Chapter 9

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The Byzantine Empire, Russia, and Eastern Europe

330–1613
Chapter 9

Chapter Preview

Chapter Focus Question: How did the Byzantine empire preserve the heritage of Greece and Rome and help to shape the cultures of Russia and Eastern Europe?

Section 1
The Byzantine Empire

Section 2
The Rise of Russia

Section 3
Shaping Eastern Europe

Use the Quick Study Timeline at the end of this chapter to preview chapter events.

WITNESS HISTORY

Justinian Reforms the Law

At the beginning of his reign, the Byzantine emperor Justinian realized that the laws—inherited from ancient Rome—were long and confusing. He created a commission to collect, organize, and revise them into a body of law called the Corpus Juris Civilis, known as Justinian’s Code. In the introduction, Justinian explains the basis of the law code:

“The precepts of the law are these: to live honestly, to injure no one, and to give every man his due. The study of law consists of two branches, law public and law private. The former relates to the welfare of the Roman State; the latter to the advantage of the individual citizen. Of private law then we may say that it is of threefold origin, being collected from the precepts of nature, from those of the law of nations, or from those of the civil law of Rome.”

Listen to the Witness History audio to hear more about Justinian’s Code.

Audio

This mosaic from a Byzantine church in Italy shows the emperor Justinian.

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The Byzantine Empire

Objectives
- Understand why Constantinople became known as the “New Rome.”
- Summarize the ways in which the Byzantine empire flourished under Justinian.
- Analyze how Christianity in the Byzantine empire differed from Christianity in the West.
- Explain why the Byzantine empire collapsed and examine the empire’s lasting heritage.

Terms, People, and Places
- Constantinople
- Justinian
- Justinian’s Code
- autocrat
- Theodora
- patriarch
- icon
- Great Schism

Note Taking
Reading Skill: Recognize Sequence Keep track of the sequence of events in the Byzantine empire in a table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Byzantine Empire</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constantinople becomes the capital of the eastern Roman empire.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Constantinople sat at a crossroads of land and sea routes, and its great wealth came from trade. In addition to encouraging trade, its leaders constructed strong defenses for their city. As the cities of the western Roman empire crumbled, Constantinople remained secure and prospered. With its high walls and golden domes, it stood as the proud capital of the Byzantine empire.

Constantine Creates a “New Rome”
You have read that as German invaders pounded the Roman empire in the west, the Roman emperor Constantine and his successors shifted their base to the eastern Mediterranean. Constantine rebuilt the Greek city of Byzantium and then renamed it after himself—Constantinople. In 330, he made Constantinople the new capital of the empire. From this “New Rome,” roads fanned out to the Balkans, to the Middle East, and to North Africa. In time, the eastern Roman empire became known as the Byzantine empire.

Constantinople Grows The vital center of the empire was Constantinople. The city was located on the shores of the Bosporus, a strait that links the Mediterranean and Black seas. Constantinople had an excellent harbor and was guarded on three sides by water. Emperors after Constantine built an elaborate system of land and sea walls to bolster its defenses.

WITNESS HISTORY AUDIO
A Sovereign City
In 1203, when the Crusaders arrived at Constantinople, they were amazed by its splendor:

“[T]hose who had never seen Constantinople opened wide eyes now: for they could not believe that so rich a city could be in the whole world, when they saw her lofty walls and her stately towers wherewith she was encompassed, and these stately palaces and lofty churches, so many in number as no man might believe who had not seen them, and the length and breadth of this town which was sovereign over all others.”
—Villehardouin, a French Crusader

Focus Question What made the Byzantine empire rich and successful for so long, and why did it finally crumble?
Equally important, Constantinople commanded key trade routes linking Europe and Asia. For centuries, the city’s favorable location made it Europe’s busiest marketplace. There, merchants sold silks from China, wheat from Egypt, gems from India, spices from Southeast Asia, and furs from Viking lands in the north.

