# Medieval Times in Eastern Europe.

**Presenters:**
Nicolas Constantinou
Maria Adamidou
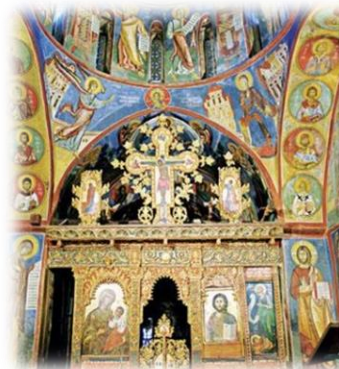Constantinos Koliandris
Marissa Andronikou

# Byzantine Period in Cyprus

- After the division of the Roman Empire into an eastern half and a western half, Cyprus came under the rule of Byzantium.

# Byzantine Period in Cyprus

- The cities of Cyprus were destroyed by two successive earthquakes in 332 and 342 AD and this marked the end of an era.

- Most of the cities were not rebuilt, save Salamis which was rebuilt on a smaller scale and renamed Constantia after the Roman Emperor Constantius II.

# Byzantine Period in Cyprus

- The new city was now the capital of the island. It was mainly Christian.

- The palaestra was turned into a meeting place and many architectural elements were used to erect spacious churches decorated with murals, mosaics and coloured marbles.

- The main event in Cyprus in this period was the spreading of the Christian faith. At that time, its bishop, while still subject to the Church, was made autocephalous by the First Council of Ephesus.

# Crusades Period- Cyprus

- The island was conquered in 1191 by King Richard I of England during the Third Crusade, from Isaac Komnenos, a self-proclaimed emperor.

- The English king had not originally intended to conquer the island however, when his invading fleet was scattered by a storm, three of his ships were driven to the shores of Cyprus, where they were wrecked and sank in sight of the port of Limassol.

- The shipwrecked survivors were consequently taken prisoners by Komnenos and when a ship bearing Richard's sister Joan and bride Berengaria entered the port, Komnenos refused their request to disembark for water.

According to rumours, the castle stands on the site where Richard the Lionheart married Berengaria of Navarre and crowned her Queen of England in 1191.

# Crusades Period- Cyprus

- The Kingdom of Cyprus was a Crusader state that existed between 1192 and 1489.

- It was ruled by the French House of Lusignan.

# Venetians Period - Cyprus

- The island of Cyprus became an overseas possession of the Republic of Venice in 1489 until 1570–71, when the island was conquered by the Ottoman Empire.

- Venice for centuries wanted to control Cyprus and Venetian merchants worked on the island beginning in 1000 AD.

- The Venetian desire for Cyprus was inspired mainly by profit. The Venetians saw Cyprus primarily as a military base.

# Venetians Period - Cyprus

- Anticipating conflict, they undertook an ambitious plan of fortification. Famagusta and Nicosia were ringed with massive earthworks, cased with stone. An outer wall was erected around Kyrenia castle. The best military architects in Europe were brought in to design and execute these projects.



KYRENIA CASTLE

# Venetians Period - Cyprus

- In 1468, James II of Cyprus of the house of Lusignan became King of Cyprus. In 1468 he chose Catherine Cornaro as his wife and Queen consort of Cyprus.

- The Ottomans at times raided Cyprus. In 1489, Ottomans attacked the Karpass Peninsula, pillaging and taking captives to be sold into slavery.

# Ottomans Period - Cyprus

- Cyprus was annexed into the Ottoman Empire in 1571.
- In the summer of 1570, the Ottomans struck with a full-scale invasion. About 60,000 troops, including cavalry and artillery, under the command of Lala Mustafa Pasha landed unopposed near Limassol on July 2, 1570, and laid siege to Nicosia. The city fell on September 9, 1570. 20,000 Nicosians were put to death, and every church, public building, and palace was looted. Only women and boys who were captured to be sold as slaves were spared.

- Word of the massacre spread, and a few days later Mustafa took Kyrenia without having to fire a shot. Famagusta, however, resisted with the Siege of Famagusta and put up a defense that lasted from September 1570 until August 1571.

- Ottoman period lasted until 1878, that was sold to Britain and was a British colony until 1960.

# Thank you for your attention!!

CYPRUS