

HIST 228 Lecture 2  
Ascent of an Intolerant Empire



HIST 302 Spring 2012

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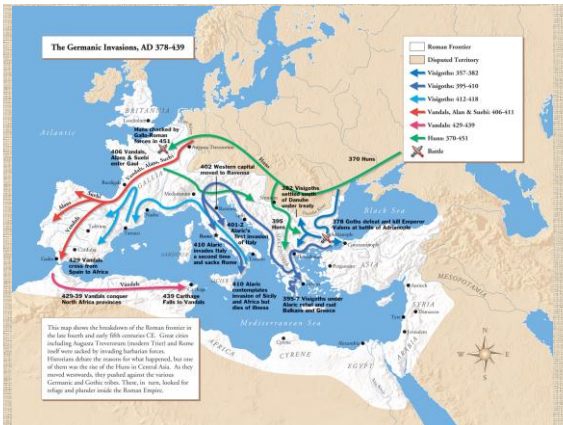
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Germanic Peoples

- Tribal society based on the nuclear family
  - 3 classes: warrior; peasants; sages
  - “war band” egalitarian and somewhat democratic
- Lived outside the Empire
  - Considered by Romans as “Other”
- Arian form of Christianity
- One branch known as Goths
  - a single culture with heterogeneous ethnic composition

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### Battle of Adrianople 378 CE

**372 CE** Western Goths having settled south of Danube (Bulgaria) go to Constantinople to ask for permission to settle.

- They are paid off every year, but then a change in “barbarian” policy

**378 CE** Emperor Valens assembles an army and is defeated at Adrianople

- New Emperor Theodosius pays them to relocate and police Noricum in Western half of Empire (*foedus*)

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### Visigoths Move Towards Italy




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### Sack of Rome 410 CE

After Adrianople

**382** New Emperor Theodosius pays them to relocate and police Noricum in Western half of Empire (*foedus*)

**401** They ask Ravenna for payoff  
401-2 first invasion turned back by Stilicho  
Difficult with marshes and defensive structures

**410** Rome is sacked for three days  
– King Alaric

**412** Move out of Italy and settle around Toulouse (418)

**507** Pushed into Spain by Franks

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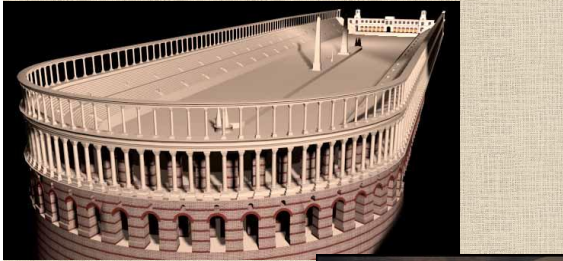
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**The Hippodrome**

- center of political exchange between Emperor and *populi Romani*
- Sports factions double as political parties




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**Inscription of Theodosius' Obelisk**

• DIFFICILIS QVONDAM DOMINIS PARERE SERENIS IVSSVS ET EXINCTIS PALMEM PORTARE TYRANNIS OMNIA THEODOSIO CEDVNT SOBOLIQVE PERENNI TER DENIS SIC VICTVS EGO DOMITVSQVE DIEBVS IVDICE SVB PROCLO SVPERAS ELATVS AD AVRAS

• "Though formerly I opposed resistance, I was ordered by one man to obey the serene masters and to carry their palms, once the tyrants had been overcome. All things yield to Theodosius and to his everlasting descendants. This is true of me too - I was mastered and overcome in three times ten days and raised towards the summit of the winds, under governor Proculus."

• ΚΙΟΝΑ ΤΕΤΡΑΠΛΕΥΡΟΝ ΑΕΙ ΧΘΩΝΙ ΚΕΙΜΕΝΟΝ ΑΧΘΟΣ ΜΩΥΝΟΣ ΑΝΑΤΗΧΑΙ ΘΕΥΔΑΟΣΙΟΣ ΒΑCΙΛΕΥC ΤΟΛΜΗCΑC ΠΡΟΚΛΟC ΕΠΕΚΕΚΑΛΕΤΟ ΚΑΙ ΤΟCΟC ΕCΤΗ ΚΙΩΝ ΗΛΙΟΙC ΕΝ ΤΡΙΑΚΟΝΤΑ ΔΥΟ

• "This column with four sides which lay on the earth, only the emperor Theodosius dared to lift again its burden ; Proclus was invited to execute his order , and this great column stood up in 32 days."

