

# The Division & The Fall of The Western Roman Empire.



The Division of the Roman Empire 284 C.E.



## IN THIS WEEK'S LECTURE:

We will cover the highlights of Western history from the 3rd to the 6th century. C.E.

- The Reconstruction and the Division of the Roman Empire.
- Constantine the Great, 306 to 337 C.E.,
- The Main 5 Christian Centers in the World,
- The Germanic Nomads Invasions.
- The Rise of the Byzantine Empire.

# **A QUICK REMINDER OF THE STORY OF ROME**

## Italy Before the Roman Conquest



- Roman
- Latin
- Greeks
- Etruscans
- Gauls
- Italic

- Rome territory 700 BC
- Rome territory 500 BC

This map shows Italy in about 400 BC. Note the language differences in the various regions. Greek, Etruscan, Latin and the many Italian dialects were indeed different languages. By the time of Augustus, Latin became the dominant language and all Italians had Roman citizenship.

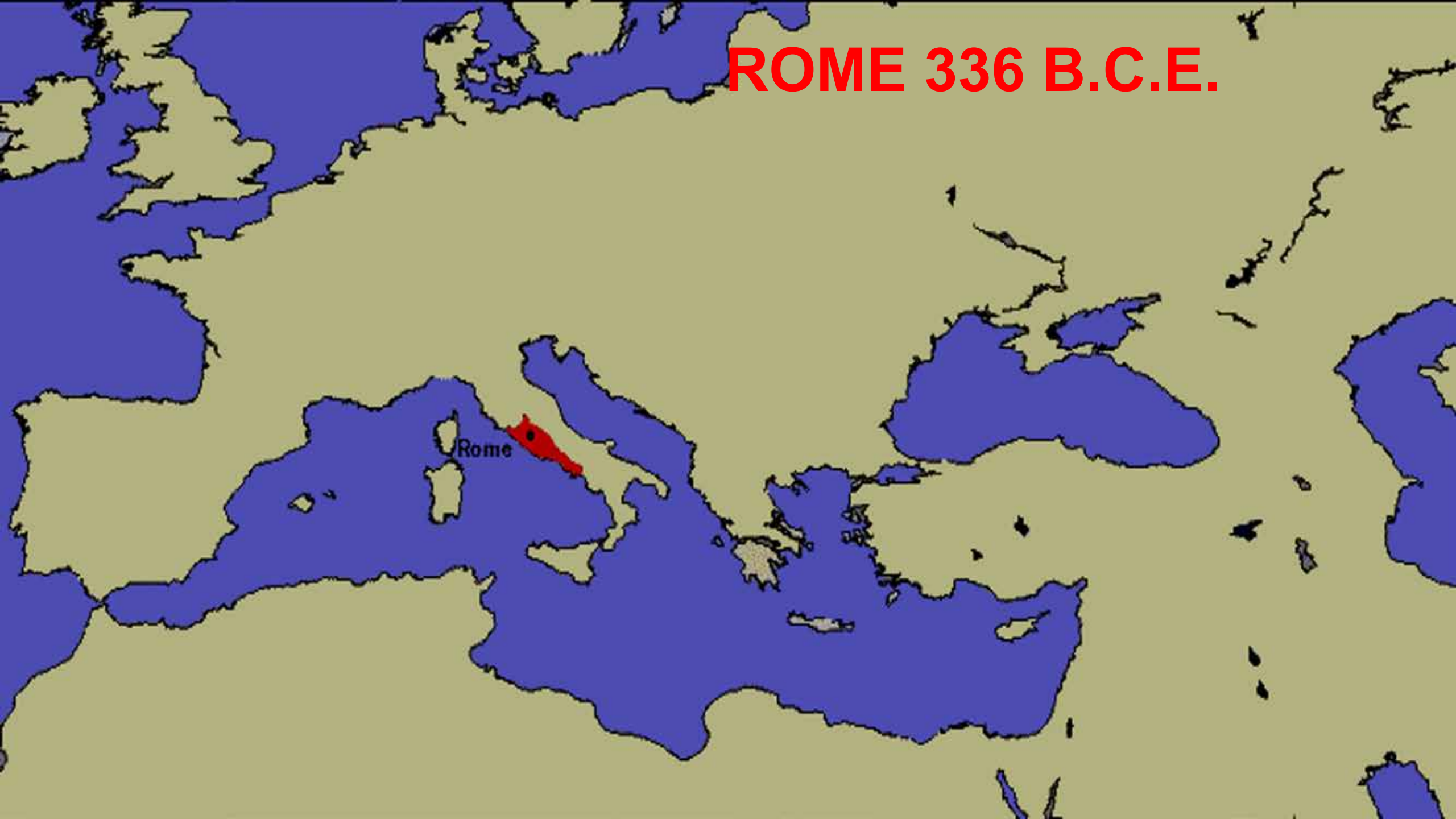


- Rome territory 700 BC
- Rome territory 500 BC





**ROME 336 B.C.E.**



Rome 241 B.C.E



Carthage

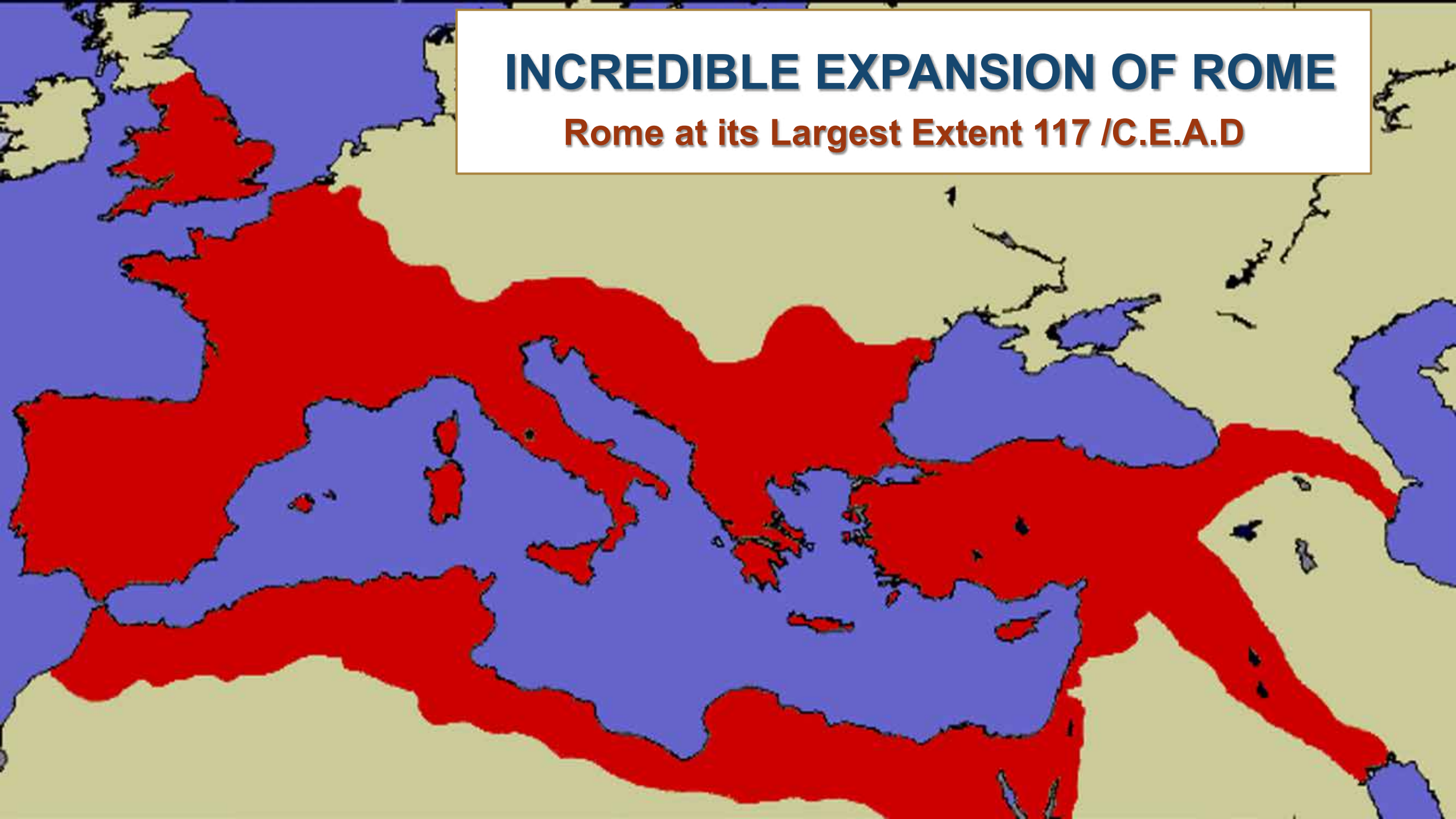


Rome after the Punic Wars  
146 BCE



# INCREDIBLE EXPANSION OF ROME

Rome at its Largest Extent 117 /C.E.A.D



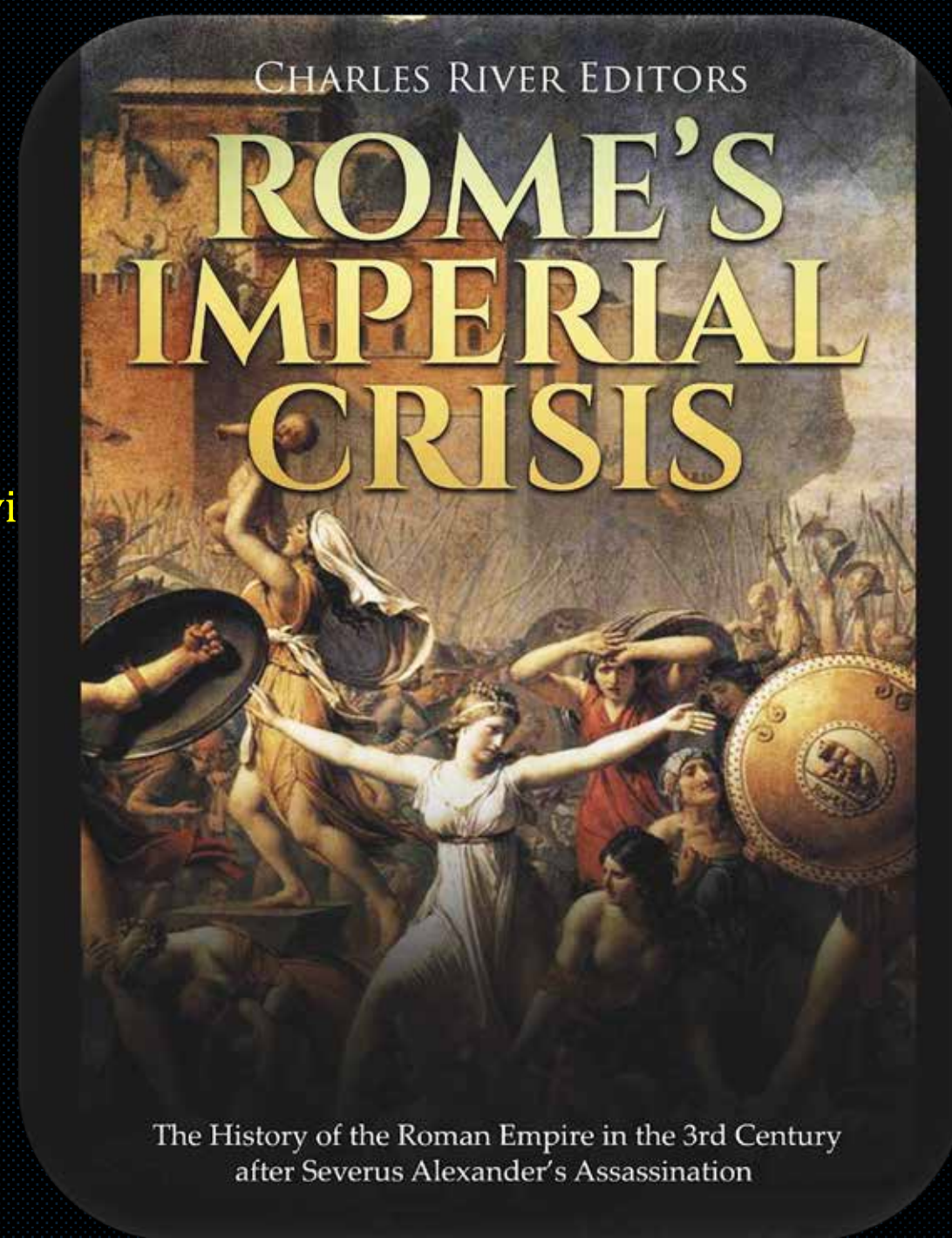
# The Division of the Roman Empire 284 C.E.





