

# Venice, Dubrovnik, and Ephesus

Scott Pearson  
 Professor Emeritus  
 Stanford University

This essay focuses on the political, economic, and cultural history of Venice, Dubrovnik, and Ephesus – three strategically-located port cities that dominated trade in the Eastern Mediterranean region for two millennia. It is written for the participants in the Chief Executives Organization’s program, Dalmatian Coast, An Adriatic Sea Adventure, July 28-August 7, 2018.

Venice – located at the northern end of the Adriatic Sea – created a trading empire along the Dalmatian Coast and into the Eastern Mediterranean between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. I discuss how Venice established an independent republic and gained control of a chain of islands and ports to monopolize trade, became Europe’s richest city through commerce, shipbuilding, and artisanship in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, and eventually was overtaken by external forces – Ottoman expansion, Portuguese exploration, English naval power, and Napoleonic conquest – in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Dubrovnik – sited on the Dalmatian Coast on the eastern side of the Adriatic Sea – mimicked Venice by creating wealth through trade and shipbuilding, though on a more limited scale. I explain how

Dubrovnik created a trade entrepôt to link Western Europe with Constantinople, got rich when the Ottoman Empire sponsored its trading activities in the Balkans, peaked in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, and then declined in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries when it was struck by a massive earthquake, Ottoman power shrunk, and Napoleon conquered much of Europe, including Dubrovnik. Today, Dubrovnik, like Venice, relies on tourism.

Ephesus – situated in central-western Anatolia (today’s Turkey) on the Ionian Coast – was founded 3,000 years ago as a Greek city-state and served as a key port under Persian, Hellene, Roman, and Byzantine rule. I discuss how Ephesus peaked in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century under Roman rule, when it created wealth through trade and artisanship and served as a center for administration (capital of Roman Asia) and religion (cult of Artemis). I show why Ephesus declined in the 7<sup>th</sup> century, after the Cayster River silted its port and Arabs sacked the city, slid into minor importance, and was abandoned in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Archaeological excavations of Ephesus began in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, and today it is a fine representations of an ancient Roman city. I append a time line, a bibliography, and a descriptions of my recent visits to the three sites.

## The Republic of Venice (5<sup>th</sup> century-1797)

**Political Control.** The Venetian lagoon is a crescent-shaped arc of 35 miles, less than 7 miles wide, which occupies 210 square miles.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at  
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Leguna\\_Veneta.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Leguna_Veneta.png)>

### *Venice and the Venetian Lagoon*

The legendary founding of the island city of Venice occurred on March 25, 421, by Veneti traders fleeing from Goth invasions of the nearby mainland. Offshore Venice escaped the invasions of the Veneto (in the northeastern Italian peninsula) by Attila the Hun (452) and the Lombards (568).



The Venetian Republic was founded in 697, when the leading businessmen elected the first of 118 doges (leaders). Venice chose to remain within the Byzantine (Eastern Roman) Empire. In 829, two Venetian merchants stole the body of St. Mark in Alexandria and transferred it to Venice. Thereafter, the iconic symbol of Venice was the lion of St. Mark. In 899, Venice narrowly defeated a Magyar assault of the lagoon and retained its independence.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at  
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Accademia -  
St Mark%27s Body Brought to Venice by Jacopo Tintoretto.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Accademia_-_St_Mark%27s_Body_Brought_to_Venice_by_Jacopo_Tintoretto.jpg)>

*St. Mark's Body Brought to Venice – Painting by Tintoretto, 1548*

The Venetian Republic was stratified socially into three classes. The *popolani* (the laborers, artisans, and tradesmen) made up the poorest and largest class and had no political power. The *cittadini*, who provided most of Venice's civil servants, were the middle class who could prove that their families had been citizens for three generations without engaging in manual labor. The patricians consisted of 100 to 150 wealthy families who were the governing class of the republic.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at  
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Avarice1.png>>

*Cittadini, Working in a Counting House in Venice in the 14<sup>th</sup> century –  
Painting by Cocharelli, From a Treatise on the Seven Vices c. 1340*

The structure of government was hierarchical. A General Assembly ratified laws. A Great Council (1,100 members by 1300) drafted legislation. The Council of Ten was an all-powerful judicial committee with secret agents and no appeal of its verdicts. At the top was the doge, elected by members of the Great Council. The population of Venice expanded from 80,000 in the 13<sup>th</sup> century to 120,000 a century later and peaked at 190,000 in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at  
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Flag\\_of\\_Most\\_Serene\\_Republic\\_of\\_Venice.svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Flag_of_Most_Serene_Republic_of_Venice.svg)>

*Flag of the Republic of Venice – Featuring the Lion of St. Mark*



**Imperial Expansion.** In the 11<sup>th</sup> century, Venice defeated Croatian pirates, forced loyalty oaths from Dalmatian ports, and gained control of trade in the eastern Adriatic.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at  
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Republik\\_Venedig.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Republik_Venedig.png)>

*The Republic of Venice (Red Areas), c. 1000*

After Venice helped the Byzantine Empire defeat Norman Sicily, the Byzantine emperor issued a Golden Bull (1082), which gave Venice a Venetian Quarter in Constantinople, tax-free trade in the empire, and title to Dalmatia.

Venetian participation in the first three Crusades opened Crusader ports in the Levant (Acre and Tyre) to Venetian trade. Venice expanded further after the Fourth Crusade (1202-1204). In return for an amount equal to the annual income of France, Venice supplied 450 transport ships and 50 armed galleys to the Frankish Crusaders. To repay Venice, the Franks and Venetians sacked Constantinople.



Source: *Wikimedia Commons*, available at  
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:PriseDeConstantinople1204PalmaLeJeune.JPG>>

*Crusaders and Venetians Besieged Constantinople,  
Fourth Crusade, 1202-1204 –  
The Taking of Constantinople, By Palma Le Jeune*

In the settlement of 1204, Venice received 3/8 of Constantinople, the islands of Crete and Negroponte, and the Peloponnesian ports of Modon and Coron. Venice then formed the Stato da Mar, its trading empire in the eastern Mediterranean.

Venice began its expansion into northeastern Italy in 1337 by conquering Treviso. Although the republic lost 50,000 people (half of its population) in the Black Death of 1348, Venice continued its mainland conquests. In the late 14<sup>th</sup> century, Venice acquired Padua, Vicenza, and Verona, and in the early 15<sup>th</sup> century Venice claimed the Veneto and Friuli regions.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at  
 <[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Italy\\_1494\\_AD.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Italy_1494_AD.png)>

*The Republic of Venice and Its Neighbors –  
 Italy and the Dalmatian Coast in 1494*

Three conflicts influenced Venetian trading opportunities in Constantinople, the Black Sea, and Egypt. In the sea Battle of Curzola (1298), Genoa defeated Venice, destroying 83 of Venice’s 95 galleys.



But Venice gained revenge by defeating Genoa in the War of Chioggia (1379-1381), narrowly averting Genoa's attempt to blockade Venice.

The Ottoman Empire ended the Byzantine Empire by conquering Constantinople in 1453 and expropriating Venetian property there.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Venetian\\_Republic\\_evolution\\_en.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Venetian_Republic_evolution_en.png)

### *The Republic of Venice (697-1797) – At Its Peak c. 1450*

**Wealth Creation.** Following the creation of the Stato da Mar, the Venetian government established four regular trade routes. Three were in the eastern Mediterranean – from Venice to Alexandria, Beirut, and



