Civilization in Eastern Europe

Byzantium and Orthodox Europe
The Grand Mosque in Makkah
The Byzantine Empire
One God, One Empire, One Religion
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The Eastern Empire

- As Western Europe succumbed to the Germanic invasions, imperial power shifted to the Byzantine Empire (the eastern part of the Roman Empire).
The Imperial Goal: **Unity**

- The imperial goal in the East was to centralize government and impose legal and doctrinal conformity.

One God
One Empire
One Religion
The Byzantine Court

- Caesaropapism – emperor rules not only as a **secular** lord, but also plays prominent role in **ecclesiastical** affairs
- Heavily jeweled crowns, silk robes of dark, rich **purple** (the color reserved for imperial use)
- Latin = language of the court; **Greek** = language of the people
ecclesiastical

of or relating to the Christian Church or its clergy.
secular

- attitudes, activities, or other things that have no religious or spiritual basis.
The Reign of Justinian & Theodora

- The height of the first period of Byzantine history (324-632)
Parallels: Augustus & Livia

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Justinian (527-565 CE)

- “the sleepless emperor”
- **Hagia Sophia** – one of world’s greatest examples of Christian architecture
- **Justinian Code**
  - Systematic review and improvement of Roman law
- Makes **Greek** official language
- Unsuccessfully tries to expand the empire
The Byzantine empire in 565, at its largest expansion ever.
Strong Cities

- During Justinian’s reign, the empire’s strength was its more than 1,500 cities. The largest with 350,000 inhabitants, was Constantinople, the cultural crossroads of Asian and European civilizations.
Increase in **Church Wealth**

- Patriarchs of Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch, and Jerusalem acquired enormous wealth in the form of land and gold.
"Not since the world was made was there . . . so much wealth as was found in Constantinople. For the Greeks say that two-thirds of the wealth of this world is in Constantinople and the other third scattered throughout the world."

--Robert of Clari, a French crusader who witnessed the pillage of the city in 1204, describing Constantinople.
Hagia Sophia
Cistern Basilica
Between the 4th and 5th centuries, councils were made up of local wealthy landowners, who were not necessarily loyal to the emperor.

By the 6th century, special governors and bishops replaced the councils and proved to be more loyal to the emperor.
Increase in Clergy

- The prestige and comfort that the clergy enjoyed swelled the ranks of the clergy in the Eastern Church.
Independent Thinking

- Ideas thought to be heresies by the Roman Catholic Church received imperial support:
  - denied that Father and Son were equal and coeternal
  - **Iconoclasm** forbid the use of images (icons) because it led to idolatry.
Iconoclasm

- Icons – particularly popular in Byzantine churches
  - Inspired the popular imagination and encouraged reverence for holy personages
  - Emperor Leo believed veneration of religious images was sinful
  - 726 orders iconoclasm – breaking of icons

- Also disagree over
  - Sacrament of communion
  - Whether priests should be allowed to marry
  - Use of local languages in church
The Struggle with the Persians

- Greeks won this round, but both sides were exhausted and vulnerable to invaders.
New external pressures

- Focus on defending the eastern empire
- What group is about to debut?
  - They attack 717-718 CE and the Byzantines have a secret weapon...
When Muslims tried to invade Byzantium, the Byzantine forces used a weapon called “Greek fire” – against the fleets and ground forces.

Greek fire even burns as it floats on water – very hazardous to wooden ships.
The Fall of Constantinople?

During 4th Crusade Constantinople is attacked

- Plundered and burned
- Ruled for 50 years
- Empire never quite recovers, Venetian merchants gain upperhand
In 1453, the city was finally and permanently conquered by the Ottoman Turks and renamed Istanbul. Byzantine culture, law, and administration came to its final end.
Contribution to Western Civilization

Throughout the early Middle Ages, the Byzantine Empire remained a protective barrier between western Europe and hostile Persian, Arab, and Turkish armies.
Contribution to Western Civilization

- The Byzantines were also a major conduit of classical learning and science into the West down to the Renaissance.
- While western Europeans were fumbling to create a culture of their own, the cities of the Byzantine Empire provided them a model of a civilized society.
Work period!

Next up:
- Byzantines go North: Kiev & Russia
- Meanwhile in Europe: The Merovingians
  - HOMEWORK: Read pp 19-24,
  - Answer Qs: 1,3 4 a&b.
    - Hand in everything Friday
  - Friday: Vocab quiz! > Move to end of Chapter?
Bias: definition

- a tendency to believe that some people, ideas, etc., are better than others that usually results in treating some people unfairly

- West vs. East in Histiography (how history is written)
The Rise of Russia

- HUGE
- Borders both Europe and China, touches the Baltic Sea and the Pacific Ocean
Kievan Rus’

- Kiev becomes a midpoint between Scandinavia and Constantinople
- Cyril and Methodius
  - Missionaries from Constantinople, adapt Greek alphabet to Slavic language – develops Cyrillic (still used in Ukraine and Russia)
- Byzantine Christianity
- Onion domes from Byzantium!
Kievan Rus’

- First ruler – prince Rurik
- Russia is coined by the Scandinavians, could be from Greek word for “red”
- Vladimir I (r. 980-1015) – converts to Christianity on behalf of all his people
  - Organizes mass baptisms for his subjects, forced conversions
  - Russian Orthodox Church soon develops
Yaroslav the Wise

- 1019 – 1054
- Improved code of law
- Arranged marriages between his kids and the royal families of Western Europe
Mongol Conquest

- A young leader united the nomadic Mongols of central Asia
- Overrun lands from China to Eastern Europe – dubs himself “Genghis Khan” – “world emperor”
The Golden Horde

- 1236-1241 – Batu, Genghiz’s grandson leads Mongol armies into Russia
- “Golden Horde” because of the color of their tents
- Also called Tatars in the Russian tradition
- Loot and burn Kiev and many other Russian towns
- “no eye remained to weep for the dead”
- Rule from a capital on the Volga for the next 240 years
  - ***This is Russia’s dormant/stagnant period***
240 Years of Mongol Rule

- Women become especially subservient to their husbands. (Husbands can even sell their wives into slavery to pay family debts)
- Absolute power Mongols have will serve as an inspiration for Russian rulers later on
- Mongols severed Russian ties to Western Europe at a time when Europeans were making rapid advances in the arts and sciences
Moscow

- Steadily becomes a political and spiritual center
  - Princes in Moscow slowly gain pwr against Mongols
  - Became the capital of the Russian Orthodox Church
1054 – Great Schism

Split into
West: Roman Catholic
East: Greek Orthodox
Ivan the Great
Ivan III – 1462-1505

- Adopted the rituals of the fallen empire’s traditions to emphasize Russia’s role as the heir to Byzantine power
  - Double-headed eagle symbol
- Titles himself Czar (Russian for caesar)
  - “the czar is in nature like all men, but in authority he is like the highest God”