# The 6th century

*Justinian's code and Benedict's rule.*

In the East, Justinian codified Roman law and built Hagia Sophia. In the West, Benedict wrote the rule that would organize the monasteries that saved Latin learning. Plague and war cut the population hard.

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## What rose

c. 524. Boethius writes The Consolation of Philosophy. Source: The Consolation of Philosophy

529–534. The Corpus Juris Civilis codifies Roman law. Source: Corpus Juris Civilis

c. 530. Benedict's Rule at Monte Cassino. Source: Rule of Saint Benedict

537. Hagia Sophia is completed. Source: Hagia Sophia

## What fell or stalled

The Plague of Justinian (541) and the Gothic War devastated Italy. Source: Plague of Justinian

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