

The background features a complex, abstract design. It consists of several overlapping, organic shapes in shades of green and blue. A prominent feature is a large, dark grey, irregularly shaped area in the center-right, which serves as a backdrop for the title. The background is filled with a dense, fine grid pattern that is slightly blurred and has a soft, ethereal quality. The overall aesthetic is modern and digital.

The Byzantine Empire

The Byzantine Empire, 1025



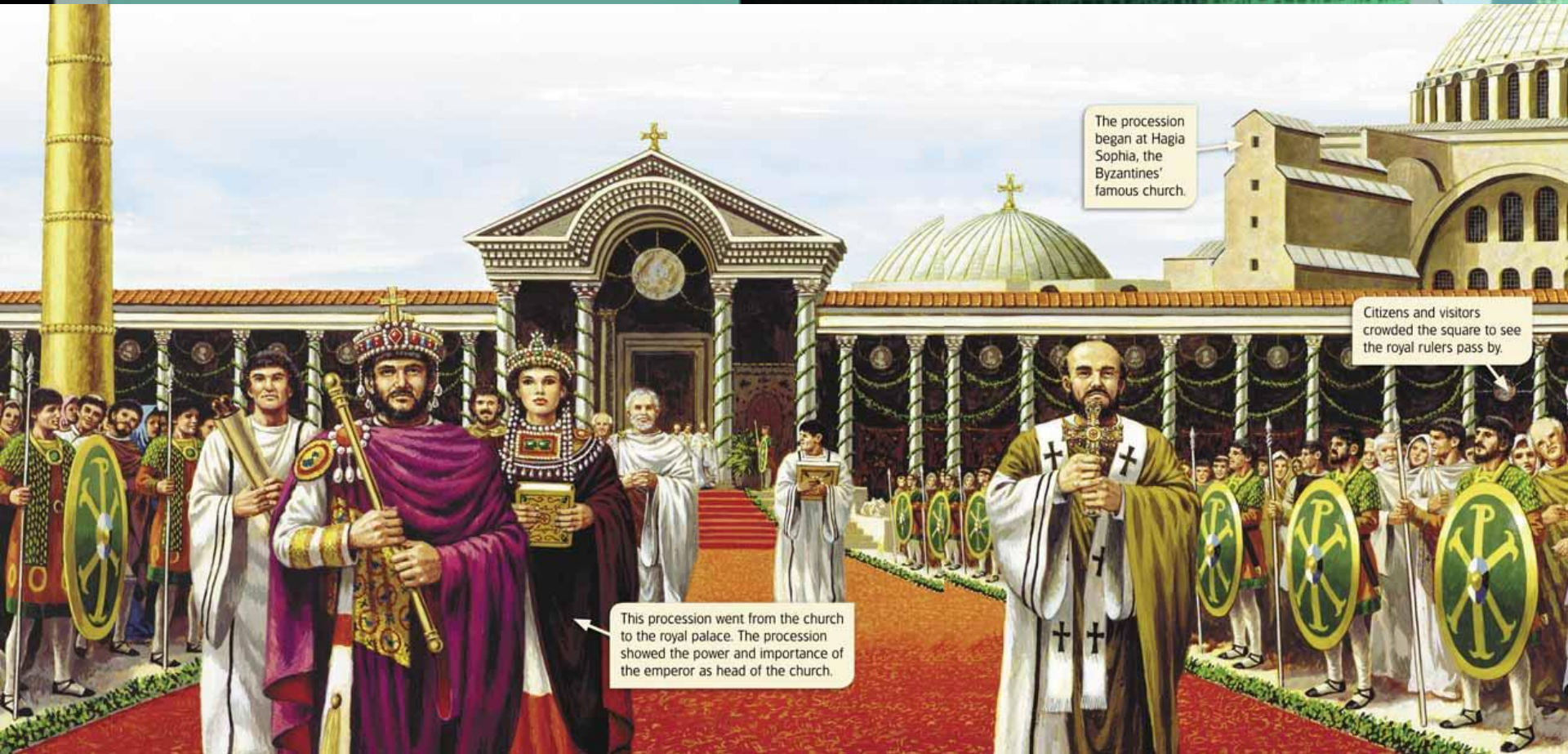
Constantinople was strategically located where Europe and Asia meet. As a result, the city was in a perfect location to control trade routes between the two continents.