## Crises of the Roman Empire of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century

- It was a period in which the Roman Empire nearly collapsed under the combined pressures of **invasion, civil war, plague, inflation, and economic depression.**
- Military Anarchy or the Imperial Crisis (235-284 CE)
- The Emergence of **Barracks Emperors**
- Up to **50 men** were proclaimed emperors
- Rise of **the Barbarians**



# Diocletian and the Division of the Roman Empire 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> c. C.E.

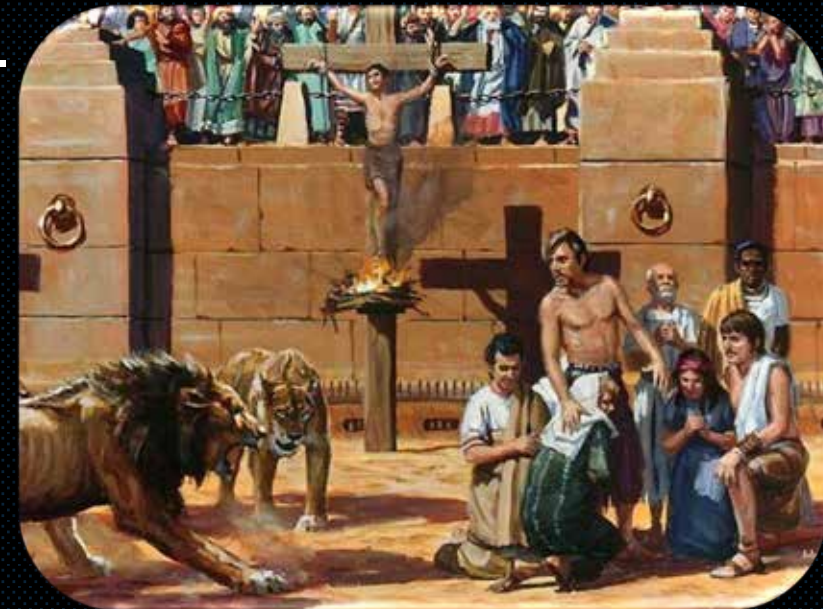


Diocletian 284-305 CE



# DIOCLETIAN & CHRISTIANS

- Diocletian was the last of the Roman emperors to order a large-scale **persecution of the Christians**.
- He issued **four edicts** against Christianity
- He promised not to shed blood, but he had **Christian books and churches burned** and he ordered the executions of anyone who did not worship the Roman gods.
- In 304 C.E., Diocletian **abdicated** the throne after a serious illness.
- He died in 311C.E.





**Constantine the Great**  
**306 to 337 C.E.**



# Constantine the Great 306 to 337 C.E.

- ▶ He became the Western emperor in 312 and the sole Roman emperor in 324 A.D
- ▶ **Constantine** would rise to the throne and reunite the split empire, moving the capital from Old **Rome** and building a **new capital**.
- ▶ That capital bears his name, **Constantinople**, which would become the most powerful city in the world.



Constantine



# Constantine the Great 306 to 337 C.E.

- ▶ Constantine I, “the Great,” is usually held to be the founder of **the Byzantine Empire**.
- ▶ He was responsible for several major changes that would help create a Byzantine culture **distinct** from the **Roman past**.
- ▶ Constantine was also the first emperor to convert to Christianity.
- ▶ He issued the **Edict of Milan 313 CE**, which protected Christians in the empire and **converted to Christianity** on his **deathbed in 337**.



