

# UNIT 1: THE FALL OF ROME AND THE BYZANTINE EMPIRE

# 1. ¿What will we study and how?

**Timelines\* show when things happen in history. They can show periods and individual events. The timeline below shows the different periods of prehistory and history that we studied last year, and the period that we are going to study this year.**



# 1.1 Historical sources

A source\* is anything that gives us information about the past.

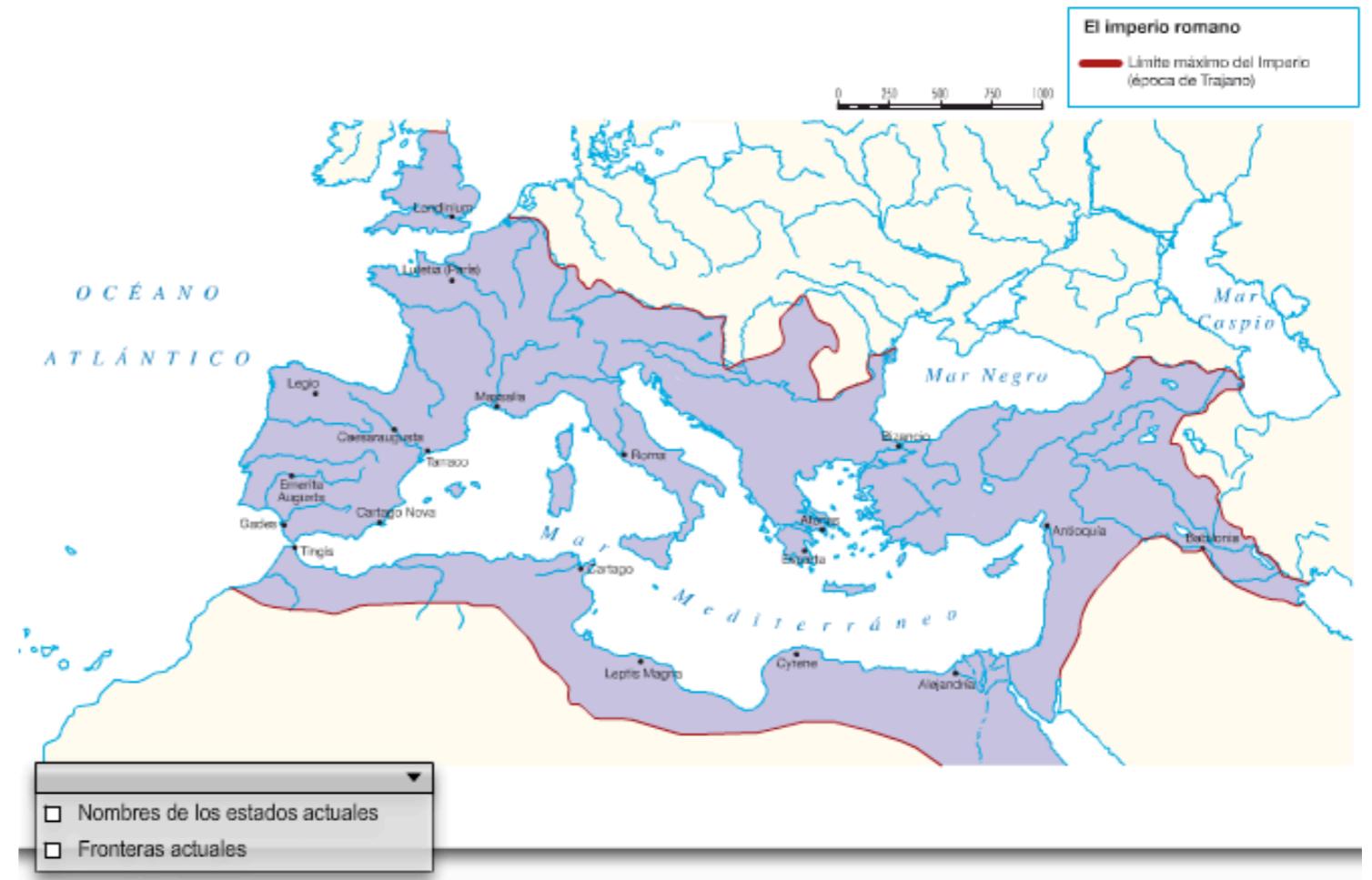
There are two types of sources:

- **Primary source**: a source from the same time as, or very soon after, the period we want to study. Buildings, tools, diaries, letters, interviews and photos are all examples of primary sources.
- **Secondary source**: a source created later by someone who was not there when the things we are studying happened. History books and biographies are secondary sources.



# 2. The fall of Rome

- The fall of Western Roman Empire marks the start of a new historical period: **Middle Ages\***.
- In this Unit we will study:



- The changes to society that happened after the fall of Rome
- The Byzantine Empire, which was one of 3 empires that emerged in this period

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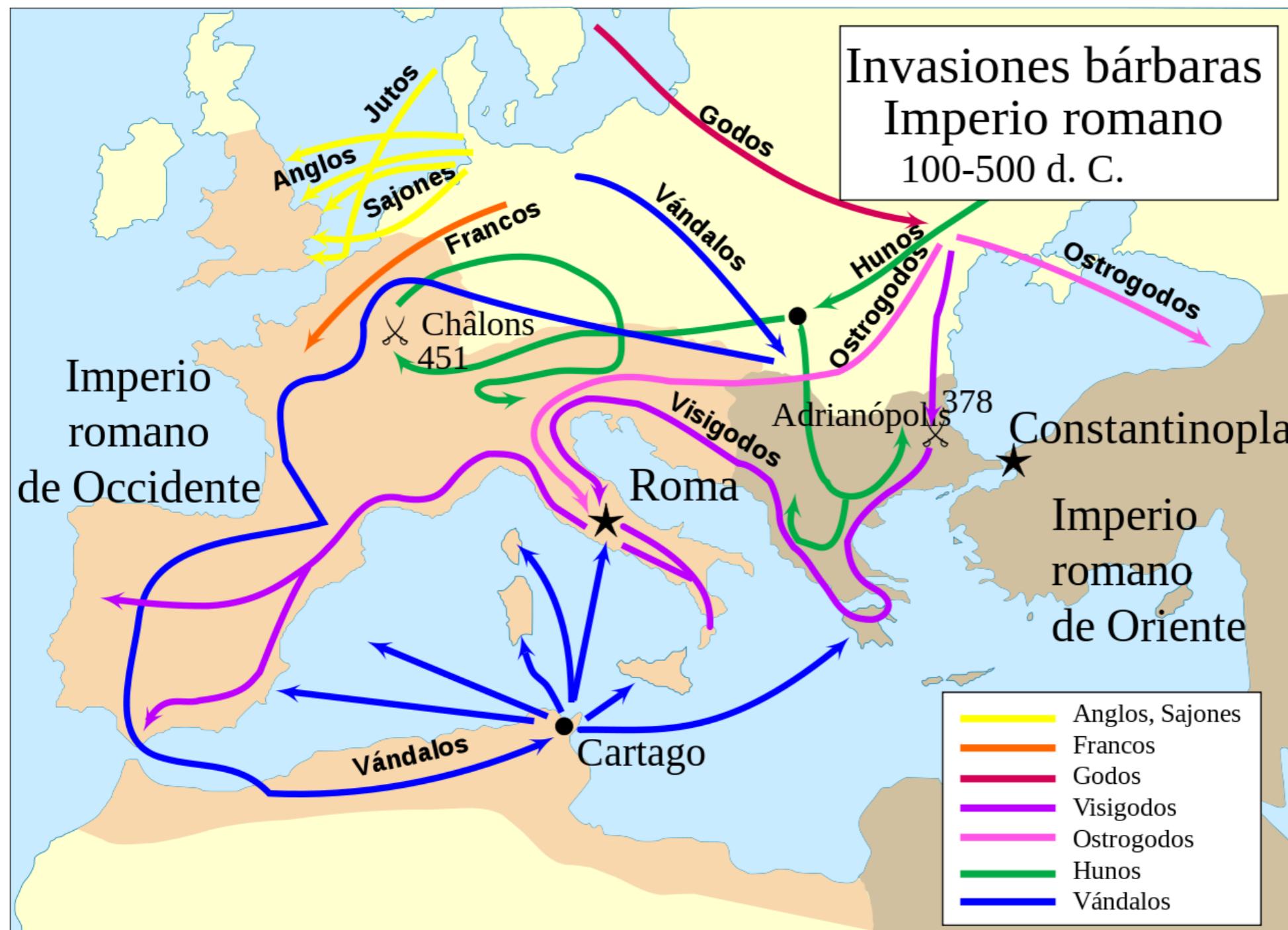
The Roman Empire dominated the Mediterranean for hundred of years, but in 395 BC, the emperor **Theodosius** divided the empire in two:

- **The Western Roman Empire**, with its capital in **Rome**, it was weak\*. It half was for his son **Honorio**.
- **The Eastern Roman Empire**, with its capital in **Constantinople**, it was stronger\*. It half was for his son **Arcadio**.
- At the end of the Empire (fifth century AD), **barbarian tribes** (people from outside the Roman Empire, like the Germanic Tribes, the romans thought that they were uncivilized), invaded the Western Roman Empire many times. In **476 AD**, the barbarian **Odoacro**, defeated the last emperor of the Western Roman Empire, **Romulus Agustus**, and Odoacer became King of Italy.



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# 2.1 LAS INVASIONES GERMANAS



This moment marks the end of Roman civilization and begins a period of invasion by Germanic peoples from all over Europe.

