

The Fall of Rome, Christianity, and the Rise of the Papacy





Radix, radices (f.)

- Root of a plant, shoot or twig
- the root (of an object or place, e.g. the foot of a hill)
- The root, ground, basis, foundation, origin, source (mostly in the plural)
- Referring to words, origin or derivation



Medieval Europe

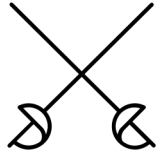
Roman empire

Barbarian culture

Christianity



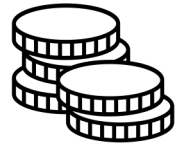
■ Crises of the 3rd century



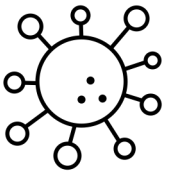
Invasions from Barbarian tribes and Persians



Problems of succession (20 emperors from 235-284)



Economic problems



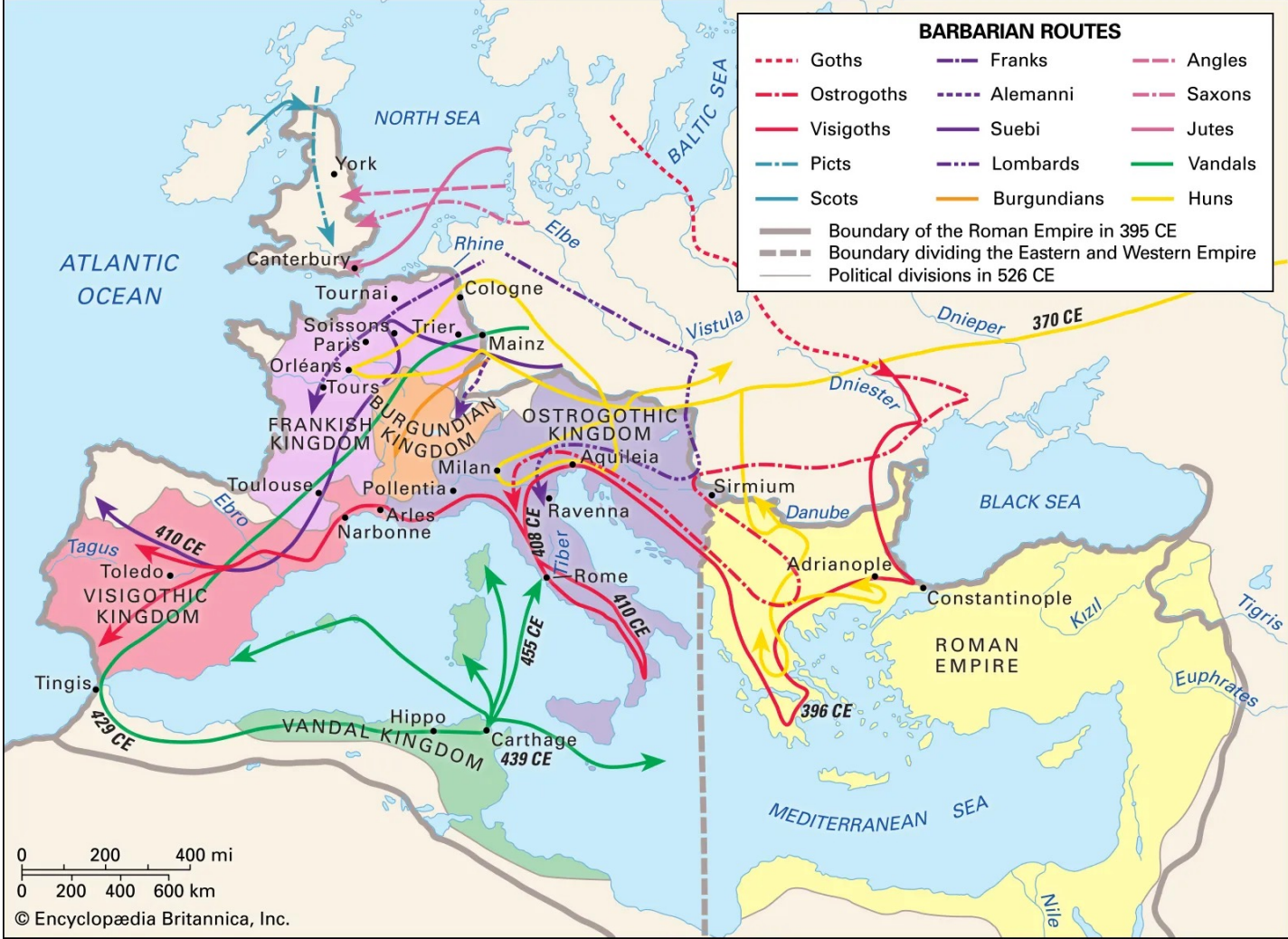
Pandemic Disease (hemorrhagic fever?)



