



### **Part A:**

#### **1. How does the event depicted in the painting reflect the fall of the Byzantine Empire?**

The event being depicted in this painting is the Ottoman takeover of Constantinople, in 1453. The people on the wall are the Byzantines defending themselves, while the people attacking are the Ottomans, who are managing to get over the wall getting into the city. It is clear that there are more Ottomans than Byzantines, leaving the defense with no chance of victory. This event marks the end of the Byzantine Empire, when the Ottomans take control of Constantinople.

### **Part B:**

#### **1. How did Justinian's actions contribute to the fall of the Byzantine empire?**

Justinian was in constant wars with others, as he was trying to regain the western part of the empire. As this cost a lot of money, taxes had to be raised (and people weren't happy about it). This sent the empire into a conflict, or civil unrest, and people weren't happy with Justinian. This left a slight crack in the empire, for others to get in and take over.

#### **2. How did invading forces contribute to the fall of the Byzantine empire?**

Since Justinian was getting into so many wars trying to regain control, and conflict was rising within the empire, this left a slight opening for others to try and takeover. Their big enemies were the Ottomans. Eventually, the Byzantine Empire declined to a point in which the Ottomans took over Constantinople. Thus began the Ottoman Empire.

#### **3. What impact did the Macedonian Empire have on the Byzantine empire?**

The Macedonian Empire helped to strengthen the Byzantine Empire. They helped to improve their economy, strengthened the troops, regained former Byzantine territory, and weakened the control of the powerful.<sup>1</sup> However, eventually internal problems rose which resulted in the

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<sup>1</sup> Information gotten from 1.07 notes

empire becoming unstable (when co-empresses Zoe and Theodora started to expose corrupt officials). Eventually political corruption spread, and all of these internal conflicts in the end weakened the empire as a result.

#### **4. How did the Crusades contribute to the fall of the Byzantine empire?**

The Crusades weakened the Byzantine Empire. They were originally started to drive out the Turks from Anatolia and Palestine. It was successful at first. Eventually, crusaders and Venetians attacked the capitol, resulting in the emperor fleeing the city. Alexius became the emperor, and the crusaders wanted their pay (as a deal had been made to drive the last emperor out of the city). The Byzantines caught on to what was going on and killed Alexius. This meant that the crusaders weren't going to get their pay, and they weren't happy about this. They captured Constantinople and destroyed part of it. A Latin Empire was established that controlled only the city, while the Byzantines set up a separate government in exile.<sup>2</sup>

#### **5. How did trade with the Venetians contribute to the fall of the Byzantine empire?**

The Venetians and the Byzantines had an alliance with each other. Venice, who was a very wealthy and powerful city-state during this time, offered protection to the Byzantine Empire. This seems like it would help the Byzantine Empire. On the outside, yes. But in the inside, no. Because of this dependence the Byzantines had on Venice, they were not able to defend themselves. As conflicts began to rise, such as the ones already discussed, they had lots of trouble defending themselves.

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<sup>2</sup> Information gotten from 1.07 notes