Nunc Agenda: Answer the following questions using pages 282-283 in the textbook.

1. How did the city of Byzantium become Constantinople?

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_________________________________________________________________________

2. Why was Constantinople such an important city?

_________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

3. What three cultures were blended in the Byzantine Empire?

_________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

Justinian’s Legacy

Using the documents below, as well as the documents from the “Emperor Justinian DBQ,” develop arguments in response to the question, “Was Justinian a good emperor?” If you are on the Blue Team, you must argue FOR Justinian. If you are on the Green Team, you must argue AGAINST Justinian.

RAISING FUNDS

Justinian was known for using trickery to collect more money for his military campaigns in the West. In one account by the court historian Procopius, a Byzantine soldier named John was taken as a captive by the enemy, who demanded payment to set John free...

| So his [grandmother], who was still living, got together a ransom not less than two thousand pounds of silver, and was ready to purchase her grandson's liberty. But... the Emperor heard of the bargain and forbade it: saying that Roman wealth must not be given to the barbarians. Not long after this, John fell ill and departed from this world, whereupon the Governor of the city forged a letter which, he said, John had written him as a friend not long before, to the effect that he wished his estate to go to the Emperor. |

THEODORA AND THE NIKA RIOTS

Five year’s into his reign, at a chariot match between the Blue team and the Green team, angry sports fans in the Hippodrome began a riot that destroyed the city of Constantinople. They cried “Nika” meaning “Conquer,” from which the riots get their name. According to Professor Thomas Martin PhD of the College of the Holy Cross...

| Justinian was so terrified that he was literally on the docks, ready to go into exile... at which point his wife, the beautiful and formidable Theodora, says, “I’m not going.”... She says, “I’m an empress, I’m not running away... Purple is a great color for a funeral. I’m staying.” Justinian was so shocked, [that] he didn’t go. With Theodora’s advice, he called in the shock troops, and slaughtered 30,000 fans who they had lured to the horse racing stadium. She saved him from throwing away his empire. |
**JUSTINIAN’S CODE**

Justinian realized the laws of the Roman Empire were long, confusing, and sometimes contradictory. He created a commission to collect, organize, and revise them into a new body of law called the *Corpus Juris Civilis*, commonly known as *Justinian’s code*. The introduction states...

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<th>The precepts (principles) of the law are these: to live honestly, to injure no one, and to give every man his due. The study of the law consists of two branches, public law and private law. The former relates to the welfare of the Roman State; the latter to the advantage of the individual citizen. The private law... [is] collected from the precepts of nature, from those of the law of nations, or from those of the civil law of Rome.</th>
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**PLAGUE OF JUSTINIAN**

While Justinian was busy fighting enemies in the West, there was a more powerful enemy already in his midst: the Bubonic Plague. According to Ishaan Tharoor of TIME magazine...

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<th>The dynamic and powerful Byzantine Emperor Justinian is remembered for having tried to restore the fallen glory of ancient Rome by waging a series of military campaigns to retake lands that had been overrun by barbarian tribes. But, while Justinian's armies were fleetingly successful, another scourge bearing his name was far deadlier. Around A.D. 540, a disease borne by rats in Egypt — long the breadbasket of the Mediterranean world — spread to the Byzantine capital at Constantinople (modern-day Istanbul) where, by some accounts, it claimed 5,000 lives a day and killed nearly half the ancient metropolis' population. From there, the plague moved east and west, becoming antiquity's most lethal known pandemic. Half a century after it began, between 25 million and 100 million in Europe and Asia had died. Some historians say the damage was so great to the Persian and Byzantine empires that it made them vulnerable to the Muslim conquests of the next century. The devastation the plague wrought may have also ushered in the period now known as the Dark Ages in Europe.</th>
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