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- **El Imperio de Occidente en verde y el Imperio de Oriente en naranja hacia el 476**

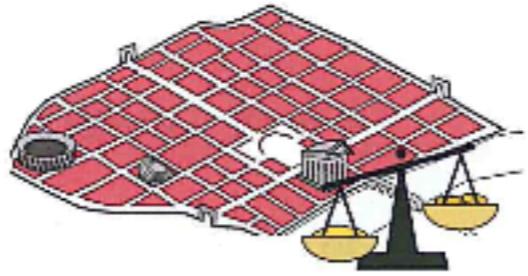
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# 2.1 CHANGES TO SOCIETY

- **ROMAN EMPIRE:**



## **Politics**

Single powerful state

## **Society**

Big towns and urban society

## **Trade\***

In every parts of the Empire

## **Economy**

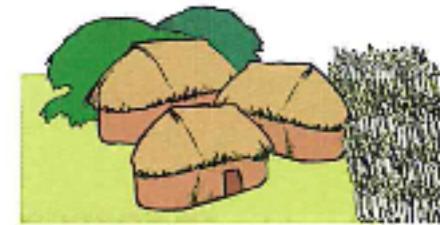
Complex

## **Culture**

Shared laws, language and culture

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- **AFTER THE ROMAN EMPIRE**



Smaller and weaker states

Rural society

Isolation\*

Simple economy,  
agriculture

Shared laws, language  
and culture

Western Roman Empire was very **unstable**. The Empire had a professional army, so citizens were not accustomed to fighting. So they couldn't defend from the barbarians.

The changes to society was so important because in **476 BC** mark of **the end of Antiquity**, to start a new historical period: the **Middle Ages**.

Some historians says that **Middle Ages ends** in **1492** when **Columbus arrives to America**, but another historians says that, in **1453** with the invasion of ottomans turks, causing the **fall of Eastern Empire**.

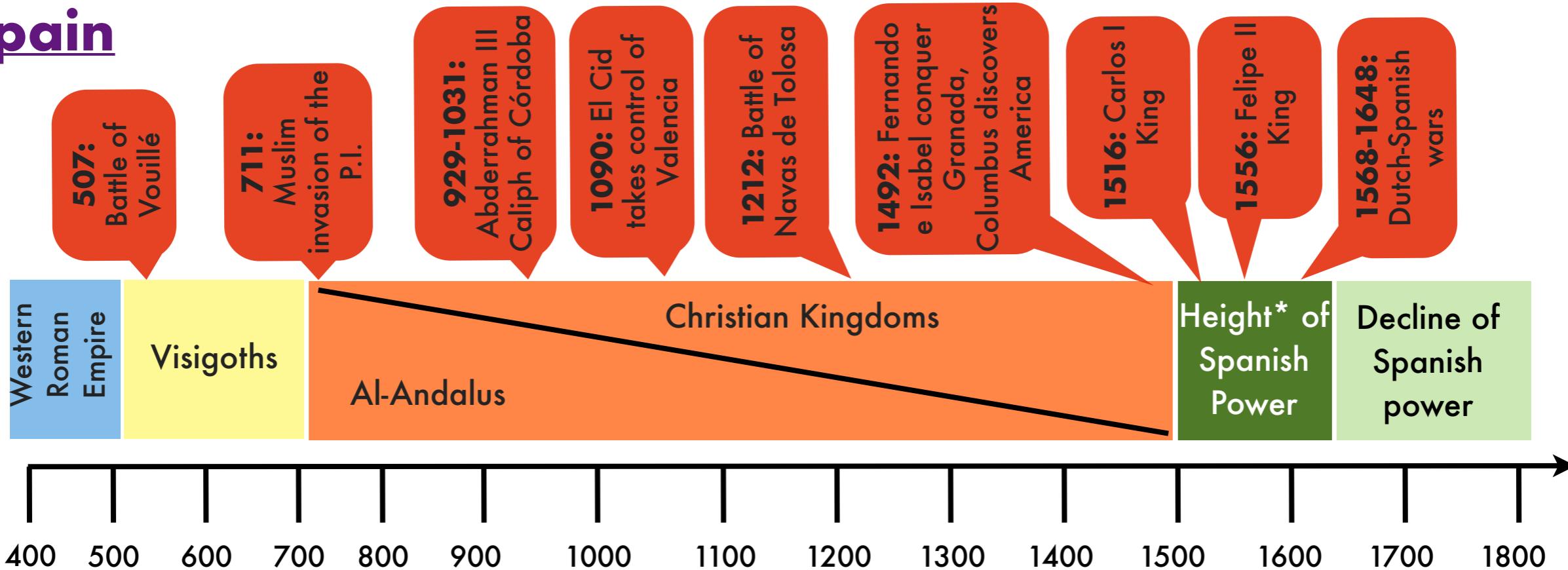
When the Middle Ages finished, it start the **Modern Age**. It finished with the **French Revolution in 1789**.

In this way, along ESO-2 we will study: **The Middle Ages and the Modern Age**.

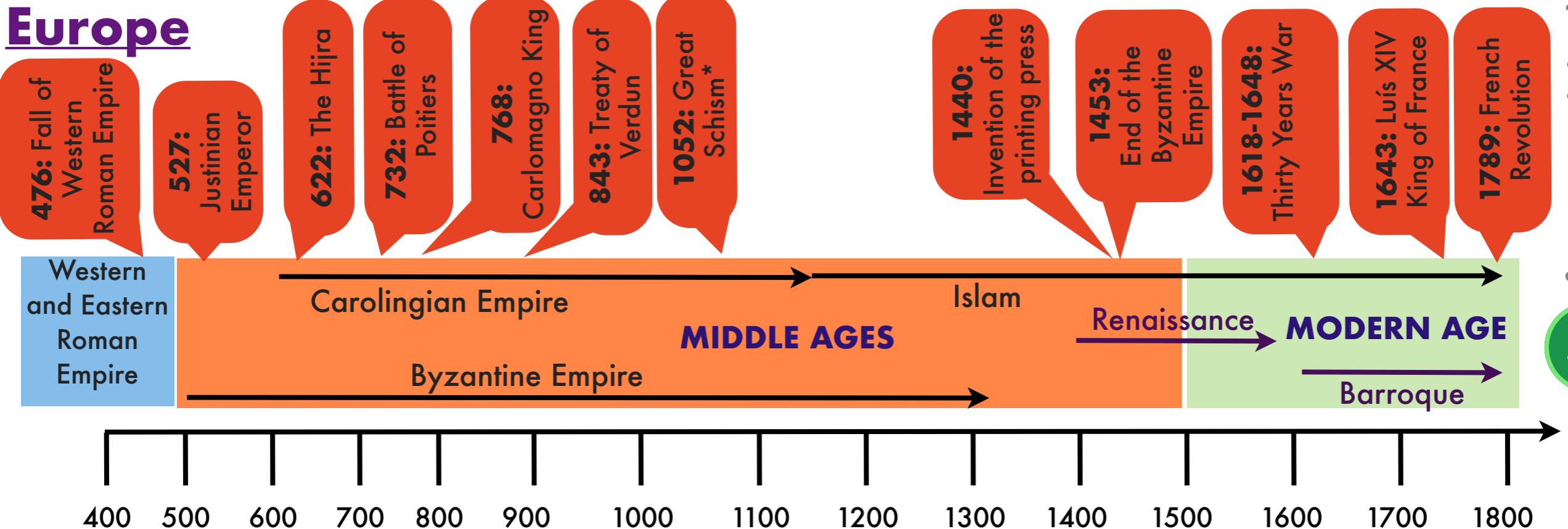


**In this timelines we can see the more important historical events that happened in the Middle Ages and Modern Age in Spain and Europe.**

## Spain



## Europe



# Ejercicios en la libreta:

Para el próximo día tienes que tener los apuntes de esta parte en tu libreta.



### 3. The early Middle Ages: the three empires

- After the fall of the Western Roman Empire, germanic tribes fought for take control of the Empire. Angles and Saxons invaded Britain, the Franks Gaul\*, and the Visigoths took control of the Iberian Peninsula.



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- **The Carolingian Empire:** was the empire of the Franks. They controlled what is now France, Germany, northern Italy and Iberian Peninsula.
  - **Islamic Empires:** controlled North Africa, Arabia and Persia. In 711 they invaded the Iberian Peninsula and founded Al Andalus.
  - **Byzantine Empire:** Eastern Roman Empire Byzantine Empire.



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# 4. The Byzantine Empire

The Byzantine Empire kept\* the **strong government, laws and traditions** from the Roman Empire. It was a powerful state with big cities like the capital: **Constantinople**, or the city Antioch.

But they had influenced by the Greek culture too:

- **The official language**: changed from latin to greek
- **Emperor title**: it was called **Basileus** like greek tradition



# 4.1 Justiniano

In the sixth century, the Emperor Justinian conquered many places from the Western Roman Empire. He took North Africa from the Vandals, Italy from the Ostrogoths and the southern part of the Iberian Peninsula from the Visigoths. It was the biggest Empire during Justinian's reign in 550.



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**Justinian (527 - 565)** governed with the help of his wife **Teodora**. He was famous for expanding the Byzantine Empire, he built the Hagia Sofia and the Justinian Code.

- **Justinian Code:** It was a **collection of books containing roman laws and new laws writed by Justinian**. A lot of laws in many europeans countries are still based in this code. For example, one of the laws said that a person was innocent until proven guilty\*.



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**La emperatriz Teodora, esposa de Justiniano, siglo VI. Mosaico de la iglesia de San Vital de Rávena**

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## Extensión del Imperio de Justiniano.

