



Byzantium and the Islamic World before 1000



Iconicus, a, um (adjective)

- Of or belonging to an image
- Imitating a figure
- Copied from life

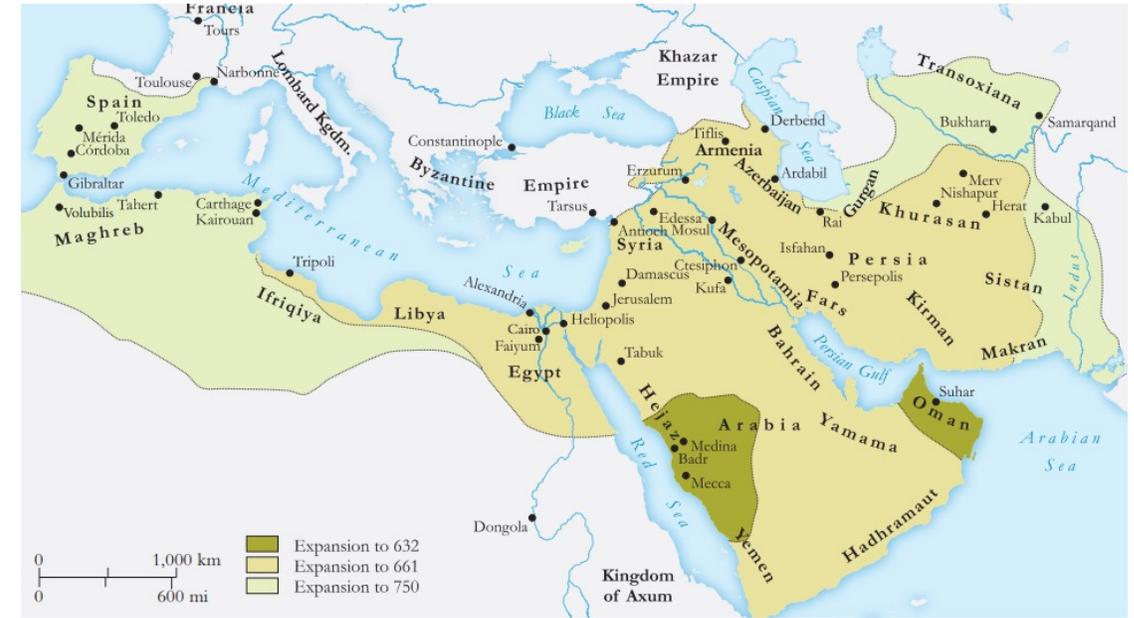
Comes from noun:

