Before the last Roman Emperor Constantine died he created a second centre of power in Eastern Europe, which he called Constantinople before the Roman Empire began to fall.

This second center of power now modern day Istanbul (Turkey) over time began to gain strength and wealth. After constant barbarian invasions from the north eventually toppled Rome, the city of Constantinople was the only center of Roman power in eastern or western Europe.

By the middle of the 4th century, Constantinople began the capital in this eastern location. The lose of Rome as the center of power also affected the church profoundly and as a result the center of the church and the papacy moved to eastern Europe. The alliance of state and church was later referred to as the Byzantine Empire.