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# Ejercicios en la libreta:

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## 4.2 Byzantine society

The Emperor had absolute political, religious and military power. The Empire organization was very efficient:

### ARISTOCRACY

- Civil servants: They worked for the government, they collect taxes\* and they make sure that people obey laws.
- The Empire was divided in provinces: the provinces were called themes. Each province was governed by a stratego.
- Strong army It defend the Empire
- Church

### PEOPLE:

- The rest of the society: farms, peasants\*, artisans, merchants.
- Servants and slaves\*



## 4.3 Byzantine Economy

The **Byzantine Empire was rich and powerful**. We learn their characteristics:

- **It was in the Middle of Europe and Asia:** so important for trade between East and West.
- **Luxury items:** perfumes, spices and silk\*, that came from India and China.
- **Mediterranean control** Their ships traded along Mediterranean Sea.
- **Trade with money:** It was called Solidus, and it was used as international currency.
- **Constantinople** was the capital of the Empire, and one of the biggest and richest cities in the world. It had a population of over 500.000.



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# Rutas comerciales / Trade



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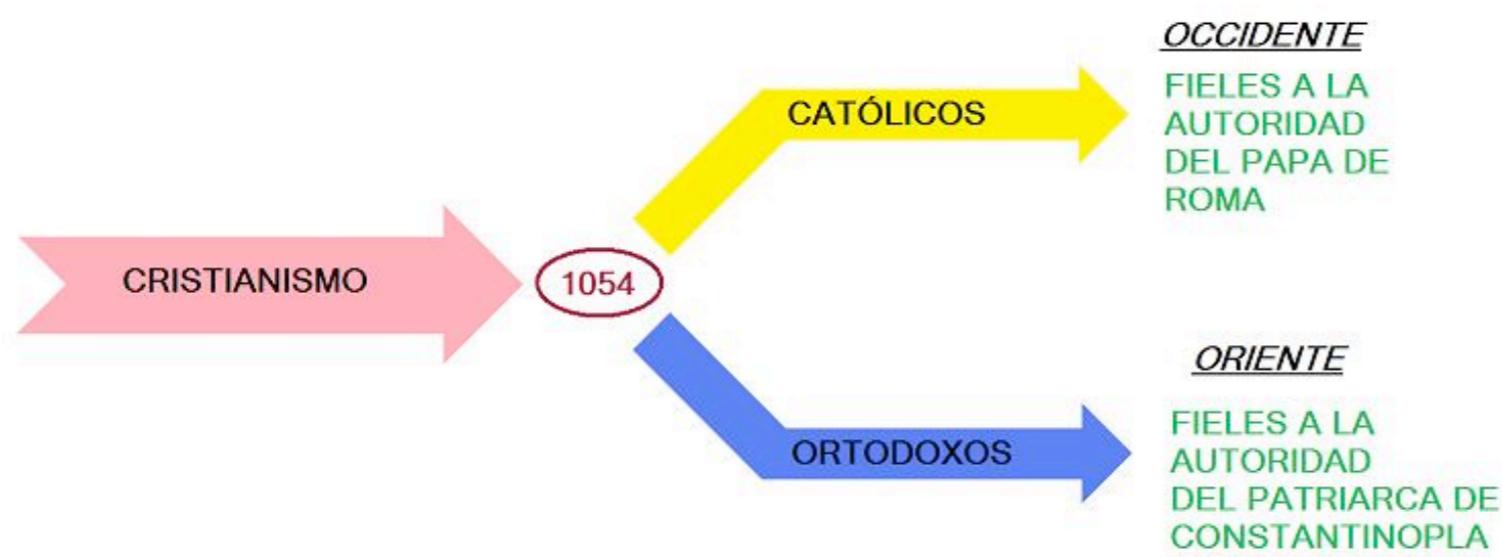
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## 4.4 Religion

The Byzantine Empire was. At first, the emperors respect the pop of the Christian Church. However Byzantine Churches developed their own rites, that were different.

It started the discussion between the Pope of the Western Empire and the Patriarch of the East of the Empire. This was the Great schism\* split the Christian Church into two:

- **The Roman Catholic Church**
- **The Eastern Orthodox Church**



## 4.5 The decline of the Byzantine Empire

After Justinian died, the Byzantine Empire lost the conquered territories: Visigoths took the south of Iberian Peninsula and the Lombards took Italy. In the seventh century, the Islamic Empire took North Africa, Palestine and Syria.

- After that, the Byzantine Empire was small, it takes what is now Greek and Turkey.
- A gradual decline, but it remained hundreds of years.
- The Ottoman Empire arracked the Byzantine Empire many times, till in 1453 the Ottoman Empire took Constantinople. It was the end of the Byzantine Empire. Historians says that it is the end of the Middle Ages and the start os the Modern Age.





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# Ejercicios en la libreta:

Para el próximo día tienes que tener los apuntes de esta parte en tu libreta.



# Ejercicio en el blog:

Para la fecha que indique la profesora, hay que realizar el siguiente ejercicio en el blog:

- Investiga en internet y publica una entrada hablando sobre el papel de Teodora junto a Justiniano o Busca información sobre el Imperio Otomano, cuál era su religión y qué nombre le dieron después a Constantinopla. (Máximo 10 frases)

**Recuerda:** Puedes publicar ambas entradas, pero diferencia una de otra. Tendrás así un doble positivo. Adjunta imágenes para que quede el blog completo y elegante.

\*La entrada tiene que estar escrita en español y debajo su traducción en inglés.



# 5. Byzantine art

The Byzantine art expressed the emperors and church power. Their more important manifestations were: architecture, mosaics and icons.

## **Characteristics:**

- Roman inheritance. The Byzantine art comes from the roman art, as a matter of fact byzantine culture is the actual follower of the late roman culture.
- Its main lines are:
  - Religiousness
  - Excessive and luxurious decorative tendencies. Abuse of rich materials in decoration.
  - Poor building materials.

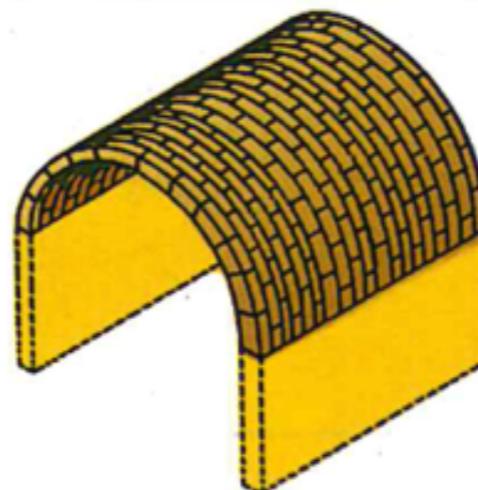


## Architecture characteristics:

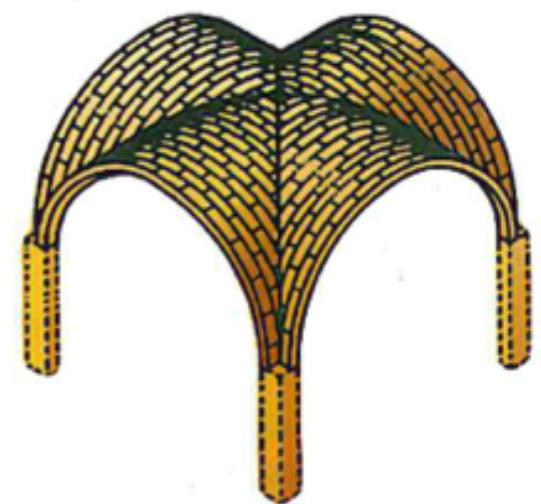
- **Building materials:** Poor: Bricks\*, cement and wood covered with rich materials as marble\* or mosaics.
- **Structural elements,** Corinthian style columns and round arch or semicircular arch.
- Roofs\*: **Pendentives\***, Domes\* supported by pendentives. **Gabled\* roofs.**
- **Plans: greek cross, centralized or basilican.**



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Bóveda de cañón.



Bóveda de arista.

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- Construcciones en forma de cruz griega, que tiene los cuatro brazos de la misma longitud son típicas del arte bizantino.