At the center of the city, Byzantine emperors and empresses lived in glittering splendor. Dressed in luxurious silk, they attended chariot races at the Hippodrome arena. Crowds cheered wildly as rival charioteers careened around and around in their vehicles. The spectacle was another reminder of the city’s glorious Roman heritage.

Blending of Cultures After rising to spectacular heights, the Byzantine empire eventually declined to a small area around Constantinople itself. Yet it was still in existence nearly 1,000 years after the fall of the western Roman empire. As the heir to Rome, it promoted a brilliant civilization that blended ancient Greek, Roman, and Christian influences with other traditions of the Mediterranean world.

**Checkpoint** Why did Constantinople become a rich and powerful city?

**Byzantium Flourishes Under Justinian**

The Byzantine empire reached its peak under the emperor Justinian, who ruled from 527 to 565. Justinian was determined to revive ancient Rome by recovering lands that had been overrun by invaders. Led by the brilliant general Belisarius, Byzantine armies reconquered North Africa, Italy, and the southern Iberian peninsula. However, the fighting exhausted Justinian’s treasury and weakened his defenses in the east. Moreover, the victories were only temporary. Justinian’s successors would lose the bitterly contested lands, one after the other.

The Great City Is Rebuilt Justinian left a more lasting monument in the structures of his capital. In 532, riots and a devastating fire swept Constantinople. Many buildings were destroyed and many lives were lost. To restore Roman glory, Justinian launched a program to make Constantinople grander than ever. His great triumph was rebuilding the church of Hagia Sophia (AH yee uh suh FEE uh), which means “Holy Wisdom.” Its immense, arching dome improved on earlier Roman buildings. The interior glowed with colored marble and embroidered silk curtains. Seeing this church, the emperor recalled King Solomon’s temple in Jerusalem. “Glory to God who has judged me worthy of accomplishing such a work as this!” Justinian exclaimed. “O Solomon, I have surpassed you!”

Justinian’s Code Has Far-Reaching Effects Even more important than expanding the empire and rebuilding its capital was Justinian’s reform of the law. Early in his reign, he set up a commission to collect, revise, and organize all the laws of ancient Rome. The result was the *Corpus Juris Civilis*, or “Body of Civil Law,” popularly known as *Justinian’s Code*. This massive collection included laws passed by Roman assemblies or decreed by Roman emperors, as well as the legal writings of Roman judges and a handbook for students.
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The Byzantine Empire, Russia, and Eastern Europe

Careers

Byzantium Flourishes Under Justinian

Discuss the expansion and contraction of the Byzantine empire. Ask How did Justinian contribute to the expansion phase? (rebuilt Constantinople; formed a strong central government; reformed the laws of ancient Rome; built a powerful military; increased the fortunes of the empire)

Remind students that under Justinian’s successors, the Byzantine empire was finally reduced to a relatively small geographic area around Constantinople. Ask What were some of the causes of this contraction? (constant military campaigns; depleted treasury; struggles over power and succession; success of Muslim armies in the Mediterranean region)

Independent Practice

To help students see the differing viewpoints on Justinian’s rule, have them read the selection Emperor Justinian and complete the worksheet. Teaching Resources, Unit 2, p. 47

To help students better understand this monument to two religions, have them read the selections from On Buildings by Procopius and complete the worksheet. Teaching Resources, Unit 2, p. 48

Monitor Progress

Circulate to make sure that students understand the viewpoints on Justinian and the descriptions of Hagia Sophia.

Answers

Thinking Critically

1. Synthesize Information Explain the significance of Constantinople.

2. Draw Inferences Why was Hagia Sophia turned into a museum?

Hagia Sophia

Hagia Sophia, or “Holy Wisdom,” stands at a cultural and geographic crossroads. Istanbul—once called Constantinople—is located where Europe meets Asia and Islam meets Christianity. Justinian ordered the construction of Hagia Sophia in 532, after the previous church was destroyed in riots. Since then, the dome has been rebuilt and the building repaired. Despite warfare and invasions, Hagia Sophia has remained intact, a prize for whoever controlled the city. It has served as a cathedral of Eastern Orthodox Christianity, a Roman Christian cathedral, and an Islamic mosque. Since 1935, it has been a museum. The modern interior reflects the Christian and Muslim heritage of the building. Islamic artists avoid using human or animal figures, while Byzantine artists were famous for their mosaics of religious figures, such as the one above.

