

into account. Eventually, the two codes were merged into a single law system that applied everywhere in the empire.

During the Pax Romana, punishments were less severe than they had been during the Republic. Furthermore, the law code provided some protection for slaves and women. It set limits on the absolute rights of fathers and husbands. Also, women and slaves were given the right to own property.

Roman law was the foundation for the law codes that developed in Europe and were carried to other parts of the world.

#### SECTION REVIEW

1. Identify: Pliny the Elder, Galen, Ptolemy, Virgil, Livy, Tacitus.
2. Define: aqueduct.
3. How did Roman sculpture differ from Greek sculpture?
4. What contributions did the Romans make to science and medicine?
5. What was Livy's opinion of Rome?
6. What two systems of law developed as Rome expanded?

## 2 Rise of Christianity

During the Pax Romana, a new religion, Christianity, spread across the Greco-Roman world. At first, Christianity was just one of the many religions practiced within the Roman Empire. But by 395 A.D., it had become the official religion of the empire. The success of Christianity was due in part to the religious climate of the Roman world.

### The Religious Climate

Roman emperors tolerated different religious practices. Officially, Romans were required to offer sacrifices to the emperor, who was thought to have divine power. These ceremonies had little religious meaning, however. They merely symbolized a person's loyalty to Rome. As long as people made formal sacrifices, they could worship as they chose.

Many Romans continued to worship the old gods, such as Jupiter and Mars. Others turned to mystery religions similar to ones that had developed in ancient Greece. People who believed in mystery religions used magical signs and secret passwords hoping to win immortality. Mystery religions gave people in the huge impersonal Roman Empire a sense of belonging.

### Roman Rule in Palestine

The Hebrews, or Jews, were among the peoples in the empire whose religions were tolerated. Roman officials in Palestine respected the Hebrew belief in one God and excused Jews from worshipping the emperor. For example, the face of the emperor was not imprinted on coins issued in Palestine because Hebrew law forbade Jews to worship images.

Although Rome allowed Jewish leaders to enforce their traditional laws, many Jews resented foreign rule. Some Jews believed that a *messiah*, a savior chosen by God, would lead the Hebrews to freedom from Roman rule. One group, the Zealots, sought political freedom through armed resistance to Rome. But Rome responded to criticism and violence with severe punishment.

In 66 A.D., the Jews in Palestine rose in revolt. Rome sent an army to destroy Jerusalem. In 70 A.D., Rome abolished the Jewish state, which had existed since ancient times. The Jews were enslaved and dispersed throughout the empire. But scattered Jewish communities survived elsewhere in the empire. In these communities, the Jews preserved their religion and culture.



In the New Testament, the Apostle John quotes Jesus as saying, "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep." The symbol of Christ as a shepherd appears in much early Christian art. This mosaic from a church in Ravenna, Italy, shows Jesus with a flock of sheep, perhaps representing 6 of the 12 Apostles.

### The Life and Teachings of Jesus

About 70 years before the Jewish uprising against Rome, Jesus, the founder of Christianity, was born in Bethlehem, a town in southern Palestine. Information about the early life of Jesus comes from accounts written by Jesus' disciples after his death. These accounts, called the Gospels, or good news, make up the first four books of the New Testament of the Bible.

According to the Gospels, Jesus grew up in Nazareth, studied with priests in the synagogue, and learned the trade of a carpenter. As a young man, Jesus began preaching to the poor. The Gospels also say that Jesus performed miracles such as healing the sick. Many people who heard Jesus or witnessed the miracles believed he was the Messiah. The Greek word for messiah was Christos. Followers of Jesus eventually became known as Christians.

The large crowds Jesus attracted when he preached worried Jewish and Roman authorities. Some Jewish officials considered him a troublemaker bent on challenging Hebrew laws. Others rejected Jesus' claim to be the Son of God. Denounced by his enemies, Jesus was arrested and taken before Pontius Pilate, a Roman official. Pilate saw Jesus as a dangerous rebel capable of disturbing the peace. As a result, Jesus was condemned to die. He was executed according to Roman custom by crucifixion, or being nailed to a cross to die of exposure.

In his teachings, Jesus stressed love for God and compassion for other people. A person's chief duties, he said, were to "love the Lord thy God with all thy heart" and to "love thy neighbor as thyself." In *parables*, short stories with simple moral lessons, Jesus taught people how to show kindness to one another. Jesus offered his followers a loving and forgiving God. He taught that earthly

riches were unimportant and that people who were humble, merciful, and unselfish, would be rewarded with eternal life.

The teachings of Jesus were rooted in Hebrew religious traditions. For example, Jesus preached obedience to one God, to the Ten Commandments, and to other Hebrew laws of the Old Testament. In addition, like the ancient Hebrew prophets, Jesus condemned injustice and criticized false pride. As a result, the Hebrew ethical world view became a fundamental part of Christianity.

