

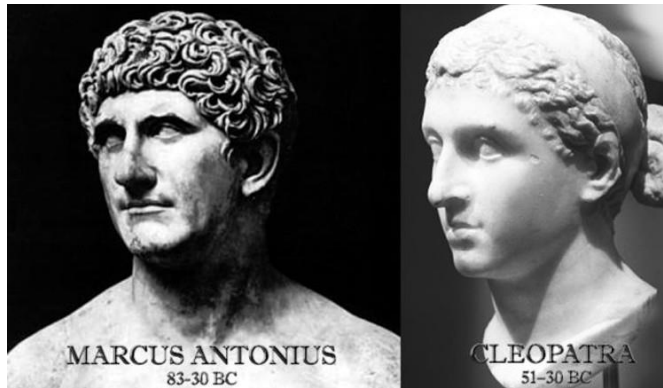
The Roman Empire

After Caesar's death

- Civil war broke out again and destroyed what was left of the Republic;
- Three of Caesar's supporters banded together to crush the assassins;
- Caesar's grandnephew and adopted son, Octavian, general mark Antony, and the powerful politician, Lepidus;
- 43 B.C take control of Rome and ruled ten years as second Triumvirate;

Rise of Octavian

- Octavian and Mark Antony become rivals;
- Octavian defeats combined forces of Antony and Cleopatra of Egypt at the naval battle of Actium in 31 B.C;
- Antony and Cleopatra commit suicide;



- Octavian the unchallenged ruler of Rome;
- Accepted the title of Augustus (exalted one);
- Retained title imperator (supreme commander);



Augustus



A Vast and Powerful Empire

- Rome at the peak of its power from the beginning of Augustus' rule in 27 B.C. to 180 A.D;
- 207 years of peace and prosperity, Pax Romana (Roman Peace), although this is a **matter of perspective;**
- more than 3 million square miles;
- 60 and 80 million people;
- 1 million in the city of Rome itself;

The Roman Empire



Map of the Roman Empire



Sound Government

- empire held together through efficient government and able rulers;

Augustus: stabilized the frontier, constructed beautiful and majestic public buildings; set up a civil service(paid workers to manage grain supply, tax collection, and the postal system;

Although the Senate still functioned, civil servants were drawn from plebeians;

The “Good” and ...

“Good” or Competent Emperors:

Claudius(41-54) – established Roman authority in southern part of Britain; promoted public works in Italy;

Vespasian(69-79) – dispatched army, led by son Titus, to Palestine; Titus suppressed a Hebrew revolt, destroyed Jerusalem and expelled most Jews from Palestine;

Trajan(98-117) – empire reaches its greatest extent; vast building program; enlarged social welfare;

Hadrian(117-138) – consolidated earlier conquests; built defensive walls in northern Britain and central Europe; reorganized the bureaucracy;

Marcus Aurelius(161-180) – brought empire to height of economic prosperity; conscientious and high-minded ruler; concerned with people’s welfare; defeated invaders; a Stoic philosopher who wrote the famous book, *Meditations*; his death marks the end of Pax Romana;

the Bad

- **Caligula(37-41)** – mentally disturbed;
- **Nero(54-68)** – good administrator but ruthless; murdered many; persecuted Christians;
- **Domitian(81-96)** - paranoid

