

VIII. THE DARK AGES

476-1054

A. **Historical Sketches**1. The Eastern Roman Empire

As our field of study narrows more into the western world we lose contact with the east in a progressive fashion. For the period of the Dark Ages our sketch is of an empire that is declining in power and territory but holds itself solvent just the same. The following emperors are important in our overall discussion and the dates mentioned for each are for the end of the individual rule.

--Zeno (491)..worked hard to end the monophysite problem..produced the "Henoticon" as a "white paper" to cover the subject.

--Justin (527)

--Justinian (565) --the most famous and capable of the "caesaropapists" he brought about the fifth ecumenical council, gave protection to Rome (the city), and stabilized the imperial power in the east.

--Heraclitus (642) --produced the "Ekthesis" in an attempt to end the Monothelity problem.

--Leo, the Isaurian (740), instituted the iconoclastic dispute..perhaps as a means of placating Islamic ideals (not sure of this, however).

I will offer some general remarks on the eastern empire and we will have to let it go at that!

2. The Western Territory

I am calling it territory due to the ragged condition of government and control and the warfares of the various groups that kept life continuously upset.

a. **Survival of Rome: City and Church**

A number of factors entered into this including the concepts that: