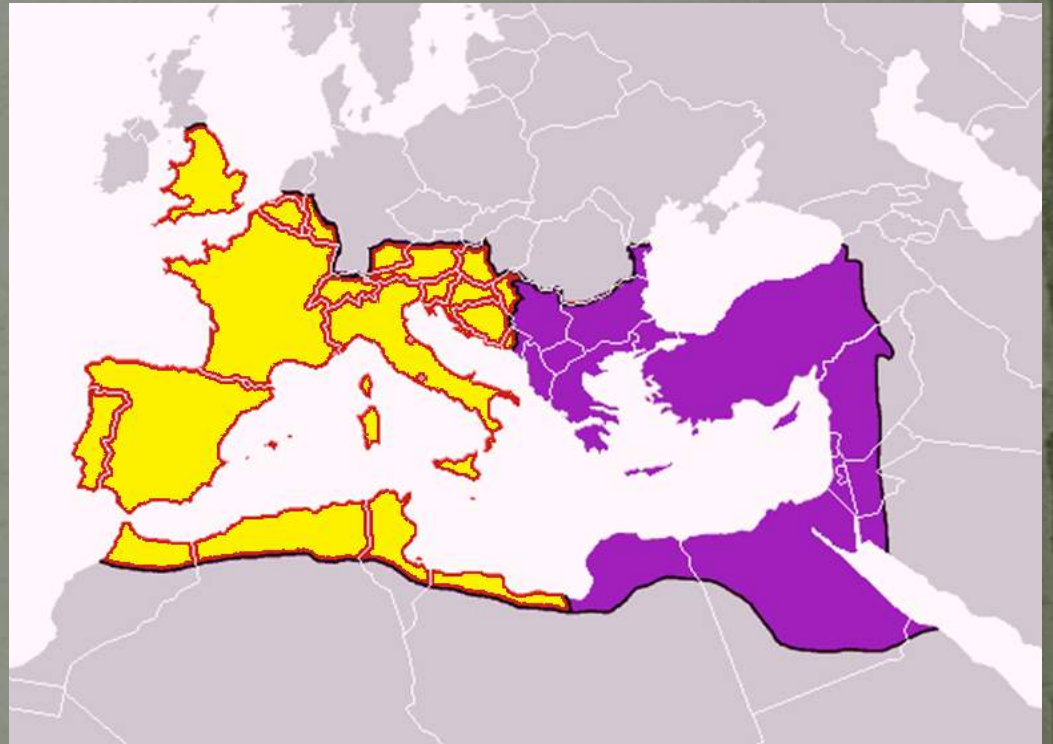


Chapter 9: Civilization in Eastern Europe: Byzantium and Orthodox Europe



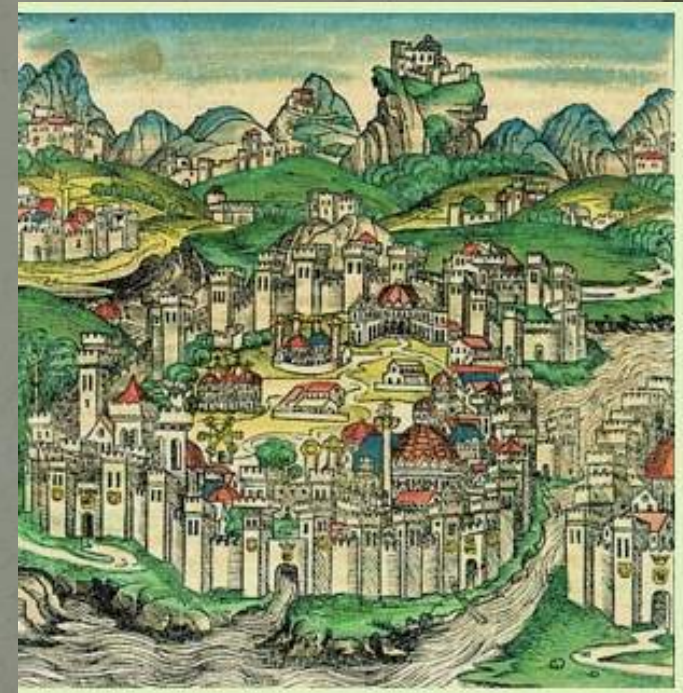
Political and Religious Division

- Two Christian civilizations develop out of the split of Roman Empire.
 - East (Greek Orthodox)
 - West (Roman Catholic)
- Each participated in major trade routes.
- Civilizations expand and spread north largely because of religious missionaries.
- Religions are culturally, and later even organizationally, separate



