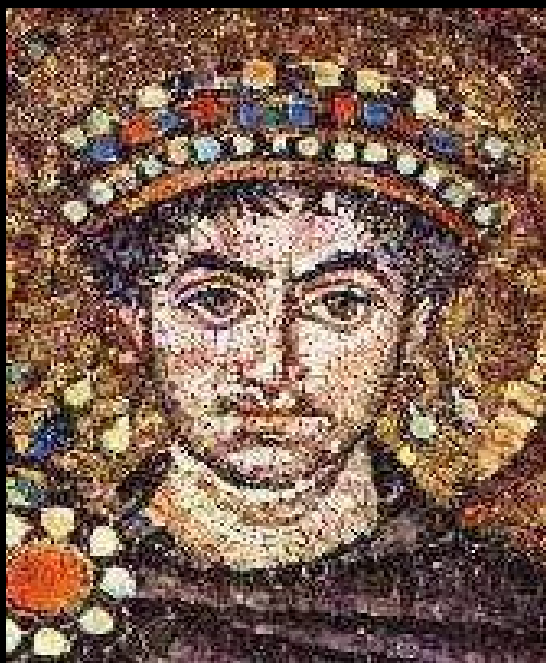


Byzantine Empire (Eastern Empire)

476 – 1453 CE



Emperor Justinian





 *The Byzantine Empire Under Justinian. Justinian's reconquests of North Africa, Italy, and the coast of Spain severely strained the empire's resources.*

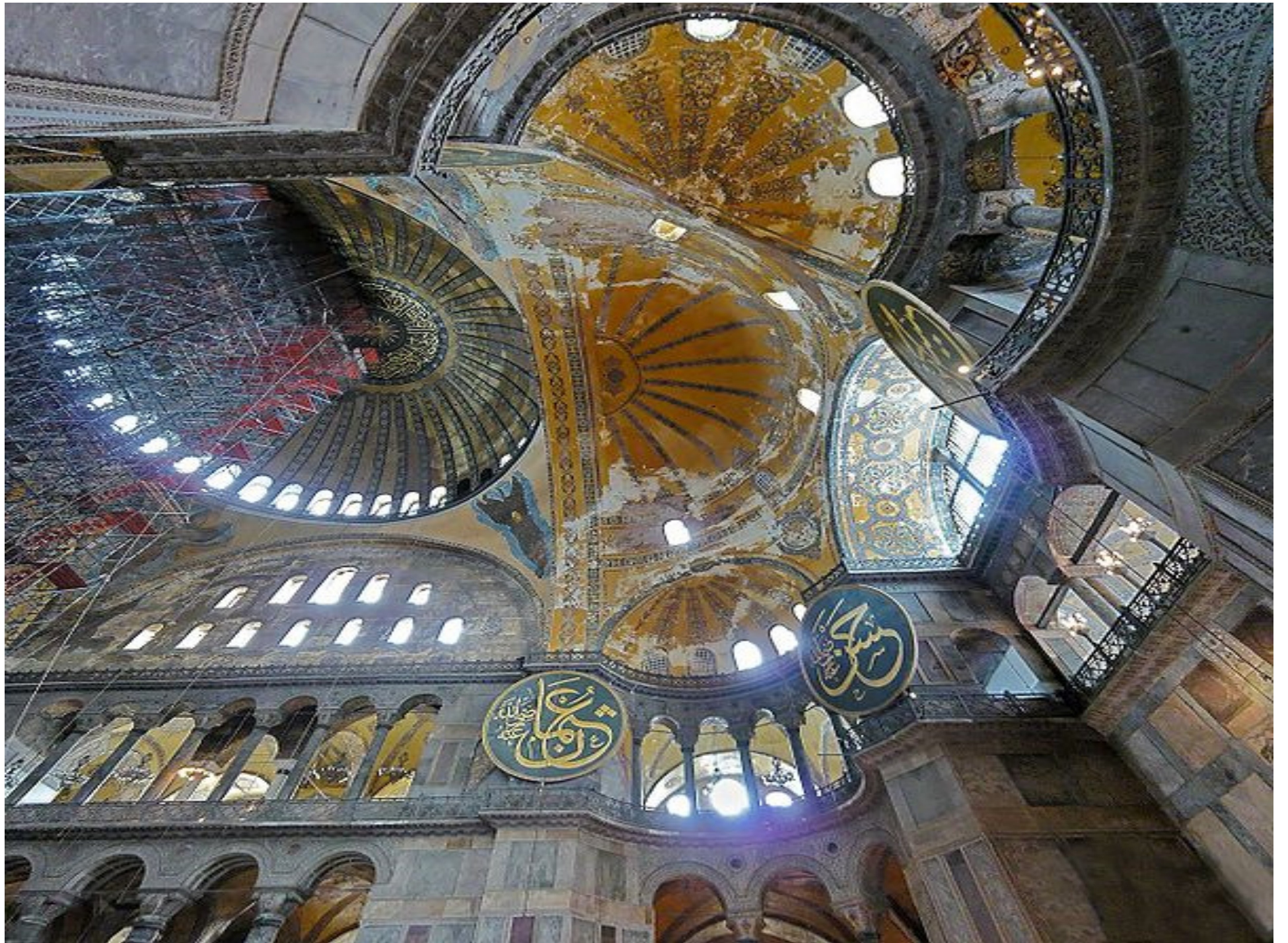
The Age of Justinian (527-575)

