐ Customs exemptions for Italian cities after the war with the Seljuks – exploitation

# Languages

- Multilingualism
  - Latin language was the Roman heritage
  - Syrians in Mesopotamia spoke Aramaic
  - Southern provinces spoke Arabic
  - Kobtic in Egypt

- Language of communication (Lingua franca) is Greek
  - The elite knew Greek well, besides their own language

# Religion

- A country with many different religions
    - The main axis was Orthodox Christianity
    - Also Maniheism, Mazdak religion, Islam, Judaism
- Area of influence of the Orthodox Church
    - Greeks
    - Bulgarians, Macedonians, Romanians, Albanians, Serbs and Montenegrins in the Balkans
    - In the North, Russia, Ukraine and Belorussia
    - Orthodox Christian Arabs in Syria and Palestine in the East

# Interaction-Impact

- ☐ It affected all Europe up until the 10th century
  - ■ Law and management system
    - ■ Architecture, protocol, clothing style
- ☐ Eastern Roman influences on Ottoman rule
  - ■ Is there continuity among institutions?
  - ■ Or are the roots of Ottoman institutions in Iranian, Ilkhanian and Asian Turkish traditions?