Size

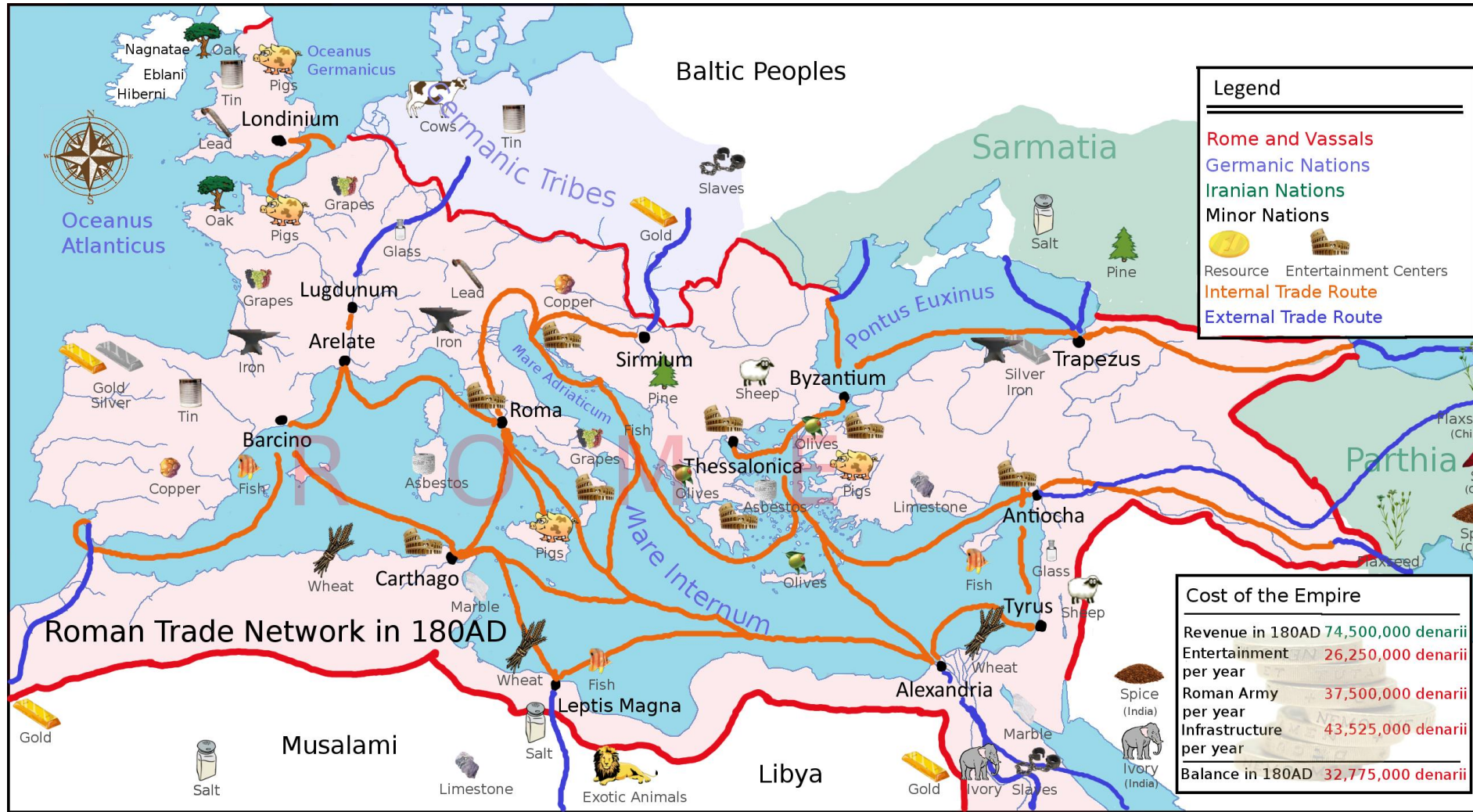
By the second century A.D.,
The empire reached **from Spain to Mesopotamia, from North Africa to Britain,**
including people of many different languages
and cultures;



Agriculture and Trade

1. **agriculture** the most important industry in the empire; everything depended on it;
 - 90% population farmed; local markets;
 - additional foods and luxury items obtained through trade;
2. **common coinage**: - silver denarius;
3. **vast trading network**:
 - ships from east traveled the Mediterranean protected by the Roman navy;
 - Prominent cities that prospered from Roman trade included: Corinth, Ephesus, Antioch;
 - Roman trade reached China and India;
4. **a complete network of roads** linked the empire; roads served military and trade purposes; trade brought Roman ways to the provinces;

Roman Trade Routes



Problems

- inherent instability of imperial government; civil wars; the problem of succession;
- Costs of empire – maintaining empire; defending borders
- Growing gap between rich and poor
- What if expansion stops – no additional revenue;

3rd Century: On Verge of Anarchy

- Series of civil wars and military governments;
- 235-284 22 emperors, most died violently; 50 years of near anarchy;

