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The political status of Islam, and the role Muhammad had given it as a political as well as a religious force, was reinforced in the military conquests. After the death of Muhammad in 632 CE, the young Muslim federation came under strain. Some of the tribes decided that as their loyalty to Islam had been primarily to Muhammad himself, his death allowed them to end their allegiance to Mecca and to Islam. To make things more difficult, the Prophet had not left clear instructions as to who should lead the community after his death. Fortunately the community immediately chose the Prophet's close companion and father-in-Law Abu Bakr, as his successor. Abu Bakr was known as the first caliph (from khalifa, the Arabic for successor). Abu Bakr took swift military action against the communities that wanted to break away. These campaigns, known as the apostasy or ridda wars, effectively consolidated Arabia into a single country under Muslim control within two years. Expansion in the Middle East Abu Bakr died in 634 and was succeeded by Umar ibn al-Khattab, the second caliph, who ruled until 644. Umar found himself the ruler of a large unified state, with an organised army, and he used this as a tool to spread Islam further in the Middle East. Umar's early campaigns were against the Byzantine Empire. Following the decisive Battle of Yarmouk in 636, the former Byzantine states of Syria, Palestine, and Lebanon were conquered by the Muslim armies. Shortly afterwards the Muslim army attacked the Sassanid Empire in Iraq, gaining a massive victory in 637 at the Battle of Qadasiya, and gradually conquering more and more of Iraq over the next dozen years. This conquest was made much easier by the weakness of the Sassanid Empire, which was wounded by internal conflicts and a lengthy war with the Byzantine Empire. Within a few years the Muslims had also conquered parts of Egypt to the South and Anatolia and Armenia to the North. 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History changed course decades later, completely reversing the balance of power. Read More From ancient civilizations to the world's superpowers today, the journey to population milestones is a fascinating ride. Find out how countries reached significant population milestones — from 20 million to 2 billion. Read More Most Popes throughout history were born in Italy—but a closer look reveals an interesting geographic distribution across continents. Discover where Popes were born and how shifts in the scope of the Catholic Church have impacted its leadership. Read More The Byzantine Empire survived in the East with its capital at Constantinople until 1453. The emperors were absolute rulers chosen in theory by God and were responsible for preserving the traditions of Roman justice. Byzantium was the buffer that cushioned Europe against frequent invasions from the north and east. The Byzantine armies and navies were well organized and led. The Byzantines also developed great diplomatic skill. Byzantine strength was based on a rich economy. Trade and a monopoly of silk and luxury goods were important, but agriculture was the mainstay of both the economy and society. The Byzantines faced constant problems caused by the absorption of small farms into large estates. Religion dominated Byzantine life. The emperor was also the effective head of the church, a system known as Caesaropapism. Religious controversies such as the iconoclast heresy were also political issues. Differences between Latin Western Christianity and Greek Eastern Christianity multiplied after the fall of the Roman Empire in the West. In 1054 these differences came to a head in a schism between the two churches that has never been repaired. One of the greatest Byzantine cultural achievements was the transmission of their civilization to Russia and the eastern Slays, who were converted to Byzantine (Orthodox) Christianity in the ninth and tenth centuries. Because of its Byzantine heritage, Kievan Russia developed very differently from western Europe. Byzantium preserved and transmitted the works of ancient Greece. Byzantine literature and art were of a high standard and were influential in the West. Islam, a monotheistic religion, was founded in Arabia by Muhammad in the seventh century. Muhammad's teachings are collected in the Koran, the Islamic holy book. His followers are called Muslims. Their holy city is Mecca. Muhammad converted and united most of Arabia. After his death in 632 the Muslims conquered all of the Near East, Egypt, North Africa, much of Spain, Persia, and northern India. This rapid conquest was the result of the Muslims' religious zeal, the weakness of the Byzantine and Persian empires, and the Arabs' need to expand to reduce the overpopulation of the Arabian peninsula. In the eighth century the Arab empire split into several rival states, the chief of which was the caliphate of Baghdad. Islamic civilization was based on religion and on the Arabic language. In government, literature, and philosophy, the Arabs borrowed extensively from the Greeks and Persians. In science, philosophy, and literature, the achievements of Arab civilization were very high. View More Publication InfoBuilding on the groundbreaking 2012 exhibition "Byzantium and Islam: Age of Transition," which explored the transformations and continuities in the Byzantine Empire from the seventh to the ninth century, the present volume extends the exhibition catalogue's innovative investigation of cultural interaction between Christian and Jewish communities and the world of Islam.Eleven essays by internationally distinguished scholars address such topics as the transmission of Christian imagery to the Mediterranean, icons preserved in The Holy Monastery of Saint Catherine at Sinai, interaction between Jewish communities and the Muslim world, the purposeful mutilation of figurative floor mosaics in places of worship, the evolution of classical and Byzantine motifs in a new cosmology for Muslim rulers, and interconnections in the realm of music. 