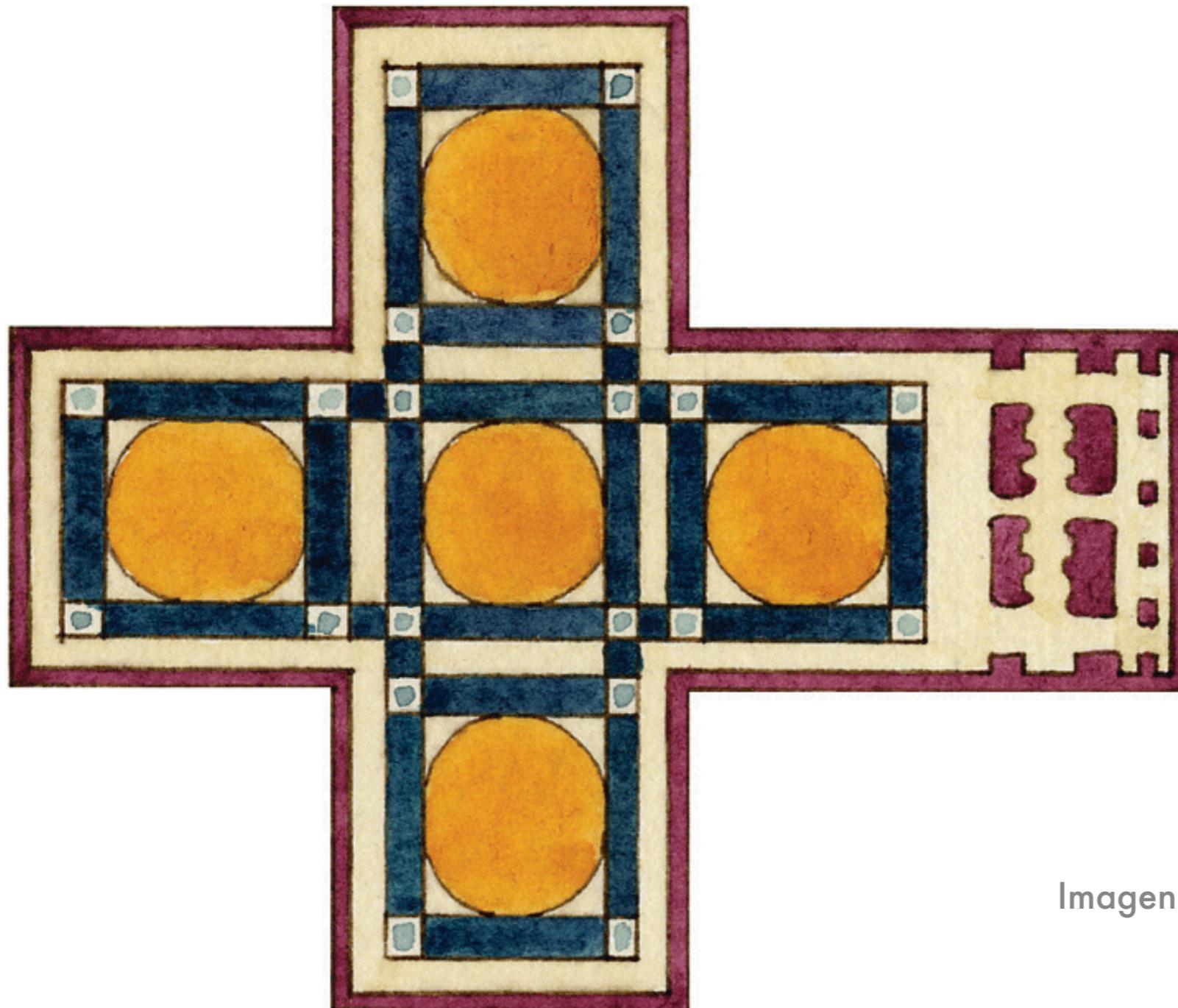


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# Iglesia de San Marcos, Venecia

Levantada sobre el lugar en el que, según la leyenda, está enterrado el cuerpo del evangelista Marcos, esta iglesia es una de las obras clave del arte bizantino.



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# Mausoleo de Santa Constanza



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# San Apolinar in Classe, Rávena



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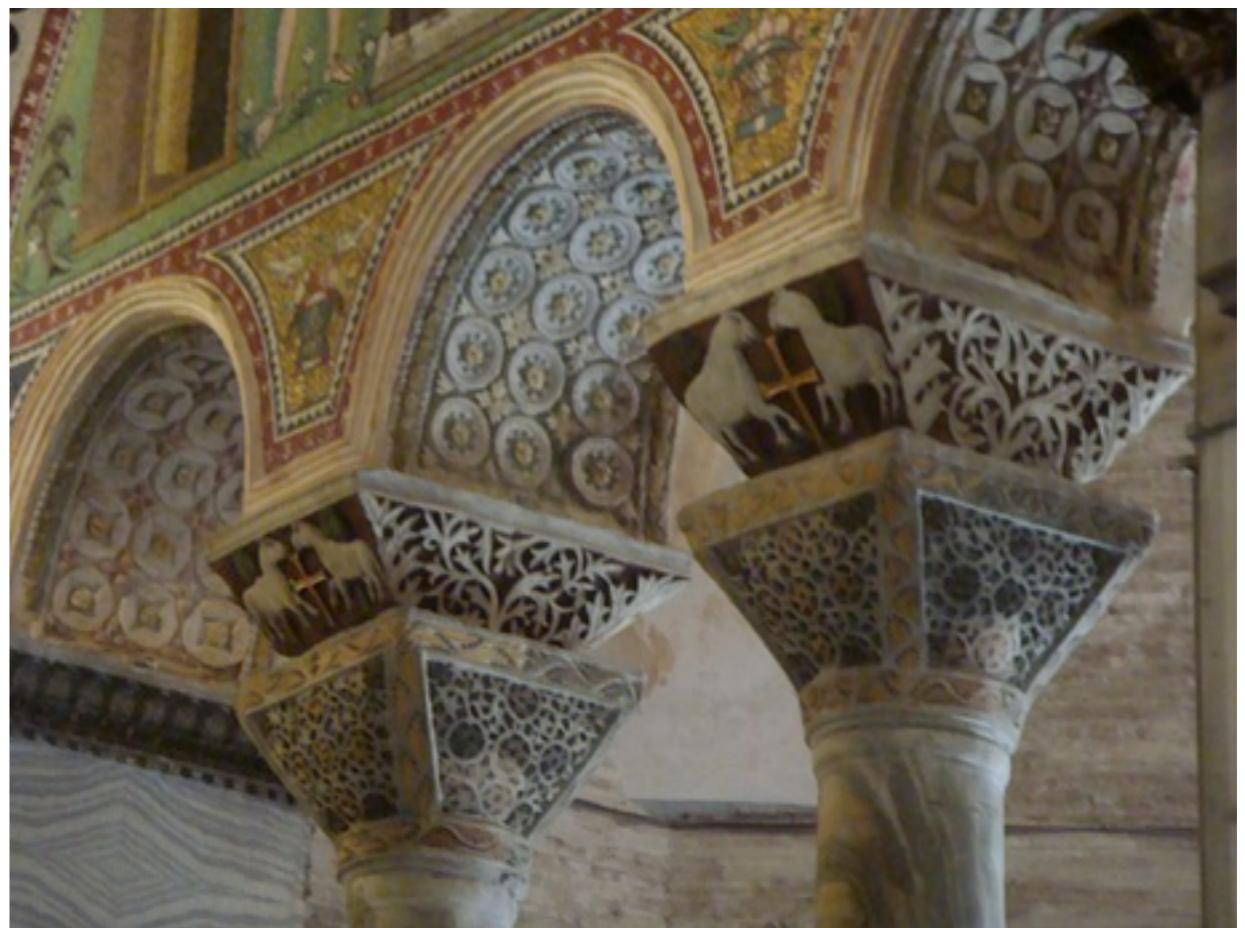
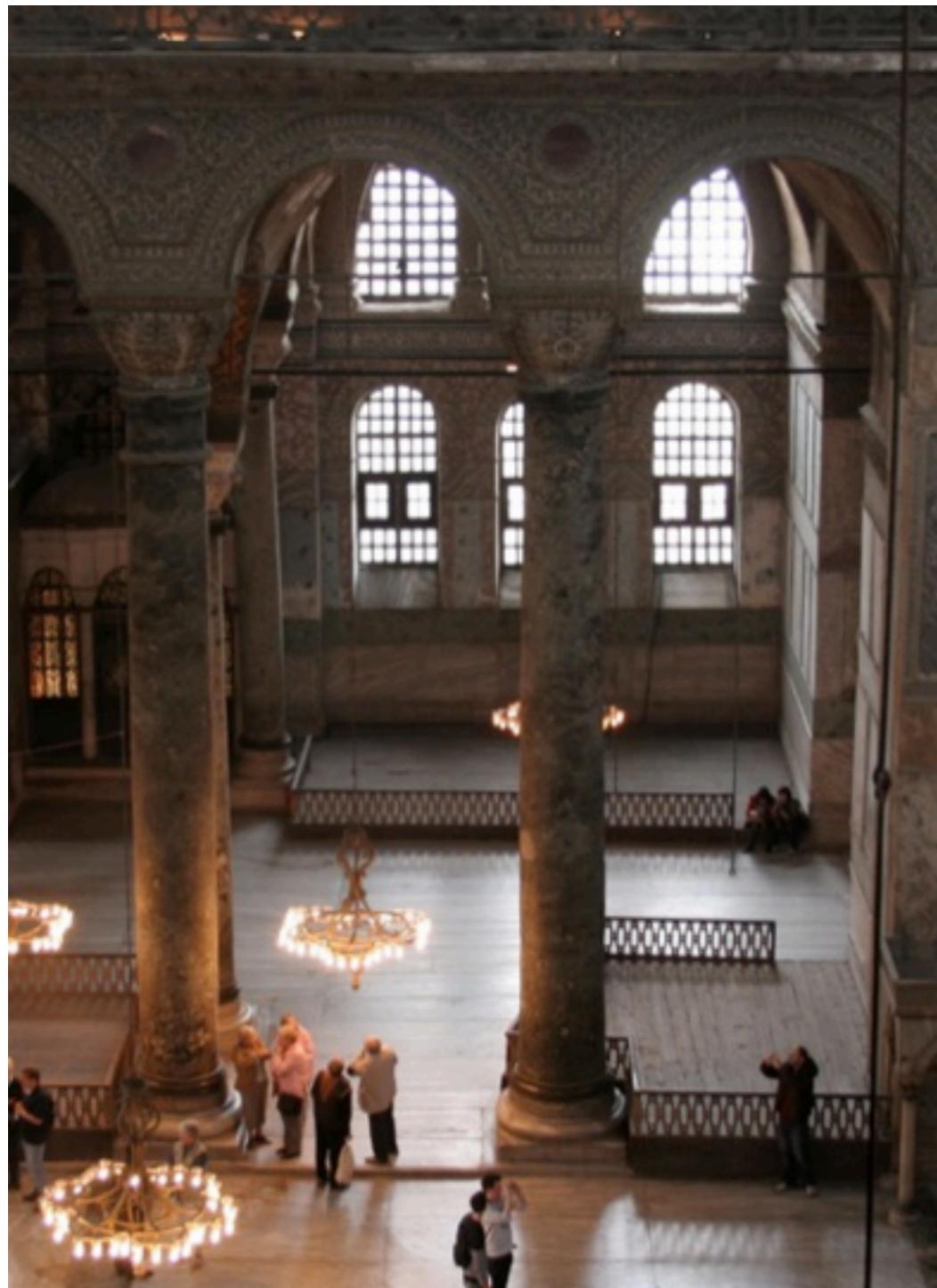


## **Materials:**

- Byzantines built their buildings of bricks and cement like the romans, but they don't cover it rich materials like marbles in the facade like romans.