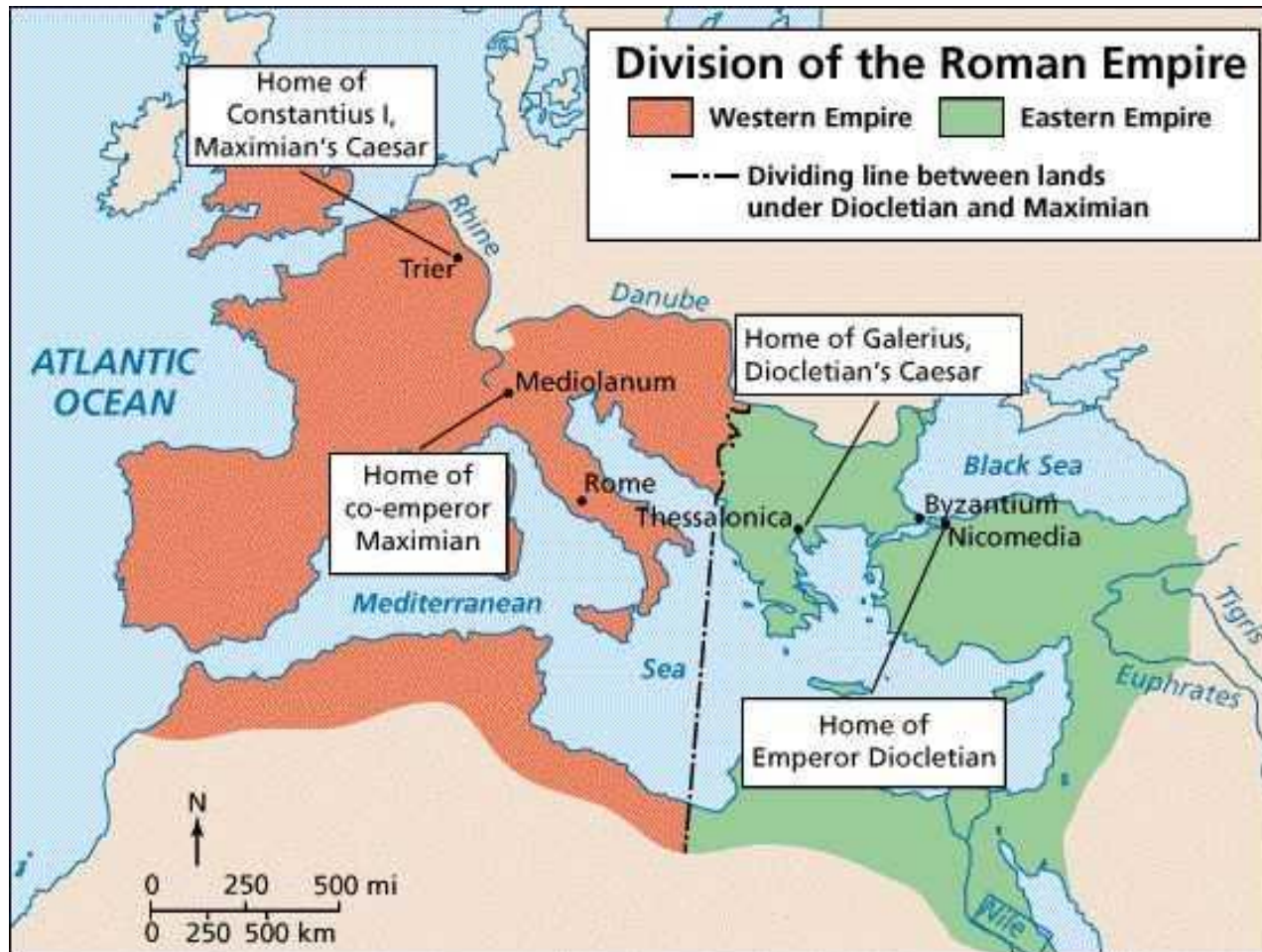
Later Emperors

- **Diocletian**(284-305) became emperor after a brief period of incompetent rule and internal strife; restored efficiency after nearly century of anarchy; to simplify governing the vast empire, he **divided the Empire into East and West – each portion administered separately;** to prevent civil war, he established a system of succession to the throne; nevertheless, his death led to renewed civil wars;