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(September 2024) Roman EmpireΒασιλεία Ῥωμαίων (Ancient Greek) Imperium Romanum (Latin)330/395–1453bThe empire in 555 under Justinian the Great, at its greatest extent since the fall of the Western Roman Empire (its vassals in pink)The territorial evolution of the Eastern Roman Empire under each imperial dynasty until its fall in 1453.StatusEastern division of the Roman Empire[1]CapitalConstantinople (modern-day Istanbul)cLargest cityConstantinopleCommon languages Greek[1] Latin Regional languages\Local languages Religion Nicene Christianity (official) Roman polytheism (until AD 380) Greek polytheism (until AD 380) Demonym(s)RhōmaîoiNotable emperors • 306–337 Constantine I (first)• 408–450 Theodosius II• 474–475, 476–491 Zeno• 527–565 Justinian I• 582–602 Maurice• 610–641 Heraclius• 717–741 Leo III• 797–802 Irene• 867–886 Basil I• 976–1025 Basil II• 1081–1118 Alexios I• 1143–1180 Manuel I• 1261–1282 Michael VIII• 1449–1453 Constantine XI Historical eraLate Antiquity to Late Middle Ages• First East–West division of the Roman Empire 1 April 286• Inauguration of Constantinople 11 May 330• Final East–West division after the death of Theodosius I 17 January 395• Fall of the West; deposition of Romulus 4 September 476• Assassination ofJulius Nepos 9 May 480• Early Muslim conquests; start of the Dark Ages 634–750• Battle of Manzikert; loss of Anatolia due to following civil war 26 August 1071• Sack of Constantinople by Catholic crusaders 12 April 1204• Reconquest of Constantinople 25 July 1261• Fall of Constantinople 29 May 1453• Fall of Morea 29 May 1460• Fall of Trebizond 15 August 1461 Population• 457 16,000,000f• 565 26,000,000• 775 7,000,000• 1025 12,000,000• 1320 2,000,000 CurrencySolidus, denarius and hyperpyron ^ Βασιλεία Ῥωμαίων may be transliterated in Latin as Basileia Rhōmaiōn, literally meaning "Monarchy of the Romans", but commonly rendered "Empire of the Romans".^ Between 1204 and 1261 there was an interregnum when the Latin Empire took control of Constantinople, causing the Byzantine Empire itself to be divided into the Empire of Nicaea, the Empire of Trebizond, and the Despotate of Epirus. The Empire of Nicaea is traditionally considered by historians to be the legitimate continuation of the Byzantine Empire because it managed to retake Constantinople.[2]^ Constantinople became the capital of the (united) empire in 330. In 395, the empire was permanently divided in two halves after the death of Theodosius I.^ Tolerated after the Edicts of Serdica (311) and Milan (313); state religion after 380.^ Following the East–West Schism of 1054.^ See Population of the Byzantine Empire for more detailed figures taken provided by McEvedy and Jones (1978) Atlas of World Population History, as well as Angeliki E. Laiou (2002), The Economic History of Byzantium. The Byzantine Empire, also referred to as the Eastern Roman Empire, was the continuation of the Roman Empire primarily in its eastern provinces that survived into the Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages. The empire had its capital at Constantinople, survived the fall of the Western Roman Empire in the 5th century AD and continued to exist until the fall of Constantinople to the Ottoman Empire in 1453. During most of its existence, the empire remained the most powerful economic, cultural, and military force in the Mediterranean region. Its citizens continued to refer to their empire as the Roman Empire and to themselves as Romans, a term that Greeks continued to use for themselves into Ottoman times. Modern historians distinguish the Byzantine Empire from the earlier Roman Empire because the imperial seat moved from Rome to Byzantium, the empire integrated Christianity, and Greek replaced Latin as the most common language. During the high period of the Roman Empire, known as the Pax Romana period, the western parts of the empire went through Latinization, but the eastern parts of the empire maintained to a large degree their Hellenistic culture. Several events from the 4th to 6th centuries mark the period of transition during which the Roman Empire's Greek East and Latin West diverged. Constantine I (r. 324–337) reorganised the empire, made Constantinople the capital, and legalised Christianity. Under Theodosius I (r. 379–395), Christianity became the state religion, and other religious practices were forbidden. In the reign of Heraclius (r. 610–641), the empire's military and administration were restructured, and Greek was gradually adopted for official use in place of Latin. The borders of the empire fluctuated through several cycles of decline and recovery. During the reign of Justinian I (r. 527–565), the empire reached its greatest extent after the fall of the western Roman Empire by reconquering much of the historically Roman western Mediterranean coast, including, Africa, Italy, and Rome, which it held for two more centuries. The Byzantine–Sasanian War of 602–628 exhausted the empire's resources, and during the early Muslim conquests of the 7th century, the empire lost its richest provinces (Egypt and Syria) to the Rashidun Caliphate. It then lost Africa to the Umayyads in 698, before the empire was stabilized by the Isaurian dynasty. The Macedonian dynasty (9th–11th centuries) expanded the empire again but ended with defeat by the Seljuk Turks at the Battle of Manzikert in 1071. Civil wars and the ensuing Seljuk invasion led to the loss of most of Asia Minor. The empire recovered during the Komnenian restoration, and until the Fourth Crusade, Constantinople was the largest and wealthiest city in Europe. The empire was first dissolved during the Fourth Crusade in 1204, when Constantinople was sacked by the Latins (Catholic Europeans from the West), and the territories that the empire had governed were divided into competing Byzantine Greek and Latin realms. Despite the eventual recovery of Constantinople in 1261, the Byzantine Empire remained a mere regional power for the final two centuries of its existence. Its remaining territories were progressively annexed by the Ottomans during the Byzantine–Ottoman Wars in the 14th and the 15th centuries. The fall of Constantinople to the Ottoman Empire in 1453 marked the end of the Byzantine Empire. Refugees fleeing the city after its capture settled into Italy and other parts of Europe and helped to ignite the Renaissance. The Empire of Trebizond was conquered eight years later, when its capital surrendered to Ottoman forces after it had been besieged in 1461. The fall of the Byzantine Empire to the Ottomans is sometimes used to mark the end of the Middle Ages and the start of the early modern period. The Byzantine Empire did not get that name until a century after its fall. The empire was known at the time as the following: the "Roman Empire" or the "Empire of the Romans" (Latin: Imperium Romanum, Imperium Romanorum; Greek: Βασιλεία τῶν Ῥωμαίων Basileia tōn Rhōmaiōn, Ἀρχὴ τῶν Ῥωμαίων Archē tōn Rhōmaiōn), "Romania" (Latin: Romania; Greek: Ῥωμανία Rhōmania),[n 1] the "Roman Republic" (Latin: Res Publica Romana; Greek: Πολιτεία τῶν Ῥωμαίων, Politeia tōn Rhōmaiōn), "Graecia" (Greek: Γραικία meaning "land of the Greeks"),[4] "Rhomais" (Greek: Ῥωμαΐς meaning "Rome").