

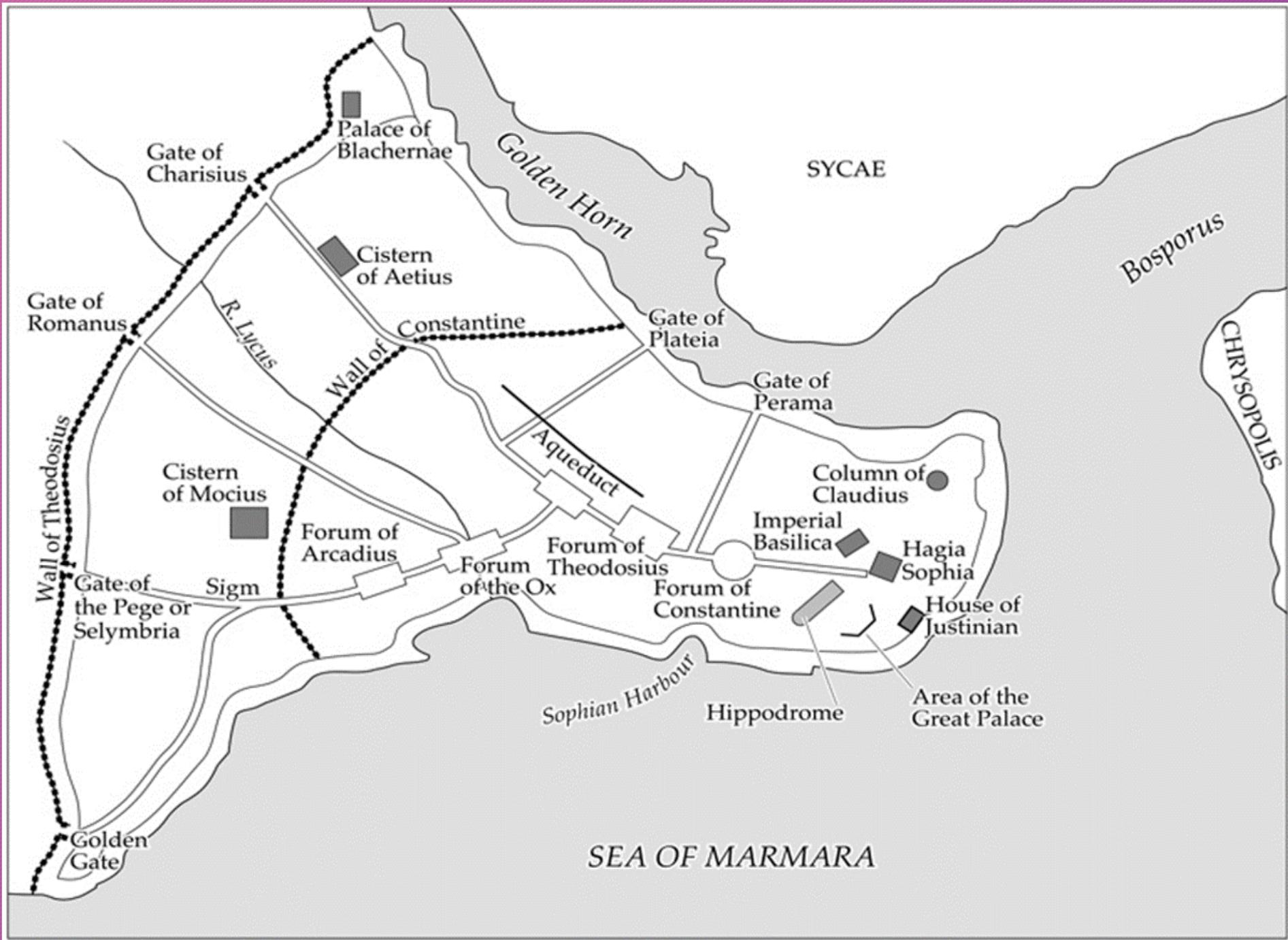
The Byzantine Empire

The Roman Empire Strikes Back.



