

4.1.3. The Venetian economic penetration and the schism of the Churches

1000-1118: We are in the and centuries.

1. What commercial privileges did Alexios I grant to the Venetians and why did he do so?
 - To face the Normans, Alexios I asked for the help of the Venetians.
 - With the help of the Venetian fleet, he defeated the Normans.
 - As a reward, he gave them the following privileges in 1082 with the chrysobull (= official written agreement, signed by the emperor and sealed with the golden seal):
 - The Venetian rulers received money and titles.
 - The Venetian merchants gained access to quays (= docks) and shops in Constantinople.
 - The Venetians were allowed to trade freely, without paying taxes, in all major Byzantine ports.
2. What were the consequences of these privileges for Byzantium and Venice?
 - Byzantium voluntarily gave up its tax, maritime and economic rights, which were given to the Venetians as privileges.
 - The Venetians dominated economically in the East.
 - They founded a powerful colonial empire.
 - Byzantium lost its position as intermediary between the Arabs and Western Europe.
 - Byzantium lost its dominant position in trade.
3. How did the emperors then try to limit the power of the Venetians?
 - They granted privileges to other Italian cities (Pisa and Genoa).
 - They confiscated the property of the Venetians.
 - They incited violence against the Venetians by the population of the capital.
4. When did the schism of the two churches take place, why and under what circumstances?
 - In the years of Constantine IX (1054), there was a split between the Patriarchates of Constantinople and Rome.
 - It was due to the rivalry between East and West for supremacy in the Christian world.
 - Relations between the two churches were completely severed. The Patriarchates of Antioch and Jerusalem sided with the Patriarchate of Constantinople. This event is known as the schism of the two Churches (1054).
 - The differences could have been overcome, but the negotiations in Constantinople between Patriarch Michael Keroularios and the envoy of Pope Humbert did not yield any results due to the arrogance of both sides.
 - The two patriarchates now represent two different Churches (the Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church).
 - The people of that time did not understand the significance of the event, which had incalculable consequences for the Byzantine Empire.

Tasks:

A. Match the following:

| Column A | Column B |
|-----------|---|
| Alexios I | A. Opening of commercial branches in Constantinople |
| Venetians | B. Fall of commercial supremacy |
| Byzantium | C. Chrysobull of 1082 |

B. Correct the errors, where applicable:

- Alexios I asked for the help of the Venetians to face the Normans.
- The Chrysobull of 1054 gave the Venetians many commercial privileges.
- The commercial privileges that Alexios I granted to the Venetians had negative consequences for Byzantium.
- The Venetian economic penetration had as a result the Byzantine weakening economically.
- The schism of the two Churches took place in 1082.
- Alexios I gave the Venetians lands in Constantinople.
- The Venetians defeated the Normans together with Alexios I.
- The Venetians were subjects of Byzantium after the Chrysobull of 1082.
- The schism of the two Churches had no impact on the Byzantine Empire.
- The confrontation of the two Churches essentially concerned the issue of supremacy over the Christian World.
- The schism of the two Churches made a huge impression on the people of that time.

C. Select the answer you consider correct for each question.

1. Who was the emperor who granted commercial privileges to the Venetians?
 - Alexios I
 - Manuel I
 - Constantine IX
2. What was the most important consequence of the commercial privileges that Alexios I granted to the Venetians?
 - The economic supremacy of the Venetians in the East
 - The fall of the commercial supremacy of Byzantium
 - The weakening of the power of Byzantium

3. When was the Chrysobull of Alexios I issued?
- 1054
 - 1082
 - 1204
4. When did the schism of the two Churches take place?
- 1054
 - 1082
 - 1204