- Icon, onis (f.) = image or figure

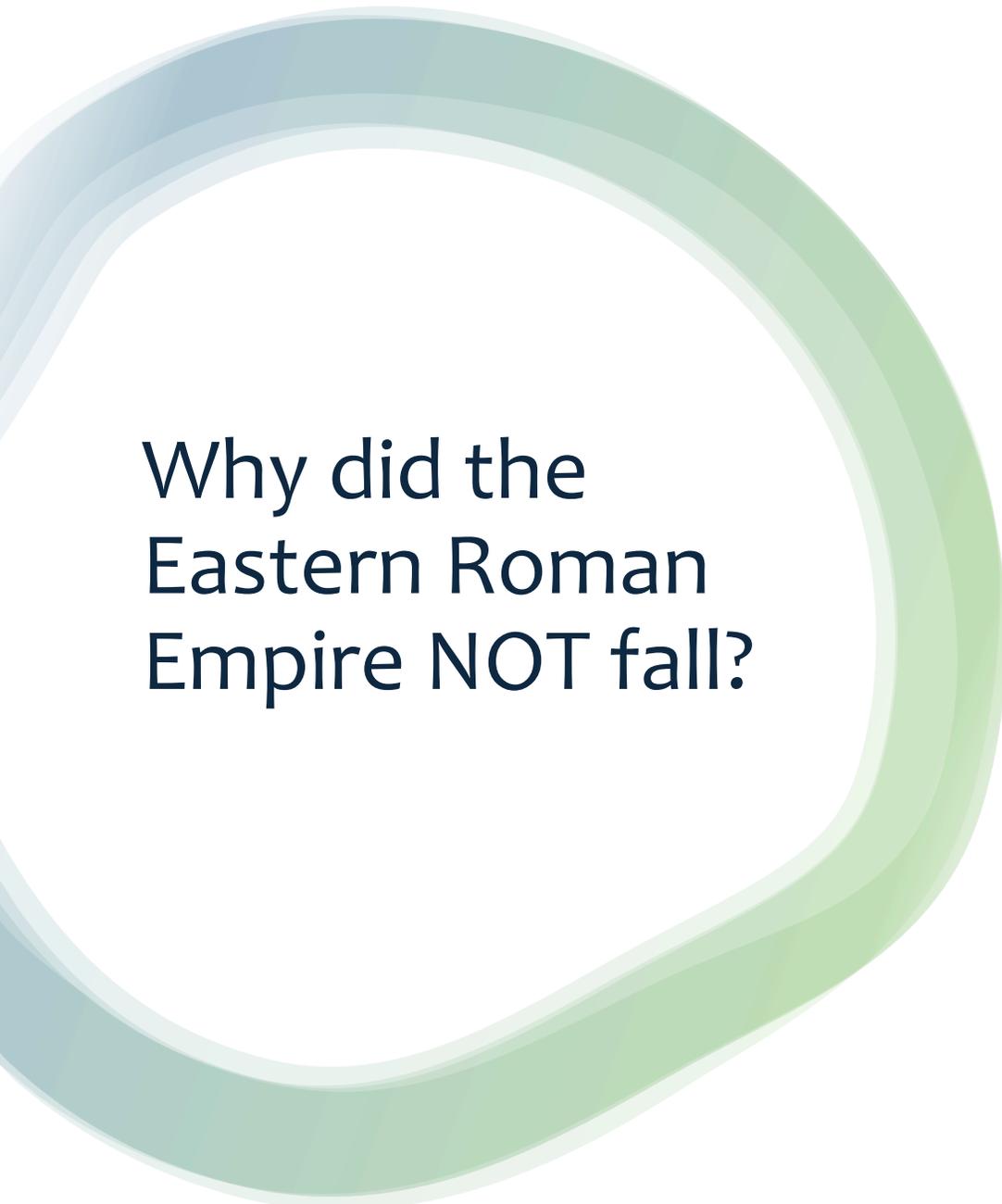
Image: Christ and St. Menas, Egypt (6th c.)