[5] Main article: Fall of the Western Roman Empire Western and Eastern Roman Empire In 324, Roman Emperor Constantine I moved the capital of the Roman Empire from Rome to the Greek city of Byzantium, which he renamed Constantinople. By the 5th century, the Roman Empire had lost its territories in the west, and the Western Roman Empire had been taken over by Germanic peoples during the Migration period. The surviving parts of the Roman Empire became known as the Eastern Roman Empire and is now called the Byzantine Empire. The Eastern Roman Empire tried to take back Rome and the rest of Italian Peninsula from the Germanic peoples. Between 530 and 555 AD, the Byzantine Greeks won many battles and took back Rome. The Byzantines controlled Rome for a long time. Eventually, more Germanic peoples came, and Italy was lost again. Later, Avars and Slavs took parts of Southeast Europe from the Byzantines. After the 560s, invaders slowly conquered the Balkans except for parts of modern Greece and Albania. Bulgars from the steppes formed the First Bulgarian Empire north of the Byzantine Empire. At first, both the Avars and the Bulgars were Turkic peoples. They ruled over the Slavic people, who were called Sklavinai, and slowly absorbed the Slavic language and culture. After Rome had been captured by the Germanic peoples, the Eastern Roman Empire continued to control what are now Egypt, Greece, Palestine, Syria, and Turkey. However, another empire, known as the Persian or the Sassanid Empire, tried to take the lands for itself. Between 224 and 628, the Greco-Romans and the Persians fought many battles, and many men were killed in the fighting. Eventually, the Persians were defeated in 627 by Emperor Heraclius in what is now Iraq, near the ancient city of Nineveh, which allowed the Byzantines to keep those lands. The centuries-long struggle between the Byzantines and the Persians shaped the political and religious landscape of the Middle East, leaving behind a complex legacy that continues to influence the region today. Then, another enemy appeared, the Arabs. The Byzantines did not have much money to spend on war because of their battles with the Persians and so they could not withstand the Arabs. Palestine, Syria, and Egypt were lost between 635 and 645 by Heraclius. However, the Byzantines defended Asia Minor (now in Turkey), and the Arab advance stopped there. Heraclius ordered the use of Greek as the only language of the empire, erased forever the name "Eastern Roman Empire" and cut the last links with Rome. In 718, the Arabs were defeated but left the Byzantines very weak. In the west, the Byzantines fought the Bulgarians many times. Some battles were successful, but many emperors died fighting. Over time, the Byzantine Empire weakened as it lost land to outside invaders. Between 1007 and 1014, Emperor Basil II ambitiously attacked Bulgaria many times and eventually won a great victory. Later, he fully recaptured Greece and recovered it for the empire. He then went on to take over Bulgaria, which was fully conquered in 1018. In the east, the Arabs once again became a threat to the Byzantines. However, Basil II kept attacking and won many more victories. Much of Syria was restored to the empire, and Turkey and Armenia were secured. After 1025, the Arabs were no longer a threat to the Byzantines. After Basil II died, many unskilled emperors came to the throne, wasted the empire's money, and reduced its army. That meant that it could not defend itself well against enemies if they attacked. Later, the Byzantines relied on mercenaries, soldiers who fought for money, not for their country. That made them less loyal and reliable and more expensive. The mercenaries allowed military generals to come to power and to grab it from the elaborate bureaucracy, a system of administration in which tasks are divided by departments. A large number of people, known as the Turks, rode on horseback from Central Asia and attacked the Byzantine Empire. The Seljuk Empire took most of Anatolia from the Byzantines by 1091. However, it received help from people in Western Europe in what is known as the First Crusade. Many knights and soldiers left to help the Byzantines and to secure Jerusalem for the Christians. The city was then controlled by the Muslims. The Byzantine Empire survived and, with the help of the other European empires, took back half of Anatolia from the Turks, who managed to hold the other half of the region. The Byzantines survived primarily because it had three good emperors in a row, which allowed the empire to recover from their recent conflicts. The next few emperors ruled poorly and spent much of the existing treasury on many mercenary soldiers. In the west, the Western Europeans betrayed the Byzantines and attacked their capital, Constantinople, in in 1204. The Byzantines did not take it back until 1261. They were then divided into many smaller Greek states, which fought one another for control. After the Byzantines had taken back Constantinople, they were too busy fighting the Europeans who had betrayed them and so they could not find enough soldiers or money to fight the Turks' new Ottoman Empire. All of Asia Minor had been lost by 1331, and in 1369, the Turks crossed over from Turkey and into Greece. They took over much of Greece between 1354 and 1450. The Byzantines lost so much land, money and soldiers that they became very weak and begged for help from the Western Europeans. Italy and the Pope sent soldiers and ships to help the Byzantines when the Turks attacked Constantinople in April 1453. The Byzantines were badly outnumbered, however, and the walls of Constantinople were very damaged by the cannons that were used by the Turks. In late May 1453, the Turks captured Constantinople by entering through one of the gates along the walls, and the empire came to an end. The city was plundered for three days. In the end, those who had not been able to escape were deported to Edirne, Bursa, and other Ottoman cities. There was nobody in the city except for the Jews of Balat and the Genoese of Pera. Constantinople became the capital of the Ottoman Empire until it fell in the early 20th century. The city was later renamed Istanbul, and the Turkish capital was moved to Ankara, a city in Asia Minor. The Byzantines had several achievements: They used good architecture that is still used They preserved the Greek language and culture They had cities with plumbing, which is still in use They protected part of Christian Europe from Islamic invasions They preserved many Roman political traditions that had been lost in Western Europe They produced much fine art with a distinctive style They kept a lot of knowledge that can be read about today They made several inventions like the flamethrower and "Greek fire", a kind of napalm They made advances in many fields like political studies, diplomacy and military sciences They were the protectors and sponsors of the Eastern Church, which later becomes the Orthodox Church They built many beautiful churches, some of which are now mosques, in what are now Turkey and Greece; they are made from or inspired by Byzantine buildings Papacy Kievan Rus Byzantine art Byzantine Greeks East-West Schism Tsardom of Russia Oriental Orthodoxy Old Church Slavonic Eastern Orthodox Church ↑ "Romania" was a popular name of the empire that was used mainly unofficially; it meant "land of the Romans".