## Elementos sustentantes / Supporting elements:

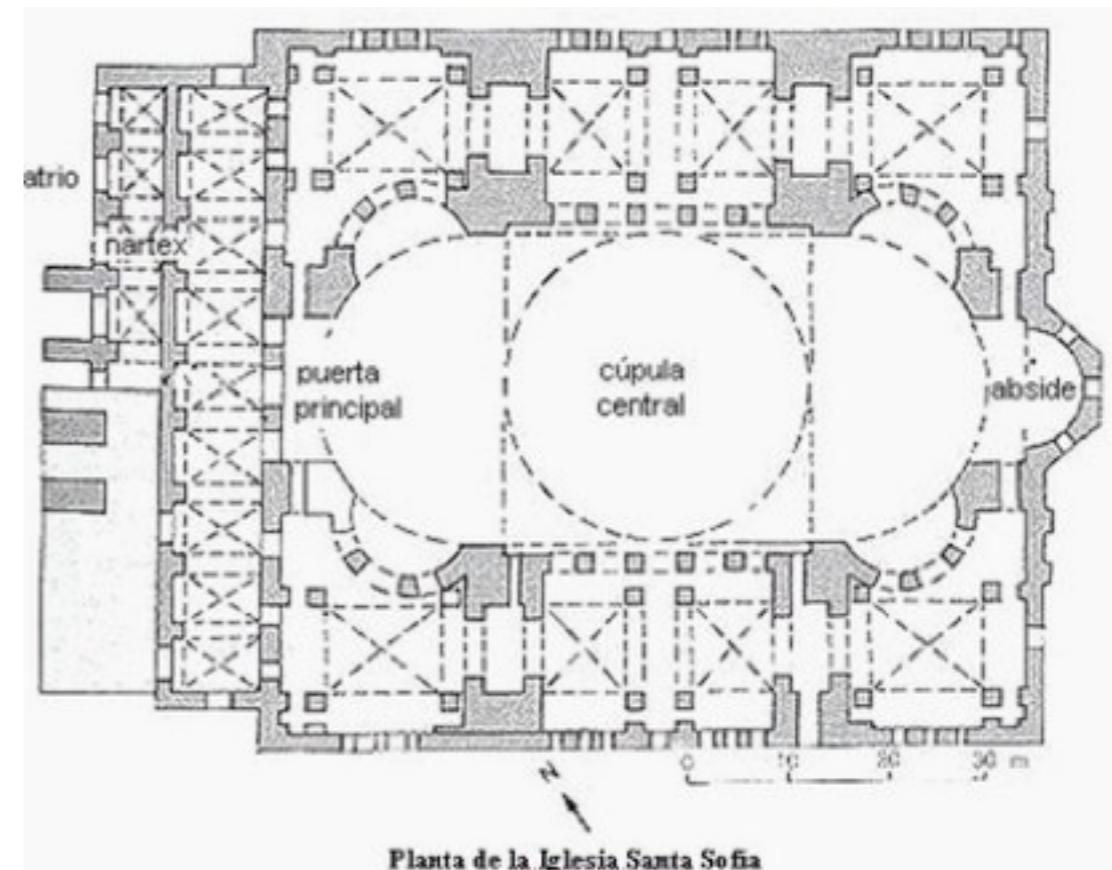
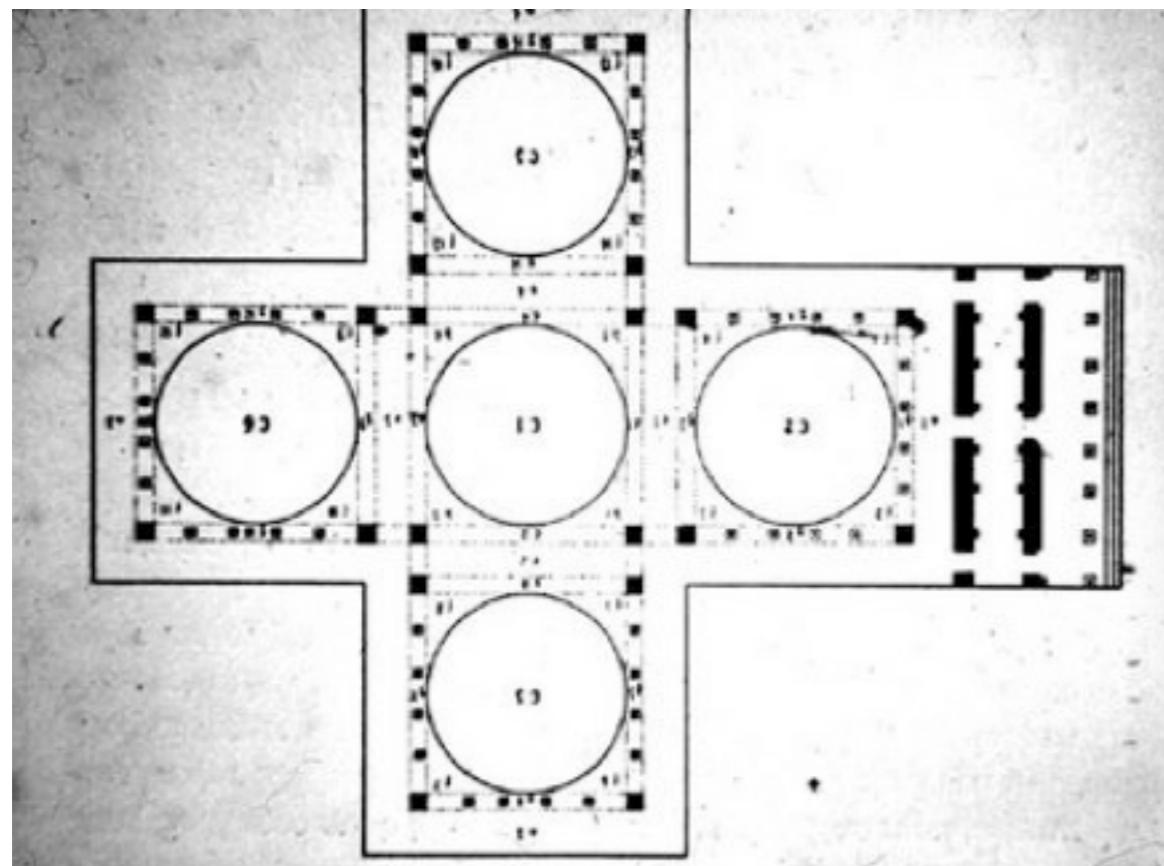


## Cubiertas / Roofs



## Plantas / Plans

- Byzantine churches plans used to be centralized, greek cross or basilican as well, this helped the use of domes as roofing.



## EL ARTE BIZANTINO: CARACTERÍSTICAS GENERALES.



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En la capital del imperio se construyeron numerosos monumentos artísticos y obras públicas al estilo de las ciudades romanas.

La fisonomía de Bizancio estaba muy influenciada por el urbanismo romano.



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# Constantinopla

Recreación gráfica de la ciudad de Constantinopla.

