

Notes – Early Middle Ages 1

Fall of Roman Empire

Survival in east as Byzantium

Barbarian invasions and kingdoms set up on ruins of rom empire

Triumph of Christianity

Survive extinction

Crisis of Roman Empire

Legacy peculiar

Pope Latin

Catholic Church best preserver of Roman Empire now

After 5th century

Byzantium

Abandon Latin for Greek 6th

1453 end

Other preserver is Islam

Islam in area of Roman Empire

Egypt Syria turkey Balkans

How it endured for so long

Why did it fail

Why did it fall to more primitive

Power of religious ideas

Personally social politically

The good emperors

Edward Gibon

96 to 180

Happiness of people sole goal of government

Roman Empire was not designed to reward ordinary people

It's laws were designed to protect the property of the rich

Surprisingly tolerant

Anyone could be citizens but must conform

Diocletian

Constantine

Roman Empire was enduring, stable

410 pillaging – first time in 800 years. Empire 400 years old

Only power to control all the Mediterranean. Others only 40%

England to Sahara

Spain to Armenia

Gibbon says Christianity was the cause of fall (18th century writing)

Not accepted any more

Rome tolerant but drew the line at Christianity

Brought in Gods – Zeus one day Isis next

Half of budget on empire

Urban civilisation

Cities had local gods and administration

All cities laid out. You'd know laid out on grid – where market, law courts were etc

Flaws

Imbalance between rural and urban

Drain land of vitality

East more prosperous than west

Third century. Army realises it can make and break emperors

Questions should be in back of your mind?

Fall – foreign threats or internal weakness

Continuity vs change

How did the rise of Christianity affect the empire

How does it triumph, seems so alien

284 – 305

Diocletian

Solved a number of problems

That threatened the empire