

Reading & Discussion Questions – Bauer pp. 154-157, 197-213, 237-244, Excerpts from “Secret History”

**Directions:** Please answer the following questions in a typed document following MLA formatting. On time submission = printed document submitted in class on the due date AND submission to Turnitin.com by class time.

**From Bauer:**

1. Explain the various ways that Anastasius used to deal with the different barbarian tribes pestering Byzantium.
2. Describe the factions of chariot fans in Constantinople and why they were so dangerous, including both their reputation and their role in the Nika Revolt.
3. Review the definition of monophysitism (you may have to look it up). Why was this belief considered a heresy to the Eastern Christian church? Why was the doctrine embraced by the church in Alexandria?
4. Justinian’s view of his responsibility in both the church & state seems like it might not be that different from previous emperors, yet Bauer suggests it represents a seismic shift. What is the difference between how he approaches his reign compared with other Roman emperors?
5. Name some of the impacts of the Bubonic Plague on the Eastern Empire.
6. Who were the Lombards and where do they eventually settle? What event helps them take the land for their kingdom?

**From “Secret History”**

7. In comparing Justinian’s looks to Domitian’s, what might Procopius be implying about Justinian’s character?
8. Evaluate Procopius’ account of Justinian as a historical text and write a paragraph response that addresses the following questions:
  - Can his testimony be trusted? Why or why not?
  - What data/evidence does Procopius offer in his assessment of Justinian’s character? (You should have multiple examples.)
  - Is his testimony consistent with other historical accounts you have read from the Bauer book?