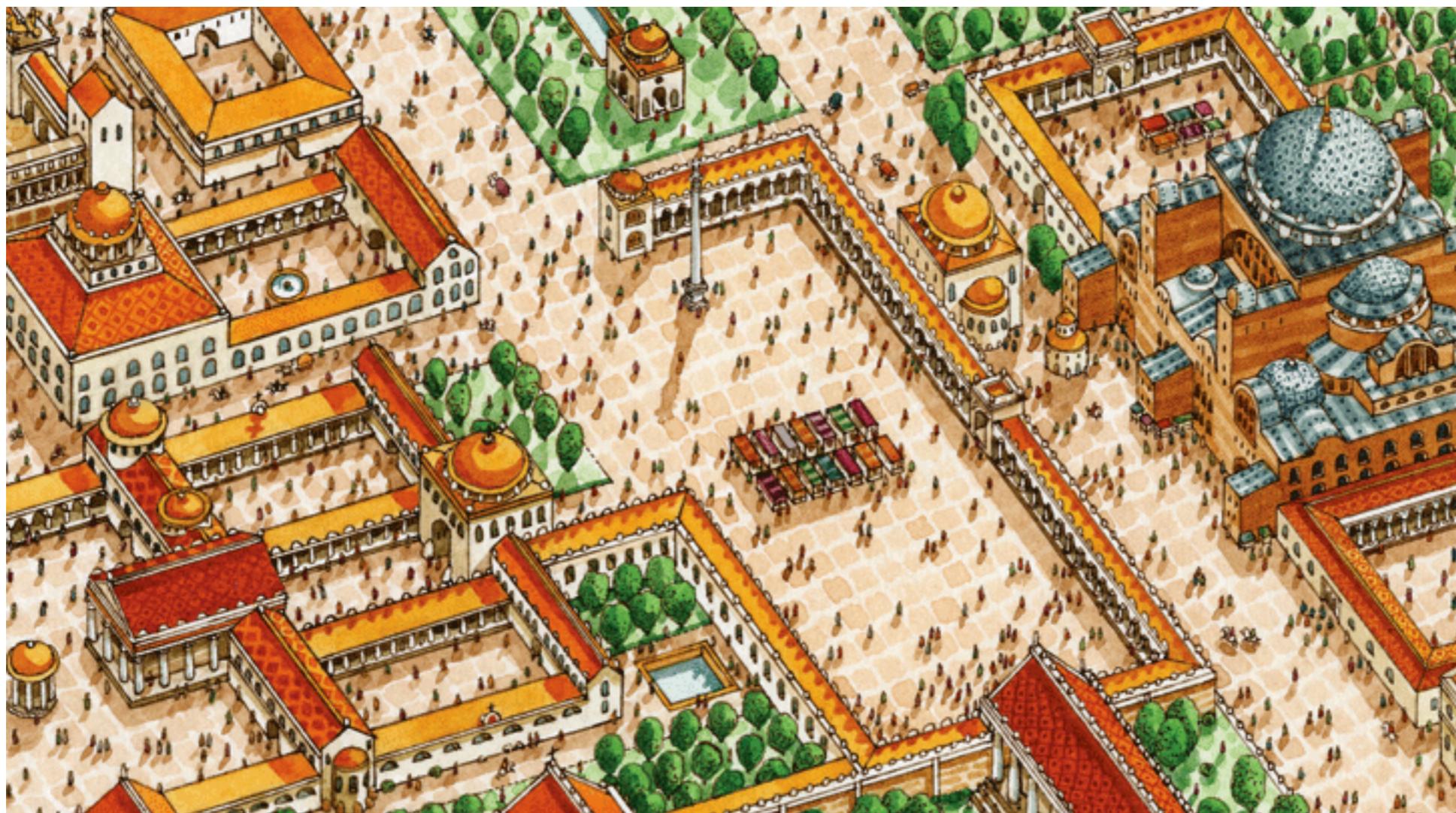


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**Mosaics:** It was classical with greek and roman art, and they try to do it realistic. Byzantines used them on the inside walls of the churches to hide the poor building materials. They normally showed religious subjects, that are called icons.



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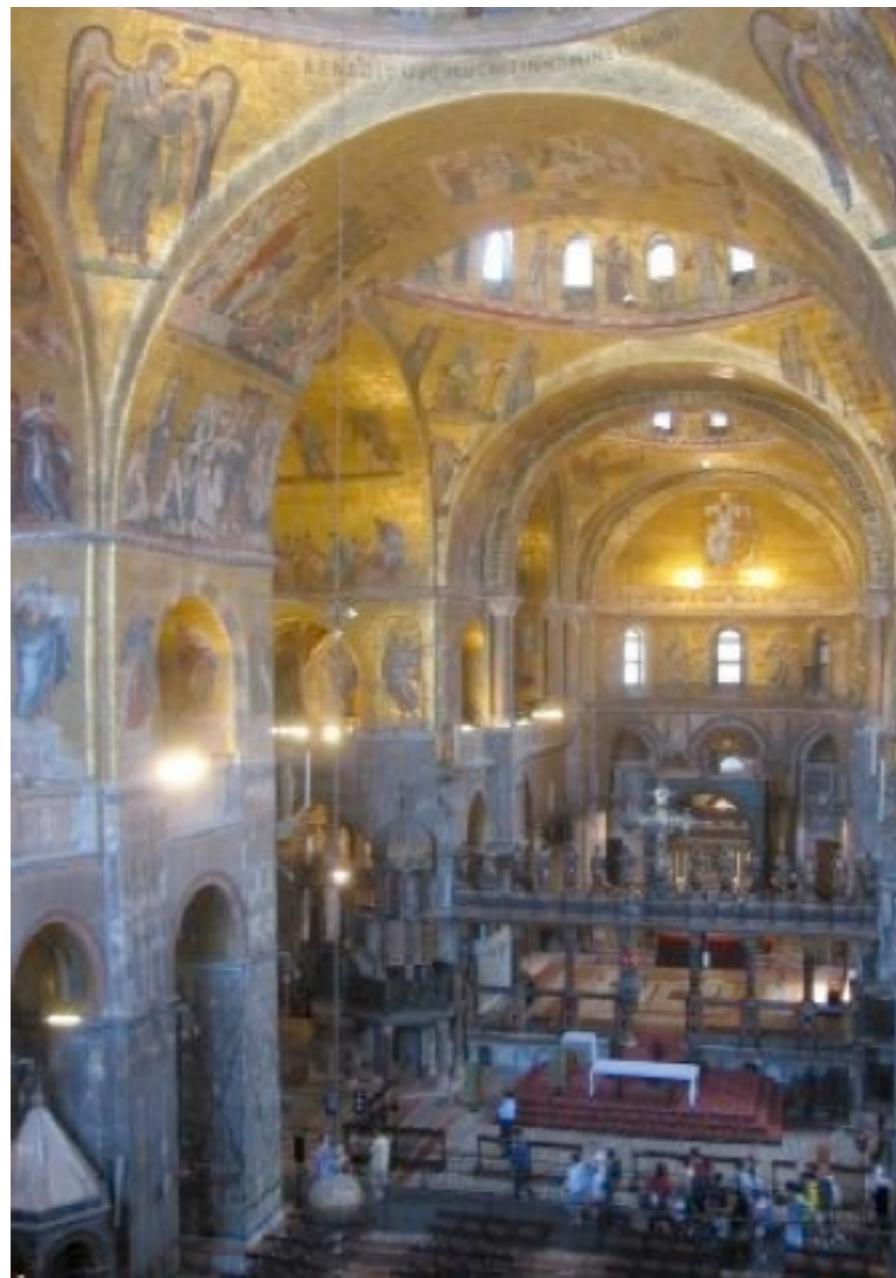


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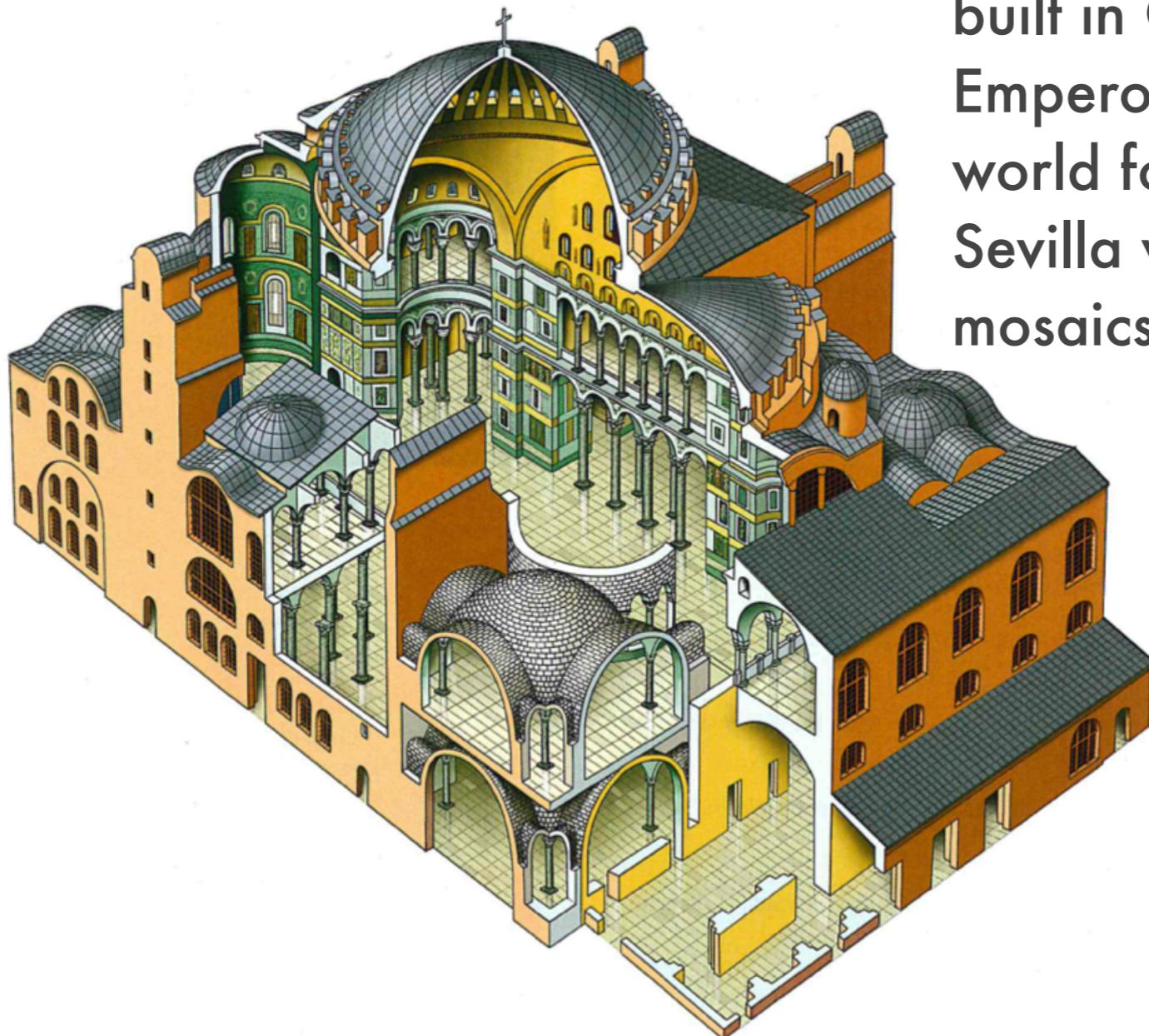
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## **Los marfiles:**

Los objetos decorativos y suntuarios de Oriente, entre los que destacan los marfiles, fueron conocidos por apropiación o intercambio, en Occidente.



# Hagia Sofia



**Hagia Sofia:** The most important example of architecture was Hagia Sofia, a big cathedral built in Constantinople when Justinian was Emperor. It was the biggest cathedral in the world for a long time, since the Cathedral of Sevilla was built. Hagia Sofia have gold mosaics.

