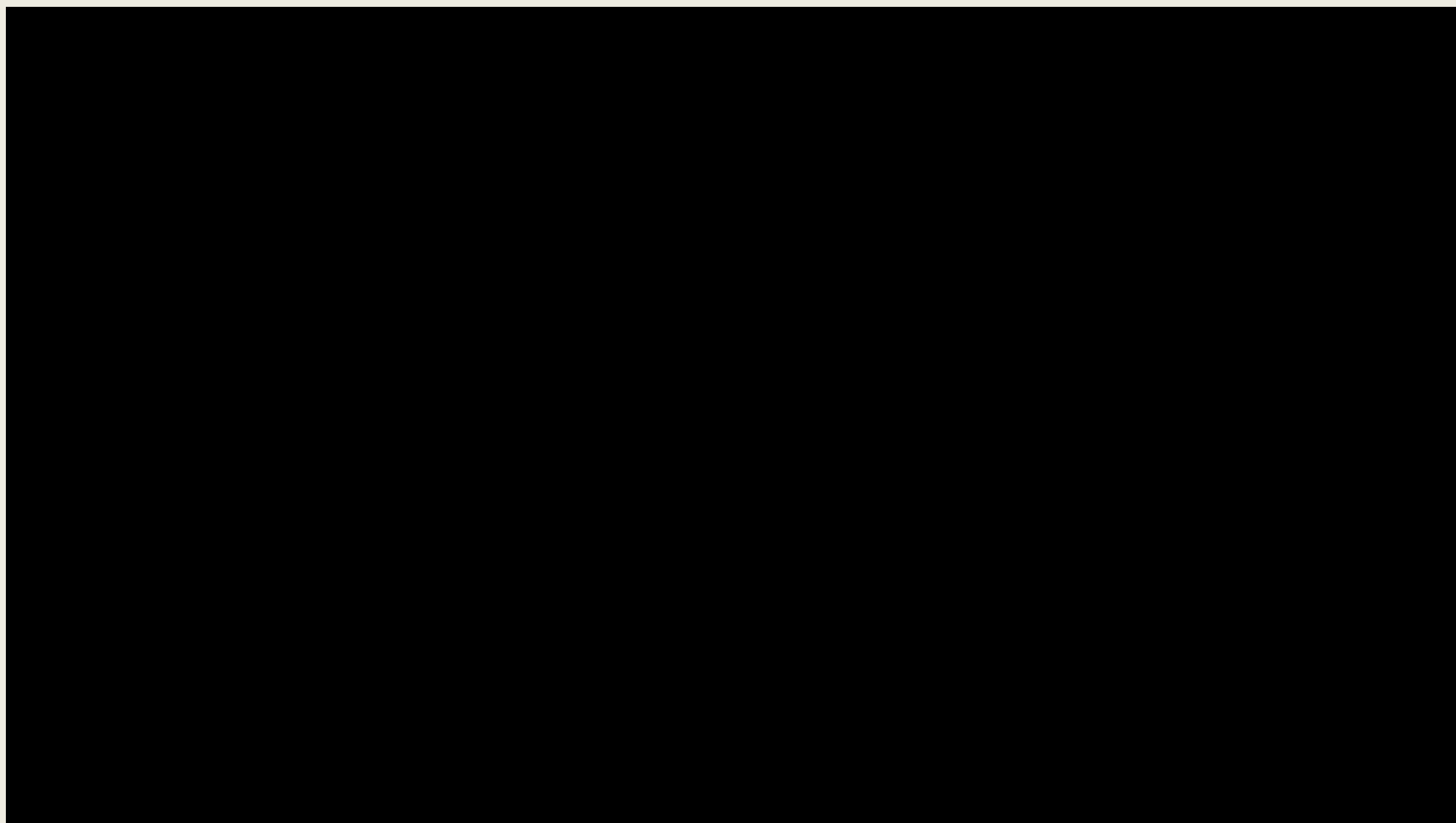


*So, What
have the
Romans
ever done
for us?*



ROME



Building a lasting civilization around the Mediterranean Sea

*The city of
Rome was
founded on the
Tiber River.
It sits on and
around 7 hills*



Legends say that Rome was founded by the brothers Romulus and Remus in 753 BC. (they were raised by a wolf)



Rome initially was led by kings. The kings were **overthrown** (forced out) and a **republic** was formed. (509 BC)



A republic is a type of government in which **people** elect leaders to make laws.



