

Theodoric maintained the Roman civil service, annually appointed two consuls to govern Rome, and respected the Eastern Roman Empire. He made Ravenna capital of the Western Empire. There he built a royal palace and several ecclesiastical structures. The Ostrogoths had previously been converted to Arian Christianity. The mosaic in the dome of a baptistry in Ravenna depicts the Arian belief that Christ's nature became divine only at the time of his baptism. The depiction of Theodoric's palace in St. Apollinare Nuovo originally included his portrait and those of other officials. Under Byzantine control, these were replaced with drapes. Theodoric's monumental tomb built in 520 CE was emptied probably by the Byzantines. Instability following Theodoric's death led to the Byzantine emperor Justinian declaring war and eventually regaining control of Italy. Thus ended a distinct Ostrogoth presence.

The **Visigoths** had separated from their Ostrogoth brothers and settled in Dacia, which the Huns invaded in 376 CE. Allowed to settle there, the Visigoths soon revolted over tribute payments and killed Emperor Valens outside Adrianople in 378 CE. While in Moesia, where Emperor Theodosius settled them to protect the frontier, it is believed they converted to Arianism. By 395 CE, with Alaric as leader they moved to Greece and then Italy. They sacked Rome in 410 CE shortly after which Alaric died. His son Ataulphus led his people to southern Gaul and on to Spain. Later they settled in Gaul and fought against Attila the Hun in the Battle of the Catalaunian Plains. Their king Theodoric I died in the battle and his son Euric proclaimed himself an independent king. The Visigoths expanded their territory until they were defeated by Clovis and the Franks in 507 CE. Though they lost almost all of their territory in Gaul, the Visigoths maintained a kingdom with a capital at Toledo until its conquest by the Muslims in 711 CE.

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Standards 1.1, 2.1, 3.1, 3.2



TEACHING TIP

Chapter 6B of RRA contains information on Ammianus Marcellinus. The teacher may wish to assign this chapter for reading.

TRANSLATION OF LATIN PASSAGE

About the Huns

Not many things have been said about the Huns in the books of (i.e., written by) our fathers. These <people> are ferocious and wild. They want to appear terrifying and to rouse fear in other people. So their faces are wounded on purpose. After the wounds have been healed, scars remain, because of which (i.e., the scars) the beard cannot grow. The appearance of these <people> is not handsome, but terrifying!

They eat the roots of plants, which have been snatched from fields, and the meat of animals, which has not been cooked but rubbed for a little while. For the meat, before it is eaten by them, has been placed between the horse and the thighs of the person who sits on the horse, and it stays there for a little while.

They do not have houses, but they dwell and live outdoors. They wear clothes made from the skins of animals.

They always remain on <their> horses: they eat on their horses, they sleep on their horses, they fight on their horses. They swiftly launch attacks on enemies, whom they often catch in battle with lassos, and they slay the caught <enemies> with swords.