Summary of Byzantine Empire

- High levels of political, economic, and cultural activity during much of 500-1450
- Rulers saw themselves as Roman emperors; government was seen as continuation of Roman Empire
- Constantinople = capital (cosmopolitan, opulent, wealthy)
- Greek/Eastern Orthodox Christianity
- Retain strength despite rapid growth of Islam
- Spread culture (religion) and politics to parts of world that had not been controlled by any major civilization
 - Balkans, western Russia



Origins

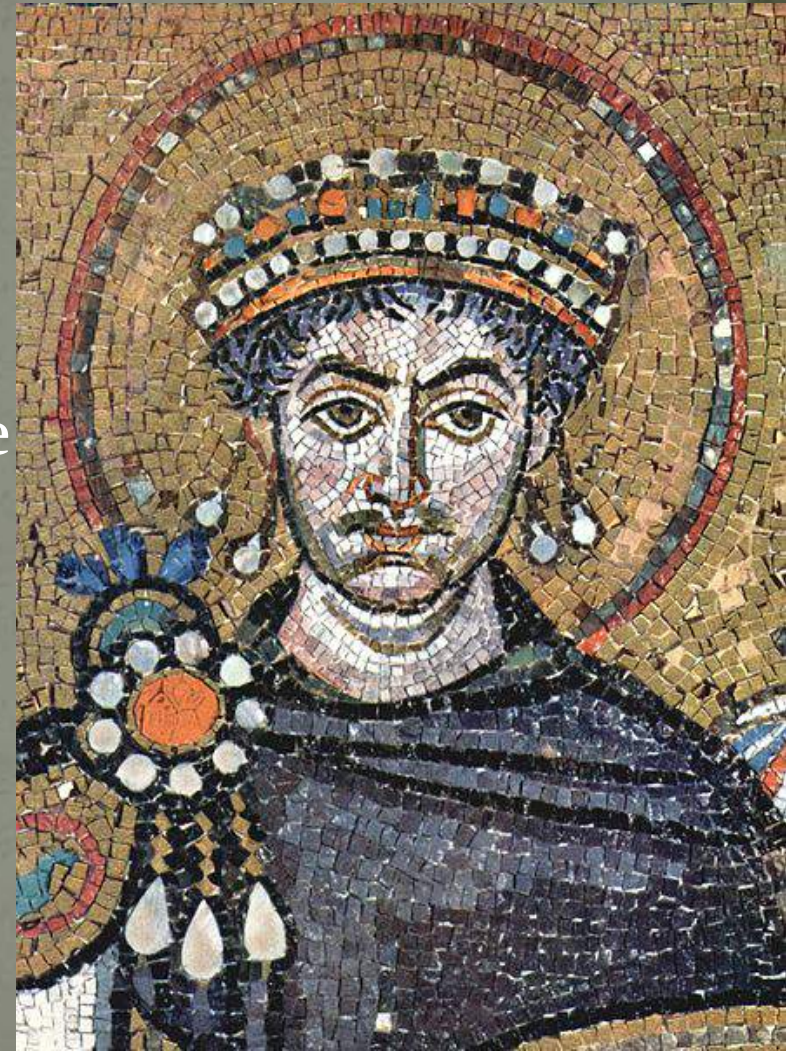
- Emperor Constantine of Roman Empire built Byzantium/Constantinople in 4th c.
- End of 4th CE: Roman Empire officially divided into East/West with capitals at Rome and Constantinople
- Political style in East: complex administration centered around emperor with elaborate ceremonies
- Involved in Mediterranean and Central Asian commerce





Justinian (Reigns 527-565)

- Most significant Byzantine ruler
- Military gains and huge expansion to rebuild original Roman Empire
 - Gains in North Africa and Italy
- Systemizes Roman legal code
 - Influences future law codes in Europe
 - Reduces legal confusion; united and organized the new empire
- Projects to renovate Constantinople
 - Hagia Sophia – engineering and architectural achievements (dome)
- Makes Greek language official
- Political resistance from other groups



