**Chapter 10 Reading Guide**

1. What type of Christianity did the Byzantine Empire or Byzantium create?
2. What type of Christianity did Western Europe adopt during and after the fall of the western half of the roman empire?

**I. Christian Contraction in Asia and Africa**

1. What caused Christianity to all but disappear from Africa and Asia and become a more exclusively European faith?

**A. Asian Christianity**

1. What is significant about the site of the Dome of the Rock to Jews and Christians?
   1. Jews:
   2. Christians:
2. How were Christians in Muslim controlled Syria and Persia treated?
3. “**Diasporic community**” means a widely dispersed or spread out community. The Christians living in China would be an example of this. Explain how these Christians tried to spread their faith within China.

**B. African Christianity**

1. Define “ **dhimmis**”
2. Explain why Christianity in Egypt, that was once the majority religion, quickly began to die out.
3. Nubian Christianity persisted much longer than Egypt’s – into the 13th and 14th centuries, explain why it also quickly collapsed by1500.
4. Why did Christianity in Ethiopia persist whereas everywhere else in Africa it was dying out?

**II. Byzantine Christendom: Building on the Roman Past**

1. How do most historians describe the beginnings (formation) of the byzantine empire?
2. Explain why the eastern half of the Roman empire (Byzantium) was able to protect itself from invasion by the Huns and Germanic barbarian tribes, whereas the Western half could not.
3. In what ways was Byzantium trying to preserve elements of Roman culture and politics?

**A. The Byzantine State**

1. Describe the general location of the Byzantine Empire. (Hint: use map 10.1)
2. Describe the government of the Byzantine Empire.
3. What methods did the emperor employ to establish himself and the royal officials as “elites” within the empire?
4. The Post-Classical era is marked at beginning around 600 CE and ending around 1450 CE- why might 1453 be a good date to end this era?

**B. The Byzantine Church and Christian Divergence**

1. Define “**caesaropapism**” (if you can’t understand it from context clues-google it ☺)
2. What is a patriarch?
3. How did Eastern Orthodox Christianity legitimize the emperor’s authority?
4. What are “**icons**?”
5. Explain some of the major differences between Eastern Orthodox Christianity and Roman Catholicism by completing the following chart

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Eastern Orthodox** | **Roman Catholicism** |
| Language used for rituals and holy texts |  |  |
| Rituals/ practices (hint: focus on communion and priests) |  |  |
| Beliefs about who is ultimate authority of the church |  |  |

1. What happened in 1054 is often referred to as the “First Great Schism” or great split between the two branches of the Christian church- describe this event.
2. Explain how the crusades only made the relationship between the two branches of Christianity worse.

**C. Byzantium and the World**

1. What military technology did the Byzantines develop to protect themselves from Arabs encroaching on their territory?
2. What goods/products was Byzantium trading with other societies?
3. Explain how Byzantium helped preserve Greek learning.
4. Since Islam was rapidly spreading south and east of The Byzantine empire- where did Byzantine missionaries go to seek converts?

**D. The Conversion of Russia**

1. What new state was emerging in Russia around this time?
2. What were Prince Vladimir’s motivations for affiliating with one major religion specifically?
3. Which religion did he ultimately choose?
4. What are some examples of the Rus borrowing Byzantine culture?

**III. Western Christendom: Rebuilding in the Wake of Roman Collapse**

1. Why was Western Europe mostly cut off from the rest of the world during the time period after the fall of Rome?

**A. Political Life in Western Europe, 500–1000**

1. What is the official date of the fall of the Roman empire?
2. Describe some ways that Roman influence declined immediately after the fall of the empire.
3. How was Western Europe organized politically?
4. Who was Charlemagne and what were some of his accomplishments?

**B. Society and the Church**

1. Define “**feudalism**” (hint: see the definition in the chapter Wrap up on page 10-a for help)
2. Describe the relationship between lords and vassals.
3. What is the difference between a slave and a serf?
4. What did serfs provide to their lords? What did the serfs receive in return?
5. Why would families want to be serfs?
6. Besides feudalism, what other institution provided Western Europe with a sense of unity and connection to the old Roman world?
7. What was the missionary strategy of Christians trying to convert the “pagan” barbarians within their region?
8. Remember syncretism means the blending of religious beliefs and practices- what are some examples of Christianity undergoing the process of syncretism with the pagan religions in Europe?
9. In what ways did the church and the nobility of Europe cooperate with each other?
   1. In what ways did they compete with each other?

**C. Accelerating Change in the West**

1. What two occurrences most likely helped launch Europe into the High Middle Ages- a period of expansion and growth?
2. How were Europeans changing their environment?
3. What products were Europeans now importing from The Islamic and Byzantine empires?
4. What was happening to European cities during this period?
5. Define “**guilds**”
6. What began to happen politically in western Europe between the 11th and 13th centuries?
7. By the 15th century women’s roles in the economy had drastically eroded- why?
8. What are some of the limitations placed on women within the church during this time?
9. What were some of the arguments as to why women were no longer allowed to be priests within the church?

**D. Europe Outward Bound: The Crusading Tradition**

1. What did crusaders get in return for their willingness to go on crusade?
2. What were some of the religious and political motivations for the crusades?
   1. Religious motivations:
   2. Political motivations:
3. What was the impact of the crusades on the Middle East and Europe?
   1. Impact on Middle East:
   2. Impact on Europe:

**IV. The West in Comparative Perspective**

1. At this point, is Europe considered a major player in the global arena of trade and political influence?

**A. Catching Up**

1. How did the outside world view Western Europe?
2. How did Europeans view themselves compared to the world?
3. How did Europe “catch up” to the rest of the world?
4. List some innovations to agriculture that Europeans employed.
5. What technologies (borrowed from China and the Arab world) helped Europeans modernize their military power?

**B. Pluralism in Politics**

1. Why was Europe unable to unify into one centralized empire?
2. How did this lack of political unity affect all of the following in Europe:
   1. Economy:
   2. Politics:
   3. Cities:

**C. Reason and Faith**

1. What was the relationship between Greek philosophy and Christianity in western Europe?

**V. Remembering and Forgetting: Continuity and Surprise in the Worlds of Christendom**

1. List some examples of events that occurred in the history of Post-Classical Europe that ended up contributing to events that occurred later in history.