

from 364 - 375. But Valentinian did not feel that he could administer this large empire properly by himself so he appointed his younger brother Valens to be co-emperor with him. So Valens was co-emperor with him from 364-378 in the Eastern part of the empire. Valentinian was reigning over the western part of the empire. Now Valentinian supported the Nicene view but he did not interfere with the church at all. He kept aloof from the doctrinal controversy so the result was that in the west while Valentinian was emperor, there was no interference. Consequently he is not very important from the viewpoint of church history. But Valens, his younger brother who became emperor in the East was soon influenced by the ~~eunuchs~~^{in his} court and by some of his relatives there to take a strong position against the Nicene Creed. Valens undertook during these 14 years to do what Constantius had done. So there were 14 years more of difficulty for the Nicene views. In the capital city in Constantinople no one was even allowed to minister in any of the churches who was not an Arian. The capital city was completely in control of the Arians. Valens is important for church history because he was another great opponent. Valentinian might have been important if he had tried to support the Nicene view but he didn't. He just kept hands off the whole business. Of course in the West the Nicene view was largely dominant. But Valens is quite important. Now when Valentinian first died, he was succeeded by his son Gratian and Gratian was not a particularly able man. He reigned from 375 to 383. He was not particularly able. He did support Christianity very definitely. According to McSorley's history, he was the one who made Christianity the State Religion. I'm not sure that is accurate but it is stated in the McSorley History. question - No he was only emperor of the West. He was emperor of the West and you see Valens lived three more years after Gratian became emperor. Gratian became emperor in 375 and Valens continued until 378.

8½-7½

It is a period in which the history of the leadership in the empire is a bit involved. Several of these emperors are not particularly important from the