Hagia Sophia



Byzantine Height under Justinian



Arab Pressure and Byzantine Defenses

- After Justinian, Byzantine rulers' primary concern is defense of empire against Arab invaders
 - Able to hold off Arab Muslims but with losses in Mediterranean
 - Arab naval fleet; battle over Mediterranean; "Greek fire"
- Empire's size/strength reduced
 - Economic burdens and loss of territory from Muslim wars
 - Increase in taxes; increase in wealth for upper class
 - Weak emperors



Byzantine Politics

- Emperors were the head of the government and the center of elaborate court rituals focusing upon their divinely inspired, all powerful nature.
- Sophisticated and highly educated bureaucracy that was open to all classes (but aristocrats dominate).
 - Bureaucracy helped to organize empire politically, socially, and economically.
 - Provincial governors appointed
 - Control economy via regulation of food prices, trade (with Asia, Russia, Scandinavia, W Europe, Africa), and silk production.



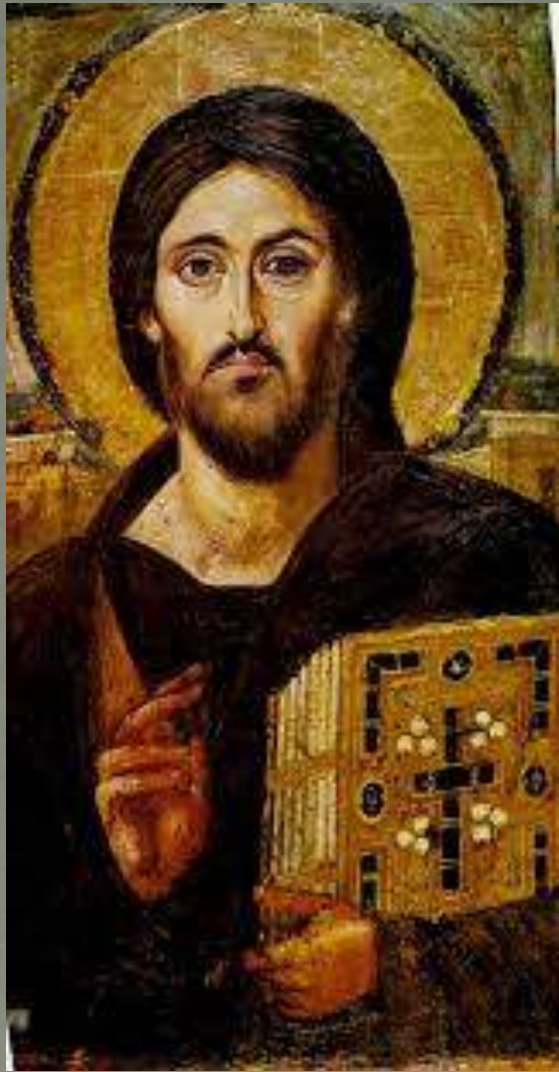
Monomachus

Byzantine Culture

- Creativity in Architecture (domed buildings)
- Richly colored religious mosaics in a distinct Byzantine style
- Icon paintings (paintings of saints and religious figures)
- Cultural life blended Hellenism and Orthodox Christianity



Monomachos, Christ, and Empress Zoe



Agricultural Economy

- The Peasantry - Free Peasants – New form of Labor Management
 - The backbone of the Byzantine army and economy
 - Landless peasants worked under share-cropping arrangements
 - Invasions of the 6th and 7th century led to the *theme* system
 - Method of providing troops for the army
 - Citizen farmers were given land to work in return for military service when required.
 - The system was hereditary, so the citizens actually owned the land; however, the obligation for military service was also hereditary, but this meant that the empire had a constant supply of manpower for the military from generation to generation.
- Consequences of Peasantry's Decline
 - Large landowners shifted tax burden to peasants
 - Large landowners raised forces on their own estates
 - The pool of military recruits shrank