The USA
is a
republic.



The **senate** was formed, made up of rich and powerful **Romans**, who ruled the city.





Speeches and debates were common among **citizens** (people who could take part in government) because they were encouraged to vote and run for office. These discussions took place in the **Forum**, a city public square.

Rome grew from a city in Italy to a **republic** stretching throughout Europe, Asia, and **Africa**, much like the Greek Empire (but bigger!).



*The Romans
took so
much land
because they
had a
strong,
organized
army.*



Julius Caesar was a general who conquered many lands and became very powerful and popular with the people of Rome. He was “declared” Emperor. (49-44 BC)



Julius Caesar was murdered by **members of the Senate** because they feared his power and popularity.



"ET TU BRUTE?"



Octavian took over after Julius Caesar and turned Rome into an **empire**.

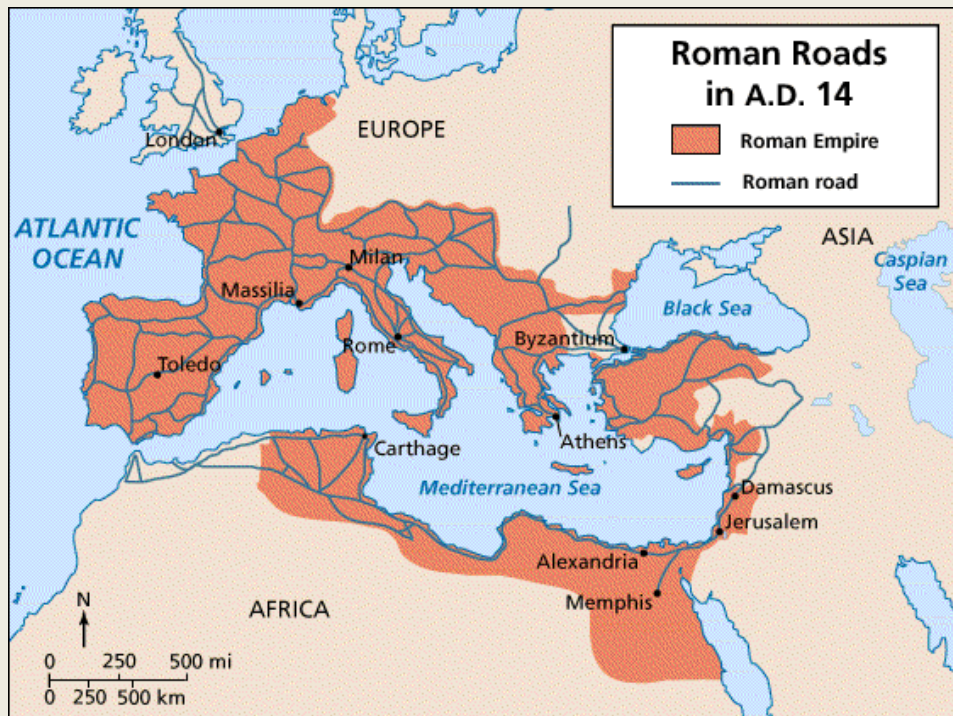
Octavian became known as **Augustus** Caesar. Julius Caesar was his Great Uncle and had **adopted** him.



The difference between a Republic and an Empire: A Republic is a democracy run by the **people**. The people **vote** for others to make the laws. An Empire is many lands ruled together by one **single ruler**.