Byzantine Empire

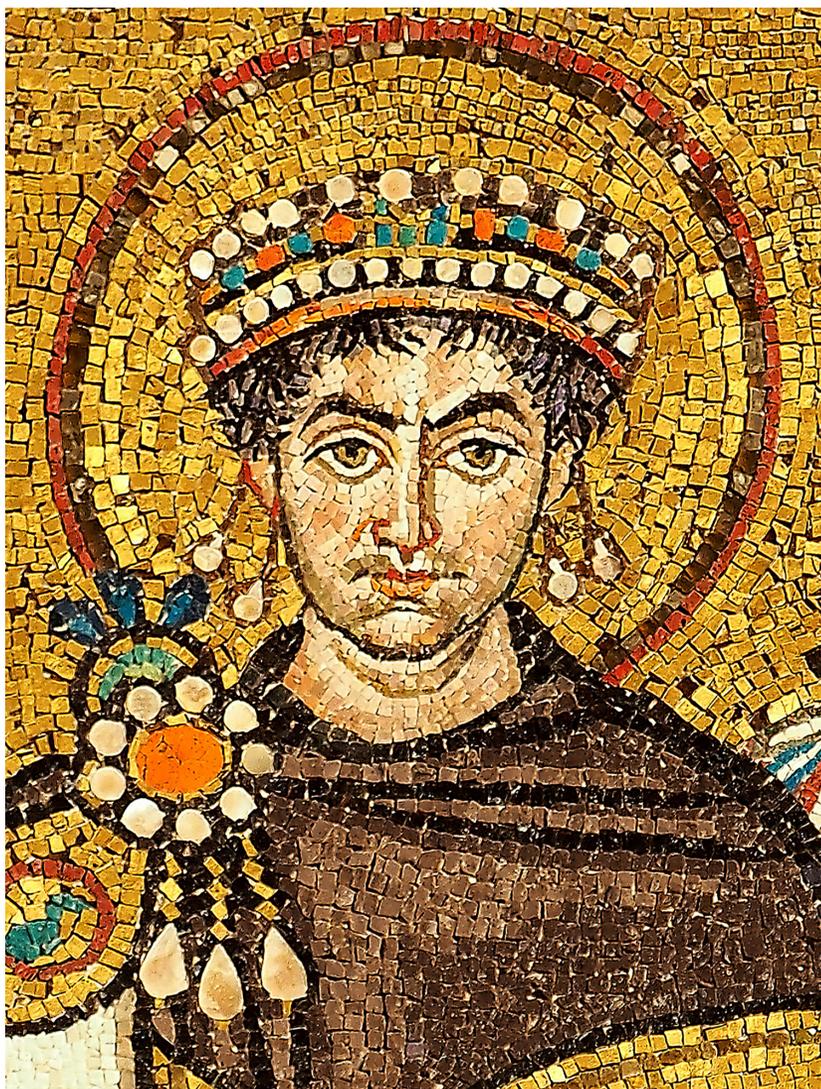


Islamic World



Why did the Eastern Roman Empire NOT fall?

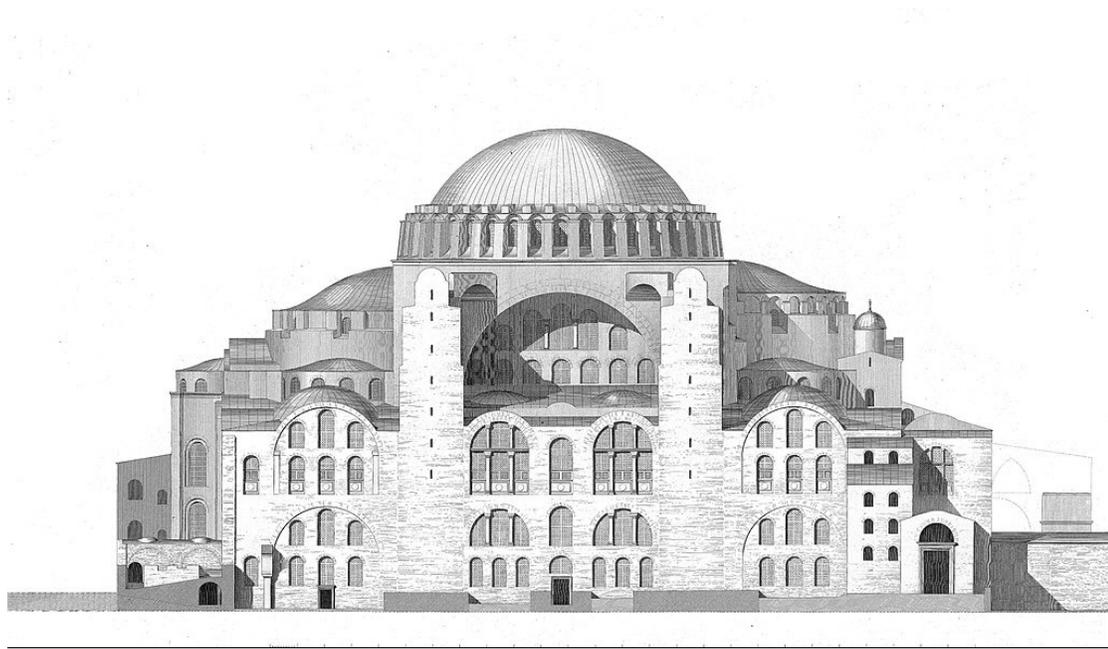
- No loss of tax base
- No internal divisions or civil wars
- At peace with greatest enemy
- Focused on expansion—
cultural and territorial



