

## Chapter 1.2.1. Justinian and his work

### a. What was Justinian's policy in a nutshell?

Justinian I (527-565): his political program is summarized as follows: "One state, one church, one legislation."

### b. What measures did Justinian take in the social field?

1. He suppresses, with the help of his wife Theodora, the uprising of the hippodrome municipalities and the people (Nica Revolt, 532). The municipalities of the hippodrome were the Greens and the Venetians, who resembled sports clubs, but also had political power.
2. He limits the power of the municipalities and strengthens the imperial power.
3. He limits with strict laws the power of the large landowners of the provinces.
4. He protects free farmers, who were very important for the central power, because they paid taxes.

### c. What measures did Justinian take in the religious field and with what goals?

Goals:

1. Imposition of Orthodoxy throughout the empire.
2. Christianization of neighboring peoples.

Measures:

1. Persecution of supporters of heresies.
2. Persecution of supporters of the ancient religion.
3. Closes the Neoplatonic Academy of Athens (529).
4. Care for the spread of Christianity to the peoples of the Caucasus and Eastern Africa.

### d. What measures did Justinian take in the legislative field?

Justinian issued the following within a five-year period (529 - 534):

1. The Justinian Code, a collection of previous imperial laws.
2. The Pandects, which were opinions of Roman lawyers.
3. The Proposals, which were a textbook for beginner law students.
4. The Novellae, which were new laws, written in Greek, because the subjects of the eastern part mainly did not understand Latin. => Justinian's Law formed the basis of the Law of Modern Europe.

### e. How did Justinian move in foreign policy and with what goal?

Goal: Restoration of the Roman World, that is, the restoration of Roman power in The West. Ways:

1. Expansionist wars.
2. Countering invasions.

f. What wars did Justinian fight, in what areas did they take place?

In the West:

1. Against the Vandal kingdom (North Africa) [533-534] -> conquest.
2. Against the Ostrogothic kingdom (Italy) [535-555] -> conquest.
3. Against the Visigothic kingdom (Spain) [535-555] -> recovery of the SE coastal areas. In the East: Persians; the other superpower of the time, had occupied extensive areas of the empire. 562: Signing of a treaty (Justinian - Khosrow I). => Restoration of balance in the region.

In the Balkans:

The Slavs and other peoples invaded the European provinces of the empire. Thus, Justinian:

1. Builds fortresses and walls on the line of the Danube and the Chersonese of Aimos.
2. Provides money to buy peace.

g. What were the consequences of the wars in the West and the East?

- a) The European provinces were stripped of troops.
- b) The state treasuries were emptied.
- c) The international position of Byzantium weakened.
- d) Later, extensive areas were lost.

h. What was Justinian's construction program?

Construction program = particularly ambitious:

- Construction of many defensive works (fortresses, walls).
- Construction of public works (roads, bridges, aqueducts, etc.).
- Construction of churches.

i. Why do we distinguish from Justinian's buildings the Hagia Sophia? What is the architectural rhythm and who are the architects who built it? How long did it take to build it?

1. Of the thirty-two churches that Justinian built in Constantinople, the Hagia Sophia was the only one that stood the test of time. It is the brightest building of the Byzantine Empire.
2. Its architectural rhythm is the basilica after the dome (a combination of elongated and circular or polygonal building). Thus, the building is almost square.
3. The architects were Anthemius and Isidore.
4. The construction took five years.

## Exercises

### 1. Match the elements of column A with the elements of column B (three are redundant).

#### Column A

1. Suspension of the operation of the Academy
2. Stand of Nicaea
3. Publication of Novellae
4. Treaty of Byzantines and Persians
5. Conquest of the Vandal kingdom
6. Conquest of the Ostrogothic kingdom
7. Architects of Hagia Sophia
8. Municipalities η. Ictinus and Callicrates θ. Italy

#### Column B

- a. 532
- b. 534
- c. Isidore and Anthemius
- d. 562
- e. new laws
- στ. Africa
- ζ. Greens and Venetians
- ι. Olympiacos and Panathinaikos

### 2. Characterize the following statements as correct (v) or wrong (x). Correct any errors:

1. The construction of Hagia Sophia lasted 50 years.
2. Hagia Sophia is a circular building.
3. Justinian did not codify Roman law.
4. After Justinian's wars, the state did not have money to cover its needs.
5. The landowners did not become stronger from Justinian's measures.
6. Free farmers were not helped by Justinian's measures.
7. The position of Byzantium in the world was strengthened.
8. After the signing of a treaty with the Persians, there was great unrest in the region of the East.
9. Christianity was imposed in all areas of the empire.
10. The Romans and the Persians were the superpowers of the time.
11. Justinian fought in the West and the East, but not in the Balkans.

### 3. Explain in writing the following concepts:

Stand of Nicaea, municipalities, Christianization, Justinian Code, Pandects, Proposals, Novellae, recovery, coastal areas, Chersonese of Aimos.

### 4. Book questions, page 19: 1,2

### 5. Search at your home for biographical information about Justinian and his wife Theodora. Write in your groups a common paragraph of 70-100 words for each one.