Round plaques decorated with calligraphy were added between 1847 and 1849. This one shows Muhammad’s name.

The dome rises 184 feet from the floor. The architects used a technique that was new in the 500s to support this huge dome. Triangular supports called pendentives were inserted in the corners of the square, which supported the weight of the dome on the square base.

These towers, called minarets, were built after the building became a mosque. Mosque officials, called muezzins, call Muslims to prayer from the minarets.

INFOGRAPHIC

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Justinian’s Code had an impact far beyond the Byzantine empire. By the 1100s, it had reached Western Europe. There, monarchs modeled their laws on its principles, which helped them to strengthen and centralize their power. Centuries later, the code also guided legal thinkers who began to put together the international law in use today.

**Justinian Rules With Absolute Power** Justinian used the law to unify the empire under his control. He ruled as an autocrat, or sole ruler with complete authority. The Byzantine emperor also had power over the Church. He was deemed Christ’s co-ruler on Earth. As a Byzantine official wrote, “The emperor is equal to all men in the nature of his body, but in the authority of his rank he is similar to God, who rules all.” Unlike feudal monarchs in Western Europe, he combined both political power and spiritual authority. His control was aided by his wife, Theodora. A shrewd politician, she served as advisor and co-ruler to Justinian and even pursued her own policies.

**Economic and Military Strength Is Second to None** The Byzantine empire flourished under a strong central government, which exercised strict control over a prosperous economy. Peasants formed the backbone of the empire, working the land, paying taxes, and providing soldiers for the military. In the cities of the empire, trade and industry flourished. While the economy of Western Europe struggled and use of money declined, the Byzantine empire preserved a healthy money economy. The bezant, the Byzantine gold coin stamped with the emperor’s image, circulated from England to China.

At the same time, the Byzantines built one of the strongest military forces in the world. Soldiers, ships, and sailors protected the empire, and fortifications protected its capital. The Byzantines also relied on a secret weapon called Greek fire, a liquid that probably contained petroleum. Thrown toward an enemy, it would ignite on contact, and its fire could not be put out with water. For centuries, Greek fire was an effective and terrifying weapon of the Byzantine navy.

**The Empire’s Fortunes Change** In the centuries after Justinian, the empire faced successive attacks by Persians, Slavs, Vikings, Huns, and Turks. These attacks were largely unsuccessful. The empire thus served as a buffer for Western Europe, especially in preventing the spread of Muslim conquest. Beginning in the 600s and 700s, however, Arab armies gradually gained control of much of the Mediterranean world. Still, Constantinople itself withstood their attack, and the Byzantines held on to their heartland in the Balkans and Asia Minor.

**Vocabulary Builder**

**unify**—(YO0 nuh fy) v. to bring people or things together to form a single unit or entity

**Byzantine Christianity**

Christianity was as influential in the Byzantine empire as it was in Western Europe. But the way Christianity was practiced differed in the two regions. Over time, these differences became more distinct and caused increasing friction.
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Map Skills  The Byzantine empire reached its greatest size by 565. By 1000, it had lost much of its territory to invading armies.

1. Locate (a) Constantinople (b) Rome (c) Jerusalem
2. Describe Describe the extent of the Byzantine empire in 1020.
3. Draw Inferences What does the extent of the empire in 565 suggest about the rule of Justinian?

East and West Differ Since early Christian times, differences had emerged over Church leadership. Although the Byzantine emperor was not a priest, he controlled Church affairs and appointed the patriarch, or highest Church official, in Constantinople. Byzantine Christians rejected the pope's claim to authority over all Christians.