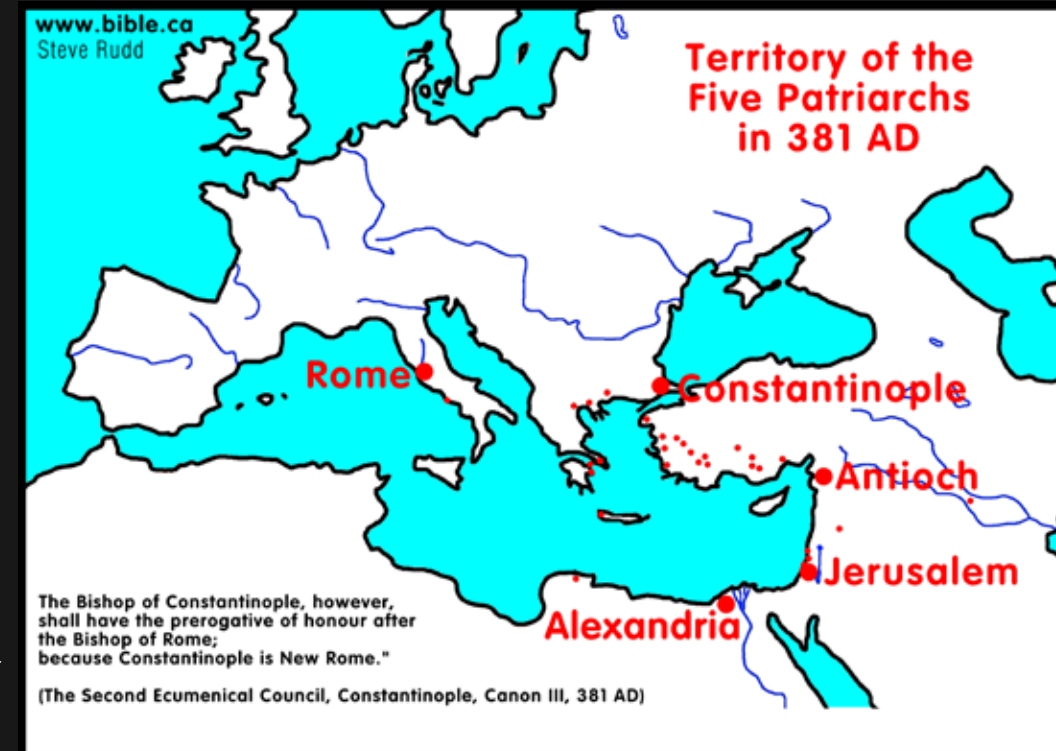
# The Early Christian Five Holy Sees of the Apostolic Church

▶ The Christian Church is governed by the heads (patriarchs) of the five major episcopal sees of the Roman Empire:

1. Rome
2. Constantinople
3. Alexandria
4. Antioch
5. Jerusalem

▶ However, a significant power shift occurred when the patriarch in Rome, **St. Damasus**, a key figure in the early Church, assumed the title of **Pope (father)**.

▶ This transition marked a new era, with the Pope holding supreme authority over the Christian Church in the West.



# Papal Claims to Power: Pope Damasus I (366-384 CE)

- **Pope Damasus I** (366-384) claimed **Peter** was Jesus's heir
- Matthew 16:18-19 **18** *And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosened in heaven.*"
- Damasus claimed this passage identified **Peter** as Jesus's successor
- Apostolic succession passed Peter's authority to the Pope.
- **Damasus I claims authority over all other patriarchs.**



Pope Damasus I (366-384 CE)



# The Spread of Christianity



## The Spread of Christianity, 300–600

From Chadwick and Evans, *Atlas of the Christian Church* (Oxford: Andromeda Oxford Ltd., 1987), 28. Reproduced by permission of Andromeda Oxford Limited.

# The Germanic Nomads Invasion and the Fall of the Western Roman Empire.



# The Roman Empire at The Old Age

- ▶ After **Constantine**, few emperors ruled the entire Roman Empire.
- ▶ Usually, there was an emperor of the **Western Roman Empire** ruling from Italy or Gaul and an emperor of the Eastern Roman Empire ruling from Constantinople.
- ▶ While the Western Empire was overrun by Germanic barbarians, the **Eastern Empire thrived**.
- ▶ **Constantinople** became the largest city in the empire and a major commercial center.
- ▶ **In 476 CE**, the last Western Roman Emperor was deposed, and the **Western Roman Empire was no more**.
- ▶ **The Eastern Roman Empire** was the only Roman Empire left standing.



