


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

AP World History I

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Origins of the Byzantine Empire

- Romans set up eastern capital to their empire in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century CE in Constantinople
  - Constantine constructs churches, and other elegant buildings
  - City is build on the grounds of the town of Byzantium
- Even before the Western portion of the Roman Empire fell to Germanic invaders, the eastern half had their own Emperors.

Origins of the Byzantine Empire

- Constantinople was responsible for
  - The Balkan Peninsula
  - The Northern Middle East
  - The Mediterranean coast
  - North Africa
- Greek becomes the official language of the Eastern Roman Empire (replacing Latin).
  - Greek gave scholars access to the philosophical works of the ancient Greeks

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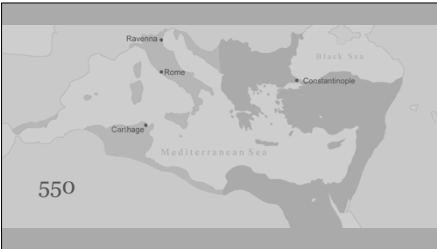
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## Byzantine Empire



A map of the Byzantine Empire in 550 AD. The map shows the Mediterranean Sea to the west and south, and the Black Sea to the east. Key cities are marked: Ravenna, Rome, Carthage, and Constantinople. The year 550 is printed in the bottom left corner of the map area.

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## Justinian

- Constant threat of invasion plagued earlier emperors.
- Soon, eastern emperors beat off attacks by the Sassanian Empire in Persia and by the Germanic Invaders
- In 533 CE, Justinian, urged by his wife Theodora made a push to reconquer Western territory.

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## Justinian

- Justinian was responsible for
  - the rebuilding of Constantinople
  - Systemizing the Roman Legal Code
    - Justinian's Code
  - Extending Roman Architecture (plus domes)
  - The Hagia Sophia



A black and white photograph of the Hagia Sophia in Constantinople, showing its large central dome and multiple minarets.

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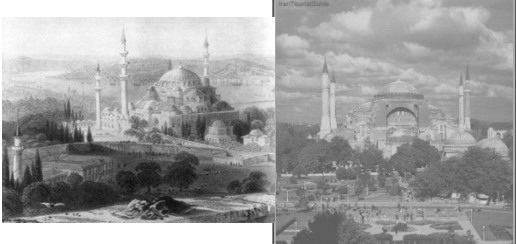
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### The Hagia Sophia



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### Military Exploits

- Emperor Justinian wants to recapture Rome itself!
- Justinian and Belisarius were unable to hold onto Italy or Northern Africa as a result of increasing pressure from Germans.
- Westward expansion had weakened the empire at home.
  - New Slavic groups moved into the Balkans
  - Justinian pushes Persian forces back, but loses some middle eastern territory.
- Dies in 565 CE

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### Justinian's Byzantine Empire



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<h3>Beyond Justinian...</h3>
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- Successors must defend the Eastern Empire itself
  - Reverse Persian successes in the 7<sup>th</sup> Century.
  - Population forcibly reconverted to Christianity.
- The Empire was centered in the Balkans, western/central portions of Turkey.
- Byzantine Empire represented a mix of Hellenistic tradition, Christianity, as well as Roman engineering, military tactics, and codified law.
- Strong enough to withstand the threat of the expanding Arab Muslim Empire.

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<h3>The Muslim Threat</h3>
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- While the Byzantines were able to withstand the Muslim threat, they did so taking on massive losses.
  - Arabs built a naval fleet that challenged Byzantine naval supremacy in the Eastern Mediterranean
  - Arabs launched continual attacks on Constantinople.
- Wars with the Muslims added economic burdens to the Empire
  - Invasions, taxation create larger aristocratic estates because of burden on small farmers.

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<h3>Bulgaria</h3>
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- Example of a SLAVIC territory that pressed Byzantine territory in the Balkans.
  - Bulgarian king takes the title Tsar, Slavic for Caesar in the 10<sup>th</sup> century.
  - Byzantine pressure erodes the regional kingdom.
  - Basil II (Byzantine Emperor) used Byzantine wealth to bribe wealthy Bulgarian nobles and generals, defeating their army in 1014.

