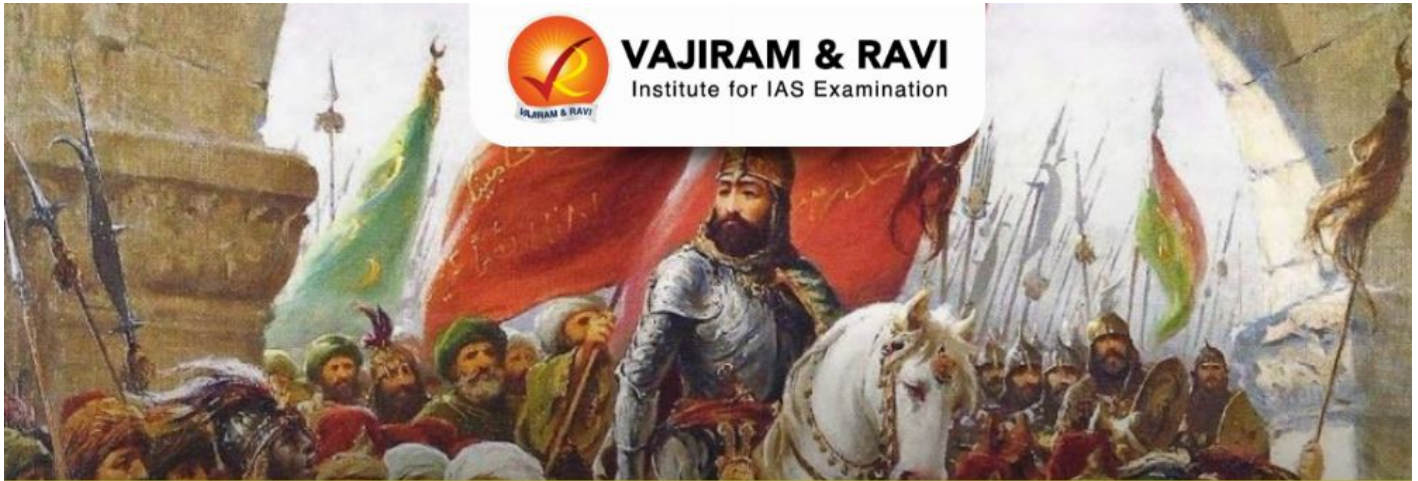


Byzantine Empire

April 16, 2026 • vajiramandravi.com



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Byzantine Empire Latest News

Researchers have identified a fortified hilltop complex in southeastern Spain as a rare Byzantine stronghold established by soldiers and clergy in the late sixth century.

About Byzantine Empire

- It traces its **beginnings** to the year **330 CE**, when **Emperor Constantine** **split** the **Roman Empire** into a **western and eastern** half.
- It was the **eastern half of the Roman Empire** that **survived** for nearly **1,000 years** after the **western half of the empire collapsed**.
- It is often **called the Eastern Roman Empire** or simply **Byzantium**.
- It was **based at Constantinople (modern-day Istanbul)**, and **at its peak** it **controlled** territory stretching from **southern Spain to Syria**.
 - Strategically **located on the Bosphorus Strait**, **Constantinople** quickly rose to become **Europe's most significant urban hub**.

- Throughout their history, the **Byzantines rarely controlled Rome** and **spoke mainly Greek**. **Despite this, the people** of Byzantium continued to **refer to themselves as “Romans,”** .
- Their broader empire was **considered to be a “Roman” empire** even though it rarely controlled Rome.
- The Byzantine Empire flourished and experienced a **“golden age” during the reign of Justinian (A.D. 527 to 565)**, during which the empire’s **territories extended into Western Europe**, and the emperor’s builders **constructed the Hagia Sophia**, a great **cathedral** that still stands and is **now used as a mosque**.
- The governance of the Byzantine Empire was marked by the **absolute authority of emperors**, who were **seen as divinely appointed rulers**.
- The Byzantines developed **their own political systems, religious practices, art**, and architecture.
- However, the empire faced numerous challenges, including **territorial losses to emerging Muslim powers** and **internal religious schisms** that eventually led to the **split between the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches**.
- **Decline:**
 - **After Justinian’s death**, the Byzantine Empire weakened and **lost territory**.
 - **In 1204, during the Crusades**, the Byzantines were **betrayed when crusaders from the west sacked Constantinople** in an attempt to gain money.
 - The Byzantine Empire **eventually fell when Constantinople** was **conquered by the Ottoman Empire in 1453 CE** following a siege.
 - The Byzantine Empire was the **longest-lasting medieval power**, and its influence continues today, especially in the religion, art, architecture, and laws of many Western states, Eastern and Central Europe, and Russia.

Source: EARTH

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/byzantine-empire/>

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