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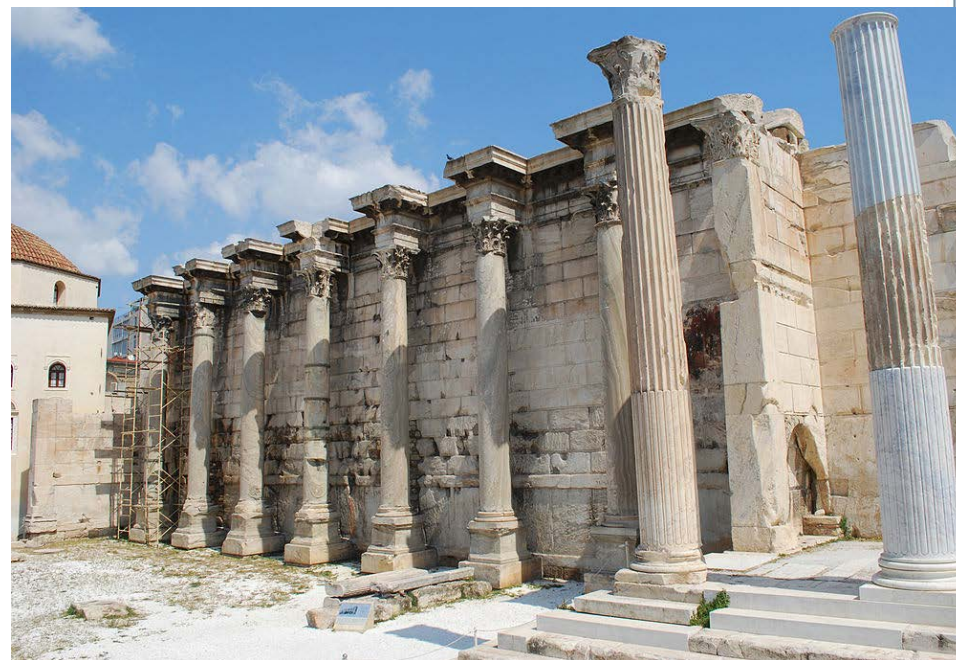
Trawsnewid Addysg; Trawsnewid Bywydau
Transforming Education; Transforming Lives



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3rd century

- Major centre of learning
- Impressive buildings, particularly of the Hadrianic period



Heruli invasion 267

- Athens destroyed.
- Destroyed Odeum of Herodes
- Did not manage to get up to the Acropolis
- Heroic defense by Dexippus
- Ancient wall destroyed