Unlike priests in Western Europe, the Byzantine clergy kept their right to marry. Greek, not Latin, was the language of the Byzantine Church. As in the Roman Church, the chief Byzantine holy day was Easter, celebrated as the day Jesus rose from the dead. However, Byzantine Christians placed somewhat less emphasis on Christmas—the celebration of the birth of Jesus—compared to Christians in the West.

The Church Divides During the Middle Ages, the two branches of Christianity drew farther apart. A dispute over the use of icons, or holy images, contributed to the split. Many Byzantine Christians used images of Jesus, the Virgin Mary, and the saints in their worship. In the 700s, however, a Byzantine emperor outlawed the veneration of icons, saying it violated God's commandment against worshiping "graven images."

The ban set off violent battles within the empire. From the west, the pope joined in the dispute by condemning the Byzantine emperor. Although a later empress eventually restored the use of icons, the conflict left great resentment against the pope in the Byzantine empire.

In 1054, other controversies provoked a schism, or split, between eastern and western Christianity, known as the Great Schism. The Byzantine church became known as the Eastern, or Greek, Orthodox
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Church. The western branch became known as the Roman Catholic Church. The pope and the patriarch excommunicated each other. Thereafter, contacts between the two churches were guarded and distant. They treated each other as rivals rather than as branches of the same faith.

Checkpoint Why did the Eastern and Western churches differ?

The Empire Suffers Crisis and Collapse

By the time of the schism, the Byzantine empire was in decline. Struggles over succession, court intrigues, and constant wars undermined its strength. As in Western Europe, powerful local lords gained control of large areas. As the empire faltered, its enemies advanced. The Normans conquered southern Italy. Even more serious, the Seljuk Turks advanced across Asia Minor. The Seljuks had been a nomadic people in central Asia. They converted to Islam in their migrations westward.

The Crusades Lead to Plunder In the 1090s, the Byzantine emperor called for Western help to fight the Seljuks, whose attacks blocked the pilgrimage routes to Jerusalem. The result was the First Crusade. During later crusades, however, trade rivalry sparked violence between the Byzantine empire and Venice, a city-state in northern Italy. In 1204, Venetian merchants persuaded knights on the Fourth Crusade to attack Constantinople. For three days, crusaders burned and plundered the city, sending much treasure westward. Western Christians ruled Constantinople for 57 years. Although a Byzantine emperor reclaimed the capital in the 1260s, the empire never recovered. Venetian merchants had gained control of Byzantine trade, draining the wealth of the empire. But there was an even more threatening foe—the increasingly powerful Ottoman Turks, who soon controlled most of Asia Minor and the Balkans.

Constantinople Falls to the Turks In 1453, Ottoman forces surrounded the city of Constantinople. They brought cannons to attack the city’s walls. The Byzantine defenders had stretched a huge chain across the harbor to protect against invasion by sea, but the Turks hauled their ships overland and then launched them into the harbor. After a siege lasting two months, the Turks stormed Constantinople’s broken walls. It is said that when the last Byzantine emperor was offered safe passage, he replied, “God forbid that I should live an emperor without an empire.” He chose instead to die fighting.

Forces led by Ottoman ruler Mehmet II entered the city in triumph. The ancient city was renamed Istanbul and became the capital of the Ottoman empire. Hagia Sophia was turned into an Islamic house of worship, and Istanbul soon emerged as a great center of Muslim culture.

Checkpoint How was the Byzantine empire destroyed?

The Byzantine Heritage

Although Byzantine power had faded long before, the fall of Constantinople marked the end of an age. To Europeans, the empire had stood for centuries as the enduring symbol of Roman civilization. Throughout the Middle Ages, Byzantine influence radiated...
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across Europe. Even the Ottoman conquerors adapted features of Byzantine government, social life, and architecture.

What was the Byzantine heritage? For 1,000 years, the Byzantines built on the culture of the Hellenistic world. Byzantine civilization blended Christian religious beliefs with Greek science, philosophy, arts, and literature. The Byzantines also extended Roman achievements in engineering and law.