# The Roman Empire at The Old Age

## Rome was sacked twice in the 5<sup>th</sup> century. A.D.

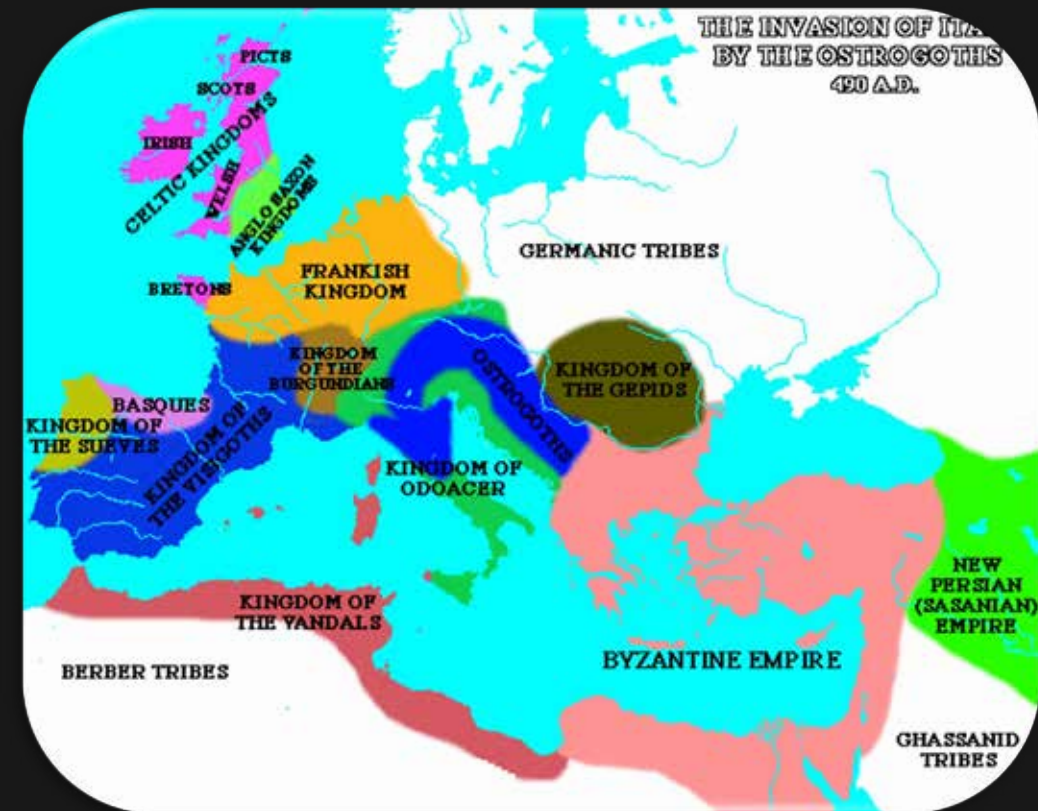
- Rome, though not completely destroyed, displayed a remarkable resilience.
- For the first time in nearly 800 years, the “Eternal City” had been defeated.
- Germanic tribes **overran** what was left of the Roman Empire.
- The **Ostrogoths**, or “eastern Goths,” came from the land we know as **Ukraine**.
- The Ostrogoths conquered most of **Italy, Greece, and the western Balkans**.
- The **Vandals** took control of the Roman territory in **North Africa**.
- The Franks overran France, while the Saxons conquered southern England.





# The Germanic nomad's invasions

- As a result of the 'Barbarian Invasion,' the Roman Empire abandoned one of its long-standing frontiers and was forced to allow various barbarian groups into the political landscape of the empire.
- It was these nomads' polities that would go on to grow into the kingdoms that would eventually replace the Western Roman Empire.



## Dark Ages 1 of 10 History Channel, 9 min

- ▶ <https://www.3cmediasolutions.org/lti/coursemedia/play?id=19466&cid=d904f6a30f5bc86e643ac49ea7fee2fd7cc0a0a2>