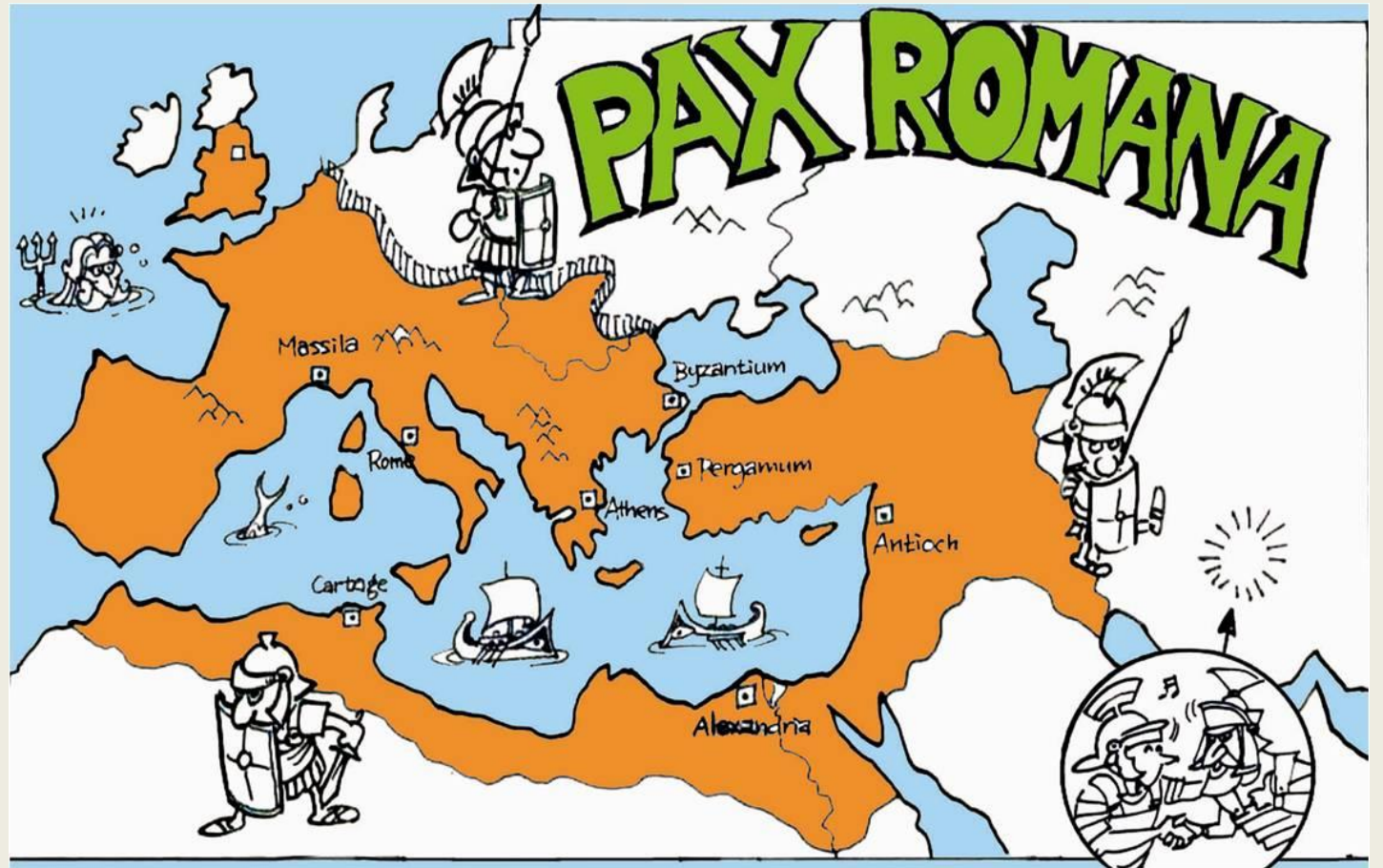
- Republic. Run by the people or **public**.
- An Empire. Ruled by an **Emperor** (like a king).

Augustus greatly expanded the empire and made great improvements like buildings, monuments and **roads** that helped facilitate (assist) trade and travel throughout the vast empire.