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**Byzantine Society and Politics**

- **Similarities with China**
  - Emperor was held to be ordained by God
  - Head of Church as well as state.
    - Appointed bishops and passed religious and secular laws
  - Women held the imperial throne at times
    - Theodora 981-1056
  - Bureaucracy (elaborate)
    - Secular school system with training in Greek Classics, Philosophy, and Science...WITH church education.
    - Aristocrats predominate, but talent came from highly educated scholars

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**Byzantine Military**

- Recruit troops locally and reward them with grants of land.
- Hereditary military leaders gained regional power, displacing traditional and better educated aristocrats.
- While this was bad for the empire, it helped to protect a state that was constantly under attack from the Muslims (Persians, Arabs, and Turks), as well as nomadic intruders from Central Asia

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**Byzantine Society and Economics**

- Constantinople controlled the countryside
  - Bureaucracy regulated trade and controlled food prices.
  - Large peasant class was vital to provide the goods and supply the bulk of tax revenues.
- Empire had a huge trading network with Asia to the east and Russia and Scandinavia to the North. Empire also traded with India, the Arabs, and east Asia. The Empire received simpler goods from Western Europe and Africa.
  - Merchants did not gain much power (like China)

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## Byzantine Culture

- Centered on secular traditions of Hellenism
  - Byzantine strength lay in preserving and commenting on past literary and artistic forms
  - Art and Architecture were exceptions to that rule.
- Religious mosaics
- Icon Painting- paintings of saints and other religious figures.
  - Iconoclasm: A brief attack on religious imagery by a Byzantine Emperor in the 8<sup>th</sup> century.
  - Monks threaten permanent split between church and state, and eventually use of icons was restored and state control over church was too.

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## Iconic Imagery



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## The Schism

**➤ Byzantine culture and politics, as well as the economics of the empire being more oriented towards Asia and Northeastern Europe was a sign of the East's growing break with the West**

- Eastern Christianity was headed by the Patriarch who was the spiritual leader of the Byzantine Empire...who was also controlled by the Emperor.
- Western Christianity was headed by the Pope who exerted great control over the Medieval rulers of Western Europe.

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<h2>The Schism</h2>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ <b>Issues...</b></li><li>➤ West translates Greek Bible into Latin</li><li>➤ Byzantine Emperors resent papal attempts to interfere in the iconoclastic dispute.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Loss of state-control in the east would benefit the pope.</li></ul></li><li>➤ Hostility towards Charlemagne to proclaim himself a Roman Emperor in the 9<sup>th</sup> Century<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Belief that western rulers were crude and unsophisticated</li></ul></li></ul>	

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<h2>The Schism-1054</h2>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ A number of issues come up for debate...of them,<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Patriarch attacked the Roman Catholic practice of celibacy for its priests.</li></ul></li><li>➤ As a result of the debate, the Roman Catholic pope excommunicated the Patriarch and his followers.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ The Patriarch responded by excommunicating all Catholics.</li></ul></li><li>➤ Thus, the split between West and East was done.</li></ul>	

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<h2>Decline of the Byzantine Empire</h2>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Turkish troops, the Seljuks, seized most of the Asiatic provinces of the Empire.</li><li>➤ Loss in battle of Manzikert in 1071 never allowed Byzantine Army to recover.</li><li>➤ Creation of new, independent Slavic kingdoms in the Balkans (like Serbia) showed the Empire's diminished power.</li><li>➤ Eastern leaders appeal to the west for assistance against the Turks, but they were ignored.</li></ul>	

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### Decline of the Byzantine Empire

- Signs of shifting power include the increased impact of Italian trading cities with the ports of Constantinople.
- 1204 CE Crusade to take back Holy Land actually turned against Constantinople!
  - Weakened the Byzantine Empire more!
  - Pope John Paul II apologized for this in 2004.
- 1453-Turkish Ottoman Sultan brings his powerful army, with artillery purchased from the west to Constantinople. The city falls in under two months.
- The fall of the Byzantine Empire was one of the great events in World History

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### Spread of Civilization to Eastern Europe

- Orthodox missionaries were sent from the Byzantine Empire northward to extend the scope of Christianity through the Balkans to the Central Asian lands.
- East-Central Borderlands (the areas north of the Balkans, in between Western Europe and Asia) were Regional Kingdoms, loosely governed, under a powerful land-owning aristocracy.
  - Kingdoms of Poland, Bohemia (Czechoslovakia), and Lithuania.