The Byzantine Empire

- A continuation of the Roman Empire in the east of the Mediterranean
 - Capital city, **Constantinople**, established in 330 CE
 - Emperor Diocletian formally dissolved relationship between East and West Rome in 395 CE
- Strong **Hellenistic** cultural influences, **use of Greek**
- Very (VERY) wealthy, due to trade routes
 - Silk Roads
 - Passage between Mediterranean and Black Seas

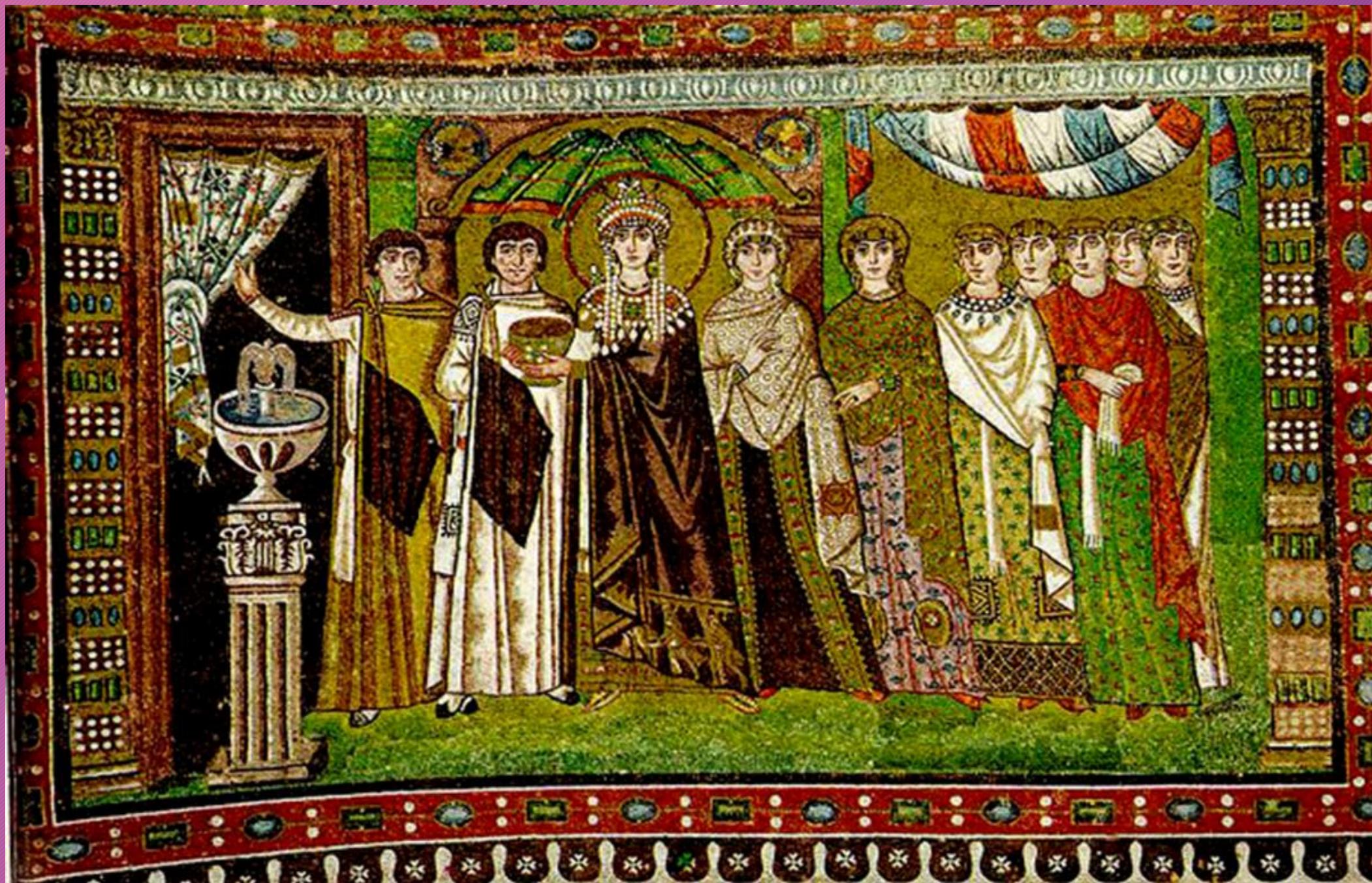




The Byzantine Empire: Justinian

- Most important leader: **Emperor Justinian** (r. 527 - 565 CE)
 - Attempt to **restore the Roman Empire** (with some successes)
 - Retook significant territory lost by Western Rome
 - Formalized the legal system (**Justinian Code**)
 - Responsible for the **rebuilding of Constantinople** and construction of the **Hagia Sophia**
- Reputation for **heavy taxes** on commoners
 - Led to the **Nika riots** (1/3 of the city of Constantinople destroyed)
- Wife, the **Empress Theodora**, ruled in her own right
 - Sponsored schools for women