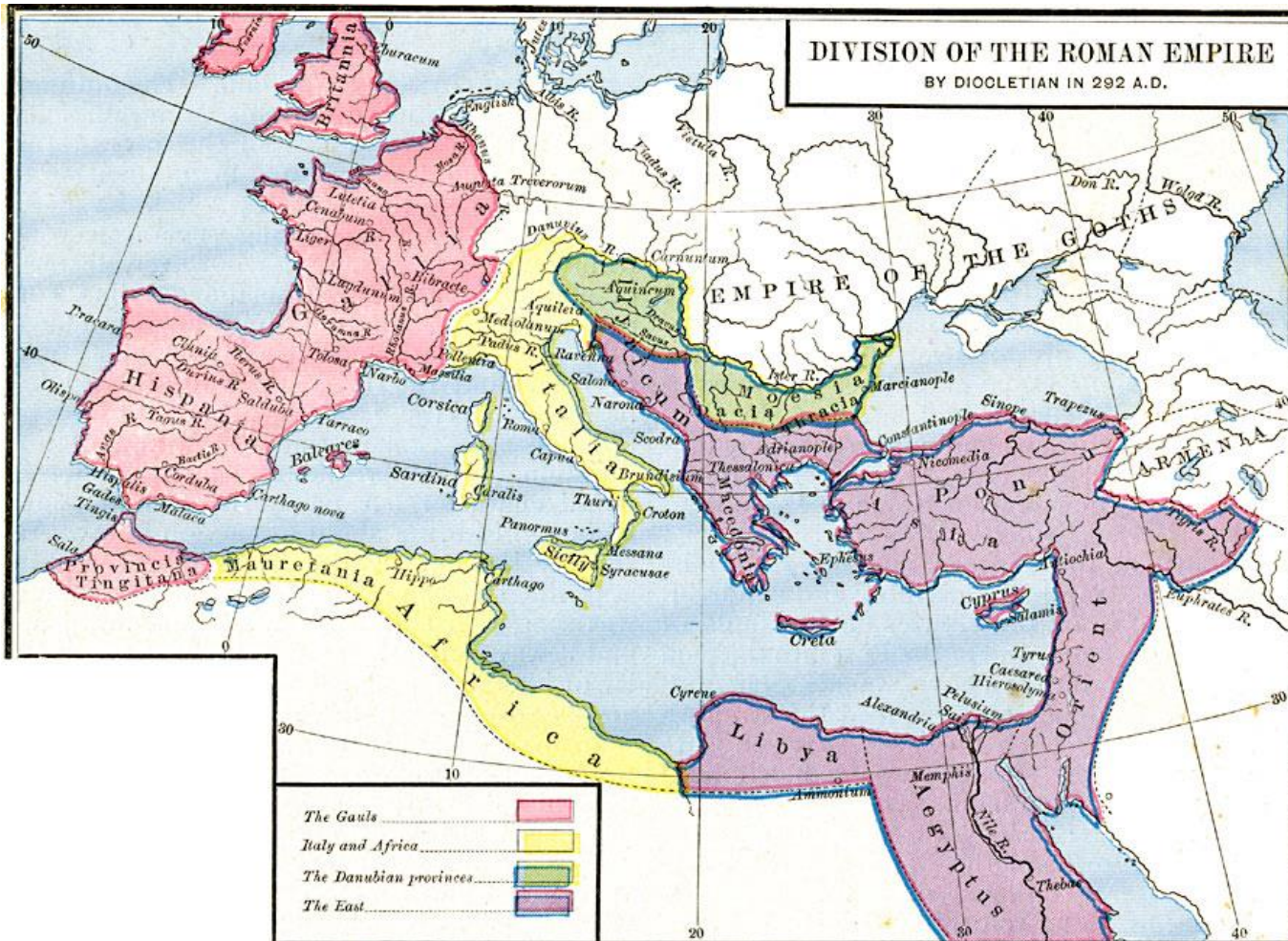
Diocletian



Division of the Roman Empire



Division by Diocletian



Diocletian Demand Unity – the Gods of Rome











- Burn incense to Roman gods – a form of pledge of allegiance;
- Christians suspected of disloyalty; they continue to be persecuted under Diocletian