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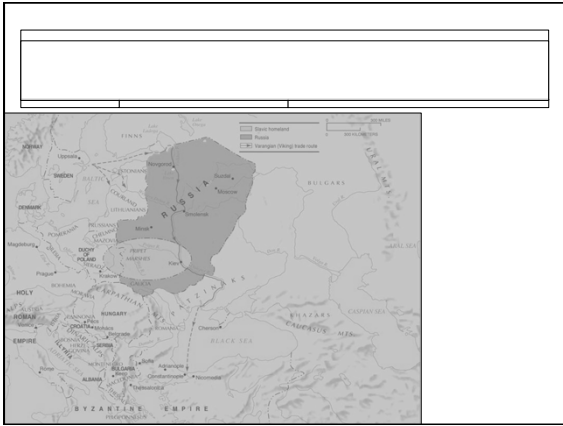
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## Kievan Rus'

- Slavic peoples had moved into the plains of Russia and Eastern Europe during the Roman Empire.
- Slavs already used iron, extended agriculture into the Ukraine, had political organization that rested in family tribe and villages, and maintained an animist religion. They also had great folk music and oral legends.
  - Development of loose regional kingdoms.

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## Slavs

**Origins of Slavic Peoples**

The expansion of the Slavs to c.700

expansion of Slavic western limit of Slavic expansion in 6th century AD

Slavic people

Slavic people

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## Kievan Rus'

- Scandinavian traders worked through Slavic lands, and being militarily superior, set up governments along their trade routes, particularly in the city of Kiev



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## Kievan Rus'



- Rurik, a native of Denmark, became the first prince of Kievan Rus' in 855 CE.
- The Scandinavians coined the term Russia.
- Scandinavian minority gradually mixed with the Slavs.

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## Kievan Rus'

- Kiev becomes an active trading center with the Byzantine Empire.
- Prince Vladimir I, a Rurik descendent who ruled from 980-1015 converted himself and all his people to Christianity.
  - Massed, forced conversions.

- The Russian Orthodox Church developed from influence by the Byzantines.
- Kiev issued a formal law code under Rurik's descendents.
- Yaroslav arranged the translation of religious literature from Greek to Slavic.

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Russian Culture	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Influenced by the Byzantines, and Orthodox Christianity.</li> <li>➤ Devotion to the power of God and Eastern Saints</li> <li>➤ Ornate churches filled with icons and incense.</li> <li>➤ Monastic movement stresses prayer and charity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Russian and Ukrainian art focused on the religious also                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Icon painting</li> <li>– Byzantine architecture.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Strong competition between religious art and music with popular entertainments/folk music</li> </ul>

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Russian Social/Economic life	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Russian peasants were free farmers</li> <li>➤ Aristocratic landlord class existed.</li> <li>➤ Russian aristocrats, called Boyars, didn't have as much power as landowners in the west. But, Kievan princes had to recognize and negotiate with them.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yaroslav arranges over 30 marriages to create ties with Central European Royalty, including 11 with Germany.</li> </ul>

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Kievan Decline	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ In the 12<sup>th</sup> Century, Kiev fades...aided by the slowdown and disruption to its neighbor to the south, the Byzantine Empire.</li> <li>➤ 1237-1238, and 1240-1241: Mongol Invasions (Tatars) take over most of the weakened Russian Cities, but fail to press west.</li> <li>➤ Over 200 years, Russia remained under Tatar Control, separating Russia from the dynamism of Western Europe during this time.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Allowed for the continuation of day-to-day Russian affairs (religion, etc.).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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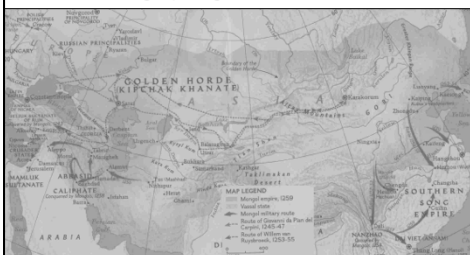
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### Third Rome

➤ After the fall of Constantinople in 1453 and the weakening of Tatar (Mongol) influence on Russia, in 1511 it was seen the Russia would inherit the glory and grandeur of the Third Rome.



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