The image shows the Colosseum in Rome at night. The structure is illuminated with warm, yellowish lights, highlighting its iconic tiered arches. The sky is a deep, dark blue with some light clouds. In the foreground, there is a metal fence with a red ribbon. To the right, a smaller white structure, possibly a gate or entrance, is visible, along with some trees and streetlights. The text "WHY DID ROME FALL?" is overlaid in the center in a large, white, sans-serif font.

WHY DID ROME FALL?

Traditional Viewpoint: Barbarian Invasions



■ Timeline of “Invasions”

Goths cross
the Danube

376

Vandals,
Sueves,
and Alans
into Gaul

406

Last Western
Roman
emperor
deposed

476

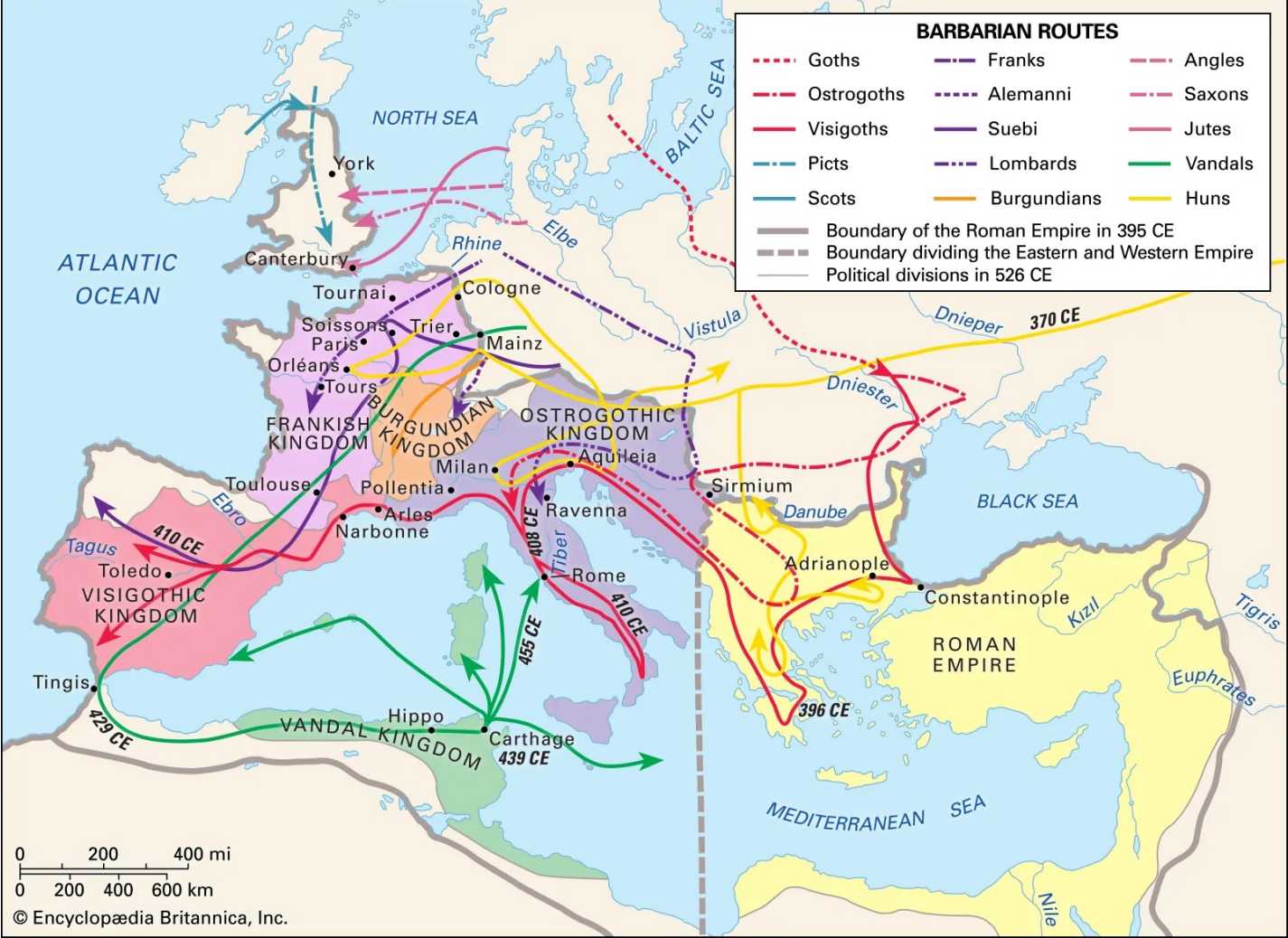
401

Goths
invade
northern
Italy

410

Sack of
Rome by
Visigoths

Revisionist Viewpoint: Barbarian Migrations

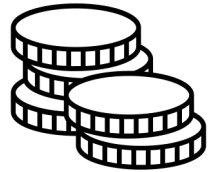


“less momentous for invasions than for the incorporation of barbarian protectors into the fabric of the West.”

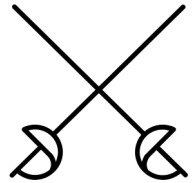
