

Notes – Early Medieval Notes

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Early medieval notes 2
Crisis of Third Century
Diocletian

Was awesome

Saved the Roman empire
Problems

Problem of succession – how next one chosen

Size

Urban and rural

Cities draining country

East west imbalance

Armies – staffed by barbarians
Problems of replacing generations

Disease

Death childbirth

Infant mortality
Problems in 3rd century

Invasions – Persian

Back as far as Heroditus

First western historian

370BC

Persia on till 7th century

Valerian captured by Persians

Danube and Rhine – bulwarks against Barbarians

Decius died 251 fighting goths

235 to 280 30 emperors

Some lasting months

Assassinated by own troops – most

How choose

Sometimes family

2nd – choose

Other – military leaders

Rome becoming less and less relevant

Rome 271 Aurelian walled the city

Third century

Ruled by succession of generals

Not rich

Hold senate in contempt

Not well educated

Donative – reward from new emperor

Plotinus – flourished in third century

New Platonist

Big inflation problems

Romans didn't have debt financing

Debase coinage – don't put in as much silver or gold

Go to buy stuff – price 50% up as coins not good

Local elites – ruined

Sardis

People not interested who move in

Interested in religions that cross borders

Diocletian abdicated 305

Son of ex-slave

From Dalmatia

Under severe guidance empire reformed

Empire militarised

Changed in taxes

Change and grow army

Nearly doubled

200,000 to 400,000

No income tax as is based more on land than on salary

Admin values land, estates

Each 15 years change estimate

Diocletian improve mail system

Also more punishment for tax avoidance

Establishment of tetrarchy

Divided empire in west and east

Gets co-emperor in west he in east

And each has helper

Augusti – boss

Caesar – helpers

Emperor distant glimpsed

Not appear in public

He's a god

Throw yourself at his feet

Don't look at him till he says so

285 Diocletian

Maximian

306 brings down

Son of Augusti not appointed

Rebels

Fixed prices on goods – trying to deal with inflation

Gresham's law? Coinage

Fixed price

Legal price stuff is rubbish

Better stuff is more expensive on black market

Diocletian's policies failed

Tetrarchy

Fixed prices

Christianity

Liver told Diocletian Christians were responsible

Successful

Saved Roman Empire for 100 years

And east for 1200 years

People at time felt saved from disaster

Mosaic – a world restored

On whole things good in fourth century

Prosperous

Barbarians back

Persians back

Trier great in Germany

Milan