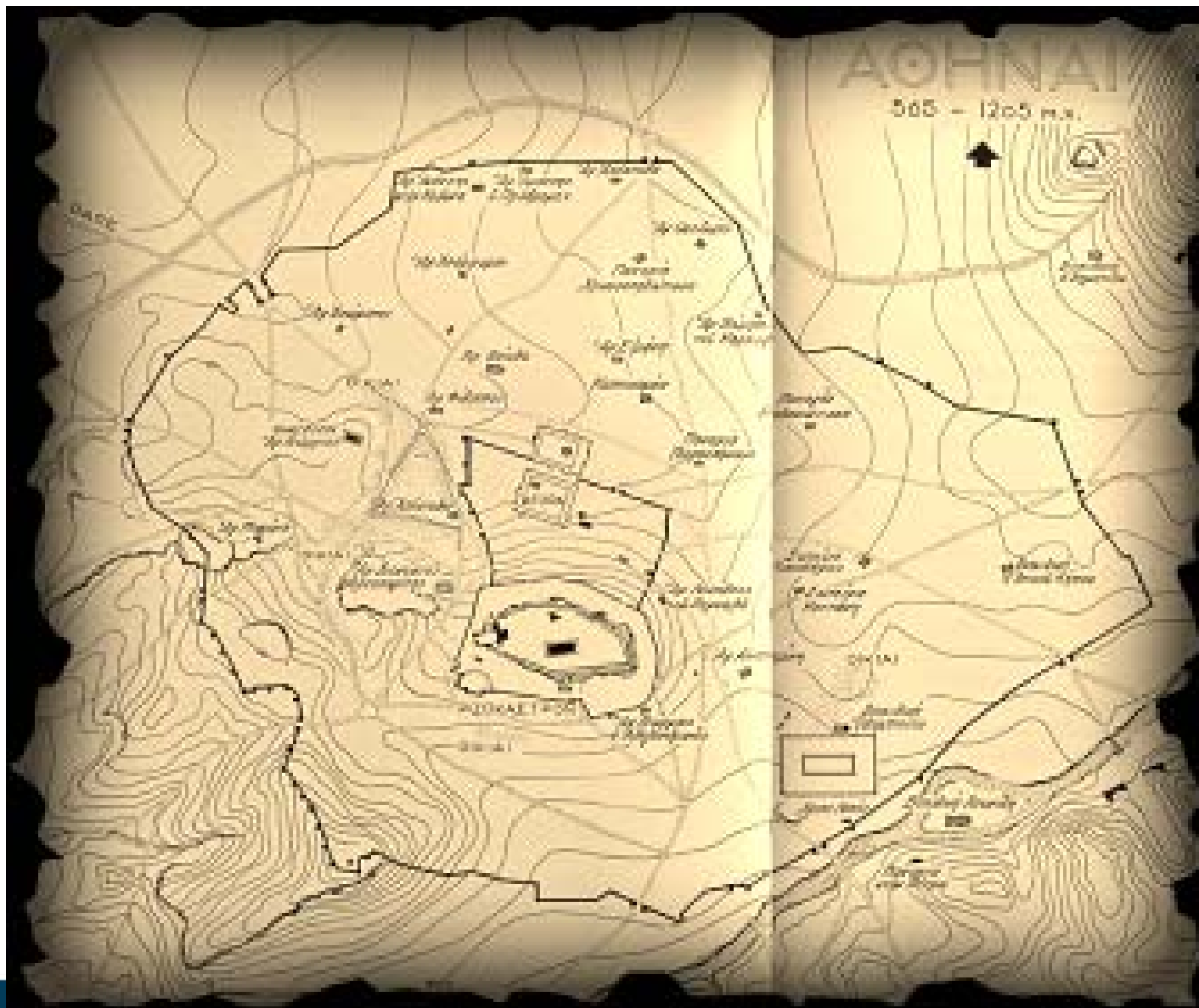
276-282

- Building of the late Roman wall.
- Much smaller area covered than in ancient wall.
- Considerable use of previous materials



4-6th Centuries: The Academy

- Main Neoplatonist centre of learning
- Both Christian and pagan pupils and teachers
- BUT
 - Evidence that Athens remained pagan to a large extent much later than other parts of the Empire
- Primary competitor: Alexandria
- Housing related to the philosophical schools found around Areopagus and south slope