Emperors Rule from Constantinople

- Constantinople lay between the Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea.
- This location between the two seas protected Constantinople from attack and helped the city control trade between Europe and Asia.
- As Rome fell, Constantinople grew.

The Glory of Constantinople



The procession began at Hagia Sophia, the Byzantines' famous church.

Citizens and visitors crowded the square to see the royal rulers pass by.

This procession went from the church to the royal palace. The procession showed the power and importance of the emperor as head of the church.

Constantinople was a crossroads for traders, a center of Christianity, and the capital of an empire. It was a magnificent city filled with great buildings, palaces, and churches. The city's rulers led processions, or ceremonial walks, to show their wealth and power.

Justinian

- **Justinian**, an eastern emperor who took power in the 500s, wanted to reunite the Roman Empire.
- His armies managed to recapture Italy. He earned respect for updating, simplifying, and writing down Roman laws, making them more fair.
- But he made enemies who tried to overthrow him. Justinian got advice from his wife **Theodora**, and was able to stop the riots and keep his throne.

Justinian and Theodora



Key Events

525 Justinian and Theodora are Married.

527 Justinian becomes emperor and names Theodora empress.

532 Theodora persuades Justinian not to flee Constantinople during riots.

534 Justinian's Code is produced.

534-565 Justinian's armies reconquer parts of the Roman Empire, from North Africa to Italy to Spain.

Constantinople Falls

- Despite Justinian's success, later emperors could not fight off barbarian attacks or hold onto the land.
- The eastern empire lasted for another 700 years after Justinian's death, but Constantinople was conquered by the Ottoman Turks in 1453.

A New Society

- Justinian is considered the last Roman emperor.
- After Justinian's death, people in the eastern empire began to follow Greek culture instead of Roman culture.
- The cultural ties to Rome were slowly lost.

Byzantine Culture

- Constantinople was a major trade route among Europeans, Africans, and Asians.
- Because of this, the people of Constantinople were exposed to new ideas from other cultures. They blended those ideas with their own Roman and Greek roots.
- Historians call the new society that developed in the east the **Byzantine Empire**.
- Byzantine culture developed its own distinct features. An eastern emperor, for example, was head of both the church and the government. In the west, popes and bishops ruled the church, but the emperor held political power.

The Western Roman and Byzantine Empires

In the Western Roman Empire...

- Popes and bishops led the church, and the emperor led the government.
- Latin was the main language.

In the Byzantine Empire...

- Emperors led the church and the government.
- Greek was the main language.

Byzantine Christianity

- Christianity was central to the Byzantine Empire.
- It was illegal to practice any other religion. Artwork dealt with religious themes.
- Byzantine artists of the period are known for making spectacular **mosaics**, pictures that are made from pieces of colored glass and stone.

The Church

- For hundreds of years the church leaders of the east and west worked together.
- Shortly after 1000, the church split in two. Christians in the east formed what is known as the Eastern Orthodox Church.
- This religious division opened a huge cultural gap between eastern and western Europe.

Chapter 14 Summary

Western Roman Empire
Eastern Roman Empire

The eastern Byzantine Empire remained after the Roman Empire fell and was an important center of Christianity and trade.



Barbarian invasions and internal problems caused the split and collapse of the Roman Empire.



Chapter Visual Summary: The visual summary includes a map of Europe, North Africa, western Asia, and the Middle East. The Western Roman Empire and the Eastern Roman Empire are each highlighted. Superimposed on this map in the west is a group of barbarians running across Europe. Barbarian invasions and internal problems caused the split and collapse of the Roman Empire. In the east is a picture of Justinian and Theodora. The eastern Byzantine Empire remained after the Roman Empire fell and was an important center of Christianity and trade.