**Unit 3: Medieval Empires in the East**

**Byzantine Empire**:

* **While some Romans stayed in Rome and fought the Germanic tribes, others fled east and formed the Byzantine Empire.**
* **Leader of this runaway was Constantine (“New Rome”) and he created Constantinople (the capital of the Byzantine Empire).**
* **Located in Eastern Europe / Mediterranean Sea (present day Turkey)** 
  + **Crossroads for Africa, Europe, and Asia which made it have great trade**
* **Justinian – code, church, and conquer** 
  + **Justinian Code – restored Roman law and unified conquered peoples**
  + **Hagia Sophia “Church of Holy Wisdom” – launched most ambitious public building program; visible sign of the close connection between church & state; patriarch bowed to emperor** 
    - **Orthodox Christian**
  + **Reconquered all lost Roman territories and MORE (basically the entire Mediterranean [south / eastern Europe / western Asia, and north Africa])**
* **Byzantines fell for three main reasons:**

1. **Justinian’s Plague – rat infested ships**
2. **Crusades – donating so much money / food / warriors made the economy collapse**
3. **Ottomans – destroyed by their strategic warfare and cannons**

**Rise of Islam:**

* **Where: Arabian Peninsula**
* **Why: *Muhammed* was troubled by moral ills so he went to meditate, and while meditating he saw the angel, Gabriel, who told him he was the prophet**
* **How: Messenger of Allah, he had the support of his wife Khadija, he preached first in Mecca, flee to Medina, build a force, and reconquer Mecca**
* **What: Muslims are followers of Islam; practice in Mosque; they are Monotheistic**
* **After Muhammad dies, the Caliph (successor of the Prophet) took over: his father-in-law, *Abu Bakr*** 
  + **At first difficult because no one wants to listen to him, they all want Muhammad, but eventually unifies everyone with alliances and war.**
* **Muslims divided their people into 4 social classes:**

1. **Muslims at birth**
2. **Muslims who convert**
3. **“Protected people” or monotheistic people**
4. **Prisoners of war or slaves**

**Ottoman Empire:**

* **Empire created by Muslim Turks**
* **Saw themselves ghazis – warriors of Islam – great military tactics and advance weapons (cannons and muskets)**
* **First sultan was *Orkhan I***
* ***Mehmed the Conqueror* who captured Constantinople and renamed it Istanbul (which is the present-day capital of Turkey)**
* **Best Sultan: *Suleiman the Magnificent***
  + **Captured all the land from Hungary to Arabia and Mesopotamia, and North Africa**
  + **Knowns as the “Law giver”**
  + **Suleiman’s successful social structure** 
    - **Men of sword**
    - **Men of pen (smart)**
    - **Men of negotiation (social)**
    - **Men of husbandry (slave)**
  + **Divided religious groups into millets**

**Rise of Russia:**

* **Russia had attractive geography – steppe and forests**
* **Attracted Vikings and Slavic nomads**
* **“Rus” and their leader for *Oleg***
  + **Set up trade with the Byzantines**
* **First civilization – Kiev (present day capital of Ukraine)**
* ***Vladimir* – Made Russia Christian (Orthodox from the Byzantines)**
* ***Yaroslav* – major fault was dividing his realm between his sons, and when he died they fought over it**

**Mongols:**

* **Took over Russia and China**
* **Most fearsome leader was *Genghis Kahn*** 
  + **Wiped out 1/8 of the population**
* **Demanded only two things**

1. **Absolute obedience**
2. **Pay tribute**

* ***Ivan Moneybags*** *–* **started the conspiring against the Mongols**
* ***Ivan the Great* – successful in getting Russia liberation from the Mongols; Russia was going to be the “Third Rome”**
* ***Ivan the Terrible*** – **ruined Russia’s success and reinstated serfdom; killed his own son, which meant no more Ivans**
* ***Peter the Great*** – **studied Europe; trade makes empires successful; decides to make St. Petersburg the new capital, but it was owned Sweden**

**Africa:**

* **Hard to study African History because it is preserved orally**
* **Sahara is the largest desert – it went through desertification**
* **Ghana – trading salt & gold**
* **Mali – best leader *Mansa Musa***

**China & Japan:**

* **China became successful again thanks to the Tang Dynasty**
* **They brought back Confucianism**

1. **Respect your elders**
2. **Good government**

* **Japan noticed China’s success and sent nobles there to study**
  + **Brought back Buddhism**
* **Developed new warriors, Samurais who abided by the Bushido**