Christianisation

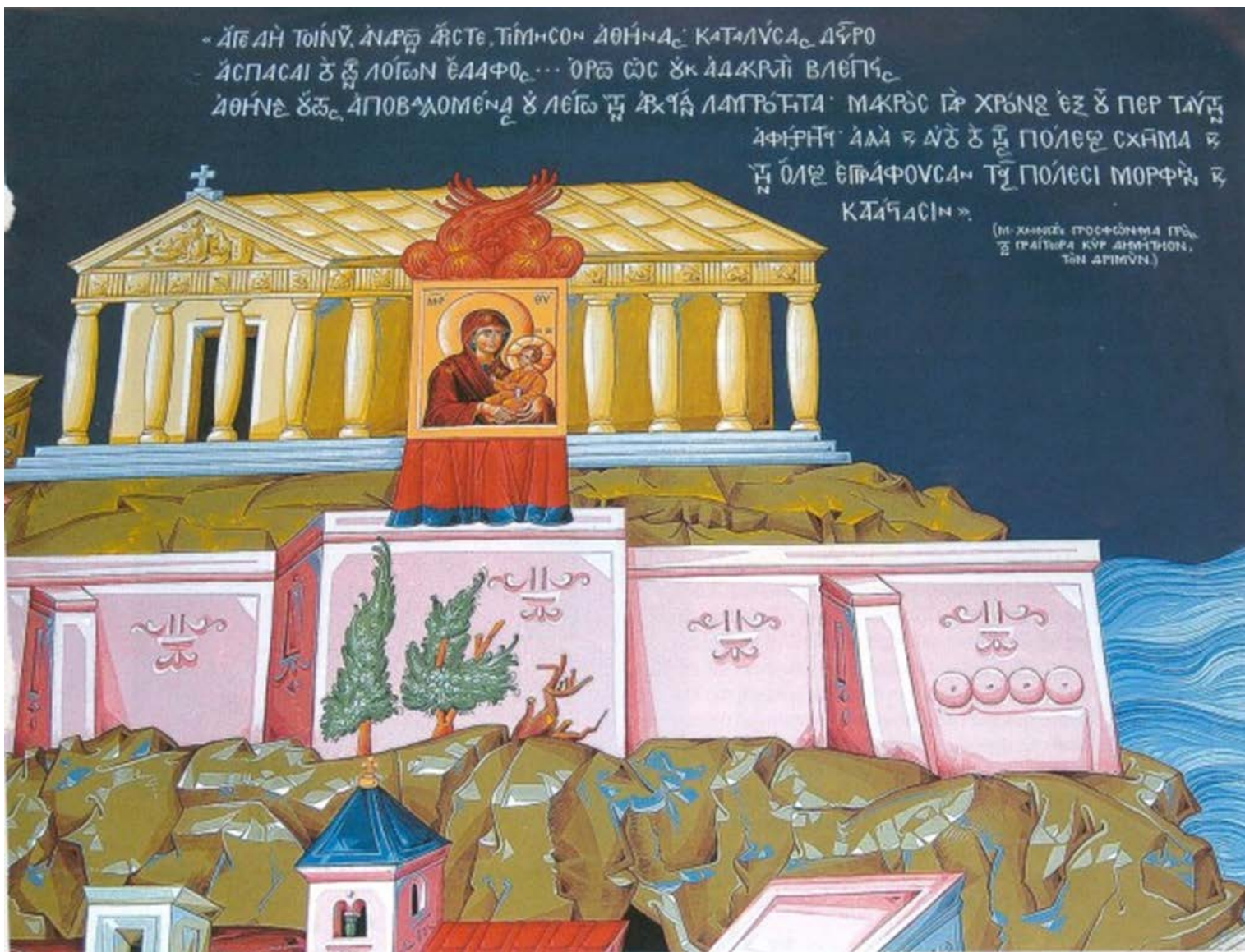
- Theodosius I (380-394) banned pagan worship and stopped the Olympic Games
- 396 – Alaric sacks Athens
- Theodosius II (408-450) banned worship at Eleusis (and the Eleusinian Mysteries) and ordered pagan temples to become churches.
- Turned to Christian Churches: Parthenon, Erechtheum, Propylaea, Asclepieum, part of the library of Hadrian, and the Olympieion.

Athenais-Eudokia

- Empress (wife of Theodosius I): 421-460
- Monophysite, learned, daughter of Leontios, who was a pagan philosopher
- Wrote literary poems, including an epic poem on the martyrdom of St Cyprian, and Homeric Centos

