Diocletian’s Economic Reforms and Their Impact

- In an attempt to curb/limit inflation, Diocletian took an unprecedented/new/unusual step in Roman history
  - He issued an edict/order that fixed maximum prices and wages throughout the empire
- Taxes became “able in kind”
  - Meaning in goods and services instead of money
- All the people involved in growth, preparation, and transportation of food and other essentials were locked into their professions
  - This happened because the emperors were trying desperately to assure a steady supply of goods
  - Example: a baker could not go into any other business → and his son had to be a baker after his father died too
- Many localities could not pay their taxes during this period of severe depression
  - In these cases: Local tax collectors had to make up the difference from their own funds
- This system wiped out a whole class of moderately wealthy people

Villas

- Huge estates that came from great and huge plots of land that were abandoned in fear of invasion and future fighting
  - Free tenant farmers and their families were killed during barbarian invasions → large tracts of land therefore sat there deserted → landlords with ample resources began to claim as much of this land as they could
  - Villas were self-sufficient
  - Villas provided stability because they often produced more than they consumed and could successfully compete with declining cities by surpluses (leftover products/etc) in the countryside

Serfs

- In return for protection and security landlords could offer, many small landholders who remained in the countryside gave over their land and their freedom
  - These people continued to work on their land --- but it was no longer their own land
  - Also, they could no longer decide to move anywhere else

Constantine’s Religious Changes and Reforms

- Made many religious changes and reforms to the Roman empire
- Legalized the practice of Christianity throughout the empire
- Baptized as a Christian
- Freed the clergy from imperial taxation and endowed the building of Christian churches
- Allowed others to make gifts to the church
- Declared Sunday a public holiday

Emperor Theodosius

- Made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire
- Allowed the church to establish its own courts
  - & to use its own body of law called “canon law”

Constantinople

- The new Roman capital
- Created by Constantine