1. **The Early Byzantine Empire**
   1. The Later Roman Empire and Byzantium
      1. The later Roman empire
         1. Western half crumbled, eastern half remained intact
         2. The Byzantine emperors faced different challenges
            1. Conflict with Sasanid dynasty (226-641 C.E.) in Persia
            2. Invasions of migratory peoples from the north and east
      2. The early Byzantine State
         1. Tightly centralized rule of a highly exalted emperor
         2. Caesaropapism: Emperors' important roles in ecclesiastical affairs
         3. Emperors also stood above the law
         4. Dress and court etiquette designed to enhance rulers' status
   2. Justinian (527-565 C.E.) and His Legacy
      1. Justinian and Theodora
         1. The imperial couple came from obscure origins
         2. Justinian seized power when in imperial bureaucracy
         3. Theodora was a sagacious advisor
      2. Justinian Code
         1. Issued the *Corpus iuris civilis* (*The Body of the Civil Law*)
         2. The code influenced civil law codes of western Europe
      3. Belisarius and Byzantine conquests
         1. Belisarius reconquered part of the western Roman empire from 533 C.E.
         2. Threats from Sasanids and Slavic peoples
   3. Islamic Conquests and Byzantine Revival
      1. The emergence of the Islamic state
         1. Arab peoples conquered the Sasanid empire and part of Byzantium
         2. Prolonged sieges of Constantinople by Islamic armies
         3. Byzantine survived partly because of "Greek fire"
      2. Imperial organization
         1. The *theme* system strengthened Byzantine society
         2. The revival of the empire
            1. reconquered Syria from Arab Muslims, the 10th century
            2. "Basil the Bulgar Slayer," crushed the Bulgars in the Balkans
   4. Byzantium and Western Europe
      1. Tensions between them
         1. Ecclesiastical tensions
            1. Constantinople: conducted affairs in Greek, caesaropapist emperors
            2. Rome: conducted affairs in Latin, autonomy from imperial authorities
         2. Churches in the east and west looked down upon each other
      2. Political grievances
         1. Some upstart states of western Europe claimed imperial authority
            1. Charlemagne received imperial crown from the pope in 800
            2. Otto of Saxony claimed himself an emperor in 962
         2. The insults from Liudprand of Cremona, the ambassador of Otto
2. **Byzantine Economy and Society**
   1. The Agricultural Economy
      1. The peasantry
         1. The backbone of the Byzantine army and economy
         2. Landless peasants worked under share-cropping arrangements
         3. Invasions of the 6th and 7th century led to the *theme* system
         4. Since the 11th century, free peasants declined
      2. Consequences of the peasantry's decline
         1. Large landowners shifted tax burden to peasants
         2. Large landowners raised forces on their own estates
         3. The pool of military recruits shrank
   2. Industry and Trade
      1. Manufacturing enterprises
         1. Byzantine craftsmen enjoyed a high reputation in various industries
         2. High-quality silk became an important industry from the late 6th century
      2. Trade
         1. Constantinople, an important center for Eurasian trade
         2. The *bezant* was the standard currency of the Mediterranean basin
         3. Byzantium drew enormous wealth from foreign trade
      3. Banks and partnerships supported commercial economy
   3. Urban Life
      1. Housing in Constantinople
         1. Enormous palaces owned by aristocrats
         2. Less splendid dwellings owned by the less privileged classes
      2. Attractions of Constantinople
         1. A city of baths, taverns, restaurants, theaters, the Hippodrome
         2. The most popular game - chariot races
      3. Greens and Blues
         1. The two factions of fans for chariot races
         2. Frequent fights in the street between them
         3. Joined together in a popular uprising, 532
         4. The riot left Constantinople in shambles
3. **Classical Heritage and Orthodox Christianity**
   1. The Legacy of Classical Greece
      1. Byzantine education
         1. State-organized school system, training bureaucrats
         2. Private education of aristocratic families
         3. Basic literacy was widespread even among the lower classes
      2. Scholarship
         1. Emphasized more on humanities than on natural science
         2. The educated considered themselves direct heirs of classical Greece
   2. The Byzantine Church
      1. Church and state
         1. Church's close relationship with the imperial government
         2. Constantine actively participated in religious debate
         3. Under caesaropapist emperors, church was a department of the state
      2. Iconoclasm
         1. Inaugurated by Emperor Leo III in 726 C.E.
         2. The unpopular policy sparked protests and riots throughout the empire
         3. The iconoclasts abandoned their effort in 843 C.E.
      3. Greek Philosophy and Byzantine theology
         1. Examining philosophical issues from a philosophical point of view
         2. Debate about Jesus's nature, a philosophical issue
   3. Monasticism and Popular Piety
      1. Asceticism
         1. Extreme asceticism and self-denial by some Christians
         2. "Pillar saints"
      2. Byzantine monasticism and St. Basil
         1. The earliest monasteries of dedicated hermits, ascetics
         2. Reforms of monasteries urged by St. Basil, the 4th century C.E.
         3. Monasteries also provided social services to local communities
         4. Not centers of learning as monasteries of western Europe
   4. Tensions between Eastern and Western Christianity
      1. Constantinople and Rome
         1. The iconoclastic movement in the east was criticized by the west
         2. Ritual and doctrinal differences - source of conflict
      2. Schism
         1. Power struggle led to mutual excommunication, 1504
         2. Origins of Eastern Orthodox church and Roman Catholic church
4. **The Influence of Byzantium in Eastern Europe**
   1. Domestic Problems and Foreign Pressures
      1. Social problems
         1. Generals and local aristocrats allied, a challenge to imperial power
         2. Free peasants were declining in number and prosperity
         3. Imperial government suffered from fewer recruits and fiscal problems
      2. Challenges from the west
         1. Norman army expelled Byzantine authorities in southern Italy
         2. Normans and other western Europeans mounted a series of crusades
         3. The fourth crusade seized Constantinople
         4. Byzantine forces recaptured the capital in 1261
      3. Challenges from the east
         1. The Muslim Saljuqs invaded Anatolia, defeated Byzantine army, 1071
         2. The loss of Anatolia sealed the fate of the Byzantine empire
         3. Ottoman Turks captured Constantinople in 1453, the end of the empire
   2. Early Relations between Byzantium and Slavic Peoples
      1. Eastern Europe and Russia
         1. Maintained close contact with Byzantium from the 6th century
         2. The peoples included Serbs, Croats, and Bulgars
         3. Began to influence Bulgarian politics and culture after the 8th century
      2. Missions to the Slavs
         1. Byzantium sent missionaries to Balkan lands and Bulgar
         2. The mission of Saints Cyril and Methodius, mid-9th century
         3. Cyrillic writing stimulated conversion to Orthodox Christianity
   3. Byzantium and Russia
      1. Beginning in the mid-9th century, Russians started to organize a large state
      2. The conversion of Prince Vladimir, 989
         1. Kiev served as a conduit for spread of Byzantine culture and religion
         2. Byzantine art and architecture dominated Kiev
      3. The growth of Kiev
         1. The princes established caesaropapist control of Russian Orthodox church
         2. Russians later claimed to inherit the imperial mantle of Byzantium