Unique Contributions in the Arts Byzantine artists made unique contributions, especially in religious art and architecture, that influenced Western styles from the Middle Ages to the present. Icons, designed to evoke the presence of God, gave viewers a sense of personal contact with the sacred. Mosaics brought scenes from the Bible to life. In architecture, Byzantine palaces and churches blended Greek, Roman, Persian, and other Middle Eastern styles.

The World of Learning Byzantine scholars preserved the classic works of ancient Greece and Rome. In addition, they produced their own great books, especially in the field of history.

Like the Greek historians Herodotus and Thucydides, Byzantine historians were mostly concerned with writing about their own times. Procopius, an advisor to the general Belisarius, chronicled the Byzantine campaign against Persia. In his Secret History, Procopius savagely criticized Justinian and Theodora. He called the emperor “both an evil-doer and easily led into evil . . . never of his own accord speaking the truth.” Anna Comnena is considered by many scholars to be the Western world's first important female historian. In the Alexiad, she analyzed the reign of her father, Emperor Alexius I. Comnena’s book portrayed Latin crusaders as greedy barbarians.

As the empire tottered in the 1400s, many Greek scholars left Constantinople to teach at Italian universities. They took valuable Greek manuscripts to the West, along with their knowledge of Greek and Byzantine culture. The work of these scholars contributed to the European cultural flowering that became known as the Renaissance.

Checkpoint Describe Byzantine contributions to art and learning.
Chapter 9, Section 2

The Rise of Russia

As Western Europe was developing its distinctive medieval civilization, Russian culture took a different path in the east. Connecting Europe and Asia, it became a center of power in its own right. One reason Russia developed differently from Western Europe was its unique geography.

Geography’s Influence

Russia lies across the vast Eurasian plain that stretches from Europe to the borders of China. Although mapmakers use the Ural Mountains to mark the boundary between Europe and Asia, these ancient mountains were long ago worn away to wooded hills. They posed no great obstacle to migration.

Three Regions

Three broad zones with different climates and resources helped shape early Russian life. The northern forests supplied lumber for building and fuel. Fur-bearing animals attracted hunters, but poor soil and a cold, snowy climate hindered farming. Farmers did settle in a band of fertile land farther south. This second region, which today includes the country of Ukraine, was home to Russia’s first civilization.

A third region, the southern steppe, is an open, treeless grassland. It offered splendid pasture for the herds and horses of nomadic peoples. With no natural barriers, the steppe was a great highway along which streams of nomads migrated. From Asia, they spread into Europe, settling and conquering new territory.

Focus Question

How did geography and the migrations of different peoples influence the rise of Russia?

The Third Rome

In Russia, a patriotic monk saw a special meaning in the fall of Constantinople in 1453. Now, he declared, Moscow was the “third Rome,” the successor to the Roman and Byzantine empires:

“The third Rome . . . shines like the sun . . . throughout the whole universe. . . . Two Romes have fallen, and the third one stands, and a fourth one there shall not be.”

—Philotheos, quoted in Tsar and People (Cherniavsky)

Terms, People, and Places

- steppe
- Ivan the Great
- Kiev
- Cyrillic
- Ivan the Terrible
- Golden Horde

Note Taking

Reading Skill: Recognize Sequence

Make a timeline to keep track of the sequence of events in the rise of Russia between the 700s and 1613. The sample below will help you get started. Add events as you read.

Vikings arrive.

700 900 1100 1300 1500 1700

Objectives

- Understand how geography influenced the rise of Russia.
- Describe the growth of Kiev.
- Explain how Mongol rule affected Russia.
- Describe how Moscow took the lead in Russia and how its rulers developed authoritarian control.

Objectives and the list of Terms, People, and Places.

WITNESS HISTORY

WITNESS HISTORY

The coach to recognize and not suppress the different beliefs or practices of other people

WITNESS HISTORY

Prepare to Read

Have students read this section using the Paragraph Shrinking Strategy (TE, p. T20). As they read, have students to refer to this question (Answer appears with Section 2 Assessment answers.)

