

# Constantine the Great and Modern History

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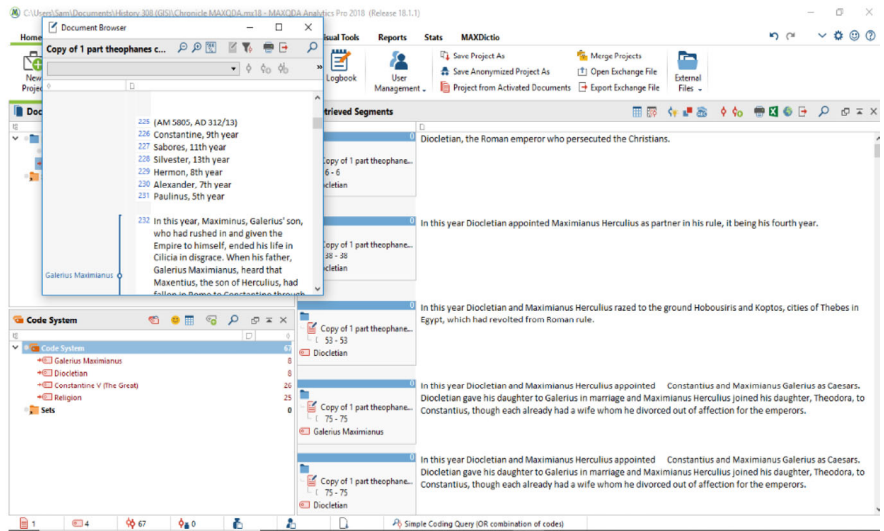
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## Abstract

When one thinks of Constantine the Great, one's mind will immediately go to the events at the Milvian Bridge and how he became the first Roman Emperor to dictate Christianity as the official state religion. However, many people do not have any geographic or real world understanding of the locations of the events that Constantine instigated and played a role in. It is with this in mind that we undertook this project, to map out the events of importance to Constantine the Great and his rule as Emperor of the Romans,

## Objectives

The intention of our research was to understand the geography of the events that Constantine the Great had a hand in that were recorded in the Chronicle of Theophanes the Confessor. Theophanes in the 9th Century wrote as a monk, compiling the history of the Byzantine Empire and various outside powers that was started by George Syncellus. We chose this because we realized that while many people know of Constantine, not many truly understand his significance or can recognize the areas that he traveled to and had a hand in shaping.

## Methods

After acquiring a text file of the Chronicle from Dr. Jesse Torgerson, we uploaded the file to MAXQDA, a text-mining software, to record entries that pertained to Constantine, persecution of the Christians, Galerius Maximianus, and Diocletian, all key players or events of the time in ancient Rome. We chose these topics because of their pertinence to shaping the events of the time, and how Constantine was able to influence all of them, directly or otherwise. After identifying and contextualizing these entries, we then plotted out the events on ArcGIS Online, a software that allows for map creation as well as data entry.

## Results

While we did not progress as far as we wished with the mapping, we did manage to finish all of the tagging of the Chronicle for the extent of our project. The map could contain more entries that we analyzed with MAXQDA, but currently it contains enough information for understanding of the geography of Constantine up to the Edict of Milan, which proclaimed religious toleration throughout the Roman Empire.

## Conclusion

While we did not reach the ultimate goal that we originally sought, we still gained valuable insight and experience with various software like MAXQDA and ArcGIS. We finished our research upon Constantine and the other areas, and would seek more time to implement the rest of the entries that we have compiled upon our topic into the map that we have created thus far. We believe that while ultimately, our work may be incomplete, that with the completion of the map, this portion of history would become much more accessible and easier to learn for those that may not have an interest in history. This project promotes ease of learning and ease of use, and shows the modernization of history can bring a more common and widespread knowledge of past events, promoting greater historical knowledge among the general populace.