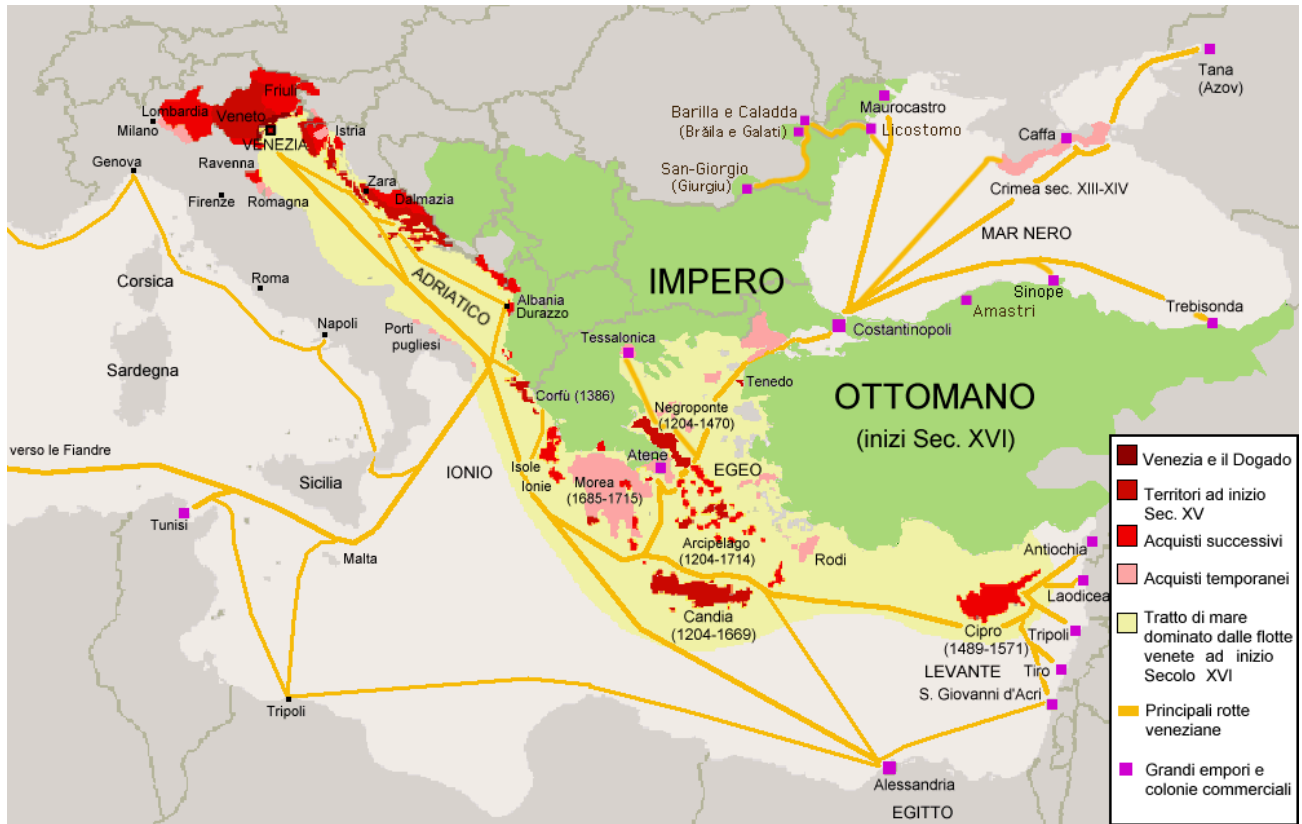
Constantinople and the Black Sea – and one went to northern Europe – from Venice to Bruges and London.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at  
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Republik\\_Venedig\\_Handelswege01.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Republik_Venedig_Handelswege01.png)>

*Main Venetian (Green) and Genoese (Red) Trade Routes –  
13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> centuries*

The government rented armed convoys to the merchants on those routes. Venice's Stato da Mar possessions provided a chain of ports, naval bases, and warehouses to facilitate trade. By the 15<sup>th</sup> century, Venice had a fleet of 3,300 mercantile vessels and was the richest city in the Western world.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at  
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Repubblica\\_di\\_Venezia.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Repubblica_di_Venezia.png)

### *The Republic of Venice's Stato do Mar Trade Routes, 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> centuries*

Venice offered a full range of entrepôt services to the Venetian, Levantine, and European merchants who resided in the city. The Venetians adopted trade-promoting innovations – deposit banking and double-entry bookkeeping – from Genoa and Florence. The Rialto in central Venice became the center for finance and trade. In 1274, emulating Florence, the Venetian government began issuing *ducats*, 24-

carat gold coins that served as a money of account in Europe and the Levant for several centuries.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at  
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Venezia\\_Ducato\\_1400.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Venezia_Ducato_1400.jpg)>

### *Venetian Gold Ducat – The Money of Account in Europe for Centuries*

Venice's government Arsenale, the largest factory in the medieval world, employed 16,000 workers, many of them highly skilled, to build ships of war and merchant galleys and to produce sails, rope, and gunpowder. By the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the Arsenale supplied Venice's 36,000 sailors and 40,000 mercenary soldiers.



*Source: Wikimedia Commons available at*  
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:View\\_of\\_the\\_entrance\\_to\\_the\\_Arsenal\\_by\\_Canaletto,\\_1732.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:View_of_the_entrance_to_the_Arsenal_by_Canaletto,_1732.jpg)>

*View of the Entrance to the Arsenal – Canaletto, 1732*

Artisanal activities provided a further source of Venetian wealth. In the 13<sup>th</sup> through 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, the production of silk textiles and Murano glass (bottles, window panes, mirrors, beads, and paperweights) complemented trade. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, Venice enjoyed a brief industrial spurt and fewer Venetians worked in trade than in industry – woolen textiles, Burano lace, and book-printing as well as glass and silk.





*Source: Wikimedia Commons available at  
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Millefiori\\_beads,\\_1920s.JPG](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Millefiori_beads,_1920s.JPG)>*

*Venetian Craftsmanship – Millefiori Glass Beads, Murano, 1920s*

**Decline and Aftermath.** After the Ottoman Empire ended the Byzantine Empire in 1453, the Turks fought the Republic of Venice to capture Stato da Mar territories. Venetian decline began with the loss of Negroponte to the Ottomans in 1470, continued with the Ottoman takeover of Venice's Black Sea colonies in 1475, and accelerated with the loss of most Venetian ports in mainland and island Greece in 1540. Venice's Mediterranean empire was then reduced to Cyprus, Crete, and Corfu. Venice next lost Cyprus to Ottoman Sultan Selim (the Sot) in

1570. The crowning blow was the loss of Crete in 1669, following a 22-year Ottoman siege.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at  
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Eastern\\_Mediterranean\\_1450.svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Eastern_Mediterranean_1450.svg)>

*Venetian Territories in the Eastern Mediterranean (Green), c. 1450 – All Lost to the Expanding Ottoman Empire by 1669*

Venice also suffered when Portugal pioneered a new European-Asian trade route around Africa in 1498 and shifted the Asian spice trade to Lisbon. English and Dutch commercial innovations – chartered trading companies, central banks, and stock exchanges – created trading advantages for northern Europeans in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, further undercutting Venice. As Venice suffered declines in trade and industry, its desperate government enacted measures to protect its shipping industry by forcing all goods traded in Venice to move on Venetian ships. Venice fell easily when Napoleon of France invaded in 1797.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at  
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Napoleon\\_at\\_Fontainebleau,\\_31\\_March\\_1814\\_\(by\\_Hippolyte\\_Paul\\_Delaroche\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Napoleon_at_Fontainebleau,_31_March_1814_(by_Hippolyte_Paul_Delaroche).jpg)>

*Napoleon Bonaparte Conquered Venice 1797, Ruled Venice 1806-1814  
– Painting by Paul Delaroche, 1846*

France ceded Venice to Austria in 1797 to ensure peace with Austria. France reclaimed Venice in 1806 and ruled for eight years until Napoleon was defeated. Venice then went back under Austrian rule until it joined the new Republic of Italy in 1866. At that time, the population of Venice was 120,000. It grew to 150,000 by 1950, but



currently the population of historical Venice is only 53,000. The city has relied primarily on tourism (based on culture and, formerly, gambling and prostitution) since the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In 2019, about 5.5 million tourists visited Venice.

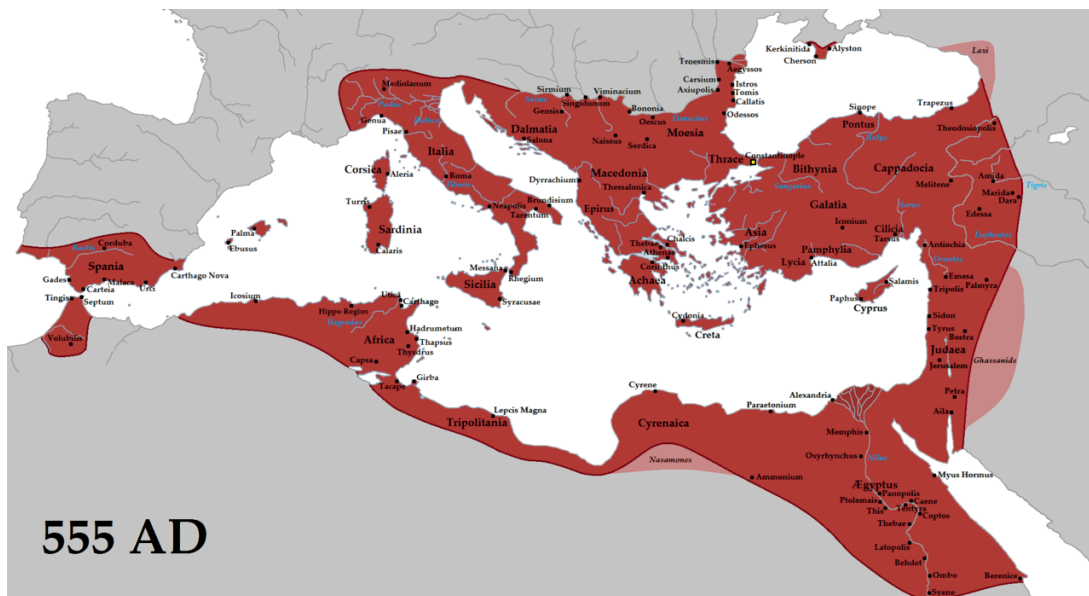


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*Wealthy Tourists on the Grand European Tour –  
Visited Venice by Train in the 19<sup>th</sup> century*