Free peasants resisted attempts to raise dues and taxes by staging revolts

BYZANTINE

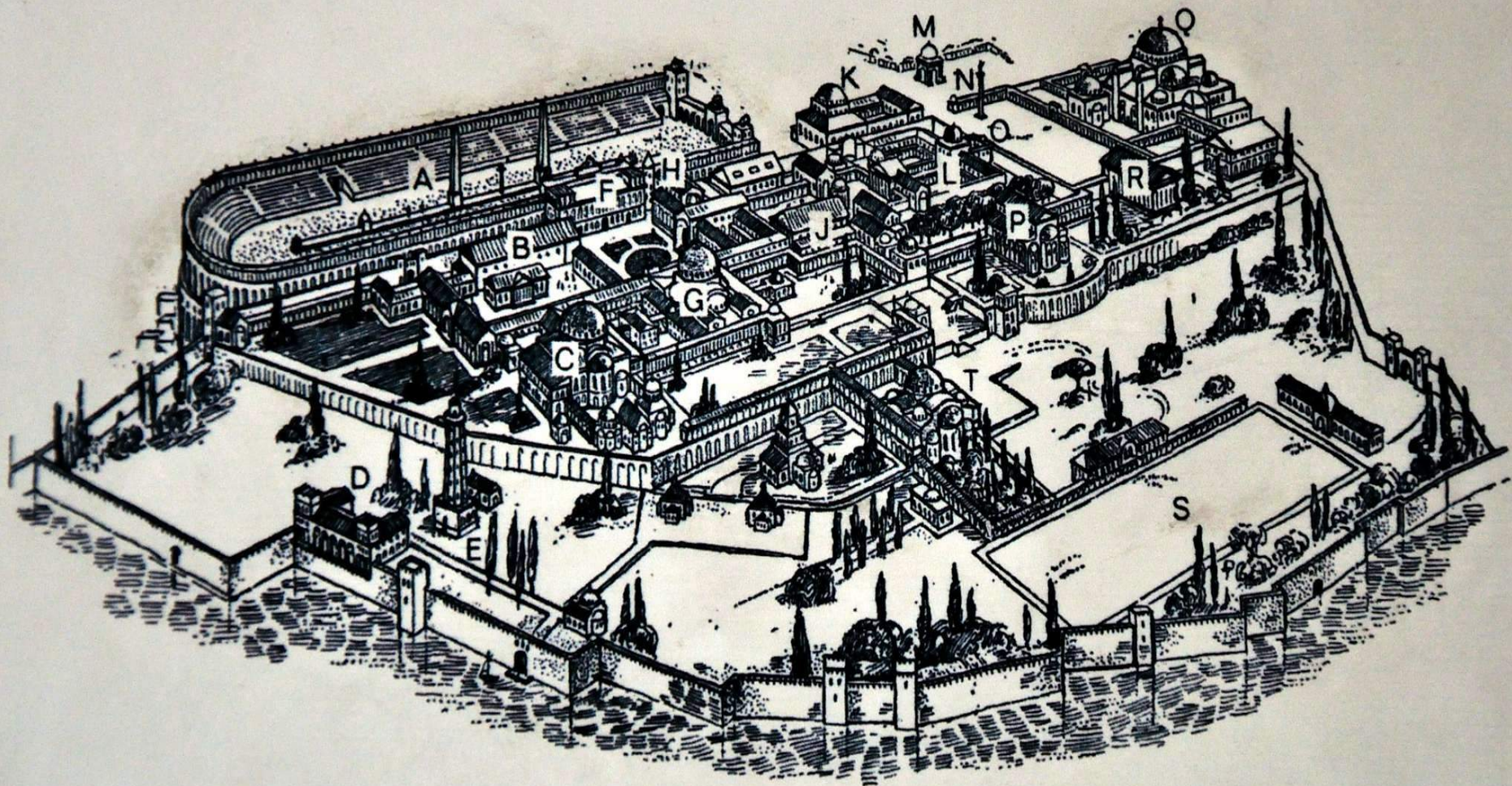


BASIL THE COPPER HAND

Back in the 10th Century, there lived a man named Basil. Basil's most notable physical feature was his copper hand. How did he get a copper hand? Well, he tried to impersonate a dead general to take power in Bithynia (North Anatolia). His ruse was discovered and he was quickly taken back to Constantinople and given history's most infamous slap on the wrist. Sans-hand, he had it replaced with a copper one. *Hence the name.* Looking like a Super Villain, he attempted to lead a peasant rebellion against the Byzantine Empire. He gathered the destitute and downtrodden peasants of the region who were upset at the Byzantine taxes they were forced to pay. Noticing the lack of tax funds coming in from Bithynia, the Emperor sent in the Byzantine Army. Used to fighting Persians and Arabs, the peasant army of Basil the Copper Hand didn't stand a chance. He was caught, chained, and returned to Constantinople. After a quick trial, he was burned at the stake.