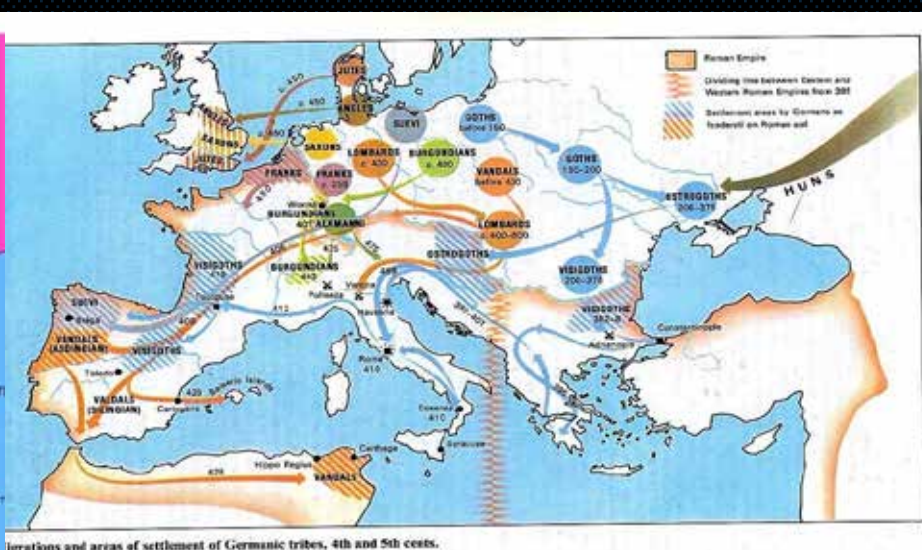


# THE AGE OF NOMADS' INVASIONS

# THE NOMADS ARE CONTROLLING THE WORLD.

There were three different groups of nomads going to control the world.

1. The Germanic tribes
2. The Arabs
3. The Steppe ( Central Asia, south Russia – The Turks & the Mongolians)



# THE NOMADIC LIFESTYLE

## A Violent Way of Life

- The Nomads came from the steppe
- The Green swath of grass on this map is the steppe
- Nomads are pastoralists
- They move constantly
- They fight to secure pastures for their herds
- Rape is their definition of courtship
- Violence occurs daily



Eurasia's Nomadic Habitat



# THE NOMADIC BARBARIAN INVASIONS

## The Germans and Huns

- The wanderings of the Germanic & the Hun peoples lasted until the early Middle Ages.
- Ten German Tribes **destroyed** the **Western Roman Empire** and most of **Rome's urban system**.
- They settled on the land & tried to learn agriculture.
- They consisted of many tribes that attacked and plundered each other—no written Laws.
- They lived in patriarchal families; women needed to be protected and sheltered.
- They were Polytheists and practiced animism.

# The Nomadic Barbarian Invasions

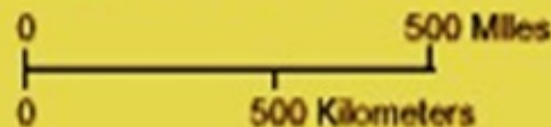
- The word barbarian comes from the Greek word “**Barbaros,**” meaning someone **who did not speak Greek.**
- But Romans used it as **savage, cruel,** and **primitive.**
- The Romans saw themselves as having a **highly advanced civilization,** and they looked down on the cultures of the people who lived beyond the borders of their empire.
- The term was eventually used to describe **anyone who lived beyond the borders of the Roman Empire.**
- **The Germanic Nomad Tribes were:**
  - Goths, Visigoths, Ostrogoths, Germans, Celts, Alemanni, Franks, Huns, Vandals, Burgundians, Saxons...etc.



A quick view on  
The Byzantine Empire



# The Era of Byzantine Empire



# THE BYZANTINE EMPIRE

- As the **Western Roman Empire** gradually **disintegrated**, the Roman Empire **continued in the East**.
- The early modern scholars used various names to refer to it, such as the "**Empire of Constantinople**," the "Empire of the Greeks," and the "Eastern Empire."
- Historians began using the terms "Byzantine" and "**Byzantine Empire**" in the 15th century.
- The Byzantine or **Eastern Roman Empire** protected the **intellectual heritage of Greco-Roman civilization**.
- It then passed it on to the rest of Europe at the end of the Middle Ages, starting in the 12th century C.E.



# THE BYZANTINE EMPIRE

- Between 540 and 632, the Byzantine Empire survived attacks by **Huns and Slavs** and resisted pressure from **Muslims**.
- **Ottoman Turks** attacked the Byzantines and defeated them, which led to **the fall of Constantinople in 1453 C.E.**, which led to the founding of the Ottoman Islamic Empire.





# DARK AGES 3 OF 10 HISTORY CHANNEL START FROM, 3:50

- <https://www.3cm mediasolutions.org/lti/coursemedia/play?id=19501&cid=d904f6a30f5bc86e643ac49ea7fee2fd7cc0a0a2>

# DARK AGES 4 OF 10 - HISTORY CHANNEL

- <https://www.3cm mediasolutions.org/lti/coursemedia/play?id=19502&cid=d904f6a30f5bc86e643ac49ea7fee2fd7cc0a0a2>

# BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BYZANTINE EMPIRE | 5 MINUTES

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d6SxFTYXWLc>

Grace & Peace!