### The Apostles and Paul

According to the New Testament, Jesus chose 12 disciples as Apostles to carry on his teachings. At first, the Apostles preached to the Jews of Palestine. The Apostle Peter traveled to Rome, where he converted Jews in the capital to Christianity. But Paul, the person most responsible for spreading the message of Jesus, was not one of the original Apostles.

Paul, a Greek-speaking Jew from Asia Minor, helped establish Christian communities in the eastern cities of the Roman Empire. For 30 years, he traveled tirelessly through Palestine and Syria to Asia Minor, Macedonia, Greece, and Rome. Like the Apostles, he sought converts among the Jews. But Paul also took Christianity on a new course when he decided to preach the Gospel to Gentiles, or non-Jews.

Paul played a key role in shaping Christian thought. As part of his missionary work, he wrote hundreds of letters to different Christian communities. These letters, which explained Christian beliefs, are part of the New Testament. Paul taught that people who believed in Jesus need not fear death because Jesus promised everlasting life.

### Persecution and Toleration

Unlike other religions within the Roman Empire, Christianity aroused official persecution because Christians refused to worship the emperor. Roman authorities had excused

Jews from emperor worship out of respect for their ancient traditions. But Roman authorities saw Christians as dangerous troublemakers because they were winning converts throughout the empire.

Official policy alternated between brutal persecution and toleration. Emperors tended to use Christians as scapegoats, especially when political or economic conditions were bad. Both Peter and Paul perished in Rome under the persecution of the emperor Nero.

Persecution strengthened rather than weakened the new religion. During periods of intense persecution, some Christians renounced their faith. But many others became *martyrs*, people who suffer or die for their beliefs. Christians believed that martyrs received God's special favor. "The blood of the martyrs," wrote one Roman, "is the seed of the Church." Many people were impressed by a faith that inspired such devotion in its followers, and they converted in great numbers.

As you read at the beginning of this chapter, the emperor Constantine officially recognized Christianity. In 313 A.D., he introduced a policy of official toleration by the Edict of Milan. Christianity achieved its greatest triumph in 395 A.D., when it was proclaimed the official religion of the Roman Empire.

### The Appeal of Christianity

From humble beginnings in Palestine, Christianity spread to the eastern cities of the Roman Empire and then throughout the entire Roman world. (See the map on page 8.) Scholars have suggested many reasons for the widespread appeal of Christianity.

The simple, direct message of Christianity appealed to many people. The poor and oppressed found hope in the God who loved people regardless of their place in society. Equality, human dignity, and, above all, the promise of eternal life were comforting teachings. Many educated people who had rejected the Roman gods and the mystery religions turned to Christianity. To them, the Christian emphasis on a life of moderation and discipline echoed Greek and Roman philosophies.

The work of dedicated missionaries such as Paul was made easier by the unity of the Roman Empire and the ease of travel between cities. In the eastern Mediterranean, the use of a common language, Greek, and the concentration of people in cities contributed to the early success of Christianity. Furthermore, many early Christians were women who brought other members of their families into the faith. In some Christian communities, women conducted worship services and enjoyed equality with men.

During the troubles of the later Roman Empire, which you will read about in the next section, the old mystery religions lost vitality. As Christianity gained in strength, more people adopted the religion. Eventually, Christians developed an efficient, dynamic church organization. The Christian Church maintained unity among its members and ensured the survival of the new faith.

