

Welcome students.

In today's session we will cover

semester IV paper code, HSC104,

paper title, Social Formation,

and Cultural Patterns of the Medieval World.

Unit one model number 2.

That is the Byzantine Empire.

Let us look at the outlines which will

give insights into the Byzantine Empire.

These are meaning, the reasons for rise of

the Byzantine Empire, important rulers,

achievements, religion, society,

reasons for the decline of the Empire.

By the end of this module,

learning outcomes for the viewers will be.

They will know the importance

of Byzantine Empire.

Get familiar with prominent Kings.

Understand religion,

culture, society, law, etc.

They will also be able to comprehend the

rise and fall of the Byzantine Empire.

Let us have a look at the meaning of the term.

Byzantine,

the term Byzantine derives from

Byzantium, an ancient Greek colony

founded by a man named Bysus.

Byzantine Empire is also known as

Eastern Roman Empire, Byzantium an in

Modern day, it is also known as Istanbul.

There are various reasons for

the rise of Byzantine Empire.

First, the division of the Roman Empire.

Secondly,

moving of the capital from Rome

to Constantinople as the emperor

concentrated all his powers and

resources to the eastern side.

There were constant attacks of the

tribes as there was no competent ruler

after Constantine, the attacks of

Barbaric Tribe became common.

They also defeated the Roman forces

which led to the killing of the Emperor.

Here are some of the important rulers,

amongst them,

Justinian is first who ruled from 527 to 565.

Justinian first is greatest of

the Byzantine rulers.

He was visionary.

He wanted to recapture the lost territories

and restore the old glory of the Rome.

It was during his time

that Roman law was written.

We see the growth in architecture,

administration and trade,

which made Byzantine a

fully flourished empire.

Next we have is Heraclius

who ruled from 610 to 641.

Heraclius came to throne

after a reign of terror.

He defended the empire from Persian attack,

and also from Arabs.

Next important ruler we have is Leo III.

Who ruled from 717 to 741.

He came on the throne after

20 years of anarchy.

He defended the empire

from the Umayyad Caliphate

His reign is famous for iconoclasm.

He banned all religious icons and images.

Next we have is Alexius I Comnenus

He ruled from 1081 to 1118,

during his reign period.

We see there was a rise of the

Turks who captured Byzantine territories.

Alexius I, he aimed to recapture it,

and ask for military help from the Pope

Urban II.

Lastly,

we have Constantine XI,

who ruled from 1449 to 1453.

He was the last emperor of Byzantine Empire.

He died fighting with the Ottoman Turks,

which led to the fall of Constantinople and, end of the Byzantine Empire.

This ended the 1000 years long

rule of the Byzantine Empire.

Here are some of the achievements

of Byzantine Empire,

starting with cultural contribution,

cultural traditions,

learning and literature of Greece

and political techniques of the

Old Roman Empire were preserved.

Roman law and Greek philosophy

and letters were

studied at Constantinople.

Manuscripts of Greek literature

were copied in a grand manner.

Medical works, legal treatises,

and technological ideas were

compiled during this time.

So far as art and architecture is concerned.

Many majestic churches were built like

that of Saint Sophia at Constantinople saint

Vitale in Ravenna and Saint Marks in Venice.

There was extensive use of ornament

symbolism, the vault and the Dome was

at Oriental inspiration glass cubes,

mosaic works, sparkling gems, gold leaves,

colored marble columns were also in use.

Trade and Industry.

The great wealth of the Byzantine Empire

was the result of Commerce. Industry and agriculture, spices, drugs, perfumes ,

precious stones and valuable

Woods passed through Byzantine Cities..

Cities like Constantinople,

Antioch, Damascus, Beirut, Salonika,

and Corinth also prospered.

Industry ranked second in

importance as a source of wealth.

Textile mills were numerous

in Constantinople.

Silkworm imported from China as it became

major article of Commerce jewelry,

religious ornaments,

Metal-ware ivory carvings and weapons

were produced and sold in quantity.

Agricultural output was sufficient

to provide adequate food supply.

So far as painting and painters

are concerned,

they were patronized

by the Byzantine rulers.

Byzantine rulers did

great job in administration.

Bureaucracy was set up by the
Byzantine rulers, which was later

followed by many European countries.

Law under Justinian's rule.

Roman law reached his final shape,

the great monuments of Roman laws are.

The course of Theodosius and Justinian,

the Corpus Juris Civilis of

Justinian became essential

part of the Western intellectual tradition.

The religion of Byzantine Empire.

We see that Greek Orthodox

Church was established.

Christianity arose in eastern

part of the Roman Empire.

Iconoclasm wherein Emperor Leo III banned icons and images of worship

idea of purgatory was also rejected.

Society was urban in nature,

which was similar to early Hellenistic type.

Metropolis constituted industrialized

community nobility,

wealthy officials,

large landholders lived

in elegant surroundings,

middle class merchants and

manufacturers lived well,

but more conservatively.

Peasants were reduced to serfdom.

Here are some of the reasons for the

decline of Byzantine Empire attack of

the Ottoman Turks, attack of the Ottoman

Turks was one of the immediate reason

for the fall of Byzantine Empire in 1453.

The last Byzantine emperor Constantine,

XI,

was killed in the battle with the Turks,

which led to the fall of Constantinople.

This ended the mighty Byzantine rule,

which blocked the only land

route connecting Europe to Asia.

Nature of the Emperor

also led to the fall of Byzantine Empire as not all the Byzantine

emperors were as great as Justinian I

every now and then there were usurpers who captured the throne,

although at various times there

were competent and strong monarchs.

Which was again major reason for the

Byzantine Empire to last for 1000 years.

There were continuous wars and

growth of new monarchies. Byzantine

empire had to face external threats

from the neighboring enemies.

Those of Persians, Arabs,

the Caliphates and Turks.

The threat was not only from the East,
but Major kingdoms emerging in West too.

Battle of Manzikert also played a very
important role. This battle fought in
1071 between Byzantine and Seljuk Empire,
the Byzantine forces were clearly defeated,
and the emperor was captured.

This led to the entry of Turks in Asia Minor.

This defeat led to civil and economic
crisis and Byzantine was never actually
able to recover from the losses.

Crusades are one of the reasons for
the downfall of the Byzantine Empire.

The First Crusade was meant to help
emperor Alexius to fight and recapture
the lost lands, including Jerusalem.

from the Turks. Though,
the Crusaders captured Jerusalem,
there was lack of unity among them.

This gave an opportunity to

the Turks to attack the city.

Moreover, religious motives of Crusaders

also got diverted. In fourth Crusade,

Crusaders captured Constantinople in 1204,

They carried out loot, mass massacre and stayed there

To conclude,

we can say Byzantine Empire was

continuation of the Roman Empire in the East,

but the Byzantine civilization

differed in many,

many aspects from the Roman.

They preserved Greek culture

contributed to culture,

art and architecture,

learning,

etc.

There also existed iconoclastic controversy

with all these Byzantine Empire,

was able to last for 1000 long years.

Here are the references.

Thank you.