As you teach this section, keep students focused on the following objectives to help them predict how Russia took a different path in the east. Ask students to preview the section to help them answer the Section Focus Question.

Build Background Knowledge

Point out that geography, migration, and how its rulers developed authoritarian control.

Section Objectives and the list of Terms, People, and Places.

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Rivers Link Russia and Byzantium Russia’s network of rivers, running from north to south, provided transportation for both people and goods. They linked early Russians to the advanced Byzantine world in the south. During the early Middle Ages, Russians turned in this direction rather than to Western Europe, which was a fragmented, frontier territory after the fall of the Roman empire.

Checkpoint How did geography affect Russian settlement and growth?

Kiev Grows Strong

The city of Kiev, the capital of present-day Ukraine, was the center of the first Russian state. Its culture and growth were the result of a mixing of two distinct peoples.

Vikings Settle Among Slavs During Roman times, Slavic peoples lived in a region extending from present-day Poland and Belarus into Ukraine. During the 500s and 600s, they spread east into present-day Russia and south toward the Byzantine Empire. They had a simple political organization and were organized into clans. They lived in small villages, farming and trading along the rivers that ran between the Baltic and the Black seas.

In the 700s and 800s, Vikings steered their long ships out of Scandinavia. These Vikings, whom the Russians called Varangians, traveled south along the rivers, trading with and collecting tribute, or forced payment, from the Slavs. They also conducted a thriving trade with Constantinople. Located at the heart of this vital trade network was the city of Kiev. Russians traditionally date the origins of their country to 862, when Rurik, a prince of a Varangian tribe called the Rus (roos), began his rule of Novgorod in the north. After Rurik’s death, Rus lands expanded to include Kiev, which became their capital. The Rus princes lent their name to the growing principality of Russia.

The Byzantines Gain Influence Trade first brought Kiev into the Byzantine orbit. In the 800s, Constantinople sent Christian missionaries to convert the Slavs. About 863, two Greek brothers, Cyril and Methodius, adapted the Greek alphabet so they could translate the Bible into the Slavic tongue. This Cyrillic (suh RIL ik) alphabet became the written script that is still used today in Russia, Ukraine, Serbia, and Bulgaria.

In 957, Princess Olga of Kiev converted to Byzantine Christianity. During the reign of her grandson Vladimir, the new religion spread widely. After his own conversion, Vladimir married the sister of a Byzantine emperor. He made Orthodox Christianity the religion of the Rus and began to align his kingdom politically and culturally with the Byzantine empire. Soon, Russians adopted aspects of Byzantine culture, such as art, music, and architecture. Byzantine domes evolved into the onion-shaped domes typical of Russian churches.

Princes Secure Power Kiev gained strength under Vladimir and his son, Yaroslav the Wise. Both won military victories and spread Christianity. Yaroslav set up close ties
between church and state. Russian rulers, like the Byzantine emperor, eventually controlled the Church, making it dependent on them for support. The Russian Orthodox Church became a pillar of state power.

In addition to giving legal status to the Church, Yaroslav had many religious texts translated into the Slavic language. He made improvements to the city and issued a written law code. However, Kiev declined after his death as rival families battled for the throne.

**Checkpoint** Why did Kiev become an important city?

### The Mongols Rule Russia

In the early 1200s, a young leader united the nomadic Mongols of central Asia. As his mounted bowmen overran lands from China to eastern Europe, he took the title Genghis Khan (GENG is kahn), or “World Emperor.”

**The Golden Horde Advances** Between 1236 and 1241, Batu, the grandson of Genghis, led Mongol armies into Russia. Known as the **Golden Horde** because of the color of their tents, these invaders looted and burned Kiev and other Russian towns. So many inhabitants were killed, declared a Russian historian, that “no eye remained to weep for the dead.” From their capital on the Volga, the Golden Horde ruled Russia for more than 150 years. Areas that were not directly controlled by the Mongols suffered destructive raids from Mongol armies.