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### Christian Culture in the 4<sup>th</sup> C.

- Christian Intellectuals came to dominate cultural life of the Empire
- Origen (185-254)
    - souls were previously in an ideal state
    - now not ideal-fall
  - Athanasius of Alexandria (293-373)
    - first person to identify the same 27 books of the New Testament in use today
    - Council of Rome (382); Council of Carthage (397)
  - Cappadocian Fathers (Basil; Gregory Nazianos; Gregory Nyssa)
    - defined Trinity at Council of Constantinople
    - against Arianism
  - In the West
    - Jerome
    - Ambrose vs Symmachus

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### Growing Religious Intolerance



Missorium of Theodosius I, Madrid

- Emperor Theodosius I (r. 379-395)**
- Establishes orthodox Christianity**
- 381 Nicene Christianity becomes sole official religion of the Roman Empire
- Gradual legislation against pagan worship**
- 381 Bans pagan sacrifice
  - 384 Prohibits *haruspices*
  - 385 2<sup>nd</sup> ban on sacrifice
  - 388 Permits destruction of pagan temples
  - Serapeum in Alexandria
  - 393 Bans Olympic Games
  - 415 Philosopher Hypatia murdered

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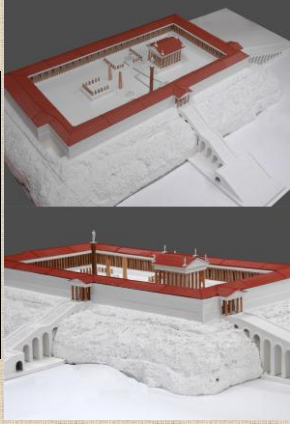
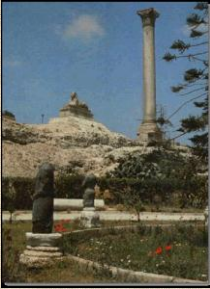
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Serapeum and Library at Alexandria



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### Agora (2009)

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RbuEhwseIEQ>

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### Christological Controversies

- Trinitarian questions
  - Arian
  - Nicene
- Council of Constantinople 381
- Different “Schools” of theology
  - Neo-Platonism
  - Nestorian
  - Alexandrian
  - Antiochene
    - Literal interpretation of an all-human Jesus

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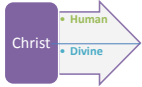
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### Nestorian Christianity

- Nestorius
  - Bishop of Constantinople
  - Ascetic and powerful orator
    - disliked *Theotokos* ("God-bearer")
    - favored *Christotokos* ("Christ-bearer")
- condemned at games and theater
  - Opponents argued that Nestorius taught "two natures" of Christ
    1. Fully God
    2. Fully Human




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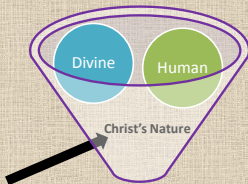
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### Christological Attitude at Chalcedon



Maintains Christ has two distinct natures, yet these two natures come together within His one *hypostasis*.

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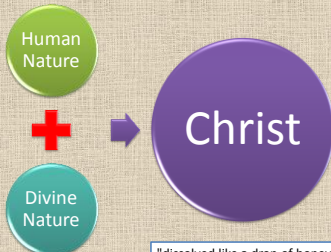
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### Monophysitism



"dissolved like a drop of honey in the sea"  
He is (and was) wholly divine
 

- no human nature

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### Councils and Heresies:

- **Council of Ephesus (431)**
  - Nestorius condemned
- **Robber Council (449)**
- **Council of Chalcedon (451)**
  - 600 Bishops from throughout the Empire
  - Proclaimed that Christ had two natures (*physeis*), human and divine, and that these were inviolably joined together without division or separation.
  - Opponents called Monophysites
    - Strongest in Egypt, Syria, and East