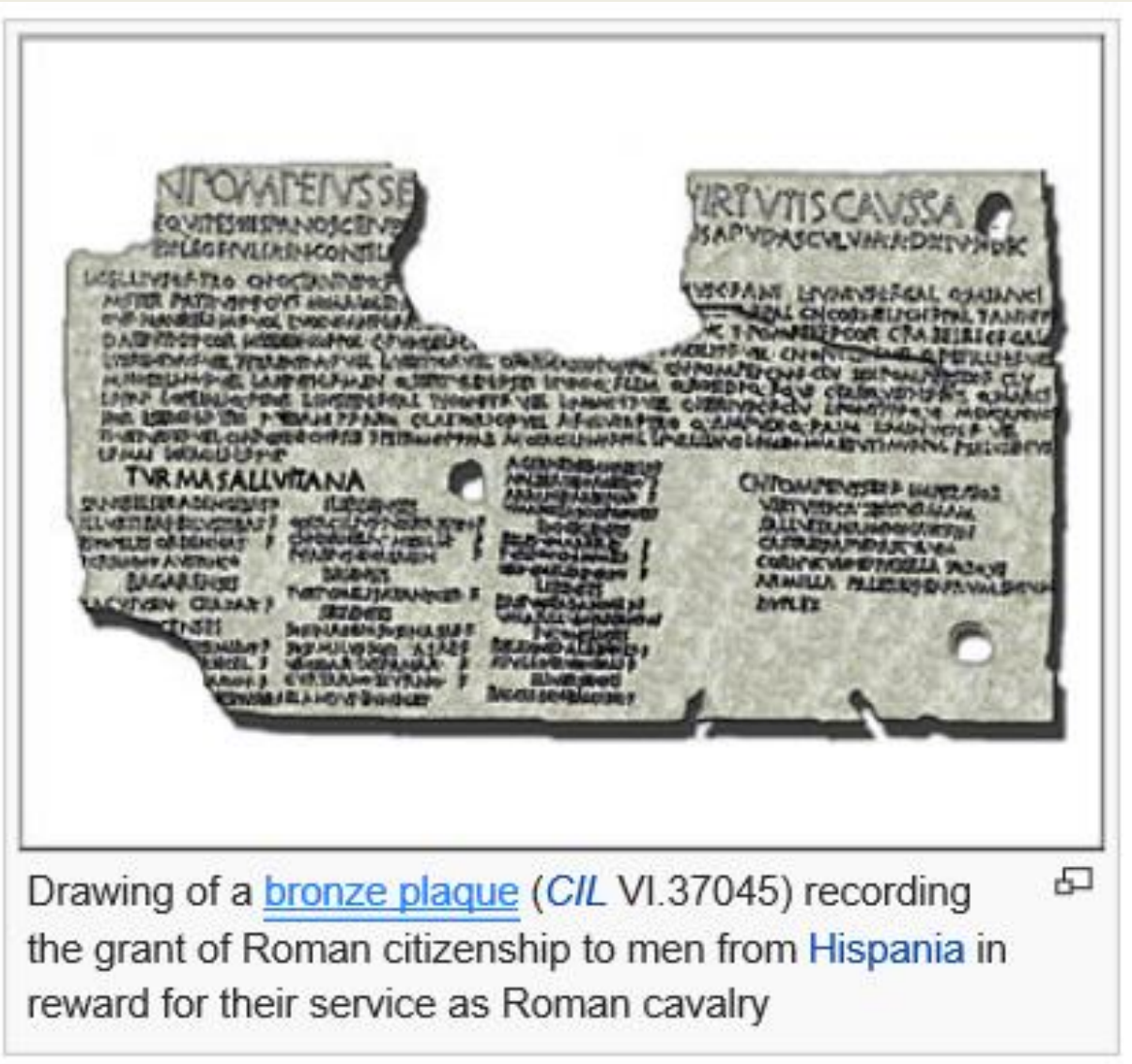


Because Rome became so powerful, they experienced a **200** year long period of peace called the **Pax Romana** or Roman Peace.

No wars or rebellions.



One reason the Roman Empire experienced success and peace is because the Romans allowed the conquered people in their land to become **citizens**.



Drawing of a [bronze plaque](#) (CIL VI.37045) recording the grant of Roman citizenship to men from [Hispania](#) in reward for their service as Roman cavalry

Source:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_citizenship

During this time of peace, the Romans built many things including buildings that still stand today after 2000 years. They also built **aqueducts** which carried water long distances to where it was needed.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oTMrfyAt6Mo>

