

# Justinian Encyclopedia Article

## Justinian

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# Justinian

**482-565**

Byzantine emperor who sought to restore the Roman empire by reclaiming territories in Western Europe that had been taken by Germanic tribes. With his armies, under the command of General Belisarius, Justinian was able to reclaim North Africa as well as regions across southern Europe and Spain. Justinian also supervised the codification of Roman law in a new unified system, gathered as *Corpus juris civilis*, which became a cornerstone of European law.