## The Republic of Dubrovnik (620s-1806)

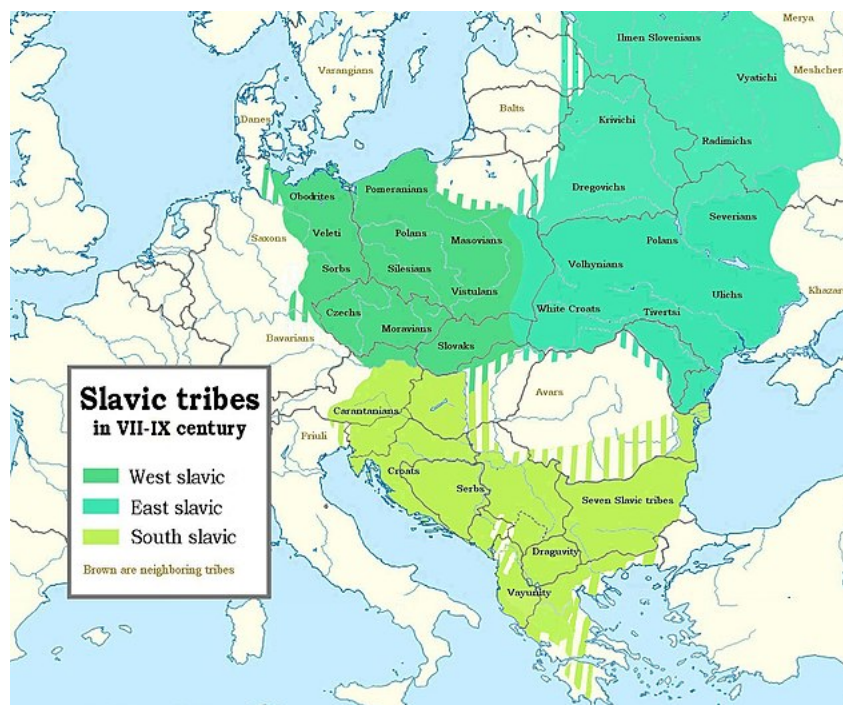
**Dubrovnik under the Byzantine Empire (620s-1205).** In 330, Roman Emperor Constantine transferred the capital of the Roman Empire to Constantinople, divided the Roman Empire in two, and created the Byzantine Empire as the eastern half. In 535, Byzantine Emperor Justinian I took control of Dalmatia and Pannonia from the Germanic Ostrogoths (who had also conquered Italy in 476). Between 614 and 630, the Turkic-speaking Avars invaded, capturing booty and slaves, and Latin refugees from the Avar invasions founded Dubrovnik.



Source: *Wikimedia Commons*, available at  
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Justinian555AD.png>>

*The Byzantine Empire At Its Greatest Extent –  
After Emperor Justinian’s Reconquest, 555*

During the 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> centuries, Slavic peoples migrated southward from their homeland in the Pripet Marshes (in today's Belarus and Ukraine). The South Slavs entered Dalmatia and the Balkans as refugees from the Avars in the early 7<sup>th</sup> century. Subsequently, the Byzantines settled Croats and Serbs (both South Slavs) to act as border guards in the Balkan region and gave them land rights. Byzantine emperors then ruled the Catholic Latin cities on the Adriatic coast, including Dubrovnik (called Ragusa in Latin).



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Slavic\\_tribes\\_in\\_the\\_7th\\_to\\_9th\\_century.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Slavic_tribes_in_the_7th_to_9th_century.jpg)

*Slavic Settlements in Eastern Europe (South (Light Green), West, and East) – 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> centuries CE*

In 910, a Croatian duke, Tomislav (ruled 910-928), proclaimed himself King of Croatia. Through conquest, Tomislav expanded his kingdom to include Pannonia and Dalmatia. Dubrovnik remained under Byzantine protection and served as an entrepôt that linked Western Europe with Constantinople.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at  
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Balkans925.png>>

*The Kingdom of Croatia (910-1102), Pictured c. 925 –  
Byzantine Dubrovnik Is Designated as Ragusium*

In 1097, Hungarian King Kalman I invaded Croatia, won a resounding victory, and forced Croatia's nobles to negotiate with him.



In the *Pacta Conventa* (1102), the Croatian nobles accepted the sovereignty of the Hungarian monarchy in return for a guarantee of self-government in Croatia under a parliament. Dubrovnik did not become a part of Hungary-Croatia, remained an imperial province of the Byzantine Empire, and developed a thriving commercial community and civic institutions.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at  
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Saint\\_Blaise%27s\\_Church,\\_Dubrovnik\\_-\\_September\\_2017.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Saint_Blaise%27s_Church,_Dubrovnik_-_September_2017.jpg)>

*Church of St. Blaise, Dubrovnik – Built in 1715 to Commemorate the Roman Catholic Patron Saint of the Republic of Ragusa*

**Dubrovnik under the Republic of Venice and the Kingdom of Hungary-Croatia (1205-1526).** Dubrovnik was run by and for

merchants. Although the town initially was settled by Latin peoples, the population was predominantly Slav (mostly Croat) by the 11<sup>th</sup> century.

The merchants of Dubrovnik city expanded into a city-state by purchasing contiguous areas from Bosnian and Serbian rulers. Two shocking events in the 13<sup>th</sup> century threatened Dubrovnik and weakened the Kingdom of Hungary and Croatia.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at  
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:ConquestOfConstantinopleByTheCrusadersIn1204.jpg>>

*Fourth Crusade (1202-1204) Weakened Byzantine Empire and Led to Transfer of Dubrovnik to Venice – Painting by David Aubert, 15<sup>th</sup> c.*

The Republic of Venice perverted the Fourth Crusade to become in 1202 an attack on Zadar (a key Dalmatian port city) and in 1204 a

sacking of Constantinople (the capital of the weakened Orthodox-Christian Byzantine Empire), which led to the transfer of Dubrovnik from Byzantium to Venice. In Dubrovnik, Venice installed a Venetian Count to rule, chose not to send permanent settlers or soldiers, and promoted Ragusan trade. In the 1240s, Mongol invaders swept through Hungary-Croatia, demolished Zagreb, but abruptly ended their sieges of Trogir and Vienna and returned to Mongolia to elect a new ruler.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at  
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Canaletto -  
View\\_of\\_Venice,\\_The\\_Riva\\_Degli\\_Schiavoni,\\_looking\\_West,\\_c.\\_1736\\_CDN\\_SJS\\_SM\\_P66.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Canaletto_-_View_of_Venice,_The_Riva_Degli_Schiavoni,_looking_West,_c._1736_CDN_SJS_SM_P66.jpg)

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*Venice Ruled Dubrovnik (1205-1358) – View of Venice, the Riva Degli Schiavoni, Looking West, Painting by Canaletto, c. 1736*



Following the victory of Hungary-Croatia over Venice at the Battle of Treviso (1358), Dubrovnik became a protectorate of Hungary-Croatia. The Republic of Dubrovnik elected its own Rector (ruler) and was an entrepôt city that linked the Balkans with Italy. In the 14<sup>th</sup> century, Dubrovnik benefited from the expansion of silver, lead, iron, and copper mining in Serbia and Bosnia by serving as the export outlet for Balkan minerals, hides, and pelts.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at  
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Dubrovacka\\_republika.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Dubrovacka_republika.png)>

*The Republic of Dubrovnik (Ragusa, Pink Areas) –  
Protectorate of the Kingdom of Hungary-Croatia, 1358-1526*



Trade and prosperity expanded in the 15<sup>th</sup> century when Dubrovnik began to produce textiles, glass, and weapons for export. The Republic lost one-third of its people during the Black Death epidemic (1348-1351). At its peak in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, Dubrovnik had 30,000 residents.

