

Jordyn Williams

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Salvation Religion What-If

World Civilizations I

Christianity is one of the largest religions today in modern society. Its origins started in the western hemisphere of the world, after the death of Jesus Christ. A big sector of the Christian community that is still prominent and well-known today is the Roman Catholic Church. A big contributor of the beginning of the Roman Catholic Church was Constantine, who became the Roman Emperor and made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire. However, what would have happened if Constantine never converted to Christianity? Would there still have been a large growth of the religion? Would the church be the same it is now?

If Constantine never converted to Christianity, I think the sporadic persecutions of Christian would have continued. However, I do think later down the line there would have been a leader who converted to Christianity. On the contrary, the Roman Catholic Church probably would not have been as prominent and established as it is today without Constantine. He played a major role in promoting and strengthening the Catholic church in Rome. There also could have been the possibility of Constantine never becoming the Roman Emperor. As stated in the text, Constantine was said to have seen an image of the cross, which is a Christian symbol to represent the cross Jesus Christ was crucified on, and the words "in hoc signo vincet", which means "under this sign you will conquer". If Constantine never had this vision, it is possible that he could have never even won the battle for the throne.

Overall, I think history wouldn't have a drastic difference, but it would have been altered if Constantine did not convert to Christianity. One of the main differences would be the prominence and establishment of the Roman Catholic Church. However, Christianity was already spreading through the Roman Empire through the works of the Apostles and other evangelists, teachers, and preachers.

Works Cited

Morillo, S. Frameworks of World History: Networks, Hierarchies, Culture, Volume One: To 1550. [VitalSource Bookshelf 10.2.1]. Retrieved from <vbk://9780199987856>