

## Christianity

- **Roots in Judaism**
- Conflicts w/ Rome's polytheistic beliefs
- **Jesus of Nazareth** proclaimed Messiah (Greek – *Christos* = Messiah)
- Jesus – Son of God & Incarnation of God
- New Testament – Holy Book; Gospels – Bio of Jesus
- Christian Doctrine established by Church Councils – *Nicene Creed*

### Spread of Christianity

- Popular Message
- Carried by Apostles; Martyrs inspire devotion
- Persecution by Emperors
- Acceptance by Constantine – *Edict of Milan*
- Theodosius – Official Religion of Empire (380 CE)

## Decline of the Empire

1. **Geography:** Difficult to Defend & Administer
2. **Economy:** Taxes for Military & Inflation
3. **Military:** Use of Mercenaries & decline of discipline
4. **Moral Decay**
5. **Political Problems:** Civil conflict & weak Administrators
6. **Invasion:** Germanic Tribes & Huns

## Second Triumvirate

- Octavian, Marcus Lepidus, Marc Antony
- Octavian defeats Antony at Battle of Actium
- Octavian becomes **1<sup>st</sup> Emperor – Augustus Caesar**

## Pax Romana

- 200 year period of **Peace & Prosperity**
- Augustus improves Empire: Civil Service, Secure Travel & Trade, Common Coin, & Expansion of Empire.
- Augustus *fails* to provide for peaceful succession of rulers.

# The Roman Empire

## The Empire Divides

*Officially ends 476 CE*

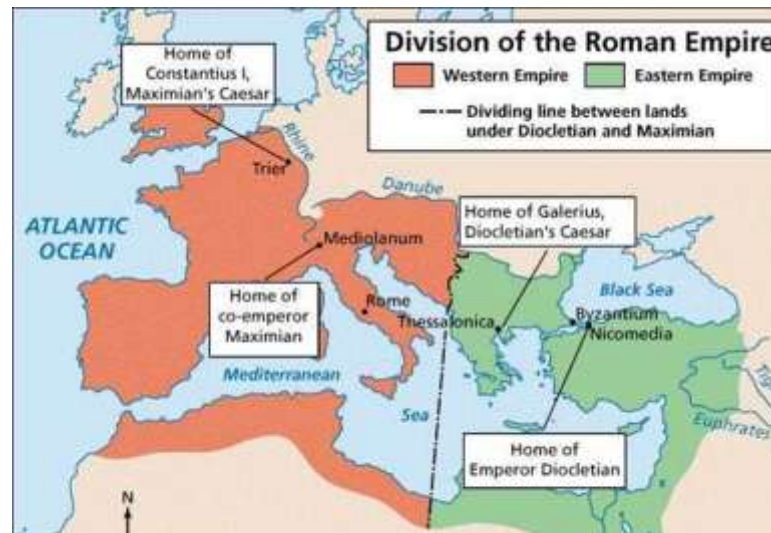


The Pantheon

## Contributions



- **Architecture:** Pantheon, Colosseum, & Forum
- **Technology:** Roads, Aqueducts, Arches, Dome
- **Science:** Ptolemy
- **Medicine:** Emphasis on Public Health
- **Language:** Latin – Romance Languages
- **Literature:** Virgil's *Aeneid*
- **History:** Tacitus, Livy
- **Law:** 12 Tables, Innocent until Proven Guilty



Constantine moves capital from Rome to Byzantium;  
Renames city **Constantinople**