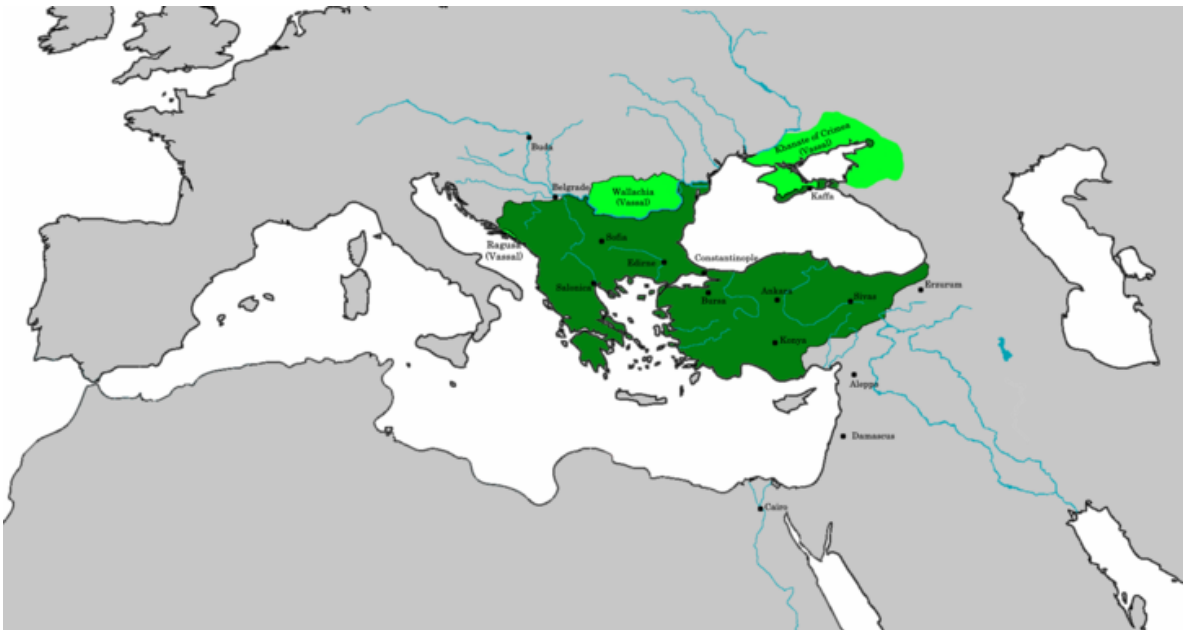


Source: Wikimedia Commons available at  
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Platz\\_in\\_Dubrovnik.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Platz_in_Dubrovnik.jpg)>

*Rector's Palace, 15<sup>th</sup> century –  
Administrative Seat of the Republic of Ragusa (Dubrovnik)*

**Dubrovnik under the Ottoman Empire (1526-1806) – Ottoman Expansion and Ragusan Politics.** Osman (ruled 1300-1326), a talented Seljuk Turk soldier and administrator, was the founding father of the

Ottoman Empire (1300-1923). The keys to Ottoman success were the skilled use of Islamic Turkish horse-warriors in conquest and religious tolerance for the Orthodox Christian Greek and Slavic majority in western Anatolia and the Balkans. Mehmed II (1451-1481), successfully besieged Constantinople in 1453, and its fall ended the Byzantine Empire. Mehmed expanded Ottoman control in the Balkans in the 1460s by taking Serbia, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Albania, and Greece.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at  
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:OttomanEmpire1481.png>>

*The Ottoman Empire in 1481 – Two Lands (Rumelia and Anatolia)  
and Two Seas (Black and Mediterranean)*

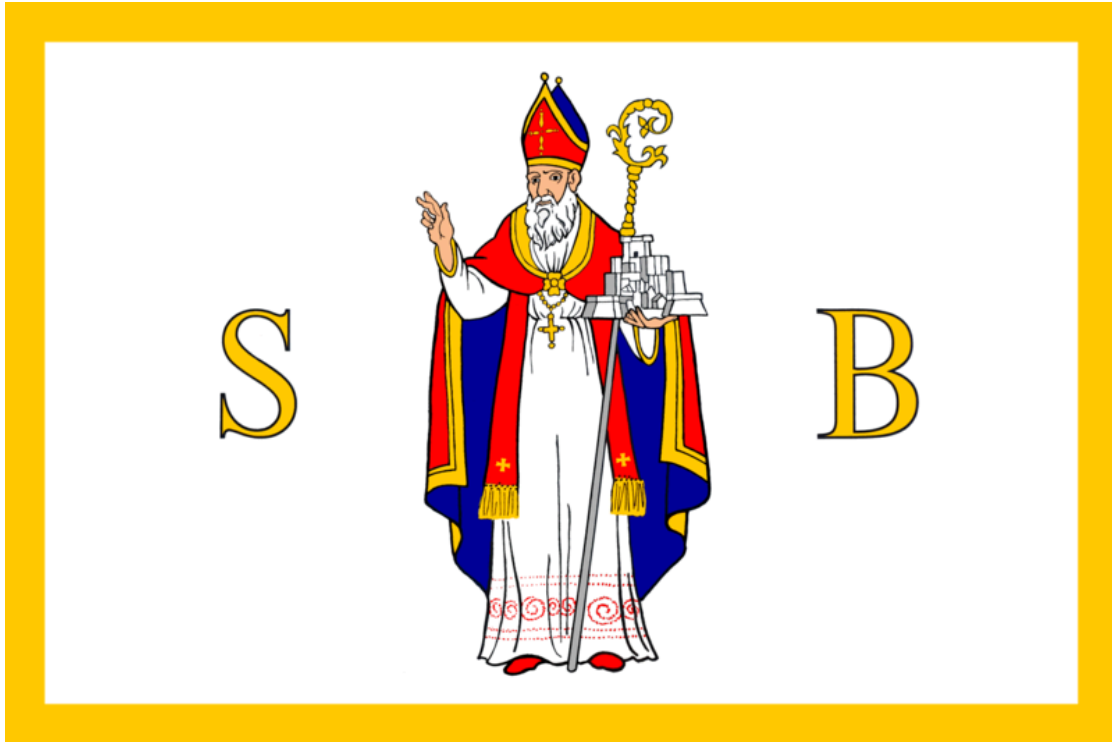
The Ottoman takeover of Dalmatia occurred gradually. The defining battle for the Croats was their crushing defeat at Krbavsko Polje in 1493. For Hungary, the key battle was at Mohacs (1526), where Suleiman the Magnificent defeated the Habsburg army and opened the way to Ottoman conquest of Budapest. Hungary became an Ottoman vassal in 1541, and the Ottomans maintained control of Hungary and Croatia for 150 years.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at  
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:EmperorSuleiman.jpg>>

*Suleiman I (The Magnificent or The Legislator, Ruled 1521-1566) –  
The Ottoman Empire's Greatest Sultan*

Dubrovnik was an independent republic under Ottoman suzerainty between 1526 and 1806. The Republic received an Ottoman charter in 1458, granting political control, military protection, and trading privileges (a 2 percent tariff, the lowest in the Ottoman Empire) in return for Dubrovnik paying annual tribute (*harac*) and recognizing Ottoman suzerainty. Dubrovnik thus received protection from Venice and trading rights in the Ottoman Balkans. Politics in Dubrovnik were controlled tightly by the patriciate, the highest noble class of about 300 adult males (mostly merchants and financiers). Power was wielded by the Grand Council (all adult patrician males over 18), which elected the Rector (ruler) who served for only one month.



Source: *Wikimedia Commons*, available at  
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:St.\\_Blaise\\_-\\_National\\_Flag\\_of\\_the\\_Ragusan\\_Republic.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:St._Blaise_-_National_Flag_of_the_Ragusan_Republic.png)>

*National Flag of the Republic of Ragusa –  
Featuring St. Blaise, the Patron Saint of the City-state*

### **Dubrovnik under the Ottoman Empire (1526-1806) –**

**Economy, Decline, and Aftermath.** Dubrovnik reached its economic peak in the 16<sup>th</sup> century (especially between 1540 and 1570). Its prosperity was based principally on the Balkan carrying trade.

Patricians supplied the trading capital, wealthy commoners served as merchants, and the government sponsored the shipyard (*skver*) to build and maintain a large mercantile fleet.





Source: Wikimedia Commons available at  
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Southeast\\_Europe,\\_1714.PNG](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Southeast_Europe,_1714.PNG)

*Dubrovnik (Ragusa) Linked Western Europe to the Ottoman Empire –  
 Pictured in 1714*

The composition of exports from the Ottoman Balkans shifted from minerals to agricultural products – wheat, hides, wool, and beeswax. Ragusan merchants paid for the Balkan exports with local

Pelješac salt, cheap English cloth, expensive Florentine textiles, Toledo swords, and Spanish silver. Dubrovnik established merchant colonies in six Balkan cities, most importantly Belgrade, Sofia, and Sarajevo.



