

AP WORLD HISTORY 9

Chapter 13 – The Commonwealth of Byzantium

Historical Thinking Skills Questions: Use the pages identified for each section of the chapter and answer each question fully. Answers should be structured to best help you in understanding the material, whether that be completely written out, in outline form, a graphic organizer, whatever works best!

I. The Early Byzantine Empire (Pages 318-325)

1. According to the text, “... the Byzantine emperors built a distinctive tradition of statecraft.” Support this statement with as much as evidence as possible.
2. Identify the most important political, legal, and military achievements of Emperor Justinian’s rule. (Make sure “caesaropapism is in there!!)
3. What was “Greek fire?” More importantly, why was it used, and against who?
4. **Cause – Effect:** Byzantine adoption of the “theme system.”

II. Byzantine Economy and Society (Pages 325-330)

1. **Cause – Effect:** Silk production in the Byzantine Empire
2. READ “Sources From the Past: The Wealth and Commerce of Constantinople” Find 5-7 pieces of evidence that support rabbi Benjamin Tuleda’s assertion that Constantinople was, “... a flourishing and prosperous city.”

III. Classical Heritage and Orthodox Christianity (Pages 330-336)

1. What was the connection between education and government in the Byzantine Empire?
2. What was the significance of the Council of Nicaea?
3. Define “Patriarch”
4. Identify and explain “iconoclasm”
5. What were the major issues, and points of tension, that led to the “schism” in the Christian Church in 1054 CE?

IV. The Influence of Byzantium in Eastern Europe (Pages 336-340)

1. **Cause – Effect:** Development of the Cyrillic alphabet.
2. Why was the early Russian city of Kiev geographically important?
3. Identify the ways in which the Byzantine Empire had an impact on the Russian state between the 9th and 12th centuries.