Industry and Trade

- Manufacturing Enterprises
 - Byzantine craftsmen enjoyed a high reputation in various industries
 - High-quality silk became an important industry from the late 6th century
- Trade
 - Constantinople, an important center for Eurasian trade
 - The *bezant* was the standard currency of the Mediterranean basin
 - Byzantium drew enormous wealth from foreign trade
- Banks and Partnerships supported commercial Economy
 - Facilitates trade
 - New governmental innovation





*Part of the ruins of Blachernai imperial palace,
built in Constantinople around 500 AD*

Urban Life

- Housing in Constantinople
 - Enormous palaces owned by aristocrats
 - Less splendid dwellings owned by the less privileged classes
- Attractions of Constantinople
 - A city of baths, taverns, restaurants, theaters, the Hippodrome
 - The most popular game - chariot races
- Greens and Blues
 - The two factions of fans for chariot races
 - Frequent fights in the street between them
 - Joined together in a popular uprising, 532
 - The riot left Constantinople in shambles



The Legacy of Classical Greece

- Byzantine Education
 - State-organized school system, training bureaucrats
 - Private education of aristocratic families
 - Basic literacy was widespread even among the lower classes
- Scholarship
 - Emphasized more on humanities than on natural science
 - The educated considered themselves direct heirs of classical Greece
 - Strength lay in preserving and commenting on past forms more than developing new ones

Split Between Eastern and Western Christianity

- Separate paths emerge in 11th c. over disagreements
 - Attempted papal interference in Byzantine political and religious affairs
 - Debate over clerical celibacy (W – yes, E – no)
 - Dispute over bread to be used in Eucharist
 - Should state control religion (East)? Or should religion control state (West)?
 - West translates Greek Bible into Latin; East feels this isolates people from services
- 1054: Patriarch Michael attacks Catholic practices
- Mutual excommunication (patriarch and Pope Leo IX)
- Church splits into two traditions: Greek/Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholicism

Byzantine Decline

- Decline begins after 1054 (Church schism)
- 1071: Seljuk Turks take most of Central Asian provinces at Battle of Manzikert
- Independent Slavic states emerge which diminish Byzantine power
- 1204: Crusaders sack Constantinople; West cannot topple it
- 1453: Constantinople taken by Ottoman Turks
- 3 Groups contribute to destruction of Byzantines
 - Seljuk Turks (Battle of Manzikert)
 - Emerging independent Slavic states in Balkans (Bulgaria and Serbia)
 - Western crusaders





The Byzantine Empire (1000-1100)

Byzantine Empire went from a major to minor power after the Turkish defeat at Manzikert in 1071

Decline of the Thema

- The theme system started to decline from 963, when military reforms introduced by emperor Nikephoros II Phokas emphasized the role of the Tagmata, the regular standing army portion of the Byzantine military based in Constantinople, rather than thematic troops
- Following the disastrous defeat for the Byzantines at Manzikert (1071) by the Seljuk Turks, most of what is now modern eastern and central Turkey was overrun and conquered by the Seljuks.
 - This was the land that had provided the thema; without it, the source for troops for the Byzantine army no longer existed.

Domestic Problems and Foreign Pressures

- Social Problems
 - Generals and local aristocrats allied, a challenge to imperial power
 - Free peasants were declining in number and prosperity
 - Imperial government suffered from fewer recruits and fiscal problems
- Challenges from the West
 - Norman army expelled Byzantine authorities in southern Italy
 - Normans and other western Europeans mounted a series of crusades
 - The fourth crusade seized Constantinople
 - Byzantine forces recaptured the capital in 1261
- Challenges from the East
 - The Muslim Saljuqs invaded Anatolia, defeated Byzantine army, 1071
 - The loss of Anatolia sealed the fate of the Byzantine empire
 - Ottoman Turks captured Constantinople in 1453,

Spread of Civilization in Eastern Europe

- Eastern Europe is influenced by Byzantine conquest, Christian missionaries and conversion efforts, and trade routes
- Byzantine Christian missionaries (Cyril and Methodius) helped bring Orthodoxy northward into Russia and the Balkans
 - Create new alphabet: Cyrillic script



