WORLD HISTORY notes Day 1

Byzantine Empire

284 Diocletian divided Roman Empire into east and west

324 Constantine re-united the Roman Empire

* moved capital to Byzantium
	+ stronger economic half
	+ stronger Christian half
	+ easier to defend
		- 3 sets of walls
			* 6’, 27’, 70’
		- chain across strait
* “New Rome”
* Later renamed Constantinople
* “Golden Horn”
	+ Trade in all directions
	+ Stole silkworms from China
		- this was punishable by death

395 at death of Theodosius, Roman Empire split again into east and west

476 Western Roman Empire fell

* eastern Roman Empire became the Byzantine Empire

527 Justinian became Byzantine Emperor

* not very popular
	+ authoritative
	+ high taxes

3 Goals

Reconquer Lost Roman Lands

* Belisarius
* early success, but later lost it back
	+ too large and decayed
	+ too expensive
	+ same problems that caused fall of west in 476

Law Code – Code of Justinian

* Tribonian
* write down ALL laws
* provide stability, unity
* strengthen power
* became basis for many law codes around the world
	+ used as a basis for U.S. Bill of Rights
* most lasting reform of Justinian’s reign

Building/Beautification Project

* Hagia Sophia
	+ at completion Justinian stated “Solomon, I have outdone you”

Islam expanding through Arabia and westward towards Byzantine Empire, Africa, etc…

* putting increased pressure on Byzantines
	+ Byzantines using “Greek Fire”

1071 Battle of Manzikert

* Seljuk Turks take control of eastern Byzantine Empire
	+ “Holy Lands”
	+ leads to Crusades

1453 Ottoman Turks defeat Byzantine Empire

* Muhammad II = Ottoman Turk leader
* Constantine XI = last Byzantine leader
* Byzantine Empire ends