“What we can the Fall of the Roman empire was an imaginative experiment that got a little out of hand.”

From Walter Goffart, *Barbarians and Romans AD 418-584: The Techniques of Accommodation* (1980)

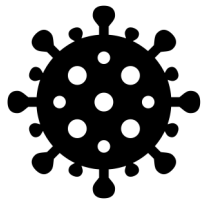
Other Contributing Factors



Loss of Tax Base



Civil War (5th c.)



Climate change: disease, drought, famine

Inheritance of Rome



Language: Latin



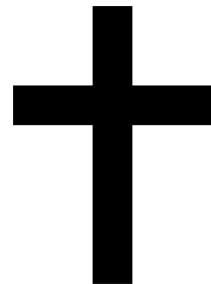
Administrative system



Infrastructure: roads, aqueducts



Law



Christian Catholic Church



Jesus of Nazareth, (4 B.C.E. to 30 C.E.)

- Peter
- Paul of Tarsus
- Apostles and Four Gospels
- New Testament (60-100 C.E.)
- Christian Bible (Old Testament and New Testament)

Image: “The Crucifixion”, Fra Angelico (1420-23)



Edict of Milan, 313






- Who is the author?
- When was it written?
- Where was it written?
- Why was it written?
- What is it?
- What is it about?
- What are the implications of what it says?
- How reliable is it?
- Are there any complicating factors?