[3] The term does not refer to modern Romania. ↑ "Byzantine Greek language". Encyclopedia Britannica. Archived from the original on 17 July 2021. Retrieved 21 August 2021. ↑ Treadgold 1997, p. 734 harvnb error: no target: CITEREFTreadgold1997 (help) ↑ Fossier & Sondheimer 1997, p. 104. ↑ Constantelos 2001–2002 ↑ Cinnamus 1976, p. 240. Ahrweiler, Helene (1975). L'Ideologie Politique de l'Empire Byzantine [The Political Ideology of the Byzantine Empire] (in French). Paris: Presses Universitaires de France. Baynes, Norman Hepburn; Moss, Henry St. Lawrence Beaufort (1948). Byzantium: An Introduction to East Roman Civilization. Oxford: Clarendon Press. Cartwright, Mark (13 April 2018). "Byzantine Government". Ancient History Encyclopedia. Cinnamus, Ioannes (1976). Deeds of John and Manuel Comnenus. New York and West Sussex: Columbia University Press. ISBN 0-231-04080-6. Clover, F. M.; Humphreys, R. S. (1989). Tradition and Innovation in Late Antiquity. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press. ISBN 9780299120009. Constantelos, Demetrios I. (2001–2002). "Μαρτυρίες για την Ταυτότητα των Βυζαντινών και των Ρωμιών σε Ελληνικές Πηγές". Πεμπτουσία (in Greek). Fossier, Robert; Sondheimer, Janet (1997). The Cambridge Illustrated History of the Middle Ages. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ISBN 0-521-26644-0. Lemerle, Paul (1971). Le Premier Humanisme Byzantin [The First Byzantine Humanism] (in French). Paris: Presses Universitaires de France. Linnér, Sture (1994). Bysantinsk kulturhistoria [History of Byzantine Culture] (in Swedish). Stockholm: Norstedt. ISBN 978-9-11-941512-7. Wikimedia Commons has media related to Byzantine Empire. World History Encyclopedia: Byzantine Empire Roman Emperors (De Imperatoribus Romanis) 18 Centuries of Roman Empire: A Cartography by Howard Wiseman 12 Byzantine Rulers: The History of the Byzantine Empire (Lars Brownworth) 18 centuries of Roman Empire by Howard Wiseman (Maps of the Roman/Byzantine Empire throughout its lifetime). Byzantine & Christian Museum Dumbarton Oaks: Byzantine Studies Byzantium: Byzantine Studies on the Internet Archived 2014-10-08 at the Wayback Machine Translations from Byzantine Sources: The Imperial Centuries, c. 700–1204 De Re Militari: The Society for Medieval Military History Medieval Sourcebook: Byzantium Archived 2014-08-14 at the Wayback Machine Bibliography on Byzantine Material Culture and Daily Life (University of Vienna) Constantinople Home Page Byzantium in Crimea: Political History, Art and Culture. Byzanzforschung: Institute for Byzantine Studies of the Austrian Academy of Sciences Retrieved from " Byzantine is a Roman empire or the empire of Greeks in the Middle East. The history of Byzantine is a continuous line from the latter centuries of Rome to the very beginning of the modern time. It's about the culture of the Greece and Rome that has a unique cultural history based on synthesis of Roman, European and Islamic elements when it suffered three crisis of external invasion, internal civil war and economy that later made the administrative center less important. (Bury, J. B. 1989). The emperor of Byzantine Empire was Justinian who occupied territories by the Goths and the main occupants of the empire were Christians, but after the fall of Rome; Christians who were horribly persecuted by the Byzantines welcomed the Muslims conquerors with open arms just to tolerate their religion. (Barker, J. W. 1966) By the time justinian resigned Byzantine was in a financial crisis. Later Heraculius succeeded him. When the throne was assumed, a forty-year old Arab named Muhammad swept the streets with messages of Islam across the entire empire. Order custom essay Byzantine and the Impact of Islam with free plagiarism report 450+ experts on 30 subjects Starting from 3 hours delivery Get Essay Help At the end of his regime Muhammad's message came to pass and Muslims armies emerged and started making raids into Byzantine territory in Syria and began to conquer the Persian territories. (Bury, J. B. 1989) Because of the disaffected populations of Christians and Jews who had been persecuted earlier, the Muslim quickly conquered Byzantine territories in the ninth century. Their victory did not last long because of the Islamic government under Caliph deteriorated and Byzantines started to dominate the Asia Minor and by the tenth century they reconquered most of Syria and became more powerful and influential again. The crusaders The Byzantines however saught help from the Europe against the Muslims conquerors. Europe decided to assist them despite their cultural differences as they shared a common religion with the Byzantines. In 1204 the crusaders attacked the city of Constantinople a goal that the Muslims had been trying to conquer for centuries and conquered the Muslims. In 1261 the Byzantine Empire ceased to be an empire and was known as a small kingdom that later in 1453, the Constantinople city was permanently conquered by the Ottoman Turks and was renamed Istanbul. (Diehl, C. (1957) Byzantine Christianity Byzantine Christianity was a different religion from the Latin Christianity, what made it look different was the role of the emperor in matters regarding the faith. While for the Latin Christians the pope in matters of faith was almost solidified. Later the Byzantines inherited the roman idea and practiced a form of Christianity whereby theological authority was vested in the emperor. Through this theological authority it created a permanent breach in the world of Christianity between the west and the east. The breach was to produce iconoclastic