

Fall of the Western Roman Empire (Page 30)

Problems

- Empire too big--Some land given away
 - Barbarians (Germanic warriors) attack northern cities
 - Persians invade in the east
 - Because of large armies, fewer farmers
 - New German farmers ignored
- emperors
- Disease
 - High taxes

Division of the Empire

Diocletian-emperor--late 200s

- Divided empire--eastern/western
- Ruled eastern half

Constantine

- Reunited both halves for short time
- Created new capital in east
"Constantinople"
- Power now in the east

German barbarians (Goths) raid Roman Empire

- Huns (Asia) invade Goth land
 - Goths pushed into Roman land
 - Romans kept Goths out in east
 - Goths beat Romans in the west
- Romans paid Goths to stay away from Rome
- AD 408--payment stops
 - Goths invade Rome and destroy it.

- 400s--Vandals invade Spain from south
- Angles, Saxons and Jutes invade Britain

- 480s--Franks invade Gaul (France)
- King Clovis (a Christian) built a powerful kingdom

- Huns raid Eastern Roman Empire
- Attila-brilliant leader, scary enemy
 - Skipped Rome--scared of diseases

- 450s military ran Rome--fought among selves
- 476--Barbarians invade--last emperor falls
- End of Western Roman Empire

Factors in Rome's Fall

- Large size--communication difficult
- Barbarian invasions
- Corruption of officials
- threats and bribery--Gov. not as good
- Military power over emperors
- Wealthy left Rome-started own armies
- Rome's population decreased
- More poor people
- Taxes and prices soared--weak economy

Byzantine Empire

Eastern Roman Empire=Byzantine Empire
Constantinople--Capital city-greatest trading center
----Between Asia and Europe

Justinian-Emperor--legal system, fairer laws
Theodora-strong powerful wife-gave advice

Byzantine Empire-Greek Language, philosophy
----Interaction w/ other groups, multi-cultural
----Art-Many Mosaics

Eastern Church broke away from Roman Church
Eastern Orthodox--Emperor led the church,
Priests could marry, Greek services, different ideas