Although they were fierce conquerors, the Mongols were generally not meddlesome rulers. Russian princes had to acknowledge the Mongols as their overlords and pay heavy tribute. But as long as the tribute was paid, the Mongols left the Russian princes to rule without much other interference.

**The Mongols Exert Influence** Historians have long debated how Mongol rule affected Russia. Although the Mongols converted to Islam, they tolerated the Russian Orthodox Church, which grew more powerful during this period. The Mongol conquest also brought peace to the huge swath of land between China and Eastern Europe, and Russian merchants benefited from new trade routes across this region.

In addition, the absolute power of the Mongols served as a model for later Russian rulers. Russian princes developed a strong desire to centralize their own power without interference from nobles, the clergy, or wealthy merchants. Perhaps most important, Mongol rule cut Russia off from contacts with western Europe at a time when Europeans were making rapid advances in the arts and sciences.

**Checkpoint** Describe Mongol rule of Russia.
Moscow Takes the Lead

During the Mongol period, the princes of Moscow steadily increased their power. Their success was due in part to the city's location near important river trade routes. They also used their positions as tribute collectors for the Mongols to subdue neighboring towns. When the head of the Russian Orthodox Church made Moscow his capital, the city became not just Russia's political center, but its religious center as well.

As Mongol power declined, the princes of Moscow took on a new role as patriotic defenders of Russia against foreign rule. In 1380, they rallied other Russians and defeated the Golden Horde at the battle of Kulikovo (koo lih KOH vuh). Although the Mongols continued their terrifying raids, their strength was much reduced.

The Success of Ivan the Great A driving force behind Moscow's successes was Ivan III, known as Ivan the Great. Between 1462 and 1565, he brought much of northern Russia under his rule. He also recovered Russian territory that had fallen into the hands of neighboring Lithuania.

Map Skills Between 1300 and 1584, the lands ruled by Russian princes and tsars grew from a small area around Moscow to a large territory.

1. Locate (a) Black Sea (b) Volga River (c) Kiev (d) Moscow (e) Constantinople (f) Kulikovo
2. Identify Identify the period when Novgorod came under Moscow's rule.
3. Apply Information Locate the natural feature considered the boundary between Europe and Asia. How did this boundary affect the Mongol conquest of Russia?
Ivan built the framework for absolute rule. He tried to limit the power of the boyars, or great landowning nobles. After he married a niece of the last Byzantine emperor, Ivan adopted Byzantine court rituals to emphasize Russia's role as the heir to Byzantine power. Like the Byzantine emperors, he used a double-headed eagle as his symbol and sometimes referred to himself as tsar, the Russian word for Caesar. In 1504, a Russian church council echoed Byzantine statements, declaring, "By nature, the tsar is like any other man, but in power and office he is like the highest God."

Ivan the Terrible Establishes Absolute Rule In 1547, Ivan IV, grandson of Ivan the Great, became the first Russian ruler officially crowned tsar. He further centralized royal power by limiting the privileges of the old boyar families and granting land to nobles in exchange for military or other service. At a time when the manor system was fading in Western Europe, Ivan IV introduced new laws that tied Russian serfs to the land.

About 1560, Ivan IV became increasingly unstable. He trusted no one and became subject to violent fits of rage. In a moment of madness, he even killed his own son. He organized the oprichniki (ah PREECH nee kee), agents of terror who enforced the tsar's will. Dressed in black robes and mounted on black horses, they slaughtered rebellious boyars and sacked towns where people were suspected of disloyalty. Their saddles were decorated with a dog's head and a broom, symbols of their constant watchfulness to sweep away their master’s enemies.

The tsar's awesome power, and the ways he used it, earned him the title Ivan the Terrible. When he died in 1584, he left a land seething with rebellion. But he had introduced Russia to a tradition of extreme absolute power that would shape Russian history well into the twentieth century.

Checkpoint How did Ivan III and Ivan IV establish authoritarian power?