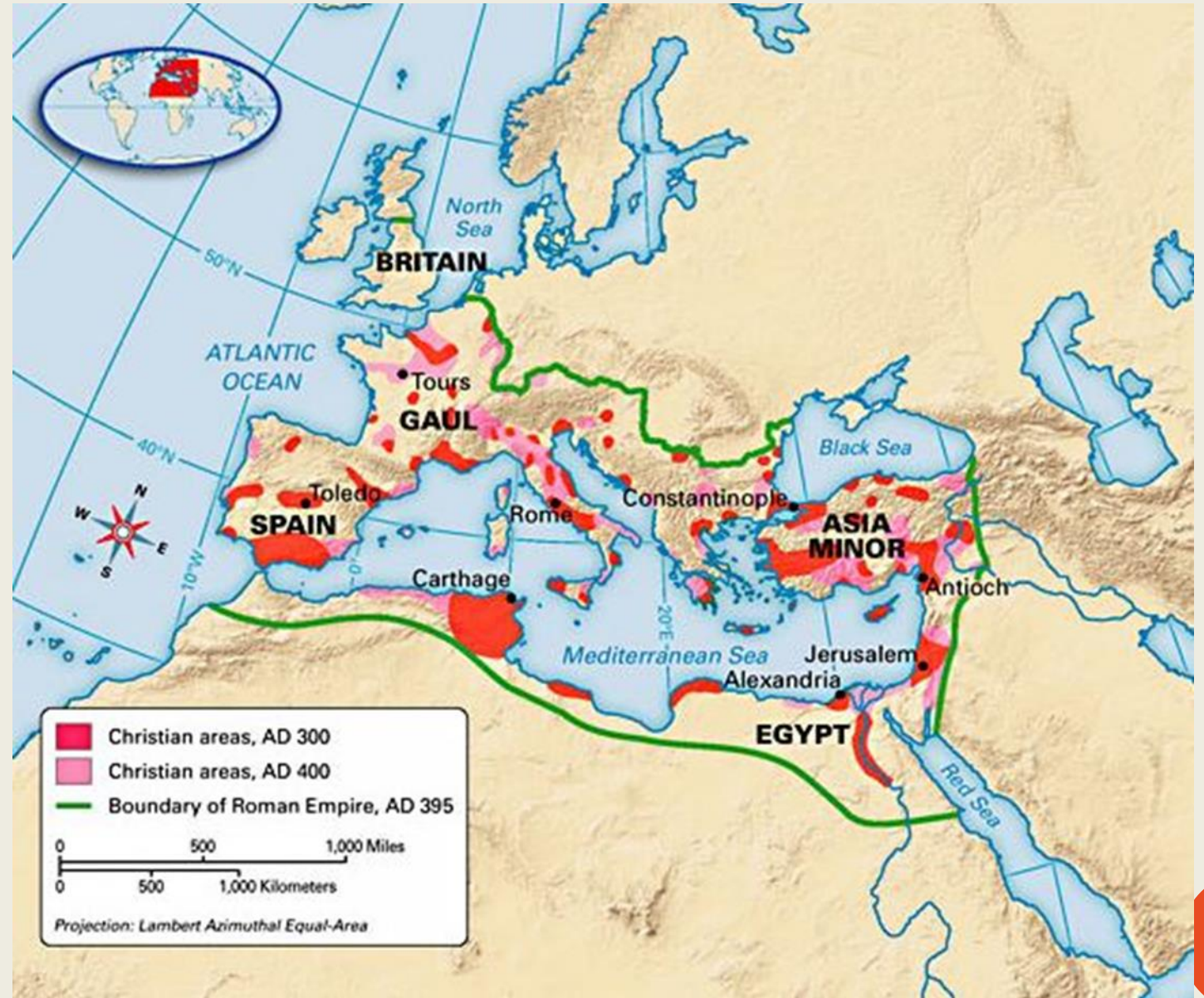
*The Roman language, based on **Latin**, is the basis for several languages today including Italian, **Spanish**, French, and Portuguese. These are also known as Romance languages.*



The USA bases its **government** and legal system on the Romans. In Ancient Rome, they wrote their laws on stone tablets. In the USA we have them written in the **Constitution**.



The Spread of Christianity



Jesus lived
and taught
through out
the Roman
Empire
(in Judea)



The **Christians** worried the Romans because they were growing quickly and went against Roman religious beliefs. Rome also feared rebellion.