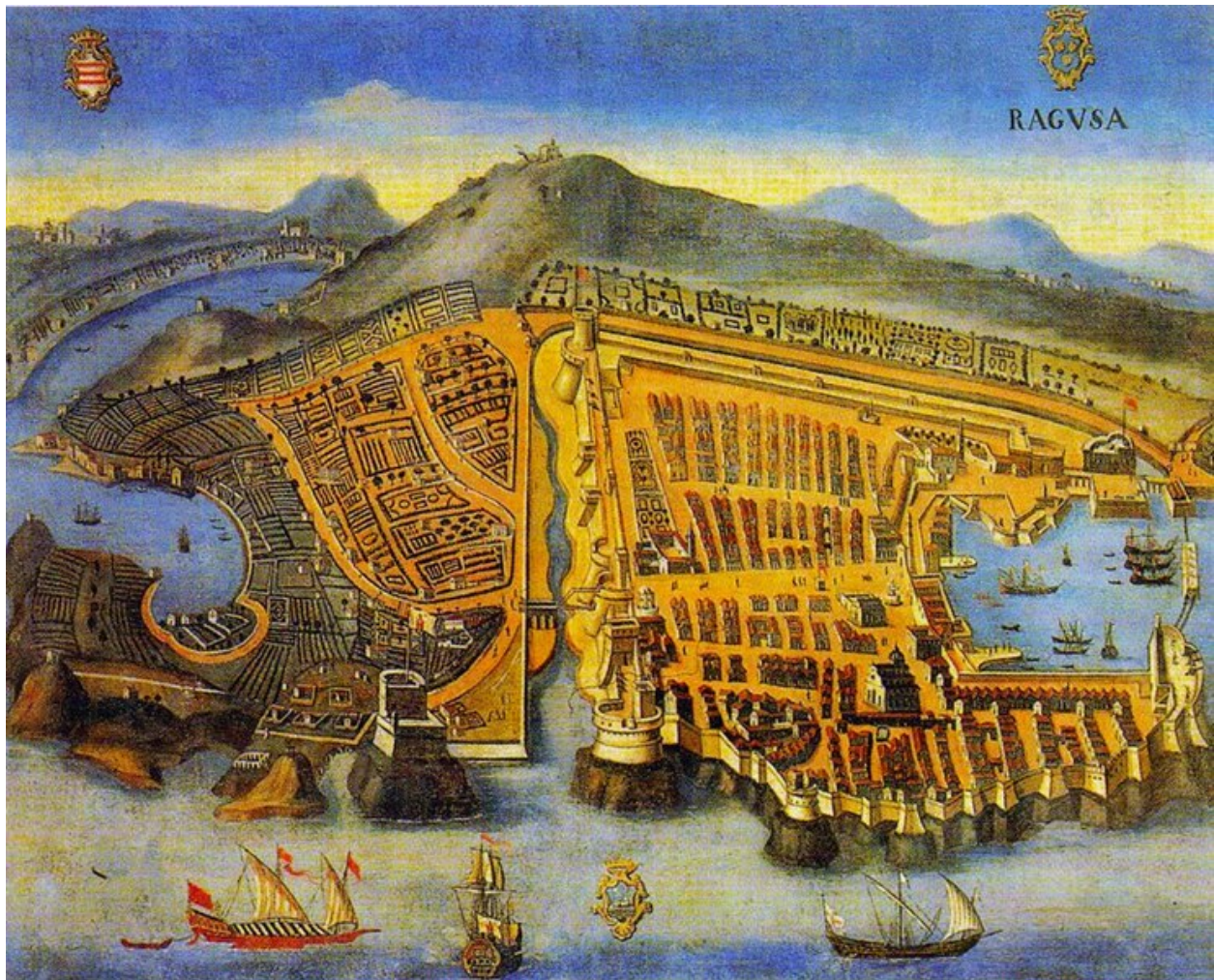
Source: Wikimedia Commons available at  
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ragusa.png>>

### *The Republic of Dubrovnik At Its Peak of Territorial Size and Trading Power – 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries*

During the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, the Republic of Dubrovnik declined. Dubrovnik's fortune followed that of the waning Ottoman Empire, its economic and military protector. When Dubrovnik's lucrative trade in the Ottoman Balkans waned, the Republic's economy stagnated. Both the Ottoman Empire and Dubrovnik suffered when



trade and innovation shifted from the Mediterranean to Northern Europe with the rise of Britain, the Netherlands, and France. An earthquake in 1667 killed 5,000, one-sixth of Dubrovnik's people, and the city did not recover from that disaster until the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at  
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Vistaderagusa1667.jpg>>

*Painting of Ragusa, Prior to the Earthquake of 1667 –  
From the Archives of Dubrovnik*



Dubrovnik successively became a part of Napoleonic France (1806-1814), Austria-Hungary (1814-1918), Yugoslavia (1918-1991), and Croatia (1991-present). In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the once-great trading city became dependent on tourism for its economic base. In 1979, Dubrovnik was recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage City. The historic city received 1.5 million tourists in 2019 and 1 million in 2022. In the 2021 census, Dubrovnik recorded 41,600 permanent residents.



Source: *Wikimedia Commons* available at  
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The\\_walls\\_of\\_the\\_fortress\\_and\\_View\\_of\\_the\\_old\\_city\\_panorama.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_walls_of_the_fortress_and_View_of_the_old_city_panorama.jpg)>

*Dubrovnik, Croatia – A UNESCO World Heritage City since 1979*

## **Ephesus (1<sup>st</sup> millennium BCE-7<sup>th</sup> century CE)**

**Greek Ephesus (c. 1000-547 BCE).** From 1100 BCE to 750 BCE, Ancient Greece experienced a Dark Age of instability and contracting agriculture. The 12<sup>th</sup>-century destruction of the Mycenaean palace societies led to the rise of Classical Greek city-states in Greece. Located on both mainland and island Greece, the city-states were in direct competition with one another. In the 10<sup>th</sup> century BCE, Athens (with a population of 20,000) emerged as the largest city-state. The Greek city-states colonized widely in search of arable land, metals, and trading opportunities (especially to import grain).



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at  
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Amphora\\_olive-gathering\\_BM\\_B226.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Amphora_olive-gathering_BM_B226.jpg)>

*Giant Greek Amphora, Container for Shipping Wine and Olive Oil,  
Depicting the Harvest of Olives – c. 520 BCE, British Museum*

Three waves of Greek migrants established city-states on the Aegean coast of western Anatolia between 1000 and 800 BCE. Ionians settled the center (Ephesus and Miletus), Dorians the south (Rhodes and Halicarnassus), and Aeolians the north (Mytilene and Smyrna). By the 7<sup>th</sup> century, those Greek city-states had amassed substantial trading wealth, and between 650 and 550 BCE Miletus set up colony ports in the Sea of Marmara and Black Sea regions.





Source: *Wikimedia Commons* available at  
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Milet\\_2013-03-25p.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Milet_2013-03-25p.jpg)>

*Ancient Greek Theater, Miletus, Ionian Coast of Anatolia –  
7<sup>th</sup> century BCE*

The Greeks also moved westward. Between 730 and 650 BCE, colonists from Corinth established Syracuse in southeastern Sicily and those from Euboea settled elsewhere in Sicily and in southern Italy. Ionians from Phocaea set up a colony in Massalia (Marseille) in 600 BCE and later created subsidiary towns in southern France and northeastern Spain.





Source: Wikimedia Commons available at  
 <[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Greek\\_Colonization\\_Archaic\\_Period.svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Greek_Colonization_Archaic_Period.svg)>

*Greek Colonization in the Mediterranean Region, 1000-550 BCE –  
 Ephesus Was Founded in the 10<sup>th</sup> century BCE*

The Mermnad dynasty ruled the Kingdom of Lydia in western Anatolia (with its capital at Sardis) in the 7<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> centuries BCE. Lydia produced enormous wealth from gold mining, agriculture, trade, and tribute from Greek city-states. Lydian King Croesus conquered Ephesus in 560 BCE and re-built the Temple of Artemis a decade later. Cyrus of Achaemenid Persia defeated Lydia in 547 BCE, took Ephesus, and completed his conquest of Anatolia.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at  
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Map\\_of\\_Archaic\\_Greece\\_\(English\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Map_of_Archaic_Greece_(English).jpg)>

*Greece in the Archaic Age (750-547 BCE) –  
City-state Areas (including Ephesus) Are Denominated in Red*



Source: *Wikimedia Commons*, available at  
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Temple\\_of\\_Artemis\\_Sardis\\_Turkey4.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Temple_of_Artemis_Sardis_Turkey4.jpg)>

*Site of the Temple of Artemis, Sardis –  
Capital of Kingdom of Lydia (700-547 BCE)*

**Persian and Hellenistic Ephesus (547-130 BCE).** Cyrus the Great created the Achaemenid Persian Empire by uniting the Persians and Medes in 559, taking Anatolia in 547, and conquering Babylon in 539. The Persians were benevolent despots. They encouraged free peasants to develop agricultural wealth, but their provincial governors (satraps) taxed heavily. In Anatolia, the Persians placed their capital in Sardis and permitted local rulers to run the wealthy Greek ports, including Ephesus. In the Ionian Revolt of the early 5<sup>th</sup> century BCE,

the Greek cities rebelled against Persian rule. But the rebellion failed due to disunity.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at  
< [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Achaemenid\\_\(Persian\)\\_Empire\\_-\\_Circa\\_480BC.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Achaemenid_(Persian)_Empire_-_Circa_480BC.png) >

### *The Achaemenid Persian Empire At Its Peak, c. 490 BCE*

After Athens and Sparta united to defeat Persia at Marathon (490) and Salamis and Platea (480-479), Ephesus aligned with them and became independent of Persian rule until 387, when Persia regained control. In 334, Alexander the Great of Macedonia began his attack on the Persian Empire by winning the Battle of Granicus River in northwestern Anatolia (Marmara). He liberated Ephesus, swept through



Anatolia, and defeated pockets of Persian resistance. A year later, Darius III of Persia brought 250,000 Persian troops to southeastern Anatolia (Cilicia) to stop Alexander's advance. Despite having only 35,000 men, Alexander won the epic Battle of Issus with superior cavalry and strategy.



