

### 3.1.1. The Formation of the Medieval Greek Byzantine Empire

1. When were the changes of the 7th century that alienated Byzantium from its Roman roots? What were their consequences?
  - When: During the Isaurian or Syrian dynasty (8th century) and the Amorion dynasty (9th century).
  - Consequences: The medieval Greek Byzantine state was formed.
2. What developments took place during this period?
  - The borders between Byzantium and the Caliphate were stabilized in Asia Minor on land, and along the line of Cilicia-Cyprus-Crete at sea.
  - In the mid-9th century, the Byzantine counter-offensive began in Asia Minor.
  - In the Balkans, Byzantium faced the Bulgarian threat, while at the same time it began to assimilate the Slavic populations.
  - The Greek character of the empire was strengthened.
  - The knowledge and use of Latin was significantly reduced.
  - The central administrative services of the state were further organized, with the most important one responsible for the implementation of foreign policy.
  - At the same time, the themes were generalized in Asia Minor and extended to the Balkans.
  - The general of each theme with the power he had often became dangerous for the central power. Many revolts were organized by generals.
  - The army of the theme consisted of soldier-farmers who had their own estates and in case of enemy attack were obliged to fight.
  - The development of thematic armies had significant consequences:
  - The mercenaries were drastically reduced
  - In the Byzantine countryside, small and medium-sized agricultural ownership prevailed.
3. When and how was the economic recovery (=improvement) achieved?
  - During the reign of Constantine V (741-775).
  - At the turn of the 8th to the 9th centuries, the population of Byzantium had increased greatly.
  - The crisis in the economy was overcome:
  - State revenues increased and trade and handicrafts were revitalized.
  - However, the character of the economy remained mainly agricultural.
  - The situation and needs of the Byzantine economy in the early 9th century are revealed in the "taxes" of Nicephorus I (early 9th century), as his economic measures were called by his enemies, which aimed at the recovery of trade and the increase of state revenues.

Quiz: Correct the errors in the periods, where there are any:

1. The changes of the 7th century alienated Byzantium from its Roman roots and extended to the 8th and 9th centuries.
2. During this period, the following developments also took place:
  - The borders between Byzantium and the Caliphate were stabilized.
  - In the Balkans, Byzantium faced the Bulgarian threat, while at the same time it began to assimilate the Slavic populations.
  - The Greek character of the empire was strengthened.
  - The central administrative services of the state were further organized, with the most important one responsible for the implementation of foreign policy.
  - The themes were generalized in Asia Minor and extended to the Balkans.
  - The general of each theme with the power he had often became dangerous.
  - The army of the theme consisted of soldier-farmers.
  - The mercenaries were drastically reduced.
3. The "taxes" of Nicephorus I aimed at the recovery of trade and the increase of state revenues.