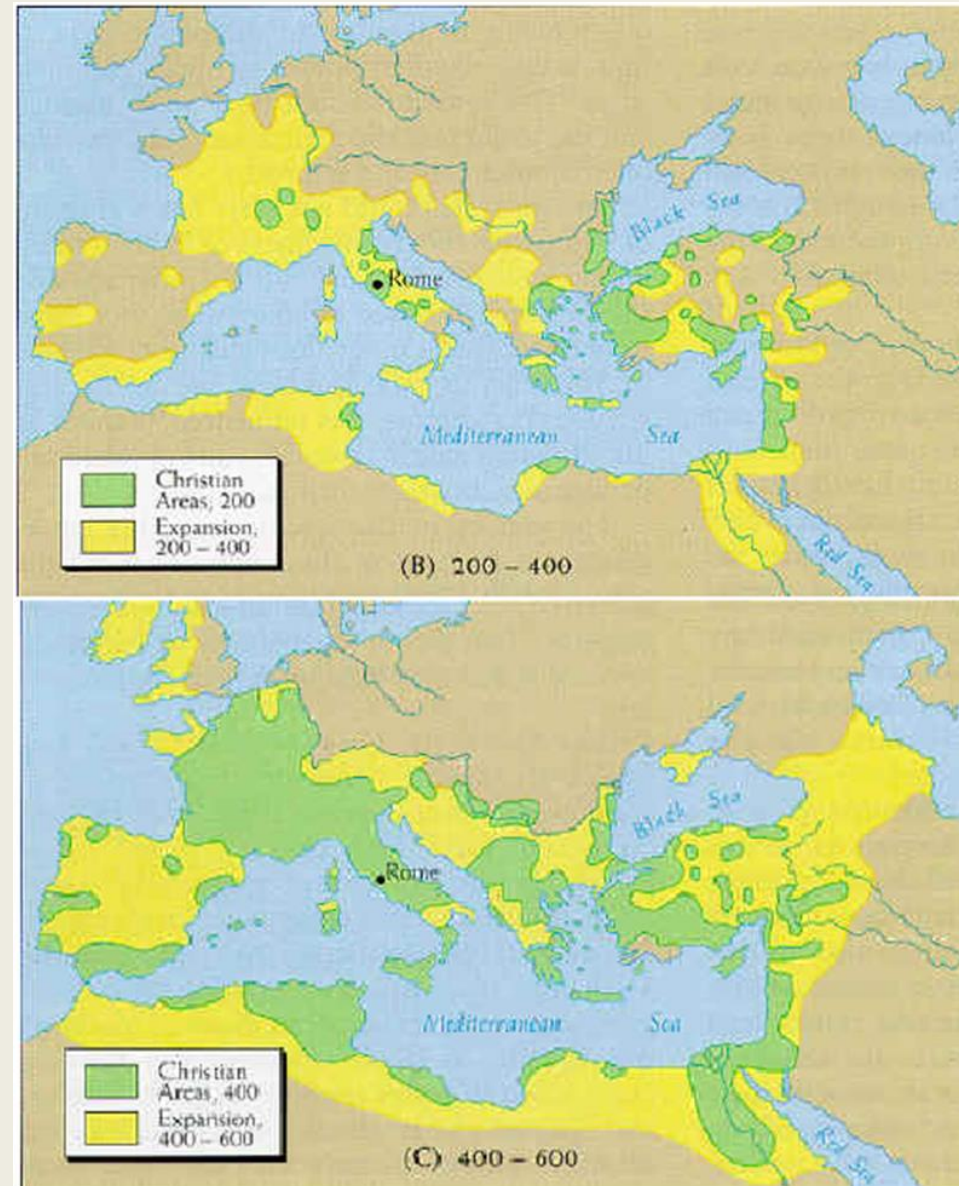
Christians
were
persecuted,
punished and
even **killed**.
They were
fed to lions as
sport.



This persecution ended with Emperor **Constantine**, because he became a Christian.



Over time,
Christianity
became the only
religion allowed
in the Roman
Empire and the
church became
very influential.