Source: *Wikimedia Commons*, available at <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Map-alexander-empire.png>

*Alexander the Great's Empire –  
After Defeating Achaemenid Persia, 334-323 BCE*

After Alexander died (probably from malaria) in 323, his generals divided his conquests into three Hellenistic kingdoms – Antigonid (centered in Greece), Seleucid (Syria), and Ptolemaic (Egypt). Between

261 and 196 BCE, the Ptolemies controlled the coasts of western and southern Anatolia, including the three richest cities (Ephesus, Miletus, and Smyrna), and the Seleucids governed the Anatolian interior. Then the Roman Empire intervened to shift control of Ephesus (and western Anatolia) to its ally, the Kingdom of Pergamum.



*Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at  
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ephesus\\_Great\\_Theatre.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ephesus_Great_Theatre.jpg)>*

*Greek Theatre, Ephesus –  
Controlled by the Seleucid Kingdom, 195-130 BCE*

**Roman Conquest of Anatolia and Ephesus (130-15 BCE).** The Roman Empire first became involved in Anatolia in 190 BCE. The Kingdom of Pergamum in western Anatolia was fighting to maintain its



independence from Seleucid control. King Eumenes II appealed to Rome for military assistance, and Rome helped Pergamum crush the Seleucid King Antiochus III at Magnesia in 190. Thereafter, under Roman protection Pergamum expanded its territory, incorporating Ephesus, and the city of Pergamum became the richest entrepôt in Anatolia. When the childless King Attalus III died in 133, he bequeathed Pergamum to the Roman Empire and it became the Roman Province of Asia in 130. Ephesus then came under Roman rule.



Source: *Wikimedia Commons*, available at  
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Acropolis\\_-\\_Bergama\\_\(Pergamon\)\\_-\\_Turkey\\_-\\_10\\_\(5747249729\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Acropolis_-_Bergama_(Pergamon)_-_Turkey_-_10_(5747249729).jpg)>

*Acropolis, Pergamum – Hellenistic Kingdom Ruled by Rome as the Province of Asia after 130 BCE*

Rome added the Province of Cilicia (in southeastern Anatolia) in 101. Mithridates Eupator (ruled 110-66), the King of Pontus (in northern Anatolia), expanded his kingdom to the Caucasus and Crimea, amassed an army of 250,000 men, and in 88 drove the Romans out of Anatolia and Greece. Rome defeated Mithridates in 85, but allowed him to continue ruling in Pontus. After Mithridates rebuilt his army, Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus (Pompey the Great) ended the threat of the Pontic warrior at the Battle of Nicopolis in 66. Pompey had been sent to eastern Anatolia to suppress the widespread piracy that preyed on Mediterranean commerce from bases in Cilicia.

After disposing of the pirates and Mithridates, Pompey subjugated the Kingdom of Armenia, and in 64 he destroyed the Seleucid Kingdom and incorporated Syria as a Roman province and Judea as a Roman dependency. He then ruled the empire with Julius Caesar and Crassus between 62 and 50. Led by Augustus Caesar, Rome completed its conquest of Anatolia by claiming the Kingdom of Galatia in 25 and Cappadocia in 15 BCE.





Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at  
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pompey\\_the\\_Great.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pompey_the_Great.jpg)>

*Marble Bust of Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus (Pompey the Great), Roman Conqueror of Anatolia, Armenia, and Syria – Louvre Museum, Paris*

### **Roman Rule of Anatolia and Ephesus (15 BCE-330 CE).**

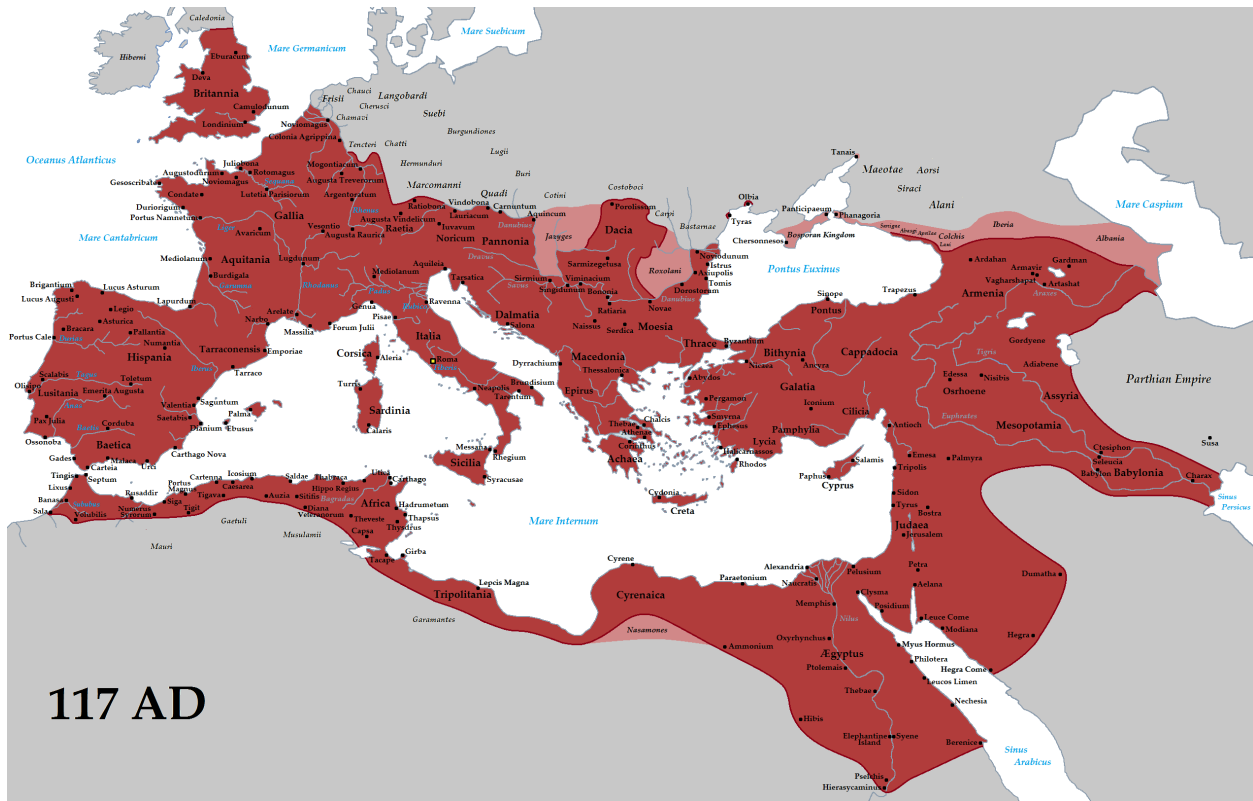
Imperial Rome followed three different models in governing, developing, and taxing its new territories. In the eastern Mediterranean, including Anatolia and Ephesus, Rome sought to pacify the areas formerly ruled by Hellenes, preserve the Greek culture, rule indirectly through existing local governments, and tax enough to pay provincial expenses.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at  
<[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galea\\_\(helmet\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galea_(helmet))>

*Militaristic Ethos in Roman Administration –  
Decorated Roman Officer's Helmet (Galea)*

In the western Mediterranean and North Africa, Rome's strategy was to settle Roman ex-soldiers, introduce Roman culture and direct Roman rule, invest in irrigation to expand agriculture, and tax agriculture heavily to provide food and revenues for Rome. In Egypt, Rome preserved the Egyptian culture, ruled the province as an imperial reserve, and taxed Nile agriculture highly to transfer wheat to Rome.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Roman\\_Empire\\_Trajan\\_117AD.png](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Roman_Empire_Trajan_117AD.png)

*The Roman Empire At Its Peak, 117 CE –  
 Ephesus Was A Principal Roman Port and Entrepôt*

Roman Ephesus, with a peak population of 200,000 in the 2nd century CE, had three sources of wealth. The primary economic base was trade (Ephesus was a key port and entrepôt in the eastern Roman Empire) and artisanship (Ephesus produced and exported woolens, linens, and pottery). The state did not directly control production or trade and built no state factories. Supplementary bases were administration (from the reign of Augustus Caesar, Ephesus served as

the capital of the Roman Province of Asia) and pilgrimages (near Ephesus city was the Sanctuary of Artemis (the Artemision), the most important religious site in Roman Asia until the 3<sup>rd</sup> century).



*Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at  
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Model\\_of\\_the\\_Artemisium\\_-\\_Ephesus\\_Museum.JPG](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Model_of_the_Artemisium_-_Ephesus_Museum.JPG)>*

*Model of the Temple of Artemis (the Artemision), Ephesus, 4<sup>th</sup> century BCE – Ephesus Museum*

In 262 CE, Ephesus experienced twin disasters. First, a massive earthquake destroyed much of the city (although no estimate of human loss is available). Second, the Goths (Germanic warriors) invaded and destroyed the crippled city, plundered the rich treasury of the Artemision, and then set fire to the temple. Ephesus never recovered fully from those setbacks.





Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at  
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ephesus\\_Terrace\\_Houses.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ephesus_Terrace_Houses.jpg)>

*Roman Terrace Houses With Mosaic Floors in Ephesus –  
Destroyed in the Earthquake of 262 or Plundered by Goth Invaders*

**Byzantine Ephesus (4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> centuries CE).** Diocletian in 284 instituted the Tetrarchy, simultaneous rule by four emperors. In 307, Constantine I (The Great) became a co-emperor, and in 324 he ended the Tetrarchy, re-instituted hereditary succession, and served as sole Roman Emperor until his death in 337.

Although only about ten percent of his subjects were Christians, Constantine converted to Christianity and ended official persecution of

Christians. Constantine later built an impregnable fortress in Constantinople (Byzantium) to control the Bosphorus straits and be closer to eastern trade routes and Rome's principal foe, Sasanid Persia. In 330, he transferred the capital of the Roman Empire to his new city, divided the Roman Empire in two, and created the Byzantine Empire as the eastern half. He then re-built Ephesus to revive that key port.

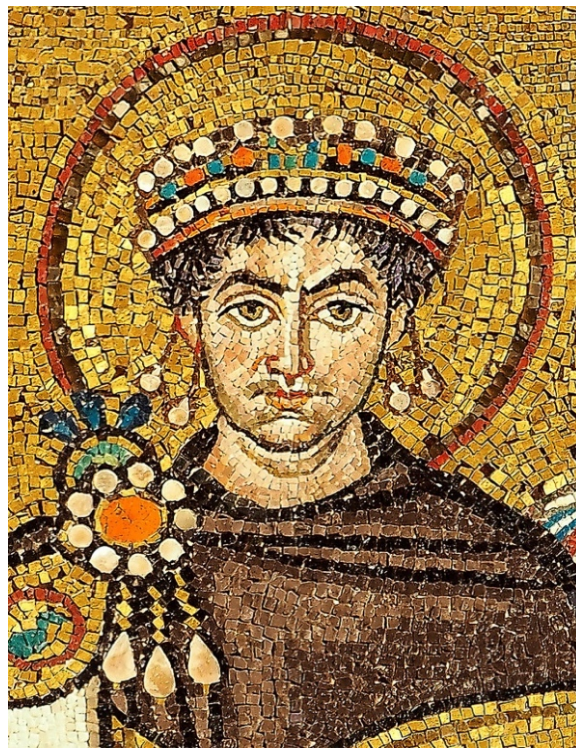


Source: *Wikimedia Commons*, available at <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Rome-Capitole-StatueConstantin.jpg>

*Roman Emperor Constantine the Great (Ruled 307-337),  
Founder of Constantinople – Capitoline Museum, Rome*

After the Western Roman Empire, based in Rome, fell in 476, all Byzantine emperors hoped to reunite the former empire through

conquest. Justinian I, who ruled Byzantium between 527 and 565, nearly achieved that goal. He also constructed the Basilica of St. John in Ephesus, the second city in Byzantine Asia during the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> centuries. But Justinian's warfare, tribute, and building projects drained the Byzantine economy, and his territorial gains were soon lost.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at  
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mosaic\\_of\\_Justinianus\\_I\\_-\\_Basilica\\_San\\_Vitale\\_\(Ravenna\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mosaic_of_Justinianus_I_-_Basilica_San_Vitale_(Ravenna).jpg)>

*Byzantine Emperor Justinian I (Ruled 527-565) – Contemporary Portrait Mosaic in the Basilica of San Vitale, Ravenna, Italy*

Ephesus began a gradual decline in the 7<sup>th</sup> century. Muslim Arab warriors twice sacked the important port (in 655 and 716) during



unsuccessful campaigns to conquer the Byzantine Empire. Siltation in the Cayster River estuary eventually ruined the port of Ephesus and caused its merchants to relocate (mostly to Smyrna). By the 11<sup>th</sup> century, Ephesus was a minor village, and in the 15<sup>th</sup> century it was abandoned. Archaeological excavations by the British Museum began in 1863, and the Artemision was re-discovered in 1869.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at  
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ephesus\\_Celsus\\_Library\\_Fa%C3%A7ade.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ephesus_Celsus_Library_Fa%C3%A7ade.jpg)>

*Library of Celsus, Ephesus, Constructed c. 110-120 CE –  
Excavated by British Museum Archaeologists, 1860s*



## Time Line for Venice, Dubrovnik, and Ephesus

11th-6th c. BCE	Greek city-states founded on Aegean Black, and Mediterranean Sea coasts of Anatolia, Sicily, France, and Spain
1000-800 BCE	Ephesus founded by Ionian Greeks
7th-6th c. BCE	Kingdom of Lydia ruled western Anatolia
560 BCE	Ephesus conquered by Lydian King Croesus – re-built Temple of Artemis
547 BCE	Cyrus of Achaemenid Persia defeated Lydia, conquered Anatolia, Ephesus
547-333 BCE	Persian Empire ruled Anatolia
547-479 BCE	Persian Empire ruled Ephesus
early 5 <sup>th</sup> c. BCE	Ionian Revolt – Greek cities rebelled against Persians – failed – disunity
490-479 BCE	Athens and Sparta defeated Persia at Marathon, Salamis, and Platea
387-334 BCE	Persian Empire ruled Ephesus
334-323 BCE	Alexander the Great of Macedonia ruled Anatolia and Ephesus
323-130 BCE	Seleucid and Ptolemaic Kingdoms ruled Anatolia – Seleucids controlled interior – Ptolemies ran coastal cities

190 BCE	Battle of Magnesia – Roman Empire helped Pergamum defeat Seleucids
190-130 BCE	Kingdom of Pergamum ruled western Anatolia and Ephesus
133 BCE	Pergamum King Attalus III died without heir – bequeathed Pergamum to Roman Empire
130 BCE-330 CE	Roman Empire ruled Anatolia and Ephesus – Ephesus became capital of Roman Province of Asia
101 BCE	Roman Empire added Province of Cilicia (in southeastern Anatolia)
67-64 BCE	Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus (Pompey the Great) – Rome destroyed Seleucid Kingdom, conquered Syria
25 BCE	Roman Empire added Kingdom of Galatia (central Anatolia)
15 BCE	Roman Empire added Cappadocia (central-eastern Anatolia)
2 <sup>nd</sup> century CE	Ephesus peak population of 200,000 – wealth from trade, artisanship, administration, pilgrimages
262	Ephesus destroyed – massive earthquake – invasion of Goths (plundered Artemision)

307-337	Roman Emperor Constantine I ruled – built Constantinople in 330 – created Byzantine (eastern Roman) Empire
330-1453	Byzantine Empire ruled all or parts of Anatolia and Ephesus
421	legendary founding of Venice – by Veneti traders fleeing Goth invaders
452	Venice avoided invasion by Attila the Hun
476	Western Roman Empire fell – Ostrogoths took over Italy and Rome
6 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> centuries	Slavic peoples migrated southward – from homeland in the Pripet Marshes
527-565	Byzantine Emperor Justinian I ruled – reunited much of ex-Roman Empire
535	Byzantine Emperor Justinian I took control of Dalmatia from Ostrogoths
568	Venice avoided invasion of Lombards
early 7 <sup>th</sup> century	South Slavs migrated into Dalmatia and the Balkans – refugees from Avar invasions
614-630	Turkic-speaking Avars invaded – Latin refugees founded Dubrovnik (Ragusa)
655, 716	Muslim Arab warriors sacked Ephesus

697	Venetian Republic founded – businessmen elected 188 ruling doges
829	2 Venetian merchants stole body of St. Mark in Alexandria – took it to Venice
899	Venice narrowly defeated Magyar assault – retained its independence
910-928	King Tomislav ruled Croatia, took Dalmatia – Dubrovnik still Byzantine
11 <sup>th</sup> century	Venice took Dalmatian ports in eastern Adriatic – from Croatian pirates
11 <sup>th</sup> century	population of Dubrovnik dominated by Croats (South Slavs) – Byzantine rule
11 <sup>th</sup> century	Ephesus reduced to a minor village
1082	Byzantine emperor issued Golden Bull to Venice – tax-free trade, Quarter in Constantinople, title to Dalmatia
1097	Hungarian King Kalman I defeated Croatia – forced nobles to negotiate
1102	<i>Pacta Conventa</i> (1102) – Croatian nobles accepted Hungarian rule –parliamentary self-government
13 <sup>th</sup> century	population of Venice was 80,000
1202	Fourth Crusade – Franks and Venetians sacked Zadar (Dalmatian Port)



1204	Fourth Crusade – Franks and Venetians sacked Constantinople – to pay Venice for transport of Crusaders
1204	Fourth Crusade settlement – Venice got 3/8 of Constantinople, Negroponte, Crete, and Modon and Coron
1204	Venice formed Stato da Mar – trading empire in the eastern Mediterranean
1205-1358	Venice ruled Dubrovnik – Venetian Count – no permanent settlers or soldiers – promoted Ragusan trade
1241-1242	Mongol invaders devastated Hungary-Croatia – ended siege of Trogir to return to Mongolia to elect new leader
1274	Venetian government began issuing <i>ducats</i> , 24-carat gold coins – money of account in Europe and the Levant
1298	Battle of Curzola – Genoa defeated Venice – Venice lost 83 of 95 galleys
14 <sup>th</sup> century	population of Venice was 120,000
1300-1923	Ottoman Empire – ruled Anatolia, Balkans, Levant, North Africa, Arabia,
1300-1326	Osman founded and ruled Ottoman Empire in Turkey