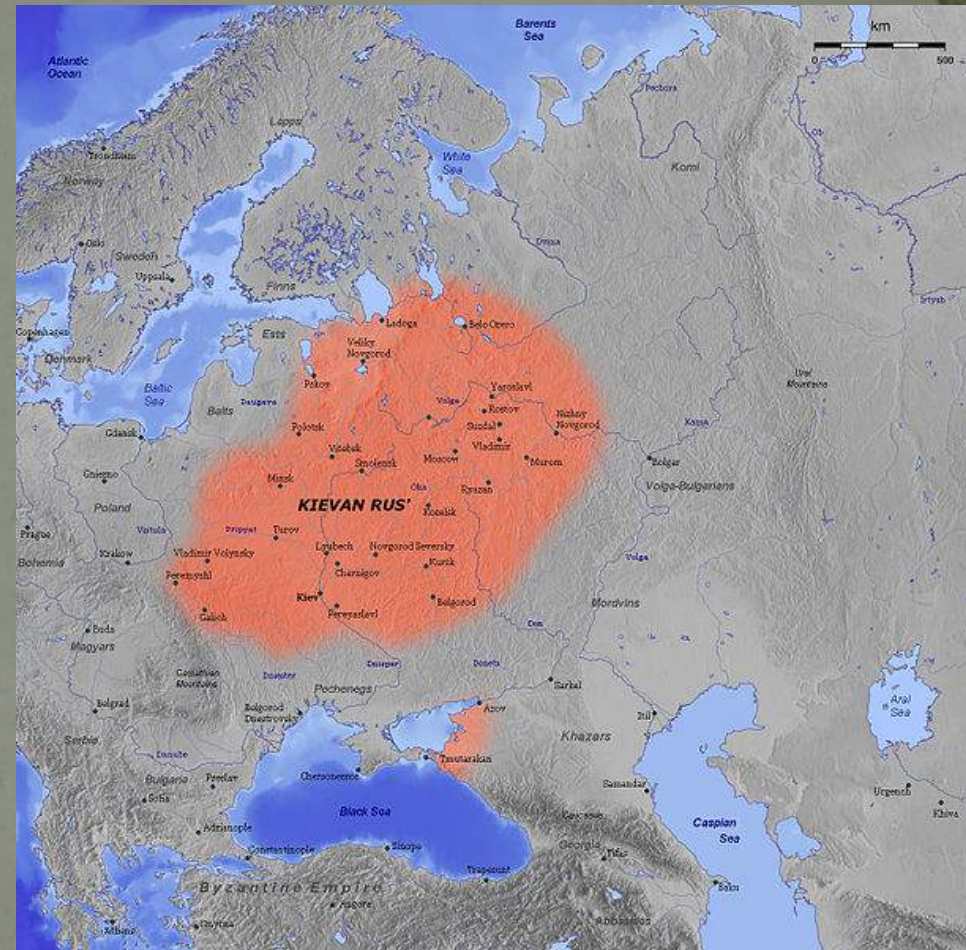
The East Central Borderlands

- Competition between Catholics and Orthodox Greeks for converts
 - Catholic converts are mostly in Hungary, Poland
- Influx of Jews to Borderlands from Western Europe and Middle East to escape persecution
 - Migrate into region in large numbers (Poland)
 - High value placed upon education and literacy
 - Limited professions available; gain strength in local commerce
 - Resented by Christian community



The Emergence of Kievan Rus'

- Who are the Russians?
 - Groups from Asia moved into region during Roman Empire
 - Agricultural society of tribes, villages
 - Animist religion (sun, thunder, wind, fire)
- Conduit for trade between Byzantines and Scandinavia
 - Luxury products from Silk Roads traded for furs from Scandinavia
- 855: large trading city (Kiev) became site of monarchy under Prince Rurik, first Prince of Kievan Rus'