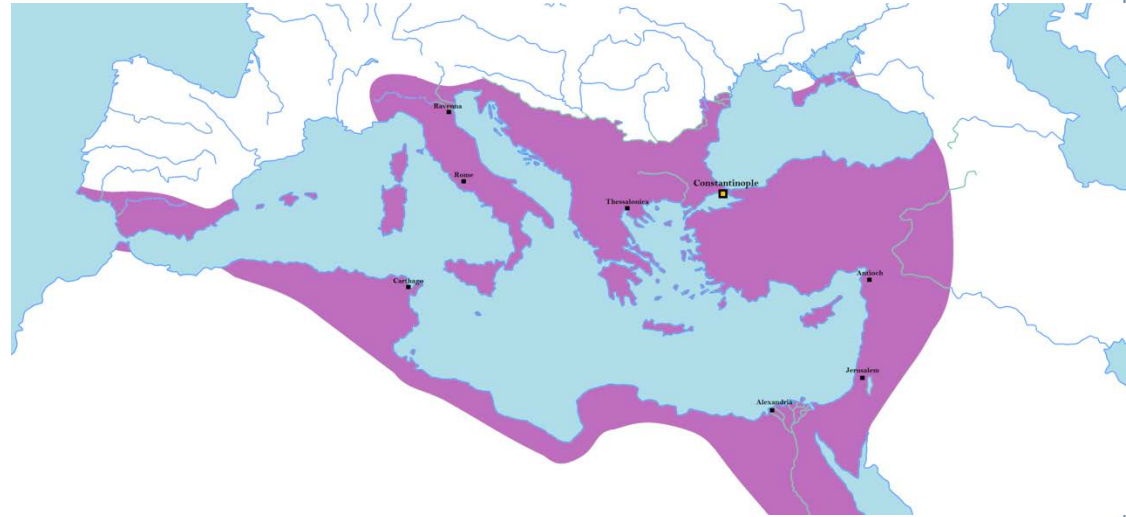
The Centos

- Pastiche of lines from Homer or Vergil put together for Christian themes
- Eudokia wrote one of the life of Christ
- Here she is describing Eve, using lines from the Odyssey describing Clytemnestra
- She destroyed her wedded husband, and a hateful song will exist amongst men, she also gave a bad reputation to women, even the woman who does what is right.
Lines 77-79



Closing of the schools: Justinian

- Justinian's closing of the philosophical schools of Athens affected the economy of the city.
- BUT new towers on the walls and more fortifications
- Athens more as a point of military security – contact with the harbour



6-9th centuries

- 582 Sack of Athens by the Slavs
- 662 Constans II visits Athens
- 700-850 Iconoclasm conflict
 - Including Irene of Athens
- 800-900 Bishopric of Athens promoted to Metropolitan status
 - i.e. had control over bishoprics of Euboea, central Greece and islands

Iconoclasts vs Iconophines

- Iconoclasm = rejected the veneration of icons
 - Prohibition against idolatry
 - Roots in 4th century (Eusebius, Origen)
 - Leo III imposed iconoclasm in 726
 - Conflict with Patriarchate
 - Aspects of Caesaropapism
 - Constantine V main proponent theologically
 - Council of Hieria 754
 - Main persecution 760-780

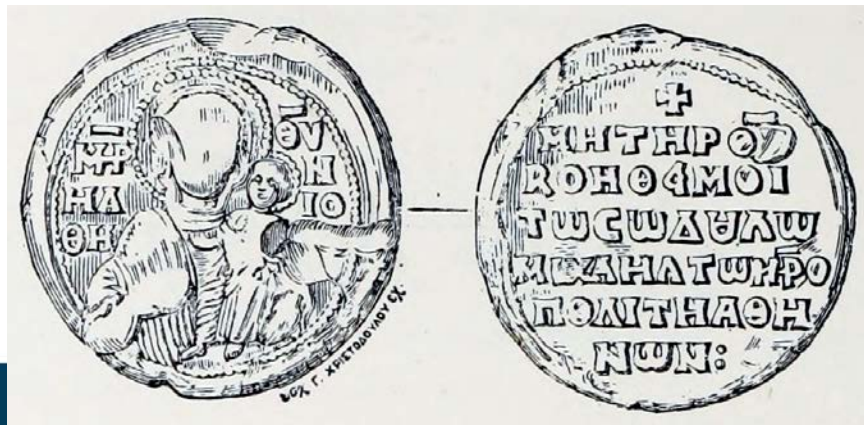
Irene of Athens



- Member of the family of Sarantapechoi of Athens.
- Empress Consort 775-80
- Regent of Constantine VI 780-790
- Co-regent 792-797
- Empress Regnant 797-802
- Iconophile empress – stopped the rise of iconoclasm

Michael Choniates

- Metropolite of Athens 1182-1204
- Better understanding of the city and issues
- Prolific writer of letters and orator
- Defended the city against Sgouros in 1204



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1204: Leo Sgouros

- Athens besieged by Leo Sgouros
 - Sgouros declared independence from Byzantium in 1201.
 - Took advantage of Crusader sack of Constantinople to besiege Athens. Did not succeed, but did burn the city.

1204: The Crusaders

- After the fall of Constantinople to the 4th crusade, other cities and areas in the empire were conquered as well.
- Athens fell in 1204 and the Duchy of Athens was created.
- Duchy of Athens was part of the kingdom of Thessalonika (of Boniface of Montferrat)
- The Duchy was given to the de la Roche family