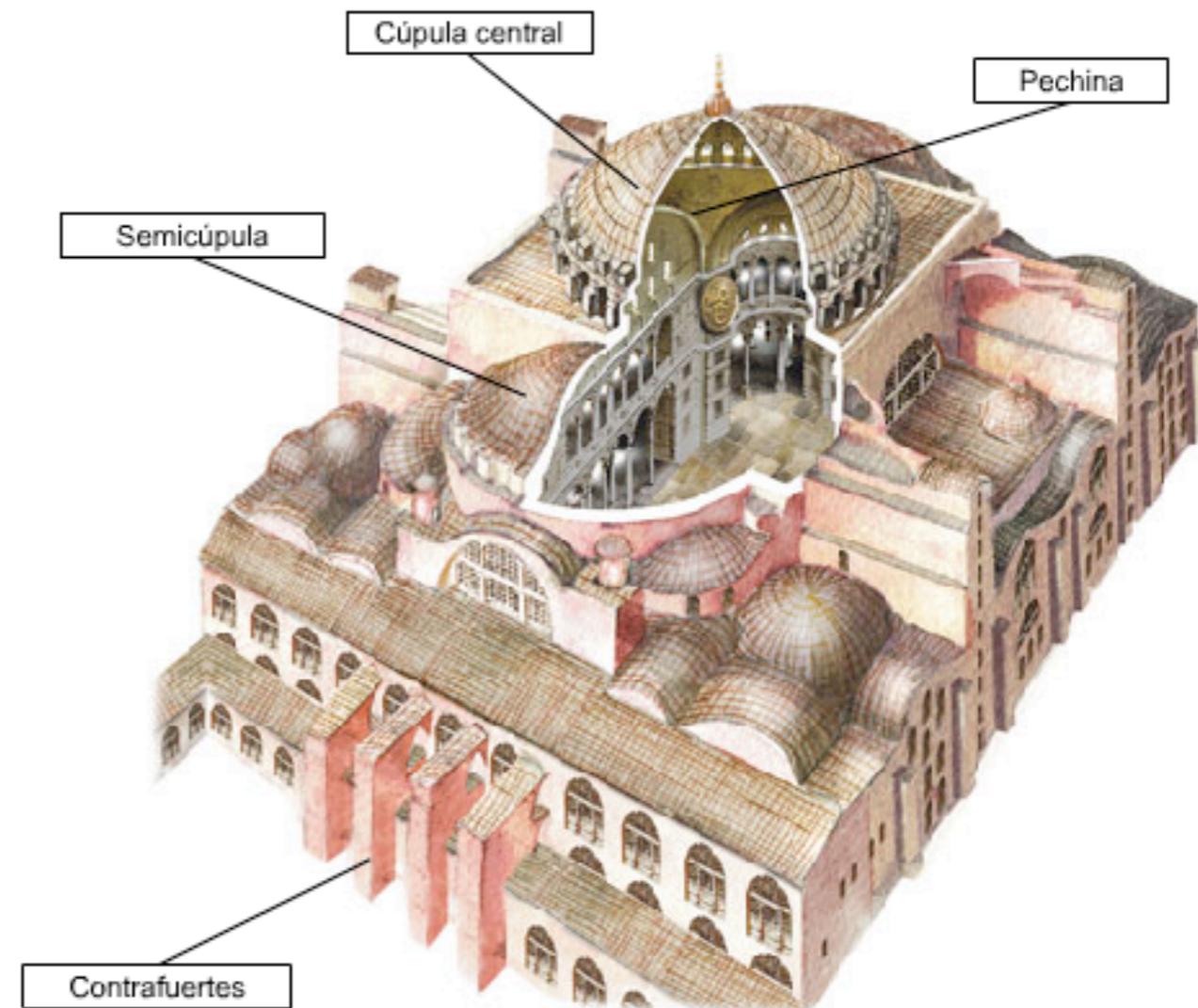
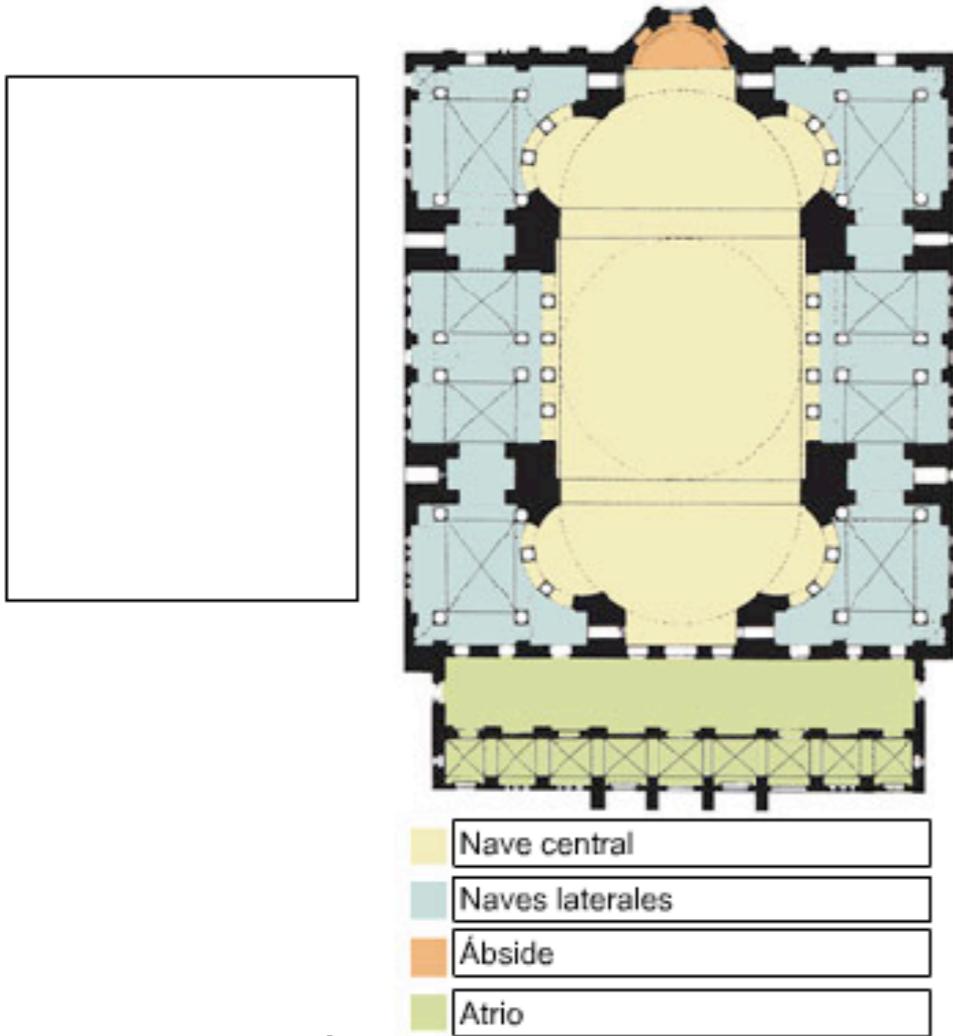
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La iglesia de Santa Sofía es uno de los edificios más impresionantes de la Historia. Con sus 55 metros de altura y el complejo sistema de bóvedas encabalgadas y soportes descendentes, es una construcción de grandes proporciones que, sin embargo, fue edificada en solo 5 años.



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## Basílica de Santa Sofía



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The whole building was conceived due to support its great dome 56,6 meters high and 31,7 wide. After the fall of the city in 1453 turks became it into a mosque. Since 1935 has no longer religious cult and it's a museum.