Rome
became the
center of
the
Catholic
Church



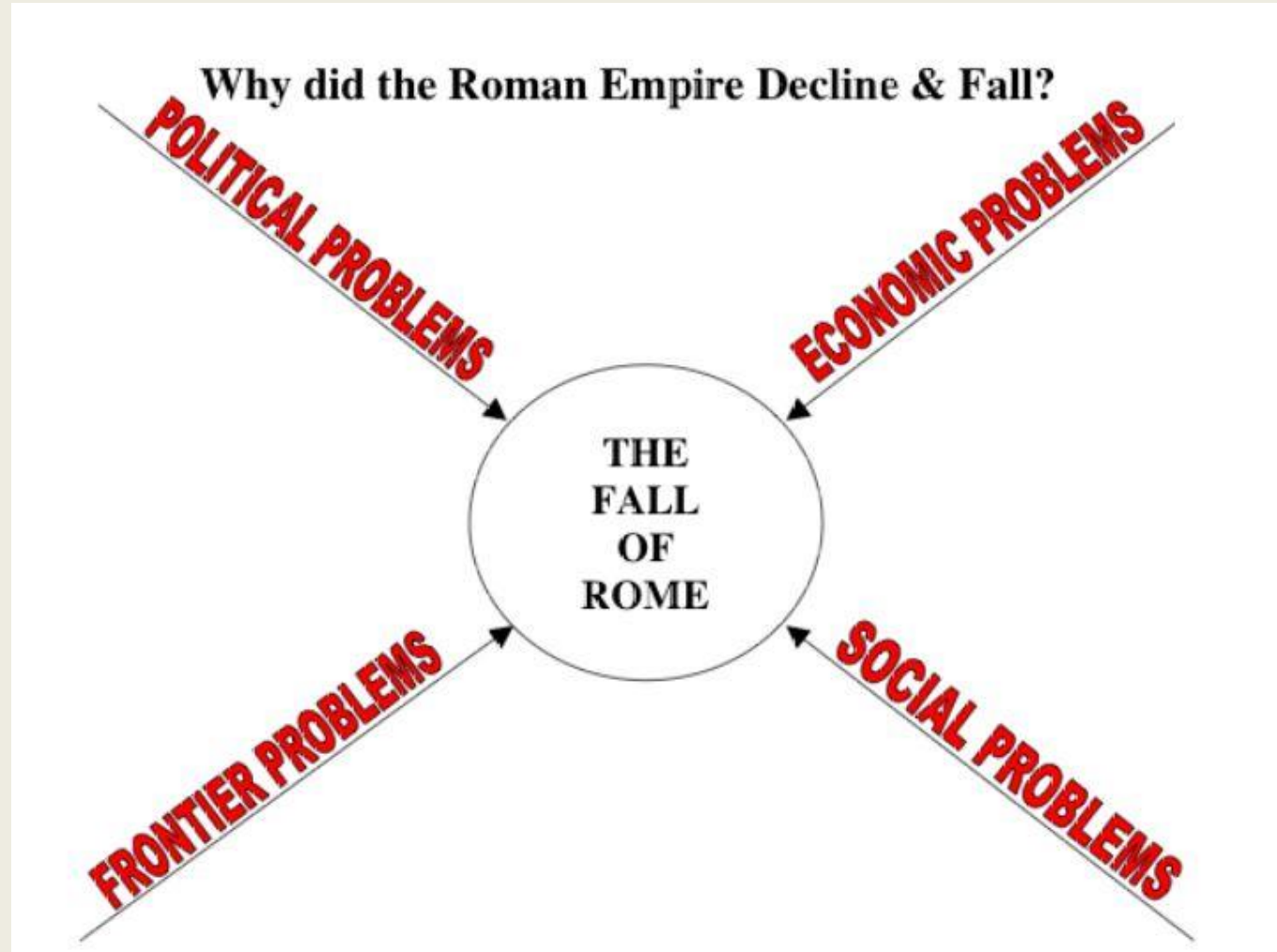
The Decline of Rome:

*Reasons
for the
collapse*



Reason 1:

- **Crime** rates rising
 - **poverty** increasing
 - systems of education and **government** breaking down
 - loyalty to the empire declining
 - the empire had just grown too large
-



Reason 2:

Rome was ruled by a series of **bad** emperors. They ignored the needs of the people. High **taxes** pushed the people into poverty.



Reason 3:

Military leaders tried to take over. This caused fighting amongst the Roman generals with in Rome itself: **Civil** war.



Reason 4:

Because Rome had grown too big, Emperor Diocletian split Rome into two parts (west and east) to rule each part.

Constantinople
(Istanbul, Turkey today) became the new capital.