controversy that the worship of images and icons was a sign of pagan belief. Only Christ and God should be worshiped this was angulated by Leo the saurian who had turned the tide against the Muslim in 717. The collapse of the Byzantine empire in 1453 saw the Russians believe that they were inheritors of the Byzantine empire and later began the roman empire. (Amis, R1995). Byzantium Empire and impact of Islam The Byzantine Empire was able to survive for a period of time though not easily achieved through Heraculius some of the empires were kept together despite confrontation on the three sides of empire, and was able to save the empire from the Muslim. (Diehl, C. (1957) His effort worked but his 200,000 troops were killed and a lot of wealth lost during the war with the Persians. After the fight with the Persian he thought of rebuilding the empire but this was not to be as the empire was again attacked by another threat of Islam. The Muslims again got the opportunity to invade Persia and the Byzantine and this surprised both of them. The Persia and the Byzantine Empire did not have strength to fight back the Muslims attacks and this paved way for Muslims to conquer the eastern provinces of the Byzantines. (Bury, J. B. 1989) The Muslims invasion in the empire weakened the internal division and many Christians wanted to keep their faith and always looked upon religious sects as heretics. Most of them who were persecuted to them life under Islam was good compared to Byzantines because Muslims did not look down upon other religion and this resulted to Muslims being welcomed to Byzantine Empire. Finally when Heraculius died the Muslim got opportunity to conquer the eastern provinces of Byzantine Empire. In the 14th and 15th centuries Islam was already being accepted by the Albanians and later it was in quick acceptance by other nations. . (Diehl, C. (1957) After the death of Mohammed Islam spread very fast and outside Arabia its spread was aided by various political upheavals. The long series of wars between the Byzantine and Persian empires is always credited for this fast spread in the near east especially after the triumph of the Muslims. The Byzantine Empire had the character of imposing Christianity on the population it conquered, for this reason the Syrians and the Egyptians resented and resisted the attempts made by the Byzantine Empire to impose Christianity on them. (Diehl, C 1957) Therefore when the Muslims came to these particular areas they were readily accepted to forestall any attempts that the Byzantine were trying to make, this led to the fall of Syria to the Arab armies to be followed soon by the fall of Iraq and Persia with Egypt falling in 640 AD with very little resistance. With this conquest Islam soon spread to most territories of the Near East and Africa. (Diehl, C. 1957) In the Byzantine Empire there was fierce fanaticism that included interdenominational strife and religious persecution amongst the Christians themselves, compared with the practice and the doctrine of the Islamic faith that tolerated other religions it endeared itself to others. For example the Byzantines brutally attempted to suppress Christian sects who questioned the established Church. Also there was oppression of the peasants who were heavily taxed. The Empire also suppressed non-orthodox Christian teachings. Opposition to Islam after the conquest was weakened by the fact that under the Muslims, taxes were not very heavy like before and the non-orthodox Christian sects could now operate comfortably. (Diehl, C 1957) The spread of Islam in the better part of Middle East was made possible by Arab victories over Byzantine armies. The Byzantines were the major enemies to be encountered by the Aryans from the Arabian Desert. The encounter with the Byzantines was the first of many major battles between Muslims and Christians. It was Omar who acted as Caliph or head of the Moslem community in 634-44AD that initiated the fast expansion of the Arabs and Islam. Omar achieved the first great successes of Arab armies outside of the Arabian Peninsula when he conquered the Byzantine Empire ruled by the Emperor Heraclius. Omar's armies attacked Syria, seizing large areas. In 636AD at the Battle of Yarmuk the Byzantine Army were greatly humiliated by the Arabs when they defeated them. This saw the Arabs entering Jerusalem and Damascus in 638. It was during these period that it is believed Christianity replaced Christianity in this particular area as a result of the weakness of the Byzantine Empire. Arab rulers imposed a personal tax on all non-Muslims, which encouraged many to convert to the Muslim Faith. In the new Caliphate there was no forced conversions but happened later. At first the Arabs did not consider converting anyone because of the taxes they collected which provided great incomes. (Diehl, C 1957) Cultural and intellectual factor Islam as a religion does not recognize superstitions but is a simple and rational religion that emphasize on knowledge and learning. Through learning as the foremost priority to humankind the Islamic civilization spread through many countries. The Muslim never destroyed things in middle east as the Christians in Spain what they did was to defend what was positive and eventually embrace it. Political and economic impact Islam was seen as a religion without any political and economic principles. However Islam preached a new concept of human relations avoiding nationalism and class divisions. Islam main concern and interest was humankind's relations with God. Politically Islam perception was that the supreme power rests with God and equality before the law is a major principle of the political system. (Diehl, C. (1957) In Balkan nations, emergence of Islam was very important compared to the Byzantines Empire. Islam also emphasized on the economic aspect of life and this was clearly shown through justified ways of making profits, possession of property and not overspending and everybody must earn a living in an honest way. Islam came up with obligatory and voluntary laws that have played important roles in the economic system of Islam. Before Islam spread to Balkan nation and Byzantine Empire people who lived there had some kind of social chaos but Muslims brought a new approach to the social lives of the Balkans. For example: Muslim women played a crucial part in the institution of family and were always considered equal in every aspect to her male counterpart. A woman is always the first to show kindness, love, and sincerity and educate. While for Christians, women are seen as