Emperor Justinian (r. 527-565)



**Empress Theodora,
(r. 527-548)**



Hagia Sophia as Church



Hagia Sophia as Mosque

Corpus Iuris Civilis (528-533)

- 529 *Codex* = imperial constitutions (statute law)
= removal of contradictions
- 533 *Digest* = anthology of writings of jurists
= opinions on legal matters (case law)
- 533 *Institutions* = handbook for students on law

Byzantine
Empire, c.
700



Icons and Iconoclasm

- Emperor Leo III, 730
- Constantine V, 754



Image: Pendant Icon, 1100, Byzantium

Synod of 754

- Who is there?
- What is the big deal about icons?

“Satan misguided men so that they worshiped the creature instead of the Creator” (28)

“the deceitful colouring of the pictures which draws down the spirit of man from the lofty adoration of God to the low and material adoration of the creature.”
(28)

“the unlawful art of painting living creatures blasphemed the fundamental doctrine of our salvation—namely, the incarnation of Christ”

“What avails then the folly of the painter, who from sinful love of gain depicts that which should not be depicted—that is, with his polluted hands he tries to fashion that which should only be believed in the heart and confessed with the mouth? Consequently, it is an image of God and man, and consequently he has in his foolish mind, in his representation of the created flesh, depicted the Godhead and the other in mingling the Godhead and manhood.”

“They fall into the abyss of impiety since they separate the flesh from the Godhead, ascribe to it a subsistence of its own, a personality of its own, which they depict, and thus introduce a fourth person into the Trinity.”



Image: “The Trinity” by Andrei Rublev, 1425?

Eastern Orthodox Christianity vs. Western Roman Catholicism

- Iconoclasm (754-787; 802-843)
- Icons vs. relics
- 10 Commandments vs. Seven Deadly Sins



The Islamic World

- Muhammad
 - Born in Mecca, Arabia
 - Mystical visions and the Angel Gabriel (610)
 - Flight to Medina → hijra (622)
 - Returns to Mecca (630)
 - Death of Muhammad (632)

Image: by Rashid al-Din Hamadani, Persia (1307)

Quran

= Holy Book of Islamic Doctrine

= Everything revealed to Muhammad by Allah

= Written down in the 650s

Hadith

= Words and Deed of Muhammad

= Collected orally and then written down





al-Andalus: A.D. 756-929



al-Andalus: A.D. 929-1031



al-Andalus: A.D. 1081-1232



al-Andalus: A.D. 1232-1492

Al-Andalus,
711-1230s

Kingdom of
Granada,
1230s-1492

Christians and Jews in Al-Andalus

- *Treaty of Tudmir* (714)
- *Dhimmi* “Peoples of the Book”
 - Freedom of religion
 - Communal Governance (law)
 - Payment of head tax (jizya)

John of Damascus (675-749?)

- Arab Christian
- Wrote defense of Icons (730)
- Worked for the Muslim Caliph



Image: 14th century, Greece

From Islamic World → Western Europe THROUGH Iberia

- Writings of Plato, Aristotle, Galen, Ptolemy
- Knowledge of mathematics from ancient Greece and India (geometry, trigonometry, Arabic numerals)
- Schools of translation: from Arabic → Spanish, Catalan, and Latin



Image: Medical treatise by Al-Razi translated by Gerard of Cremona in Toledo, 13th c.