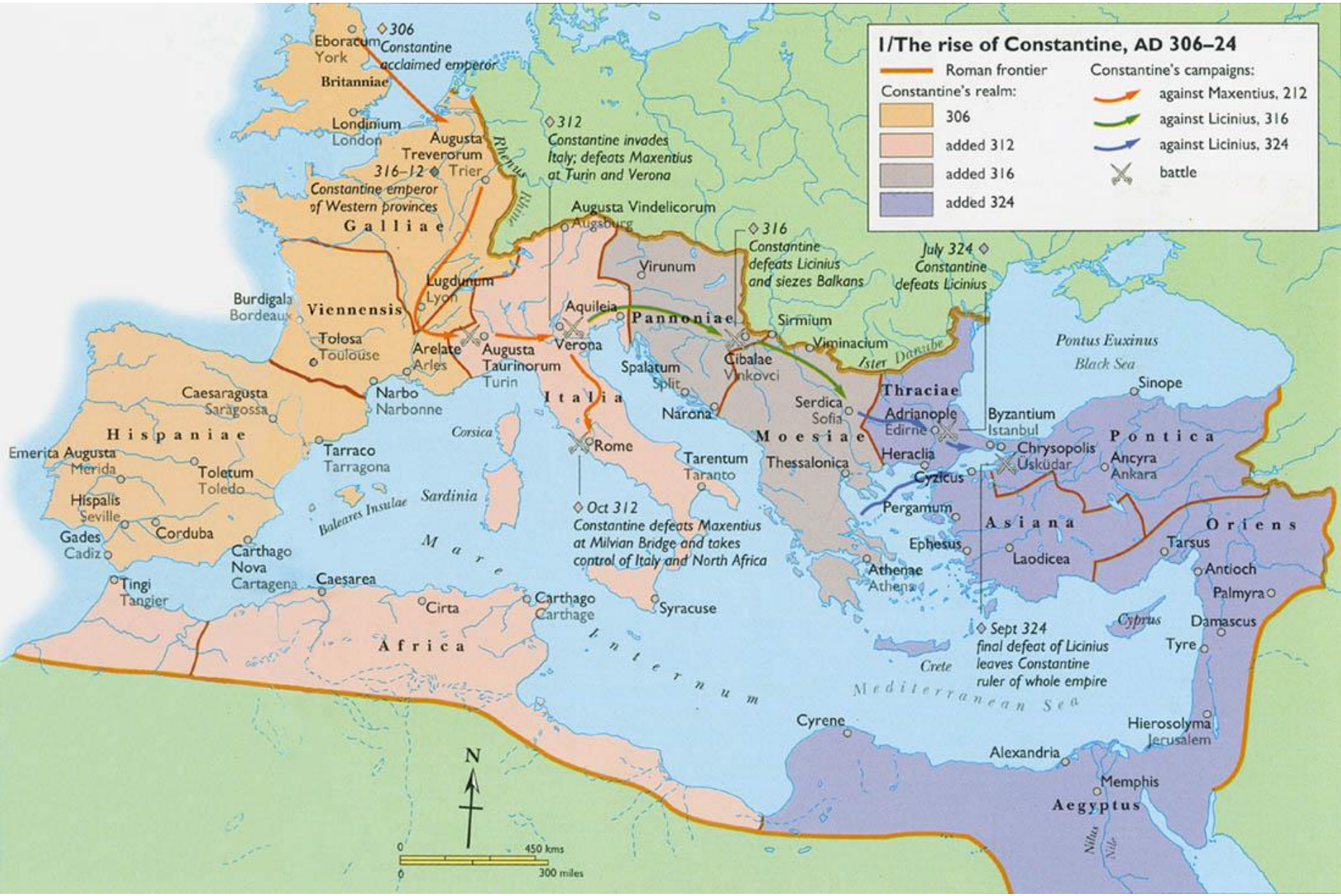
Constantine

- **Constantine(312-337)** – reunited the empire by military force and moved his capital from Rome to Constantinople or New Rome; by the Edict of Milan (313 A.D.), inspired by and attributing his success to the Christian god, he ended the persecution of Christians; just before his death, Constantine was baptized; New Rome or Constantinople is a Christian city, empty of all pagan associations;



I/The rise of Constantine, AD 306–24

	Roman frontier		Constantine's campaigns:
	Constantine's realm:		against Maxentius, 212
	306		against Licinius, 316
	added 312		against Licinius, 324
	added 316		battle
	added 324		



Constantine



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The Empire Shifts East

