

4.3.2. The Fall of Constantinople

1421 – 1453: we are in thecentury.

I. What do you know about the siege and the final conquest by Mehmed II the Conqueror?

1. The siege of Constantinople began in 1453.
2. The Turks had previously built the Rumeli Fortress on the European shore of the Bosphorus to prevent the transport of food.
3. The Byzantine Emperor Constantine XI Palaiologos resisted bravely, but the forces of the Turks were much larger.
4. The siege lasted 54 days (April 6 – May 29, 1453).
5. The emperor fell on the battlefield, surrounded by the invaders.
6. After the fall of Constantinople, as Islamic law provided, the city was surrendered to the fighters. The massacres and looting lasted three whole days.
7. Mehmed announced that from then on the capital of his state would be the City.

II. What were the consequences of the Fall of Constantinople?

1. It traumatized the pride of the Greeks, who mourned the great disaster. However, hope for the Resurrection of the Race began to take shape soon.
2. The spirit of Byzantium was carried by its scholars to the West.
3. The Ottomans closed the roads of the East, pushing the Europeans to the Great Geographical Discoveries.

Let us present the overall contribution of Byzantium to culture:

1. The Byzantine Empire saved European culture from the Arab conquests in the 7th and 8th centuries.
2. It developed original art that influenced pre-Renaissance art in the West and Ottoman architectural tradition in the East.
3. It perfected the way of organizing the state, influencing the Caliphate, the medieval Balkan states, Russia and the Ottoman Empire.
4. New literary genres were cultivated (chronicle, functional poetry).
5. Law and the positive sciences were developed.
6. Religious music and humanistic studies were shaped.

III. Correct the errors, where they exist:

1. To block Constantinople, Mehmed II built the Rumeli Fortress on the Asian shore of the Bosphorus.
2. The siege of the City ended in three weeks.
3. Despite the significant help that the defenders of Constantinople received from the West, the city was occupied by the Ottomans.
4. The last emperor of Byzantium managed to escape from the siege, fleeing to the West.
5. The Ottomans prevented after the Fall the access of the Europeans to Asia.
6. The scholars of Byzantium after the Fall carried its cultural wealth to the Far East.
7. The Byzantine tradition influenced Ottoman architecture.

IV. Explain the terms: Conqueror, Fall of Constantinople (1453), Marble King, Discoveries."