

HISTORY OF VENICE

1. TEXT

When the Roman Empire began to crumble communities of sailors, fisherman, salt producers and merchants were living on the coast around the place we now call Venice. Because of Lombard and Ostrogot invasions more and more people fled to the coast, which was under Byzantine Empire. But when the Byzantine power became weaker it shifted to the local ruler the doge, who rebelled against his masters and gradually The Venetian republic became the strongest power, governing almost all Adriatic see. The doge was the ruler of Venice and was elected. Venice also took part in the first Crusade and later pillaged several Byzantine Islands because Constantinople gave some advantages to Pisa and Genova, Venice's rival cities. After several war campaigns Venice's merchants controlled almost all of the eastern Mediterranean. Between 12th and 14th century Venice almost constantly fought wars with Muslims and the rival city of Genova. It also took part in several Italian conflicts. Venice's power began to diminish with fall of Constantinople to the Ottoman Turks in 1453 and with the discovery of the New World in 1492, which shifted interests from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic. In later centuries its power demised even more because of the Turk and Uskok's invasions in its territories, and because of the Habsburg Empire's determination to gain a port and than eventually to become the strongest power in the Adriatic. In 1797 Napoleon Bonaparte ceded Venice to Austria where it remained until 1866 when it joined the Kingdom of Italy.

2. REFERENCES

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