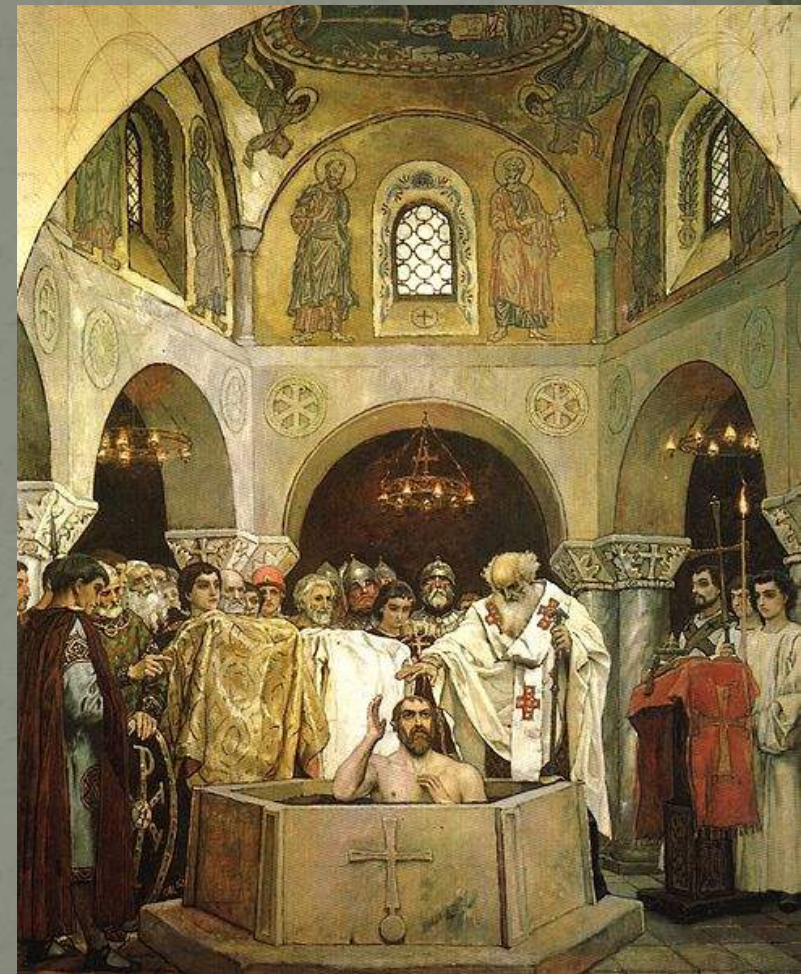


TRADE ROUTES



Politics and Religion in Kievan Rus'

- Vladimir I (980-1015)
 - What religion to choose?
 - 1000: Converts to Orthodoxy on behalf of all his people; organizes mass baptisms and forced conversions with military pressure.
 - Develops Russian Orthodox Church
 - Controls church and creates literate Russian priesthood
- Yaroslav (1019-1054)
 - Develops and issues unifying law code
 - Arranged marriages with central European royalty
 - Translates religious literature from Greek to Slavic



Conversion of Vladimir I

Culture in Kievan Rus'

- Kievan Rus' forms core of Russian culture and politics
 - Largest single state in Europe at this time
- Russian culture borrowed much from Byzantium
 - Attracted to ceremony and luxury of Byzantium
 - Peaceful and trade-oriented relationship between Byzantium and Kievan Rus' helps to facilitate cultural exchange
- Greek Orthodox influence on Russian Orthodox Church
 - Ornate churches, filled with icons and incense
 - Monasticism develops, stress prayer and charity
 - Fervent religious devotion
- Cultural production dominated by religion
 - Art (icons, illuminated manuscripts), literature (using Cyrillic)
 - No interest in philosophy or science
- *Boyars*, landlords/Russian nobility, less powerful than in West
 - Russian Peasants were fairly free farmers





Kievan Decline

- Decline from 12th century
 - Kievan Rus' was not the only kingdom in this region; other regional leaders and princes have large rival governments
 - Succession struggles within royal family
- Central Asian invaders chip away at territory
- Fall of Byzantium reduces Russian trade and wealth
- Mongols (*Tatars*) invade in 13th century
 - Aided by rival princes, Mongols take major cities easily
 - Control much of Russia for over two centuries
- Two factors for Kievan Decline:
 - 1) Fall of Byzantine empire and 2) Mongol invasions
 - Orthodox Christianity and Russian culture remain

Global Connections

- Byzantine Empire
 - Participated actively in interregional trade
 - Constantinople: great trading city, connection between East and West
 - Maintained strong empire despite rapid surge of Islam, as well as developing cultural innovations and Orthodox Christianity
- Kievan Rus
 - Dependent on Byzantium as main trading connection
 - Period of decline and isolation when Byzantium declines and Mongols invade
 - East cut off from western contacts, which stifles economic, political, and cultural sophistication. This will occur just as the West will begin to grow and strengthen.