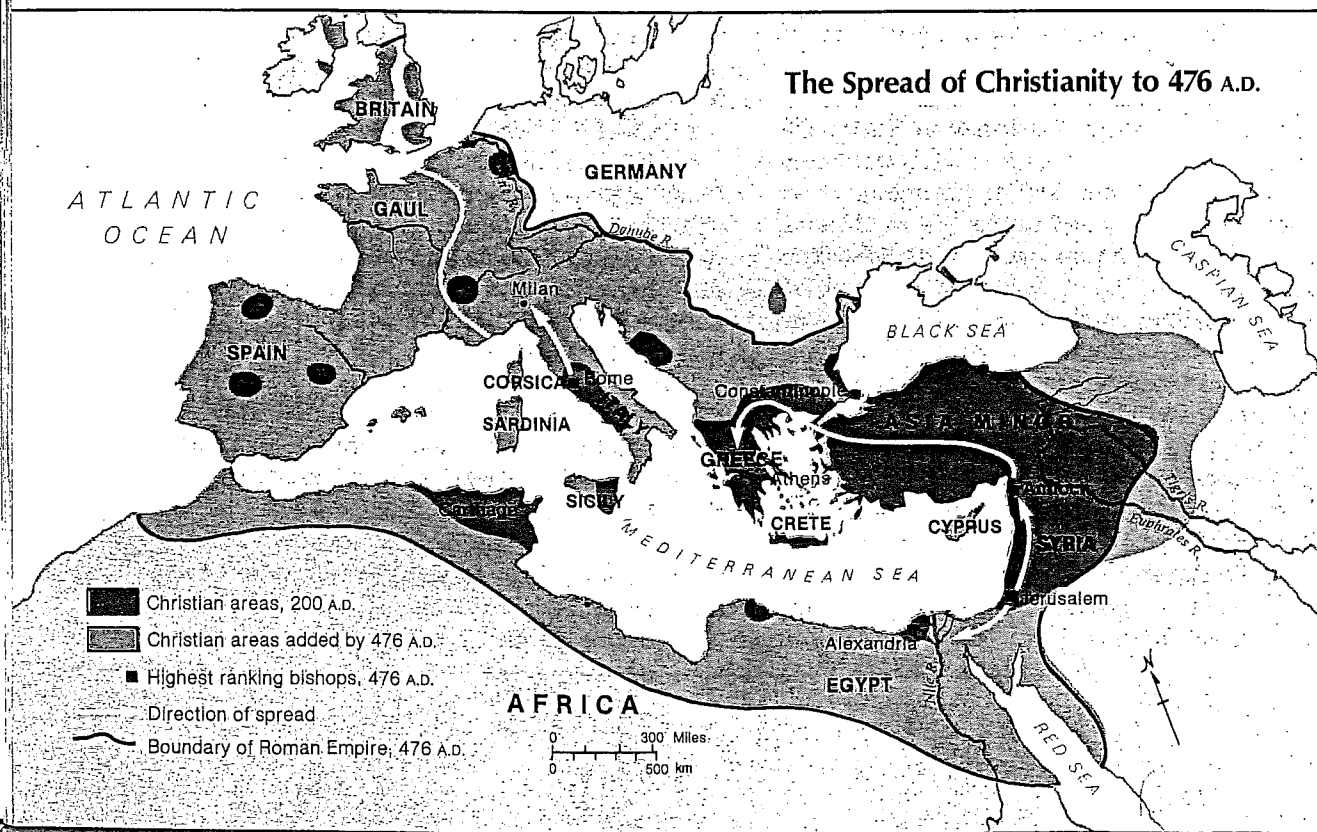
### Church Organization

The Christian Church developed gradually during the first few centuries A.D. At first, bishops ranked as the highest officials. Each bishop administered the churches in a territory called a *see*. Below the bishops were priests, who conducted worship services and taught Christian beliefs. As the Church expanded, archbishops were appointed to oversee the bishops. An archbishop's territory was called a province. The type of organization in which officials are arranged according to rank is called a *hierarchy* (HI uh RAHR kee).

As the Church hierarchy emerged, women lost their influence in Church government. They were not allowed to become priests or conduct the Mass, the Christian worship service. But women continued to play a prominent role in spreading Christian teachings across the Roman world.

In time, the bishop of Rome acquired a dominant position in the Church by claiming that Peter, the chief Apostle, had made Rome the center of the Christian Church. The bishop of Rome eventually took the title *pope*, or father of the Church. Bishops in the eastern Mediterranean cities such as

■ Christianity gradually spread from Jerusalem throughout the Roman Empire. What areas were Christian by 200 A.D.? Why do you think these areas were the first to become Christian?



Constantinople, Alexandria, Jerusalem, and Antioch opposed the pope's claim to be supreme ruler of the church.

Together, the clergy, which included archbishops, bishops, and priests, helped keep Christianity alive in the early years of persecution. The clergy also maintained order and discipline in the Church. For example, bishops and archbishops met in councils to decide which ideas or practices the Church would accept. In 325 A.D., Church officials met in Nicaea (nī SEE uh) in Asia Minor, where they drew up the Nicene Creed, a statement of basic Christian beliefs.

### 3 Breakdown of Unity

During the centuries that Christianity was struggling to survive, events were reshaping the Roman world. The death of Emperor Marcus Aurelius in 180 A.D. plunged Rome into civil wars that ended the Pax Romana and threatened the unity of the empire.

#### End of the Pax Romana

The Romans had never established an effective system of succession. Often, an emperor would name his son or an adopted son as his heir, and the Senate would approve the new ruler. After the death of Marcus Aurelius, this system broke down. Civil wars plagued Rome as generals competed with each other for the throne. In the 50 years between 234 A.D. and 284 A.D., at least 26 emperors ruled. Some held power for only a few months. All but one suffered violent deaths.

During the years of turmoil in the empire, the authority of Rome diminished. Corruption weakened the civil service and reduced government efficiency. Law and order declined. The civil wars disrupted trade and commerce in the cities, which had once produced the wealth of the empire. To raise money for the treasury, emperors continued to *devalue* the coinage. By making coins of copper with only a thin coating of gold, they could issue more coins. Because the new coins

#### SECTION REVIEW

1. Identify: Gospels, Peter, Paul, Gentiles, Nicene Creed.
2. Define: messiah, parable, martyr, hierarchy, pope.
3. How did Rome show respect for Hebrew religious beliefs?
4. Why did Roman authorities believe Jesus was dangerous?
5. What did Paul teach Christians?
6. List three reasons for the widespread appeal of Christianity.

were worth less than the old ones, prices and wages rose sharply. In this unstable economic atmosphere, businesses and cities declined further.