1337	Venice conquered Treviso in northern Italy
1348-1351	Black Death epidemic – Venice lost 50,000 people (half of its population) – Dubrovnik lost 15,000 (one-third)
1358	Battle of Treviso – Hungary-Croatia defeated Venice – Dubrovnik became protectorate of Hungary-Croatia
1379-1381	War of Chioggia – Venice defeated Genoa – narrowly averted blockade
14 <sup>th</sup> century	Dubrovnik re-exported Balkan minerals (silver, lead, iron, copper), hides, pelts
late 14 <sup>th</sup> century	Venice acquired Padua, Vicenza, and Verona in northern Italy
early 15 <sup>th</sup> century	Venice conquered Veneto and Friuli regions in northern Italy
15 <sup>th</sup> century	Venice had 3,300 mercantile ships – was richest city in the Western world
15 <sup>th</sup> century	Dubrovnik exported local textiles, glass, weapons – Balkan commodities
15 <sup>th</sup> century	Ephesus abandoned
1451-1481	Mehmed II ruled Ottoman Empire
1453	Ottoman Empire took Constantinople – ended Byzantine Empire

1458	Ottoman charter to Dubrovnik –military protection, trade privileges – annual tribute, Ottoman suzerainty
1460s	Mehmed II expanded Ottoman control in the Balkans – conquered Serbia, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Albania, Greece
1470	Ottoman Empire took Negroponte from Venice
1475	Ottoman Empire took Venice’s Black Sea colonies from Venice
1493	Battle of Krbavsko Polje – Ottomans defeated Croatia – opened conquest
1498	Portugal pioneered trade route around Africa – controlled Asian spice trade
16 <sup>th</sup> century	peak populations of Venice (190,000) and Dubrovnik (30,000)
16 <sup>th</sup> century	Venice had industrial spurt – silk textiles, glass, woolen textiles, printing
1521-1566	Suleiman I (The Magnificent) ruled – Ottoman Empire’s Greatest Sultan
1526	Battle of Mohacs – Ottoman Sultan Suleiman routed Hungarian King Louis II – opened Ottoman conquest
1526-1806	Dubrovnik an independent republic under Ottoman suzerainty

1533-1699	Ottoman Empire ruled two-thirds of Hungary, most of Croatia
1540	Ottoman Empire took Greek ports from Venice – Stato da Mar reduced to Cyprus, Crete, and Corfu
1540-1570	Dubrovnik reached economic peak – Balkan trade, artisanal manufacturing, shipping
1570	Ottoman Empire took Cyprus from Venice
17 <sup>th</sup> century	English and Dutch chartered trading companies – established central banks and stock exchanges
1667	massive earthquake in Dubrovnik – killed 5,000, one-sixth of population
1669	Ottoman Empire took Crete from Venice – after siege of 22 years
1797	Napoleon of France conquered Venice – ended Republic of Venice
1797-1806	Austria ruled Venice and Dubrovnik
1806-1814	Napoleonic France ruled Venice and Dubrovnik
1814-1866	Austria ruled Venice – Germany defeated Austria in 1866 – Venice transferred to new Kingdom of Italy



1814-1918	Austria ruled Dubrovnik
1863	British Museum archaeologists began excavating Ephesus
1866-present	Venice part of Italy
1866	population of Venice was 120,000
1869	British Museum archaeologists began unearthing Artemision of Ephesus
1914-1918	World War I – Entente (UK, France, Russia, US) defeated Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, Ottoman Empire)
1918-1991	Dubrovnik part of Yugoslavia
1950	population of Venice was 150,000
1979	Dubrovnik recognized as UNESCO World Heritage City
1991-present	Dubrovnik part of Croatia
2019	population of old Venice was 53,000 – 5.5 million tourists visited Venice
2019	2 million tourists visited Ephesus
2019	1.5 million tourists visited Dubrovnik
2021	population of Dubrovnik was 41,600

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## **Sites Visited in Venice, Dubrovnik, and Ephesus**

### **Dalmatian Coast: An Adriatic Sea Adventure Chief Executives Organization (CEO)**

**July 28-August 7, 2018**

**Ship-based aboard the *Le Lyrial***

### **Venice, Italy**

Venice has a modest population – 55,000 in the historic center and 270,000 in all of the city – but a remarkable past. Located at the northern end of the Adriatic Sea, Venice created a republic (697-1797) and a trading empire along the Dalmatian Coast and into the Eastern Mediterranean. Venice served as an entrepôt, connecting Europe with the Orient and became Europe's richest city in the 15<sup>th</sup> century through commerce, banking, shipbuilding, and artisanship. Eventually, the Republic of Venice was overtaken by Ottoman expansion, Portuguese exploration, and Napoleonic conquest. Since its conquest by Napoleon in 1797, Venice has thrived on tourism. Its historic island-based buildings and 28 miles of canals attracted 22 million tourists in 2016. In 1987 Venice and its lagoon were designated a UNESCO World Heritage site.

The CEO group began its exploration of Venice with a gondola ride and benefited from a well-informed guide during a walking tour of Venice. We started in iconic St. Mark's Square, named for the city's patron saint, and marveled at the Campanile (a watch tower erected in the 17<sup>th</sup> century) and the Basilica of San Marco – built in the 11<sup>th</sup> century as the private chapel of the doge (the city's powerful elected leader). The original Doge's Palace, constructed in the 9<sup>th</sup> century, burned down in the late 10<sup>th</sup> century. The current palace, built between 1340 and 1501, features the Great Council room (constructed between 1340 and 1365), and the Bridge of Sighs (crossed by convicted Venetians en route to prison). Later, we walked to the La Fenice Theater, an opera house constructed in 1792 by a wealthy Venetian merchant-family.

## **Dubrovnik, Croatia**

Dubrovnik (once called Ragusa) was a republic from 1358 until it was conquered by Napoleonic France in 1806. The Republic of Dubrovnik paid tribute to the Kingdom of Hungary and Croatia (1358-1526) and to the Ottoman Empire (1526-1806). Dubrovnik was run by and for 180 wealthy merchant families. The 45-man senate selected rectors, who ruled for only one month at a time. By the 14<sup>th</sup> century, Dubrovnik had become an entrepôt, linking the Balkans to Italy. Under Ottoman suzerainty in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, Dubrovnik reached its peak. An earthquake in 1667 killed 5,000, one-sixth of Dubrovnik's people. Dubrovnik now relies on tourism for its economic base, and in 1979, it was recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage City. Dubrovnik received 1.44 million tourists in 2019 and housed 28,400 permanent residents.

Many of us had well-narrated walking tours in magnificent Dubrovnik. We walked around the stunning walled-old-city, constructed in the 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> centuries, hiked up and down the walls, and explored some of the town's 47 churches. Dubrovnik's medieval walls (1.2 miles around, 25 meters high, and 6 meters thick) are the best preserved in Europe. We strolled by the Church of St. Blaise (Dubrovnik's patron saint), the Convent of St. Clare, the Rector's Palace, and the statue of Orlando (the city's symbol of independence). Later, we went to the Marin Drzic Theater to attend a performance by the Croatian cellist, Ana Rucner, and to hear an informal talk by the American Ambassador to Croatia, Robert Kohorst (who is a CEO member). We were treated to a sumptuous buffet lunch at the Arsenal Restaurant.

## **Ephesus, Turkey**

Ephesus is an archaeological site on the Ionian Coast of western Turkey. Ionians Greek migrants settled Ephesus as a port colony between 1000 and 800 BCE. The Romans gained control of Ephesus in 130 BCE and

turned it into the Roman capital of Asia and one of the leading cities in the Roman Empire. At its peak in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century CE, Ephesus had 200,000 permanent residents. The city was a leading Aegean seaport, an administrative and artisanal center, a pilgrimage site for the cult of Artemis, and the heart of a fertile agricultural area. Ephesus declined in the 7<sup>th</sup> century, after the Cayster River silted its port and Arabs sacked the city, and it was abandoned in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Archaeological excavations of Ephesus began in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, and today it is one of the finest extant representations of an ancient Roman city.

From the Turkish port of Kusadasi, we bussed to a small mountain to visit the House of the Virgin Mary, a Catholic shrine created in 1957 to commemorate the site where the Virgin Mary is believed to have lived during the last nine years of her life. We drove on to Ephesus and walked the standard tourist path down the two main roads of the city. Ephesus provides an incredibly rich introduction to Roman urban life in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century CE, because its ruins include a diverse range of buildings and amenities – a library, a theater (with 25,000 seats), four aqueducts, two Agoras (market places), an Odeon (small theater or meeting house), public baths, a public latrine, numerous temples, paved streets, and water and sewage pipes. The Roman ruins at Ephesus offer a broad understanding of what opulent Roman life must have been like.

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