- 536: Re-conquest of Rome and much of Italy took many years.
- North Africa and the Spanish coast were easily conquered.
- Victories over Persia in the east consolidate the borders

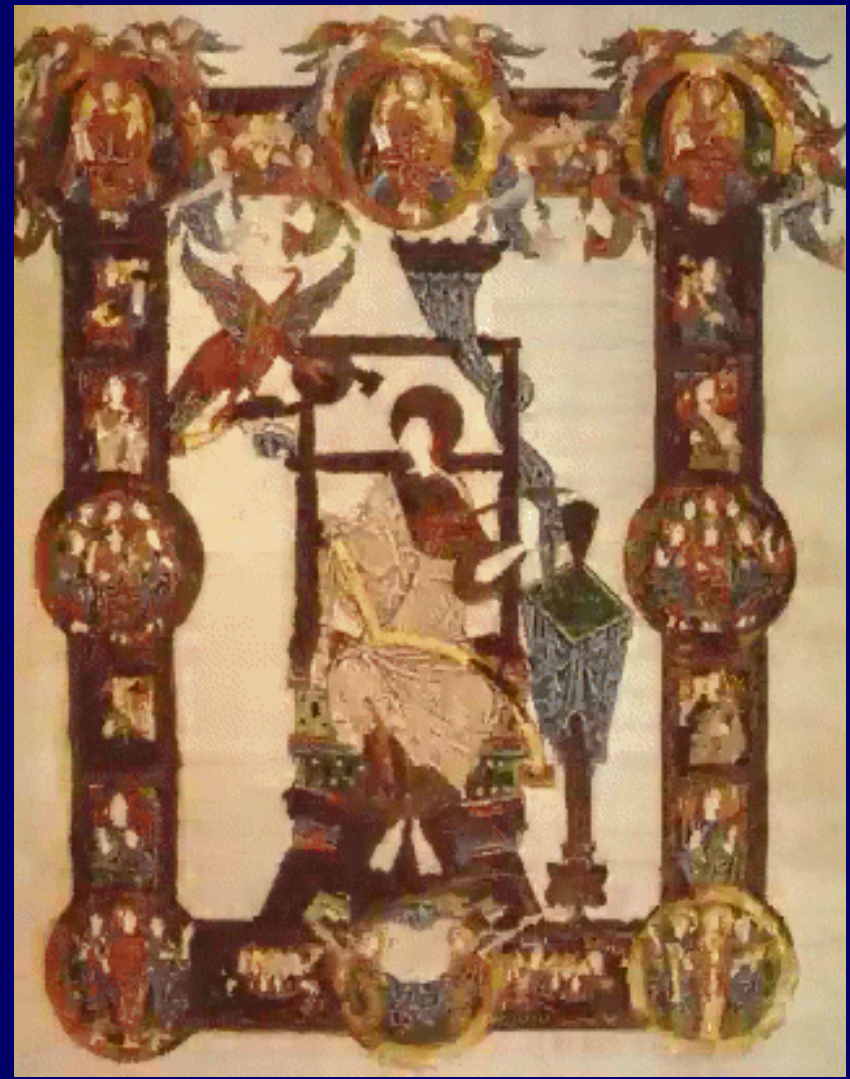




Hagia Sophia, Church of the Holy Wisdom, 6th c.



Byzantine Art: Mosaics and Illuminated Manuscripts









Justinian's Legacy

- Built Hagia Sophia Church which remained the seat of Eastern Christianity until the Fall of Constantinople.
- Rebuilt the Hippodrome (chariot race track)
- 552: Byzantine monks sneak silkworms and mulberry out of China.
- Justinian orders the **codification of Roman Christian law** known as the **Justinian Code**
- Destroyed the last stronghold of paganism (non-believers in Christianity)
- Ruled as an **Autocrat** with help from wife Theodora.

a person (as a monarch) ruling with unlimited authority



Empress Theodora
wife of Justinian I



The Byzantine empire in 565, at its largest expansion ever.

The End of the Byzantine Empire



- The **Byzantine empire** drew to a close in 1453 when forces from the **Muslim Ottoman Empire** which surrounded and conquered **Constantinople**.
- The ancient Christian city was **renamed Istanbul** and became the capital of the Ottoman Empire.