At the same time, invaders attacked the empire. Fearful of attack, many farmers abandoned their land. Small farmers often turned their land over to wealthy nobles. The small farmers, or *coloni* (kuh LOH nī), continued to work the land, but the noble landowner paid the taxes and protected the *coloni*. In frontier regions, powerful nobles acquired vast holdings, which they governed almost independently of Rome.

#### Reforms of Diocletian

In 284 A.D., legions in the east made the general Diocletian (dī uh KLEE shuhn) emperor. The new ruler introduced harsh new laws meant to strengthen the empire. Diocletian divided the Roman Empire in half and took control of the wealthier eastern provinces himself. He then appointed a co-emperor to rule the western provinces. The co-emperor was responsible to Diocletian.

To restore government efficiency, Diocletian reorganized the civil service and made officials directly responsible to the emperor. He enlarged the army and trained new cavalry units to fight invaders. New

### Diocletian and the Edict on Maximum Prices

The energetic Emperor Diocletian divided his attention between rebuilding Roman military power and strengthening the economy. But government spending on the army and new palaces caused prices to soar. From one day to the next, people had no idea what their money would buy.

In an effort to curb runaway *inflation*, the emperor issued the Edict on Maximum Prices. The edict set a ceiling on prices for over 1,000 items, including nearly all goods produced in the empire. In addition, it regulated wages for many services.

Unfortunately, Diocletian's edict did not reduce prices. As one Roman noted when the edict was posted, "nothing appeared on the market because of fear, and prices soared much higher." Eventually, the emperor allowed people to ignore the edict.

A closer look at some of the items on Diocletian's list reveals much about the comparative value of goods and services in the year 301 A.D. Prices are given in denarii, a common coin of the day.

Wages	
Farm laborer	25d. with keep per day
Stone mason and carpenter	50d. with keep per day
Barber	2d. per customer
Scribe	20 or 25d. per 100 lines
Elementary teacher	50d. per month per boy
Prices	
Wheat	11d. per litre
Salt	11d. per litre
Oil	24-80d. for one litre
Beef and goat	24d. per kilogram
Ham	60d. per kilogram
Cheese	24d. per kilogram
Chickens	60d. a pair
Eggs	1d. each
Cabbage and lettuce	0.4 or 0.8d. each
Peaches	0.2 or 0.4d. each
Patrician shoes	150d. a pair
Soldier's boots (no nails)	100d. a pair
Hooded cloak	4500d. each

forts and roads were built to reinforce the frontier defenses. For a time, these measures ensured peace.

Diocletian also tried to solve economic problems in the empire. To slow the rapid rise in prices, he set limits on prices and wages. He also wanted to make agriculture and manufacturing more stable, so he ordered people to remain in their jobs. A shoemaker or farmer, for example, could not change occupations. Neither could their children or grandchildren.

#### The Reign of Constantine

When illness forced Diocletian to retire in 305 A.D., a long power struggle resulted. In 312 A.D., Constantine emerged victorious, as you read on page 2. In 324 A.D., Constantine reunited the eastern and western territories under his personal rule. Significantly, he built

a new capital at Byzantium, a Greek city on the Bosphorus. The new Roman capital came to be called Constantinople. Making Constantinople the capital symbolized the declining influence of the city of Rome and the growing importance of the eastern provinces of the Roman Empire.

Constantine had many reasons for building a new capital. He believed that Rome was full of its "pagan," or non-Christian, past. Constantine wanted the new capital to be a Christian city. Also, Constantinople was closer to the great commercial centers of the eastern Mediterranean. The trade and commerce of those cities supplied most of the empire's riches. Furthermore, the eastern frontier was more secure from invaders than the western frontiers.

Constantine built on the strict reforms of Diocletian. He ordered officials to enforce

the harsh laws tying *artisans* to their trades and farmers to the land. However, this action had few positive results. Without the hope of getting ahead, people saw little reason to work hard.

The policies of Diocletian and Constantine did not halt the political and economic decay. Corruption and violence resurfaced after Constantine's death in 337 A.D. The empire was again divided. The Eastern Roman Empire flourished, but the Western Roman Empire was collapsing under internal stress and the pressure of invaders.

### SECTION REVIEW

1. Locate: Constantinople.
2. Identify: Diocletian, Constantine.
3. Define: *coloni*.
4. List two problems the empire faced after the death of Marcus Aurelius.
5. (a) How did Diocletian increase the military strength of the Roman Empire? (b) How did he fight rising prices?
6. Give three reasons why Constantine built a new capital.

## 4 Collapse of the Empire

The emperors Diocletian and Constantine had struggled to restore Roman power. But new threats to the empire arose when invaders swept across the frontiers. These attacks shattered forever the unity of the Roman Empire.

### The German Tribes

During the Pax Romana, Roman armies had often fought German tribes living north of the Rhine and Danube rivers. The Germans included many different groups of seminomadic herders and farmers who had migrated from Scandinavia, the area of present-day Norway, Sweden, and Denmark.