Byzantine Empire, 565









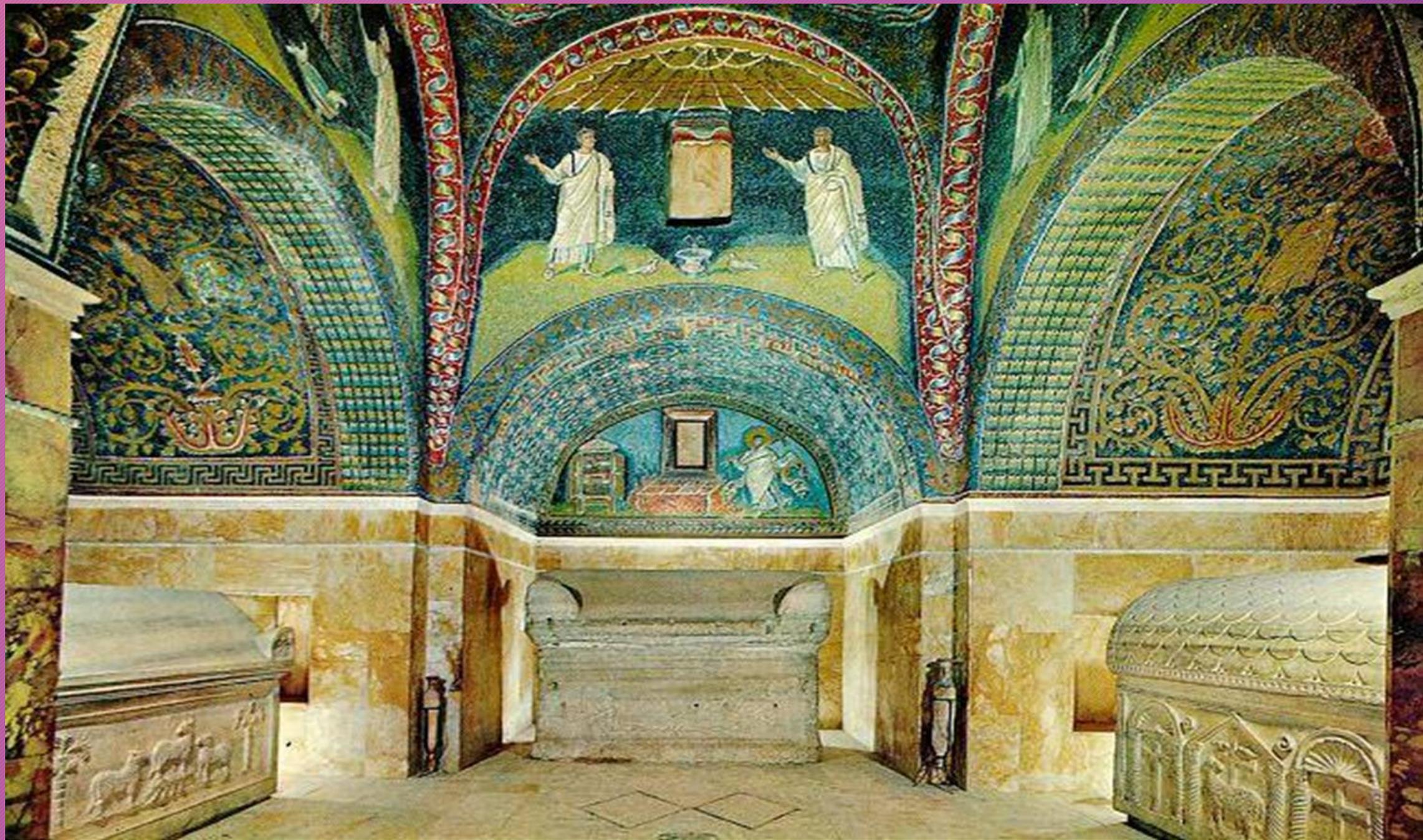


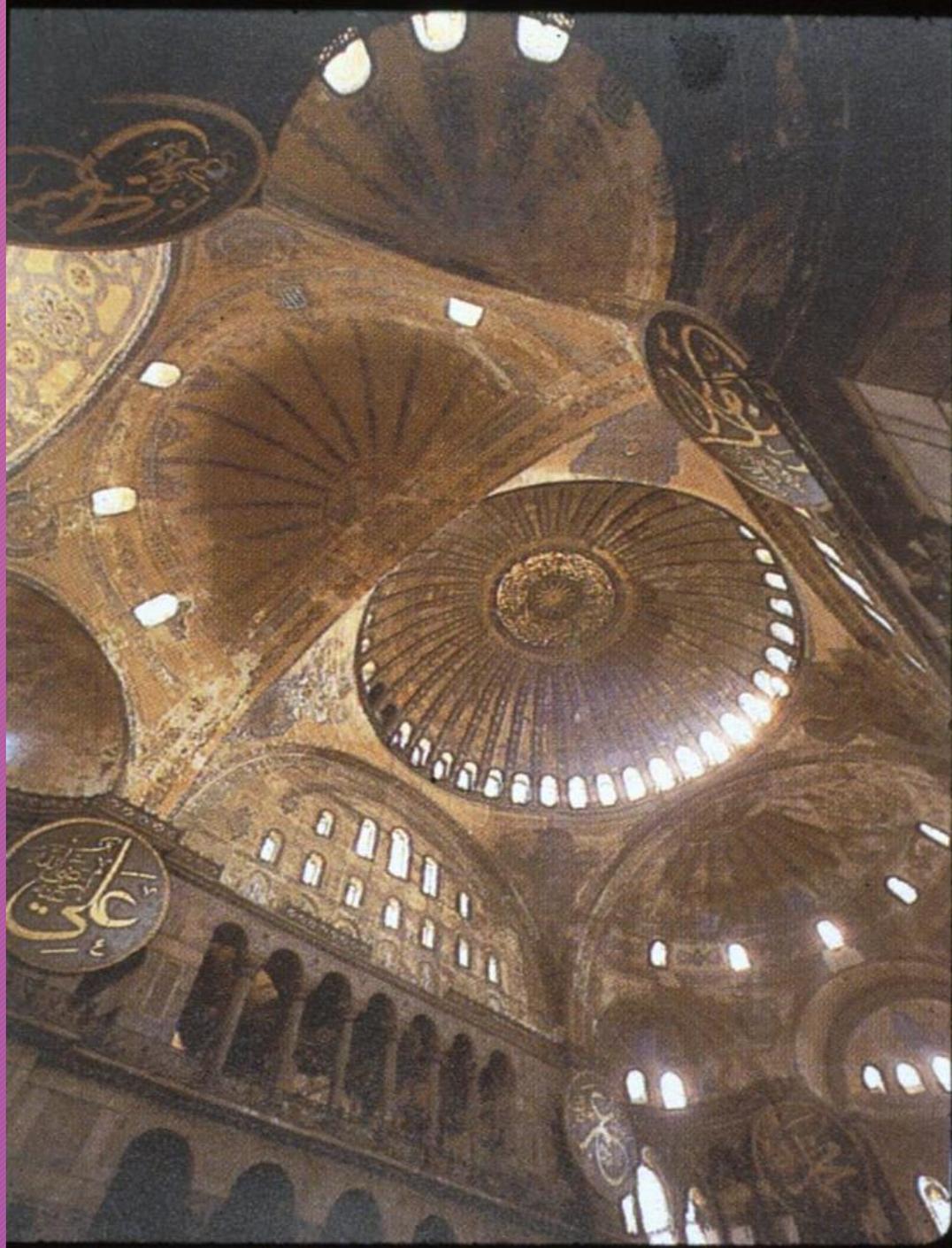
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The Byzantine Empire: Under Attack

- After 650 CE, rapid expansion of early Islamic caliphates leads to attacks from the south
 - Loss of territory
 - Development of new military technologies, including Greek fire
- Growth of Slavic kingdoms leads to skirmishes in the north and east
- Constant warfare weakened empire
 - Military action → \$\$\$\$ → extremely heavy taxes