devils instrument to harm or hurt people. (Diehl, C. (1957) When they conquered Byzantine Islam played a role in regulating the slavery and sanctioned better conditions for the slaves and even encouraged the prohibition of slavery. Islam also brought together the Middle East and came up with a common language known as Arabic and a common religion known as Islam. After all this positive impact of Islam in Byzantine Empire some of the rules set up are not applicable in the 21st century. At one time there were most powerful, rich and advanced people and today they have created four empires, which include Umayyad, Abbasid, Mogul and Ottoman Empire. Their decline can be traced to about 1700 when the west caught up with the Ottoman the great Muslim empire and started misinterpreting the Koran. (Amin, H. A. 1989). REFERENCES Amin, Hussein Ahmad (1989). The present state of the Muslim umma. Muslim World Amis, Robin (1995). A Different Christianity: Early Christian Esotericism and Modern Thought. Albany: Suny Press, Barker, John W. (1966). Justinian and the Later Roman Empire. The University of Wisconsin Press, Bury, J. B. (1989). "Roman Emperor from Basil II to Isaac Komnenos," English Historical Review. 41-64 & 251-286. Diehl, Charles. (1957). Byzantium: Greatness and Decline. Rutgers University Press. Byzantine and the Impact of Islam. (2016, Jul 26). Retrieved from The Islamic and Byzantine Empires were two powerful civilizations that shaped the course of history in their respective regions. While they differed in religious beliefs, political structures, and cultural practices, they shared significant similarities and interactions that influenced the development of both empires. Exploring the comparisons and contrasts between these two empires provides valuable insights into their historical significance and impact on the world. The Islamic Empire, also known as the Caliphate, emerged in the 7th century and expanded rapidly across the Middle East, North Africa, and parts of Europe. With its strong emphasis on Islamic teachings and the Quran, the empire developed a distinct religious and legal framework that governed social, economic, and political affairs. In contrast, the Byzantine Empire, centered in Constantinople (present-day Istanbul), was a continuation of the Eastern Roman Empire and upheld Christianity as its state religion. The empire's sophisticated bureaucratic system, military prowess, and architectural achievements, such as the Hagia Sophia, left a lasting legacy. The Islamic and Byzantine Empires, though distinct in many ways, shared several unique aspects. One of the notable aspects is the relationship between religion and government in these two empires. While both empires had a strong religious influence on their governance, the nature and role of religion differed significantly between them. In the Islamic Empire, religion, particularly Islam, played a central and integral role in every aspect of life, including politics, law, and social structure. On the other hand, in the Byzantine Empire, although Christianity was highly significant, the government maintained a more secular political system alongside religious leadership. In the Islamic Empire, Islam was not just a religious belief but also the foundation and guiding principle of the state. The empire was established based on the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad and the principles outlined in the Quran. The Caliphs, the political and religious leaders of the Islamic Empire, were considered the successors of Muhammad and held tremendous authority over the territories they ruled. They not only governed but also interpreted Islamic laws and made decisions based on the religious teachings. Islam, therefore, influenced the political structure, laws, and policies of the empire. The Islamic Empire implemented a theocratic system of governance, where religious and political authority were intertwined. The Caliph held supreme power as both the political and religious leader. The Caliphate extended its influence over vast territories, and state administration was based on Islamic principles. Shari'a, the Islamic law derived from the Quran and Hadith, formed the legal foundation of the empire. The religious courts played a significant role in administering justice, and judges interpreted and applied Islamic principles in resolving disputes. Furthermore, Islam permeated every aspect of the society and influenced social norms, customs, and ethics. The state supported and promoted Islamic practices, and religious scholars played a crucial role in educating the population about religious teachings. Mosques were not just places of worship but also became centers of education, learning, and community gatherings. The Islamic Empire fostered a sense of unity among its diverse population through the shared belief in Islam. Read Also: Saladin: The Life, Legend, And His Impact On The Islamic Empire In contrast to the Islamic Empire, the Byzantine Empire had a different approach to the relationship between religion and government. The Byzantine Empire was predominantly Christian, and Christianity strongly influenced its culture, values, and social fabric. However, the Byzantine government maintained a more secular political system alongside its religious authority. The Byzantine Emperors, known as Basileus, served as both the political and religious leaders of the empire. They held the highest authority over the state, enacted laws, and made political decisions. However, unlike the Caliphs, the Byzantine Emperors did not claim divine status or religious authority. The Byzantine Empire had a Roman administrative system, with a complex bureaucracy and legal framework that functioned independently of the religious leadership. Nevertheless, Christianity held a significant place in the Byzantine Empire. The state patronized and supported the Church, and the Emperor played a crucial role in shaping and upholding Christian orthodoxy and doctrine. Major religious councils were convened under the authority of the Emperor to resolve theological disputes and define orthodox beliefs. The Byzantine Empire also promoted the construction of magnificent churches and religious artwork, showcasing the grandeur of Christianity. Trade and economy were vital aspects that characterized both the Islamic and Byzantine Empires. While there were similarities, key differences existed in their economic systems, trade routes, and commercial activities. The Islamic Empire was well-known for its extensive trade networks and flourishing economy. Islam