The Roman historian Tacitus left one of the earliest descriptions of the German tribes. Their military strength, courage, and strict morality impressed Tacitus. An elected king ruled each German tribe with the aid of a council of chiefs. Chiefs were chosen for their bravery by assemblies of free men. Each chief led a band of young warriors. In exchange for their services in battle, the chief supplied his warriors with a shield, a javelin, food, and shelter. "The chief fights for victory," Tacitus noted, while his "companions fight for their chief."

Each chief administered justice in a particular region. Under the German system, if

someone was found guilty of assault, for example, the offender would have to pay a fine of horses or cattle to the injured person.

By the third century A.D., a growing population forced the Germans to seek new land. Attracted by the wealth of the Roman cities and the warmer climate of southern Europe, some crossed into the Roman Empire. Weakened by civil wars, Roman frontier legions were hard pressed to withstand the steady pressure of the German migrations. Then, around the middle of the fourth century A.D., the Huns, a fierce nomadic people from Central Asia, attacked the German tribes of Eastern Europe.

### Invasions of the Roman Empire

Historians do not know why the Huns burst out of Asia into Europe. They do know that the Huns were superb riders and cruel warriors. The Huns easily defeated the Ostrogoths, a German tribe that lived north of the Black Sea.

Fearing a similar fate, a neighboring German tribe, the Visigoths, sought protection inside the Roman Empire. In 376 A.D., they received permission to cross the Danube River. Two years later, the Romans regretted their decision and sent an army against the Visigoths. But at the battle of

Adrianople, the Visigoths crushed the Roman legions. The Roman defeat signaled to all that Rome was no longer unbeatable.

After Adrianople, Germans flooded into the empire seeking safety from the Huns. But they also looted Roman cities as they came. In 410 A.D., the Visigoth general Alaric (AL uh rihk) invaded Italy and sacked Rome. Roman officials bought peace by granting Alaric much of southern Gaul and Spain.

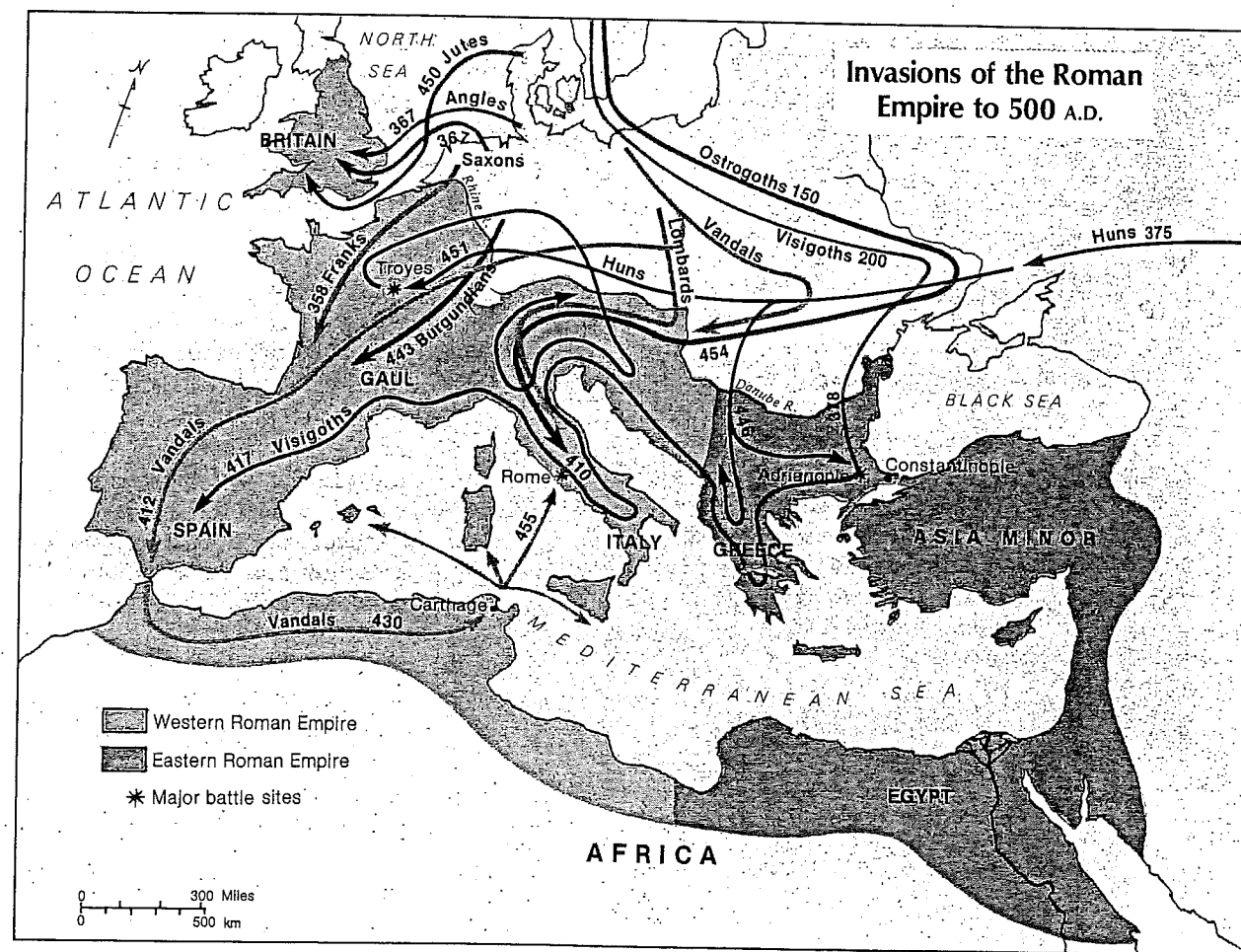
Meanwhile, the Huns conquered Eastern Europe, including the areas of present-day Romania, Hungary, Poland, and Czechoslovakia. Under their leader Attila, whom Christians called the "Scourge of God," they poured across the Rhine. Rome formed a