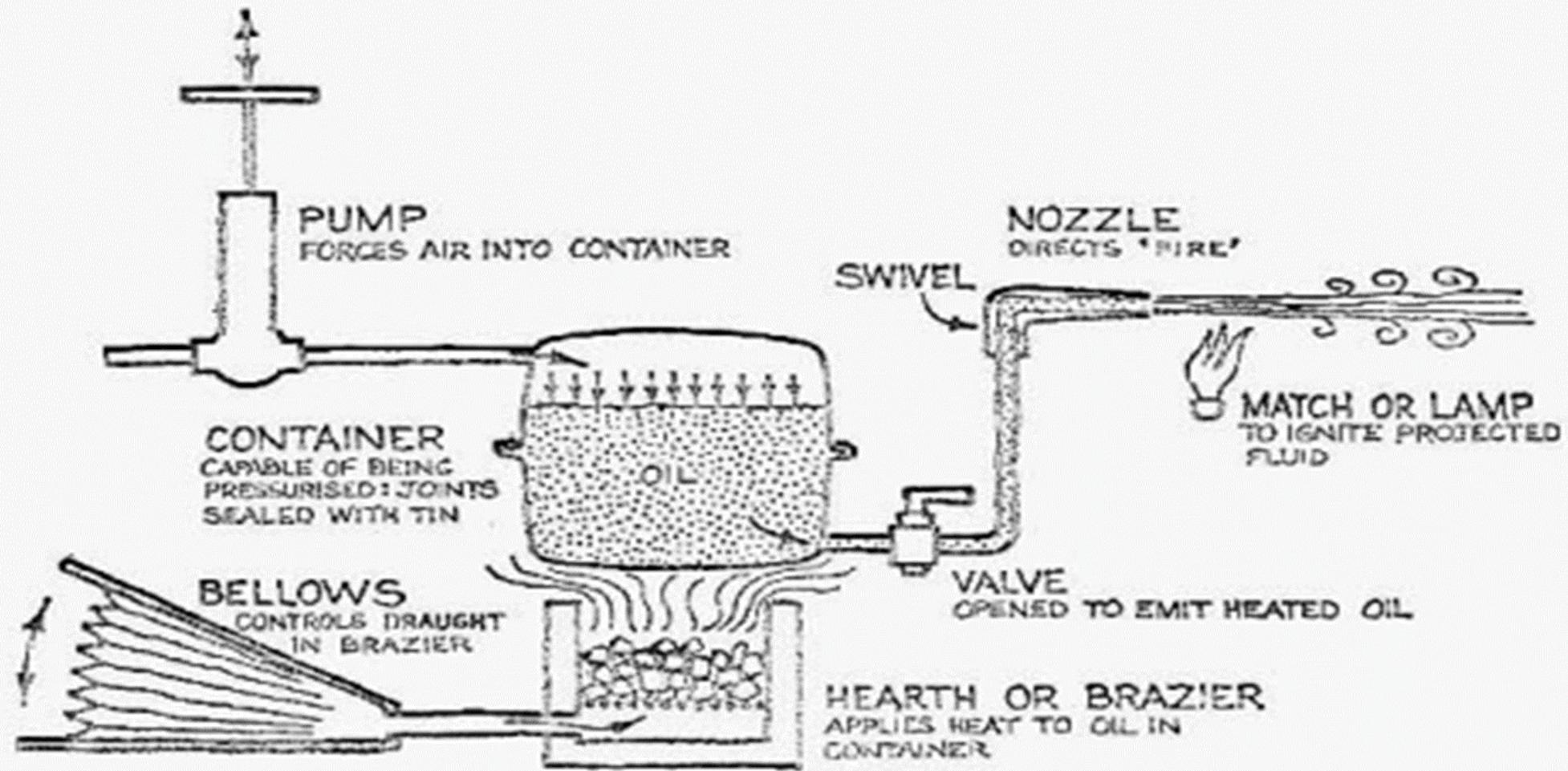


τῶν κῶν. Πραὶ δὲ καὶ τὸ σκάδι πρὸς τὸ ὠστὶ πυρὶ

φύλαξί μου πρὸς

τὸν τῶν ἐναντιόλογον.









ΧΕΙΡΟΒΟΜΒΙΔΕΙΣ ΥΓΡΟΥ ΠΥΡΟΣ 10^{ου} ΚΑΙ 12^{ου} ΑΙΩΝΑ
ΑΠΟ ΤΟ ΦΡΟΥΡΙΟ ΤΩΝ ΧΑΝΙΩΝ

Byzantine Empire: Society and Politics

- Emperor is the head of church and state (*caeseropapism*)
 - Ordained by God
 - Appoints all bishops and other church officials
 - Passes religious and civil law
- Elaborate bureaucracy
 - Mostly aristocrats, but commoners with talent can rise
 - Extensive use of spies to ensure loyalty

Byzantine Empire: Economics and Culture

- Because of its geographical location, **HUGE** amounts of trade moved through the empire
 - Taxes on peasants were high, but food prices were kept artificially low (form of *panem et circensus?*)
 - Produced silk
 - Merchant classes wealthy, but not allowed significant political power
- Two major contributors to Byzantine culture:
 - Hellenism (Greek/Persian culture)
 - **Eastern Orthodox Christianity**
- Major art forms: **religious icon paintings, mosaics**



Byzantine Empire: The First Great Schism

- Split between Eastern and Western forms of Christianity
 - Political division and cultural differences resulted in **growing distance between Christianity practiced in the East and the West**
 - Major debates included: the dating of **Easter**, the use of **icons**, the position of the **Pope/lack of Pope**, the type of **bread used at the Last Supper**, **celibacy/marriage** for priests
 - Ultimately, in **1054 CE** the Roman Pope **excommunicates** the Eastern Patriarch
 - The Patriarch excommunicates all Roman Catholics
 - End result:
 - Two distinct branches of Christianity: **Roman Catholicism** and **Eastern Orthodox Christianity**
 - Eastern Orthodox missionaries begin converting people in the **Balkans** and **Eastern Europe**