emphasized commerce and trade, and this belief is reflected in the economic policies of the empire. The Islamic Empire established a vast trading network that connected the Mediterranean, Africa, Asia, and Europe. Muslim traders, such as the Arabs, played a significant role in facilitating international trade and establishing prosperous commercial hubs. The Islamic Empire introduced several advancements in trade, including the widespread use of paper money and early forms of banking systems. The concept of partnerships and contracts, known as Mudaraba and Murabaha, respectively, flourished under Islamic economic practices. The empire encouraged trade and entrepreneurship, and this led to the development of bustling marketplaces and bazaars. The Byzantine Empire, on the other hand, had a different economic structure. It relied heavily on agriculture and taxation for its revenue. The government controlled and regulated trade through a system of tariffs and regulations. Monetary policy was managed by issuing coins, and trade centers primarily revolved around important cities like Constantinople and Thessaloniki. The Byzantine Empire maintained a monopoly over the silk trade, which was highly sought after and contributed significantly to its economy. Byzantine merchants established connections with neighboring empires and polities, facilitating trade along the Silk Road and other routes. The empire also engaged in economic diplomacy, fostering diplomatic relationships through trade agreements and alliances. An interesting aspect to compare between the Islamic and Byzantine Empires is the influence and exchange of ideas. Both empires were known for their cultural richness and the transmission of knowledge and innovations. The Islamic Empire played a significant role in the preservation and translation of ancient Greek, Roman, and Persian texts. Scholars in the Islamic Empire made significant contributions to fields such as mathematics, medicine, astronomy, philosophy, and literature. This knowledge and innovation spread to Europe during the Islamic Golden Age, influencing the Renaissance and intellectual development in the West. The Byzantine Empire, being the successor to the Eastern Roman Empire, continued the tradition of Greek learning and scholarship. Byzantine scholars preserved and produced works in various fields, including literature, philosophy, history, and theology. The Byzantine Empire acted as a bridge between the Eastern and Western worlds, facilitating the exchange of knowledge between the Islamic and Christian civilizations. The cultural exchange between the Islamic and Byzantine Empires was not limited to intellectual pursuits but extended to artistic expression as well. Islamic art and architecture, influenced by Byzantine and Persian styles, flourished and developed unique forms such as calligraphy, arabesque patterns, and stunning architectural wonders like the Dome of the Rock. Byzantine art, renowned for its vibrant mosaics and iconography, also influenced the artistic traditions of neighboring regions. The Islamic and Byzantine Empires adopted different approaches to warfare and military strategies, reflecting their distinct geopolitical contexts and cultural influences. The Islamic Empire initially expanded rapidly through military conquests under the Rashidun and Umayyad Caliphates. The empire developed a formidable military force known for its mobility, adaptability, and skill in cavalry warfare. Arab armies conquered vast territories, including the Byzantine-controlled Levant, North Africa, and Persia. The Islamic Empire also incorporated elements of Persian, Byzantine, and Central Asian military traditions into its forces. Read Also: How Many Hindu Convert To Islam In Mughal Empire?The military success of the Islamic Empire was attributed to its highly skilled and disciplined soldiers, who were motivated by a strong religious belief in the expansion of Islam. The empire employed innovative military tactics and strategies, such as the effective use of mounted archers, camel cavalry, and light infantry. The Muslim armies emphasized the importance of unity, cohesion, and effective leadership in battles. On the other hand, the Byzantine Empire adopted a more defensive approach to warfare. It focused on the maintenance and fortification of its borders to protect against external threats. The Byzantine military, known as the Byzantine army, had a hierarchical structure and heavily relied on professional soldiers and mercenaries. The empire employed advanced defensive technologies, such as the use of Greek fire, a highly potent incendiary weapon. The Byzantine Empire excelled in naval power and possessed a formidable navy. The Byzantine fleet played a crucial role in naval warfare, protecting trade routes and projecting power across the Mediterranean Sea. The empire successfully defended its coasts against Arab invasions and established naval dominance in the region. The Byzantine navy utilized advanced naval tactics and technologies, including Greek fire, dromons (warships), and marines. Moreover, the Byzantine military was renowned for its expertise in siege warfare. The empire developed sophisticated siege tactics and defensive fortifications. The construction of fortresses, walls, and moats became integral to Byzantine military strategy. Constantinople, the capital of the Byzantine Empire, endured numerous sieges throughout its history, withstanding attacks from Arab forces, Crusaders, and other enemies. The Islamic and Byzantine Empires, with their distinct ideologies, political structures, economic systems, cultural exchanges, and military strategies, left a lasting impact on world history. While the Islamic Empire was characterized by its strong religious influence, a theocratic governance, and a focus on trade and intellectual pursuits, the Byzantine Empire maintained a more secular political system, excelled in defensive warfare, and acted as a bridge between different civilizations. Both empires contributed significantly to the development of art, architecture, science, trade, and intellectual achievements, leaving a rich legacy that continues to shape our understanding of the medieval world. The Islamic and Byzantine Empires were two of the most powerful and influential civilizations in history. While they shared some similarities, they also had distinct differences in their religious, cultural, and political structures. One of the key differences between the two empires was religion. The Byzantine Empire was predominantly Christian, following the Orthodox