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### “Research and Writing Assignment”

Constantine was the general of the Roman emperor. In 312 BC, he saw the Christian sign of the cross in the sky with the message that said, “under this sign you will conquer” before a battle with his rival, and he won. After this, he became Christianity’s Ashoka. As the emperor, he issued an Edict of Toleration, ending the sporadic persecutions the faith had suffered. He prompted the religion, presiding over the first council of all Christian bishops, where the fundamental Christian statement of belief, the Nicene Creed, was formulated. Eventually he converted to Christianity and made it into the official religion of the empire.

If Constantine had converted to Mithraism, the religion of much of the Roman army, instead of Christianity, many things would’ve been different back then and now. One of the things that would’ve been different is the life of the Christ’s followers. Back then, they were suffering and being persecuted by the others and because of Constantine, things got a little better. The small majority of the empire’s population was Christian. However, if Constantine didn’t convert to Christianity, he wouldn’t care about the Christ’s followers. Persecution would haven’t end and they would’ve continue to suffer. There would be a slight chance that even the Christ’s followers would be suffering more than they do nowadays. Because of Constantine the empire’s majority’s religion became Christianity

Another thing that would’ve been different is the spread of Christianity. Because of Constantine, the popularity of the religion grew and spread. It spread not only to the empire but

also to what would be Ukraine and Russia today. Even the leading prince of Kievan Rus' converted, bringing these countries into the Orthodox world. Without Constantine, none of this would have happened. Maybe the religion would still be a minor religion till today if it weren;t for him.

Constantine made a huge difference in the midst of the Christ's followers and the religion itself. Being a figure of authority, he brought this change for the better and many Christ's followers that were persecuted were saved by him. If he didn't convert to Christianity, many things would've been different back then and now.

## **Works Cited**

Morillo, S. (2014). Chapter Five the Age of Empires: 500 BCE to 400 CE. In *Frameworks of World history*. essay, Oxford University Press.