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