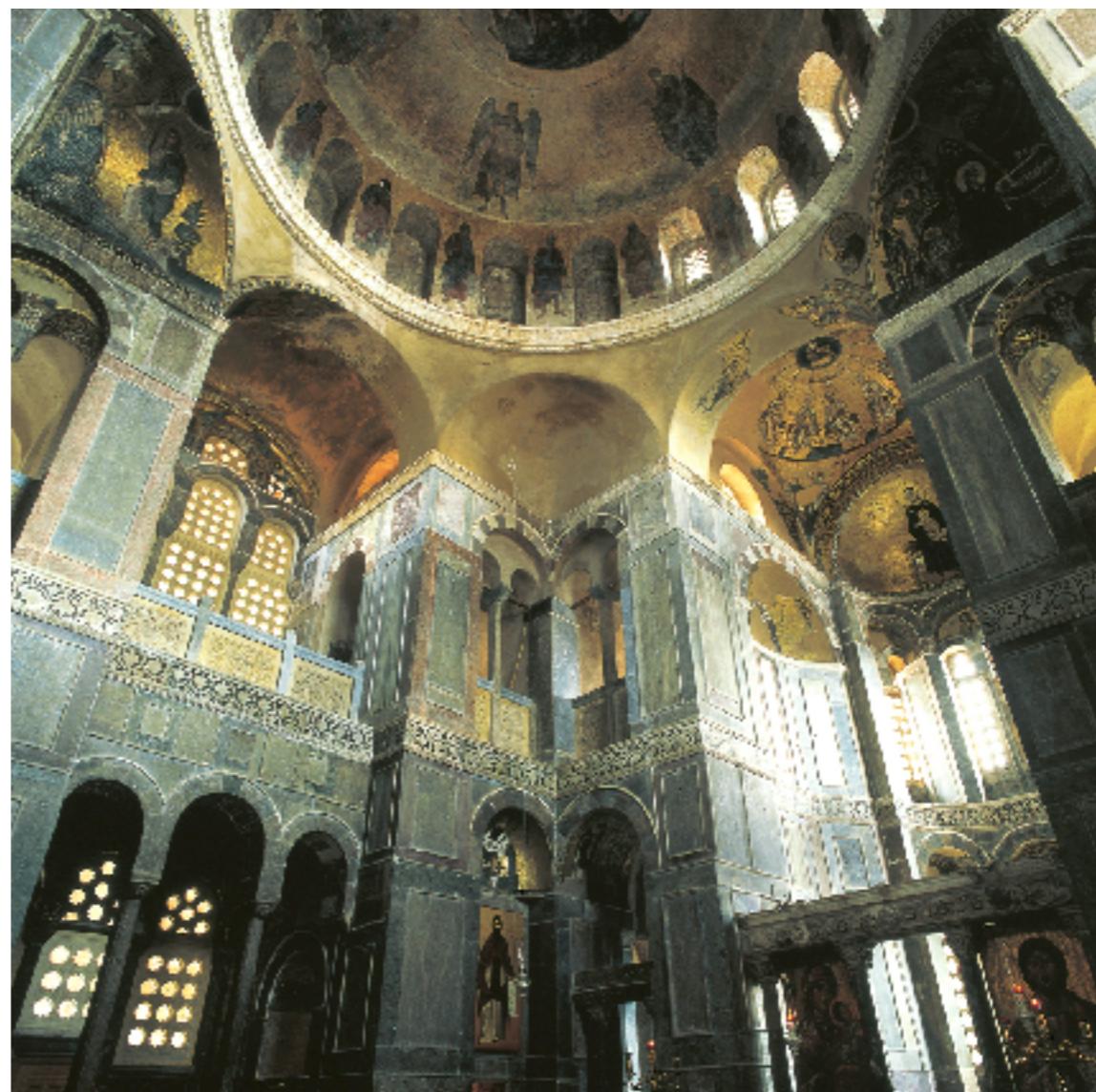
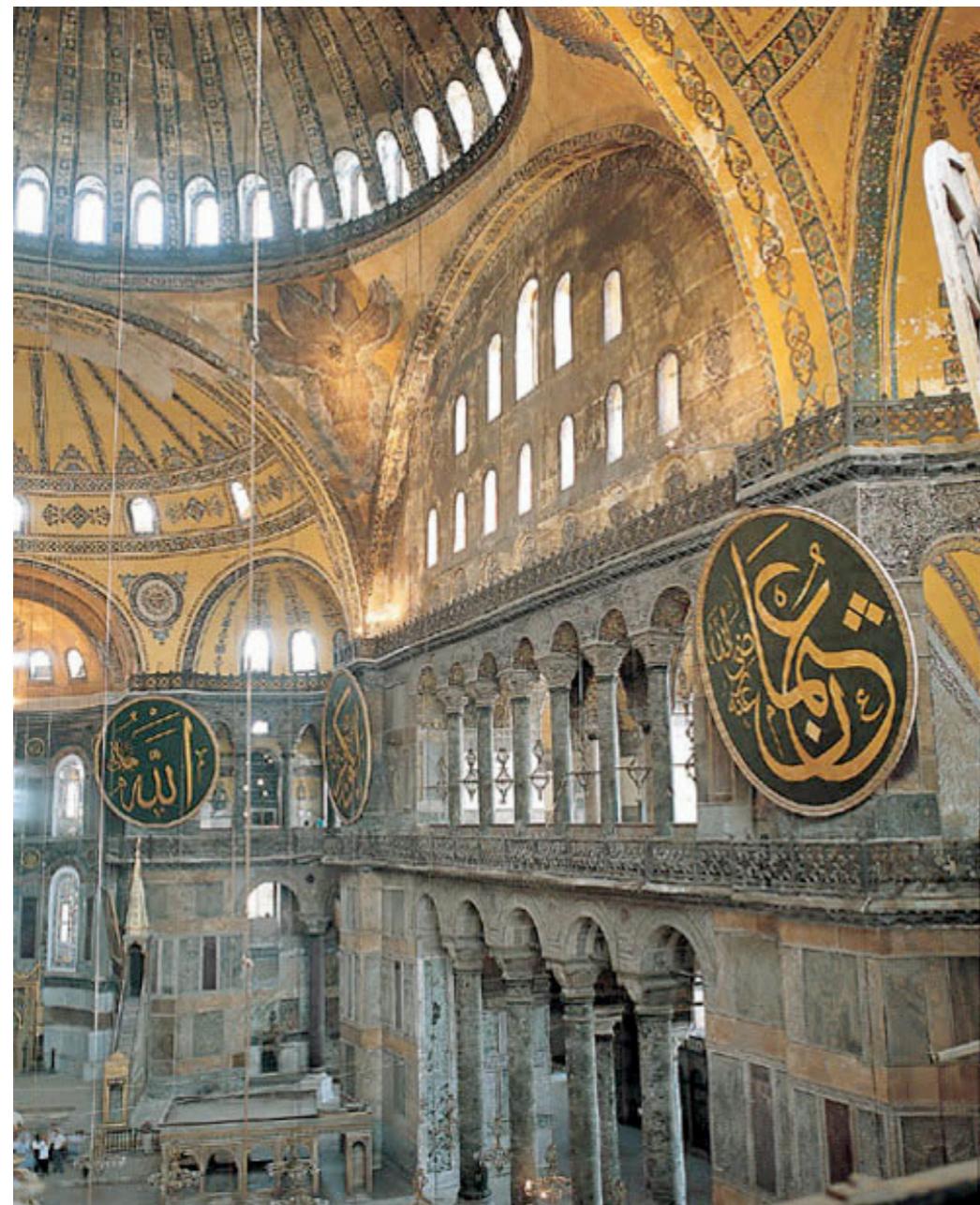
# Santa Sofía / Hagia Sofia



Los minaretes actuales fueron añadidos después,  
cuando la Iglesia fue convertida Mezquita en 1453



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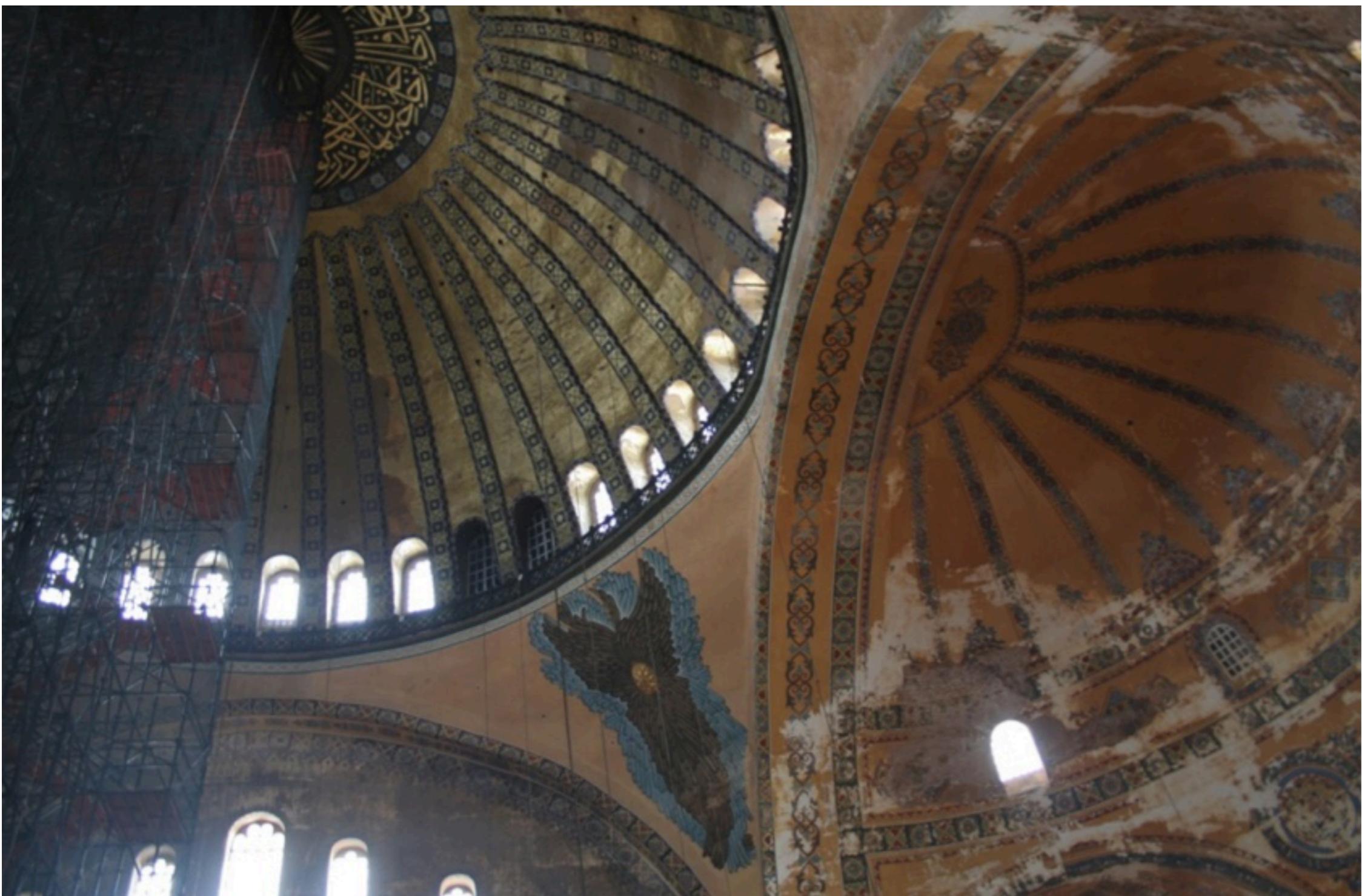


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# MAPA CONCEPTUAL DEL IMPERIO BIZANTINO



# Ejercicios en la libreta:

Para el próximo día tienes que tener los apuntes de esta parte en tu libreta.



# Glosario

Basileus, Patriarca, herejía, bóveda de arista, pechina, icono, cisma.

# Glossary

source, weak, stronger, trade, isolation, Gaul, taxes, peasants, slave, silk, schism, brick, marble, dome, roof



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