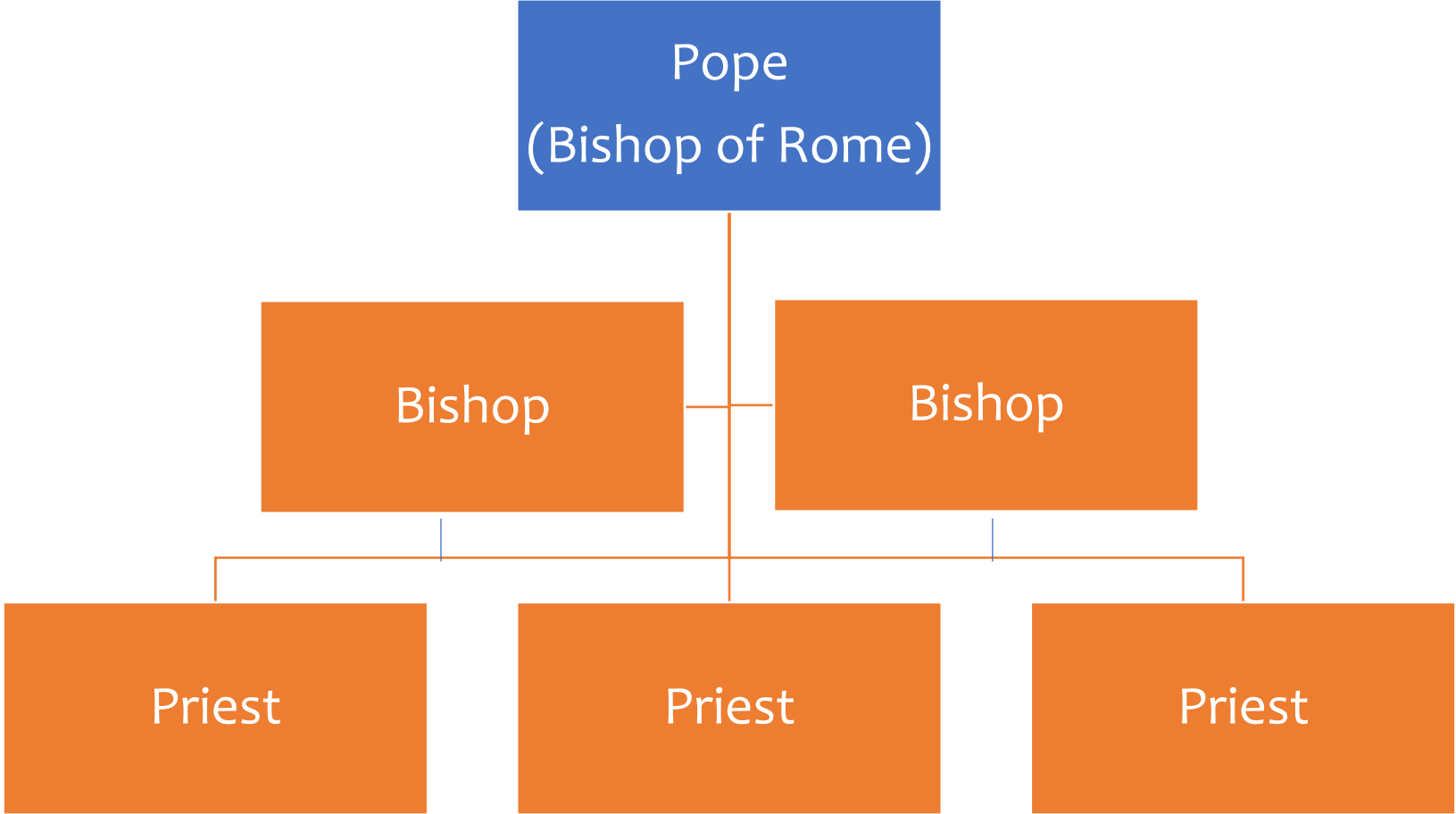
Battle of Milvian Bridge, 312—Emperor Constantine

Image: “Battle of Milvian Ridge” School of Raphael
(1483-1520)

Council of Nicaea (Nicene Creed), 325 C.E.

- Ends dispute between Arians and Catholics
 - Arianism = heresy BUT Catholicism = orthodoxy (accepted)
 - Ecumenical council (universal)
- 
- Divisions within Christianity
 - Theological debates
 - What did it mean to be Christian?
 - What were the central practices of the faith?

Christian Inheritance from Roman Empire: Administrative Structure



Christian Inheritance from Rome: Church Fathers

- Jerome (347-420)
 - Vulgate Bible
- Ambrose (337 or 340-397)
 - Bishop of Milan
- Augustine (354-430)
 - Bishop of Hippo
 - *Confessions*
 - *City of God*

Image: “Scenes from the Life of Saint Augustine of Hippo”
(1430)