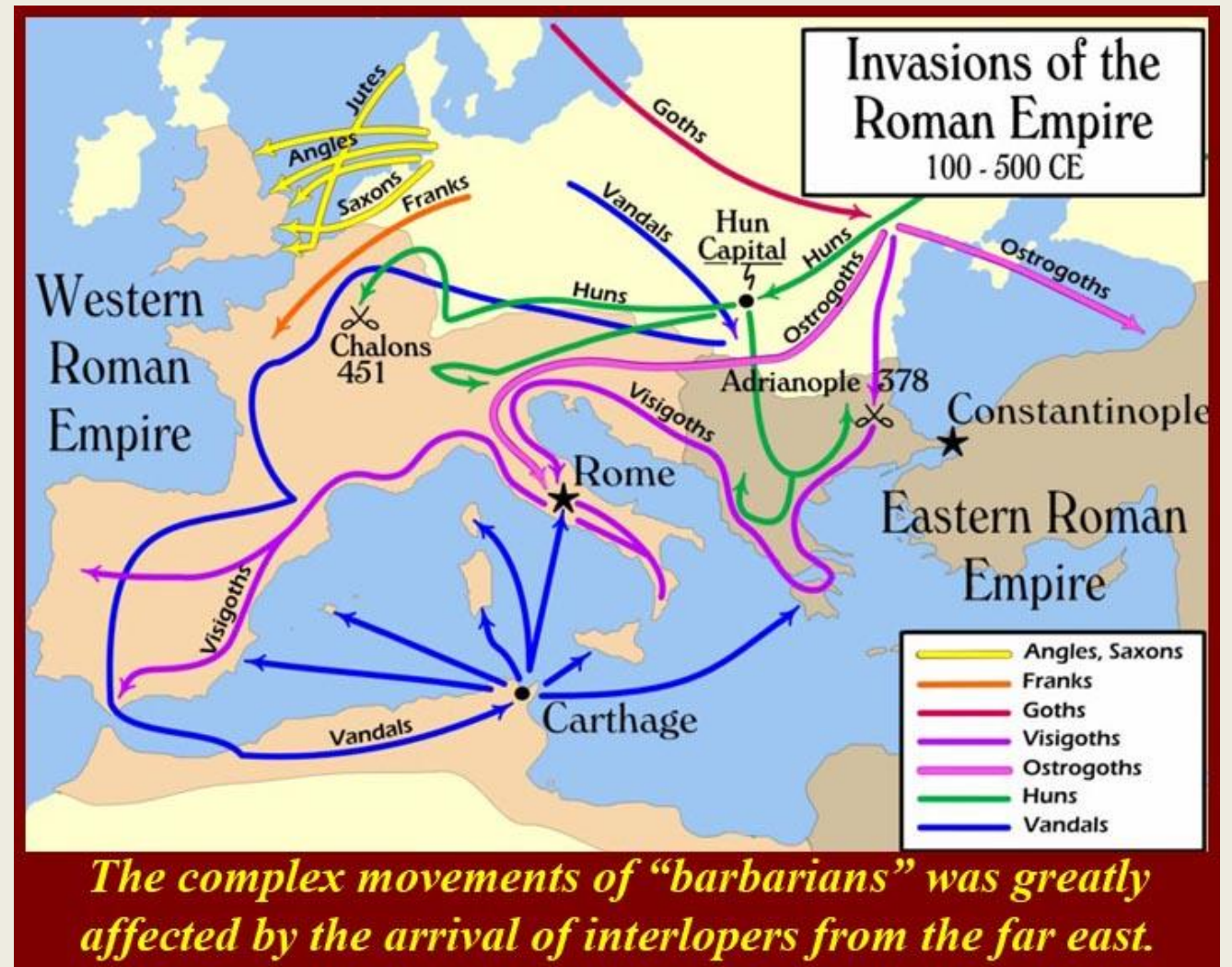
Reason 5:

Rome was now weaker and outside invaders started attacking and winning. These groups were called **barbarians** (meaning uncivilized and backwards).



Reason 6:

The **Barbarians** eventually defeated the **Western** Part of the Roman Empire in 476 AD.



Reason 6 (continued):

The Eastern Empire, ruled from Constantinople, continued to thrive. This became known as the **Byzantine** Empire. It continued Roman and Greek traditions, culture and scholarly works.

