**IV. Fall of the Roman Empire**

1. Third Century Crisis

* **Marcus Aurelius (161-180) –**
* Hostile Germanic tribes began to penetrate the Roman boarders
* Pirates began to disrupt trade on the Mediterranean Sea
* Roman Empire also ran out of new sources of gold and silver
* Roman Empire was built on fighting, expanding, and taxing – Rome needed to be constantly at war
* **Inflation –**
* Serious food shortages and disease spread throughout the empire

1. Constantine Attempts Reform

* **312 –**
* **324 –**
* Moves the Roman capital from Rome to Byzantium, in modern day Turkey
* **Constantinople –**

1. Fall of the Western Empire

* Ever since the days of Julius Caesar, Germanic peoples had surrounded Rome’s boarders
* Roman armies had been able to prevent these tribes from entering the empire
* **370** –

1. Attila the Hun

* **Scourge of God –**
* **444 –**
* Huns were a barbaric people who drank blood from the skulls of their enemies
* Sacked over 70 Roman cities
* Used terror as a weapon – Often times killed everyone in a town and burnt it to the ground – wanted their reputation to precede them
* Huns were capable of taking over Rome itself
* **453 –**
* **476 –**
* After this date no Emperor even pretends to rule Rome
* Germanic tribes were not well educated and spoke many types of language – Fall of Latin
* Overall learning drastically declined
* **1453 –**