hasty alliance with some German tribes. At the battle of Troyes (twah) in 451 A.D., Rome and its allies stopped the Hun advance. Attila was not defeated, but he withdrew his forces. When he died not long after this battle, the Hun empire collapsed.

Other invaders continued to threaten Rome. A German tribe, the Vandals, moved through Gaul into Spain before settling in northern Africa. From Carthage, the Vandals raided Italy. In 455 A.D., they sacked Rome.\* As Roman legions were withdrawn from the

\* The English word "vandalism," meaning the malicious destruction of property, came from the name of this German tribe.

■ Diocletian hoped to strengthen the Roman Empire by dividing it into the Western Roman Empire and the Eastern Roman Empire. His action, however, helped to weaken the western provinces, which eventually fell victim to the invasions of many German tribes.



frontiers to defend cities in Italy, the Burgundians, the Franks, and later the Lombards moved into the western empire.

### The "Fall of Rome"

In 476 A.D., a minor German chief, Odoacer (OH doh AY suhr), captured Rome and forced the emperor to give up the throne. Odoacer then proclaimed himself king of Italy. Many historians refer to this incident as the "fall of Rome." Yet Rome did not collapse suddenly.

As you have read, the Roman Empire had faced severe problems for centuries. Moreover, Roman civilization did not disappear after 476 A.D. Although German tribes conquered the western empire, the people of Gaul, for example, still considered themselves Romans. People continued to enforce Roman laws, and they spoke Latin, although local dialects developed. However, after 476 A.D., there was no emperor in the west. Without an emperor to serve as a rally-

*The German tribes that invaded the Roman Empire had their own artistic traditions. Although their art was less sophisticated than that of Greco-Roman civilization, German artisans produced fine animal figures in metal. The horse and rider shown here may have been part of a pendant or brooch.*



ing point, the unity of the Western Roman Empire ended.

The Eastern Roman Empire survived for 1,000 years after the fall of Rome. From Constantinople, emperors played one German ruler off against another, hoping to dominate affairs in the west. Thriving commerce and a strong civil service in the eastern empire enabled it to preserve Greco-Roman civilization. In Chapter 6, you will read more about the Byzantine Empire, as the Eastern Roman Empire was later called.

### Causes of the Decline

Why did Rome decline? Most scholars agree that no single problem caused the decline of Rome. Instead, they think that numerous political, economic, and social problems gradually destroyed the strength of the Roman Empire.

**Political causes.** Roman citizens gradually lost feelings of responsibility toward government. They expected the emperor to look after their needs. But the vast size of the empire and widespread corruption made efficient government difficult even under good rulers. And many emperors were weak or evil rulers.

The division of the empire hurt the western empire because the best administrators and generals served the eastern emperor. Just when the tide of invasions was strongest, Rome suffered from a lack of capable leaders. Furthermore, as Roman authority weakened, some wealthy landowners withdrew their support from Rome and set up independent states.

**Economic causes.** Governing the Roman Empire required a huge amount of money. Much of the empire's wealth came from the eastern provinces. Thus, the division of the empire deprived Rome of desperately needed revenues. Moreover, Roman armies were no longer bringing in loot from newly conquered territories. Civil wars and German invasions hurt trade and agriculture, making tax collection more difficult. Attempts to increase the money supply by devaluing the currency only increased inflation. The resulting high prices were a burden to most Romans.

### The Decline of Rome: Identifying a Point of View

Historians use primary sources, which are firsthand or original accounts, to learn about events or developments that took place in the past. Some primary sources are eyewitness accounts written by individuals for a particular purpose. Therefore, the writer might not give a completely objective or accurate account. Thus, when using a primary source, it is important to identify the writer's point of view.

The following excerpts were taken from the *Histories* of Ammianus Marcellinus (AHM ih AY nuhs MAHR seh LI nuhs), written about 378 A.D. As a soldier in the emperor's bodyguard, Ammianus had paid visits to Rome and seen how Romans lived. Read the excerpts from the *Histories*. Then use these steps to identify the writer's point of view.

- Determine what information is being given.** You can do this by asking what the source is describing. Answer the following questions about the excerpts: (a) What aspects of Roman life does the writer describe? (b) What does the writer say about the clothing worn by Romans? (c) According to Ammianus, how did poor Romans spend their time?
- Distinguish between fact and opinion.** A fact is something that has actually happened. A fact can be proven or observed. An opinion is a judgment that reflects a person's feelings or beliefs. Use the following questions to identify the facts and opinions in the source: (a) What three facts about life in Rome can you identify in this excerpt? (b) What is the writer's opinion of the amusements of Romans? (c) How does the writer show his opinion of Roman banquets?
- Evaluate the reliability of the source.** Answer the following questions to see if the writer is presenting a complete, accurate picture: (a) How could the fact that Ammianus was a visitor to Rome have affected his view of the capital? (b) In what way

could his occupation as a soldier have influenced his view of Rome? (c) What aspects of Roman life does Ammianus seem to ignore? (d) Would you consider this a reliable description of life in Rome? Why or why not?

- Use the source to draw conclusions about a historical event or development.** (a) What conclusions would you draw about conditions in Rome in the late 300s A.D. based on this source? (b) What generalizations about the decline of Rome can be made from this source?

#### From the *Histories* by Ammianus Marcellinus

Rome is still looked on as the queen of the earth, and the name of the Roman people is respected. But the magnificence of Rome is defaced by the thoughtless conduct of a few, who . . . fall away into error and vice. Some men think that they can gain immortality by means of statues . . . as if they would obtain a higher reward from bronze figures unendowed with sense than from a consciousness of upright and honorable actions; and they are even anxious to have them plated over with gold!

Others place greater importance on having a couch higher than usual, or splendid clothing. They toil and sweat under a vast burden of cloaks which are fastened to their necks by many clasps.

The whirlpool of banquets and other luxuries I shall pass over lest I go too far. Many people drive their horses recklessly . . . over the flint-paved city streets. They drag behind them huge numbers of slaves, like bands of robbers.

As for the lower and poorer classes, some spend the whole night in the wine shops. Some lie concealed in the shady arcades of the theaters. They play at dice so eagerly as to quarrel over them. . . . Such pursuits as these prevent anything worth mentioning from being done in Rome.

In the cities, heavy taxes and high unemployment contributed to declining prosperity. The idleness of the wealthy and the expense of providing free grain to the poor further drained Roman resources.

**Social causes.** As contemporary historians suggested, the loyalty and civic pride that once unified Rome had gradually decayed. Because citizens evaded military service, for example, soldiers were increasingly

recruited from people who had little loyalty to Rome. These soldiers lacked the discipline and patriotism of the armies that had conquered the Mediterranean world. As a result, they were no match for the well-trained Germans, who were inspired by loyalty to their chiefs.

Many people no longer felt they had a stake in the empire. They did not care whether the ruler was Roman or German. Devastating epidemics that swept through the western provinces in the fourth century A.D. increased the sense of hopelessness.

Despite these formidable pressures, the breakup of the Western Roman Empire was a slow process. The remarkable feature of the empire was that it endured for so long.

### SECTION REVIEW

1. Locate: Adrianople, Troyes.
2. Identify: Huns, Visigoths, Vandals.
3. What role did the chief play in the German tribes?
4. List two reasons why Germans moved into the Roman Empire.
5. What event marks the "fall of Rome" according to many historians?
6. Describe one way in which the division of the Roman Empire hurt the western provinces.

