

FROM BYZANTION TO ISTANBUL: SOME KEY DATES

- 7000 BC** Oldest settlement (?) – Çatal Höyük
- 2000** Hittites arrive from the Caucasus.
- 667** Byzantion founded by Greek colonists from Athens and Megara led by Byzas. City under the rule of successive empires, including Lydia, Persia, Athens, and Macedonia.
- 334** Anatolia (and Byzantion) taken from Persians by **Alexander the Great**.
- 281** Byzantion regains its independence.
- 64 BC** On his way to conquering the Maccabean kingdom of Israel, the Roman general **Pompey** brings Byzantion into the Roman Empire, renaming it *Byzantium*.
- 1 AD** **Paul** is born in ancient Turkey (in Tarsus of Cilicia).
- 33** Birth of the church
- 48** 1st Missionary Journey – churches planted throughout Asia Minor. Galatians written.
- 60** Philippians, Colossians, Philemon, Ephesians
- 63** 1 Timothy (and some years later, 2 Timothy)
- 64** 1 Peter
- 90** John (and the other 2 letters)
- 96** **John** in exile on island of Patmos (possibly 69 AD). Revelation addresses Christians in province of Asia. Remember: there are 3 “Asias”: 1—Asia (the continent), 2—Asia Minor (or Anatolia), modern Turkey, 3—(the Province of) Asia
- 311** Persecution ends, Christianity soon becomes popular, and the stage is set for apostasy.
- 324** **Constantine** becomes sole and undisputed emperor of the Roman Empire.
- 325** Council of Nicaea (Nicaea, or modern Iznik, not far from Constantinople) rules against Arians
- 330** Constantine moves Roman imperial capital to Byzantium; eventually city known as *Constantinople*, or Constantine’s City.
- 476** Fall of the Western (Latin-speaking) Roman Empire. This leaves only the Eastern (Greek-speaking) Roman Empire, which become known as the **Byzantine Empire**.
- 527** **Justinian** becomes Eastern Roman Emperor, expanding Byzantine Empire to its greatest size to include Syria, Palestine, Asia Minor, Greece, Balkans, Italy, southern Spain, North Africa, Egypt. City > 400,000.
- 537** Justinian completes Hagia Sophia (= Holy Wisdom).
- 639** Muslim armies conquer Syria, Holy Land, Egypt, and Jordan, taking control of the Byzantine Empire’s southern territories.
- 726** Leo III issues a decree forbidding idolatry and orders all icons destroyed throughout the Byzantine Empire. (A church council meeting in Hagia Sophia reinstates icons in 843.)
- 1000** Turks begin to invade Turkey.
- 1054** The Great Schism between the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches. Roman Pope and Patriarch of Constantinople excommunicate one another over theo-political issues.
- 1071** Byzantine army badly beaten at the Battle of Manzikert by the Seljuk Turks. The Turks go on to eventually conquer and take most of Asia Minor, including, Armenia away from the Byzantine Empire.
- 1096** The Crusades begin.
- 1204** Fourth Crusade leads to a Latin occupation of Constantinople, the Byzantine Empire is reduced to a few fighting city-states in its outlying regions; much of her art is plundered and sent to Europe.
- 1243** The Mongols invade.
- 1261** The Byzantine Emperor Michael Palaeologus recaptures Constantinople.
- 1301** Osman I establishes an independent kingdom on the Eastern Byzantine Empire and begins the Turkish Ottoman Empire, which eventually becomes one of the largest world empires in history.
- 1300s-** The Ottoman Turks slowly advance, taking Byzantine Asia and Europe until all that remains of the Byzantine Empire is
- 1400s** Constantinople—which holds off the Ottomans as long as they can.
- 1453** **Sultan Mehmet II** (Mehmet the Conqueror) finally conquers Constantinople, and the **Ottoman Turks** now take control of the entire Byzantine Empire. Mehmet rebuilds the city and, under the Ottomans, it becomes a cosmopolitan city where Muslims, Christians, and Jews live together.
- 1520-66** **Suleyman the Magnificent** reigns over one of the world’s greatest empires. Ottoman empire reaches its height in terms of area covered, artistic, scientific, and cultural achievements.
- 1683** The Ottoman advance into Europe is put to a stop at the Battle of Vienna.
- 1908** Young Turk Revolution—degenerates into dictatorship during WWI.
- 1915-16** Gallipoli Campaign (Germans & Turks v. Allies), in midst of WWI (1914-1918)
- 1919-22** The British and French occupy Constantinople.
- 1922** **Ataturk** (born 1881) abolishes the sultanate, effectively ending the Ottoman Empire.
- 1923** The Republic of Turkey establishes a secular state with its capital at Ankara, 29 October.
- 1928** Constantinople is officially renamed *Istanbul*.
- 1938** Ataturk dies, 9:05 am on 10 November in the Dolmabahçe Palace. National moment of silence every year, 10 Nov at 0905.
- 1952** Turkey joins NATO
- 2002** **Recep Tayyip Erdoğan** becomes Prime Minister of Turkey.