Church, while the Islamic Empire embraced Islam as its main religion. This led to contrasting religious practices, beliefs, and customs. In terms of politics, the Byzantine Empire had a centralized government with an Emperor at its helm, whereas the Islamic Empire was governed by a caliph who held religious and political authority. This led to differences in governance and administrative systems. In terms of culture and art, the Byzantine Empire was known for its elaborate mosaics, icons, and architectural marvels, while the Islamic Empire excelled in calligraphy, geometric patterns, and intricate designs in their mosques and palaces. Overall, while both empires played significant roles in shaping the world, their differences in religious, political, and cultural aspects set them apart. Understanding these similarities and contrasts provides valuable insights into the complexities of medieval civilizations. The Islamic and Byzantine Empires were two significant civilizations in history. The Islamic Empire arose in the 7th century, while the Byzantine Empire originated in the 4th century. The Islamic Empire had a centralized government led by Caliphs, while the Byzantine Empire had a hierarchical system with an Emperor at the top. The Islamic Empire spread rapidly through military conquests, while the Byzantine Empire focused on preserving its territory. The Islamic Empire's religion was Islam, while the Byzantine Empire followed Christianity. Here are some commonly asked questions regarding the comparison and contrast of the Islamic and Byzantine Empires. The major religious difference between the Islamic and Byzantine Empires was the predominant religion. The Byzantine Empire followed Orthodox Christianity, while the Islamic Empire adhered to Islam. Orthodox Christianity emphasized the authority of the patriarch and the sacraments, while Islam focused on the teachings of the Quran and the practices of the Prophet Muhammad. Read Also: Comparative Analysis: Islamic Empire Vs Roman EmpireAnother key difference was the presence of icons in the Byzantine Empire. Icons were religious images that played an important role in Byzantine Orthodox worship. In contrast, the Islamic Empire strictly prohibited the use of icons and emphasized the worship of one God without any imagery. The political structures of the Islamic and Byzantine Empires differed significantly. The Byzantine Empire had a centralized monarchy with the emperor at the top, who held both political and religious power. The emperor appointed governors to manage the provinces, and the bureaucracy played a central role in governing the empire. In contrast, the Islamic Empire had a theocratic system with a caliph as the political and religious leader. The caliph was considered the successor to the Prophet Muhammad and held supreme authority. The empire was divided into regions governed by governors, who were appointed by the caliph. The political structure was characterized by a strong sense of religious unity and adherence to Islamic law. The Islamic and Byzantine Empires had different approaches to trade and economy. The Byzantine Empire controlled important trade routes, such as the Silk Road, and maintained a prosperous economy based on agriculture, trade, and taxation. They had a well-developed bureaucracy to manage trade and commercial activities, and Constantinople served as a major trading hub. In contrast, the Islamic Empire had a more expansive trade network, reaching from Europe to Asia and Africa. Islamic merchants and scholars played a crucial role in the spread of trade and knowledge. The Islamic Empire also introduced various economic innovations, including the use of paper money and the establishment of banking institutions. The art and architecture of the Islamic and Byzantine Empires differed significantly. Byzantine art and architecture were heavily influenced by the Christian religion and Roman heritage. Byzantine buildings, such as the Hagia Sophia, were characterized by intricate mosaics, domes, and ornate decorations. In contrast, Islamic art and architecture were influenced by the teachings of Islam, which prohibited the use of human and animal imagery in religious contexts. Islamic architecture focused on geometric patterns, calligraphy, and intricate tile work. Notable examples include the Alhambra in Spain and the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem. The decline and fall of the Islamic and Byzantine Empires were marked by different factors. The Byzantine Empire faced several challenges, including invasions from various external forces, such as the Seljuk Turks and the Fourth Crusade. Additionally, internal conflicts and political instability weakened the empire, eventually leading to its fall to the Ottoman Empire in 1453. In contrast, the Islamic Empire experienced internal divisions and conflicts between different factions. This weakened the unity and stability of the empire. The Mongol invasions in the 13th century also had a significant impact on the decline of the Islamic Empire. The empire fragmented into several smaller states, such as the Mamluks in Egypt and the Ottomans in Anatolia, ultimately leading to its demise. Comparing Roman and Byzantine Empires | AP US History | Khan Academy To summarize, the Islamic and Byzantine Empires were two significant civilizations that flourished during different time periods. The Islamic Empire emerged in the 7th century and expanded rapidly, establishing a rich Islamic culture and contributing to advancements in various fields such as science, art, and architecture. On the other hand, the Byzantine Empire, which lasted for more than a thousand years, had a deep-rooted Christian influence and built upon the legacy of the Roman Empire. Despite existing in different eras and having distinct religious and cultural backgrounds, both empires shared some similarities and differences. While the Islamic Empire followed the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad and developed its own unique traditions, the Byzantine Empire celebrated Christianity and retained much of the Roman culture. Both empires had vast territorial expansions, but the Byzantine Empire witnessed a decline in its later years, while the Islamic Empire continued to prosper. Additionally, both empires placed importance on education and preserved valuable works of literature and knowledge. Understanding the similarities and differences between these empires can provide valuable insights into the rich history and diverse civilizations that existed in different parts of the world.