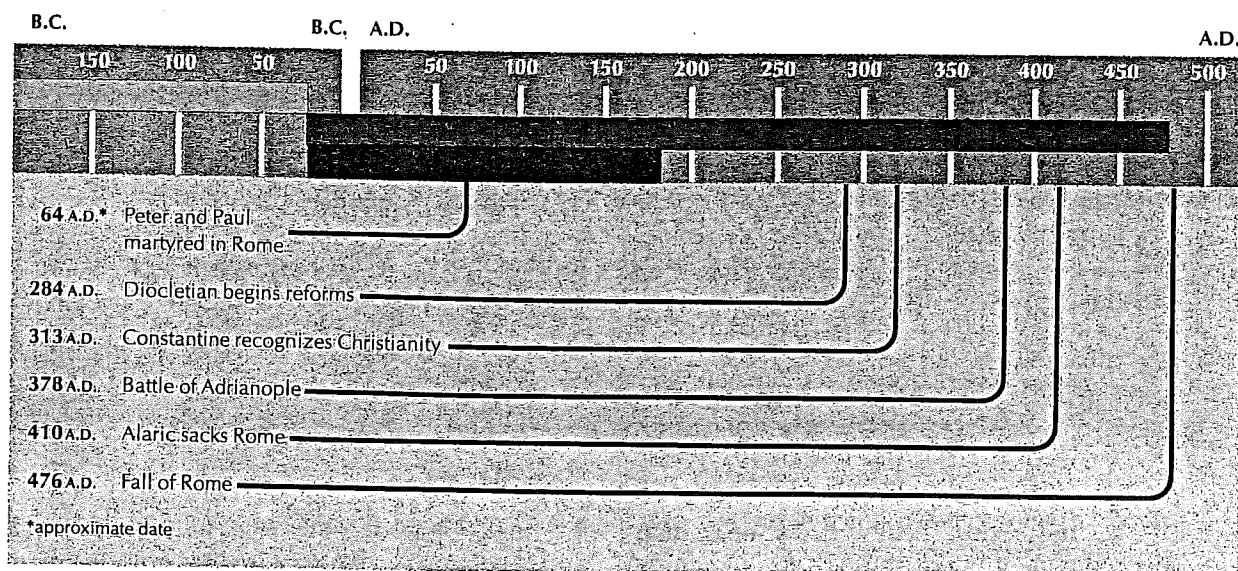
### IN PERSPECTIVE

The Romans adapted many ideas from other cultures of the ancient Mediterranean world, especially from the Greeks. The Romans built on Greek achievements in art and architecture. They also made significant progress in practical areas such as building roads and aqueducts. One of their most lasting contributions was the Roman system of law.

During the early centuries A.D., Christianity developed in the eastern Mediterranean. Paul carried the teachings of Jesus to many parts of the empire. Persecution by Roman officials only seemed to strengthen the new religion. Finally, Constantine ended the persecutions. By 395 A.D., Christianity was the official religion of the empire.

After 180 A.D., civil wars disrupted the economy of the empire and weakened Roman government. Attempts by Diocletian and Constantine to revive Roman authority failed to halt the decline.

In the fourth and fifth centuries A.D., German and Hun invaders crippled the Western Roman Empire. The capture of the city of Rome in 476 A.D. marked the end of political unity in the Western Roman Empire. Yet the Roman heritage survived in both Western Europe and the Eastern Roman Empire.



### Recalling Facts

Arrange the events in each of the following groups in the order in which they occurred.

1. (a) The Pax Romana ends.  
(b) Odoacer captures Rome.  
(c) The Roman Empire is divided into an eastern and a western empire.
2. (a) Diocletian introduces government and economic reforms.  
(b) Constantine builds a new capital in the east.  
(c) Christianity becomes the official religion of the Roman Empire.
3. (a) Roman armies destroy Jerusalem.  
(b) Nicene Creed adopted.  
(c) Jesus is born in Bethlehem.
4. (a) Huns attack German tribes in Eastern Europe.  
(b) Visigoths defeat Romans at the battle of Adrianople.  
(c) Vandals sack Rome.

### Chapter Checkup

1. (a) How did Greek culture influence Roman civilization? (b) In what fields did Rome make its own contributions?
2. (a) What were the main themes emphasized by Roman writers? (b) How did Caesar use his writings to advance his career? (c) How did Livy's writing of history differ from that of the Greek historian Thucydides?
3. Describe the system of law that developed under the Roman Empire.
4. (a) In general, what was the Roman attitude toward the many different religions in the empire? (b) Why did Roman authorities persecute Christians? (c) Why did the persecution end?
5. Explain how each of the following contributed to the spread of Christianity: (a) Paul; (b) Roman persecution; (c) the message of Christianity; (d) unity of the Roman Empire.
6. (a) Describe the Church hierarchy. (b) What were the duties and responsibilities of the clergy? (c) How did the bishop of Rome become the most powerful Church official?
7. (a) Describe the reforms of Diocletian and Constantine. (b) In what ways were they successful? (c) In what ways were they unsuccessful?

### For Further Thought

1. *Relating Past to Present* (a) In your opinion, why did Rome borrow so much from Greek civilization? (b) What present-day example can you give of one culture strongly influencing another?
2. *Analyzing* Many people have admired Romans for their practical achievements. (a) What were these achievements? (b) How do you think the Roman emphasis on practical matters helped unify the empire?
3. *Comparing* (a) How is law in Canada today similar to law in the Roman Empire? (b) How is it different? (c) How might you explain the similarities and differences?

### Developing Basic Skills

1. *Analyzing a Primary Source* Review the feature on page 11. Then answer the following questions: (a) What type of source is this? (b) What was the purpose of Diocletian's Edict on Maximum Prices? (c) What items of food were most expensive? (d) What items of food were least expensive? (e) What conclusions could you draw about what poorer Romans ate?
2. *Map Reading* Use the map on page 13 and your reading in this chapter to answer the following questions: (a) Which of the invaders of Rome came from Asia? (b) Describe the route taken by the Vandals through the Roman Empire. (c) Which part of the Roman Empire suffered most from the invasions? Which suffered the least? (d) How do the routes taken by the invaders help explain the fall of the Western Roman Empire?
3. *Classifying* Make a chart with three columns. In column one, list political causes for Rome's decline. In column two, list economic causes. In column three, list social causes. Then answer the following questions: (a) What connections do you see between political and economic causes? (b) How did economic problems contribute to social problems? (c) What do you think was the most important cause of Rome's decline? Explain.

See page 209 for suggested readings.