Chapter 9, Section 3

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Shaping Eastern Europe

The history of Eastern Europe has been marked by migration, foreign conquest, war, and revolution. Along with the Slavs described by Ibrahim-Ibn-Yaqub, the region is home to a diverse mix of people who have often battled with each other and with foreigners. At the same time, this diverse mix of peoples has greatly enriched the culture of the region.

Geography Shapes Eastern Europe

Eastern Europe has been both a buffer and a crossroads. It is a wide swath of territory lying between German-speaking Central Europe to the west and the largest Slavic nation, Russia, to the east. It reaches from the chilly waters of the Baltic Sea, down across the plains of Poland and Hungary, and then through the mountainous Balkan Peninsula. This roughly triangular arm of land, often called simply the Balkans, juts southward into the warm Mediterranean.

Much of the region lies on the great European Plain that links up with the steppes of southern Russia. Its main rivers, such as the Danube and the Vistula (VISH chuh luh), flow either south into the Black Sea or north into the Baltic Sea. Goods and cultural influences traveled along these river routes. As a result, the Balkans in the south felt the impact of the Byzantine empire and, later, the Muslim Ottoman empire. In contrast, northern regions bordering Germany and the Baltic Sea forged closer links to Western Europe. The eastern part of the region felt the strong influence of Russia.

Checkpoint

How did its rivers affect Eastern Europe?
Chapter 9, Section 3

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Migrations Contribute to Diversity

Eastern Europe’s geography has contributed to its cultural diversity. The ease of migration through the region encouraged many different peoples to seek new homes there. Some neighboring groups sought to influence or dominate the region. As a result, Eastern Europe now includes a wealth of languages and cultures.

Ethnic Groups Settle in Eastern Europe and the Balkans In the early Middle Ages, the Slavs spread out from a region centered on present-day Belarus. The West Slavs filtered into present-day Poland and the Czech and Slovak republics. The South Slavs occupied the Balkans. The Balkans were peopled by various other ethnic groups as well. (An ethnic group is a group of people who share the same language and cultural heritage.)

Vocabulary Builder

dominate—(DAHM uh nayt) v. to have control, power, or authority over somebody or something

INFOGRAPHIC

Jewish Expulsions

The status of Jews varied greatly in Medieval Europe. Treatment of Jews in different regions and time periods could range from tolerant to oppressive. Restrictions included limits on the types of jobs Jews could hold, curfews, or mandatory special dress or markings. Beginning around the time of the Crusades, Christian Western Europeans began to increase restrictions on Jews. When the Black Death devastated the population in the 1300s, city dwellers often blamed the Jews for causing outbreaks. By 1400, Jews had been expelled from England and France. By 1500, Spain and Portugal followed suit. The picture to the left shows a group of Jews leaving England. Many Jews settled in more tolerant Muslim regions or Eastern Europe. Those regions benefited from the skills and knowledge the Jews brought with them.

Thinking Critically
1. Draw Inferences Why do you think some Jews migrated voluntarily?
2. Identify Central Issues What did Western European leaders hope to achieve by expelling Jews from their lands?

For: Interactive map and timeline
Web Code: nap-0951
Chapter 9, Section 3

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Waves of Asian peoples migrated into Eastern Europe, among them the Huns, Avars, Bulgars, Khazars, and Magyars. Vikings and other Germanic peoples added to the mix.

**Christians and Muslims Influence the Region** Powerful neighboring states exercised strong cultural and religious influences on Eastern Europe. Byzantine missionaries spread Eastern Orthodox Christianity and Byzantine culture throughout the Balkans. German knights and missionaries from the West brought Roman Catholic Christianity to Poland, Hungary, the Czech area, and the western Balkans. In the 1300s, the Ottomans invaded the Balkans, bringing Islam into pockets of that region.

**Jewish Settlers Migrate to Poland** In the early Middle Ages, there were thriving Jewish communities in Muslim Spain. Jews had also migrated to Western Europe. Although educated Jews sometimes held important government and scholarly posts, Christians often blamed Jews for hard times and natural disasters. Western European Christians launched brutal attacks on Jewish communities, particularly during the Crusades and the Black Death. Monarchs in England, France, and Spain even expelled Jews from their lands. Faced with persecution or expulsion, many Jews fled east in the late Middle Ages. Eastern Europe became a refuge for many Jewish settlers.

In 1264, Prince Boleslaw of Cracow issued a charter protecting the liberties of Jews, and Polish kings continued a policy of toleration toward Jews for the next 500 years. As a result, Jewish villages sprang up in Poland and other sparsely populated areas of Eastern Europe. Jewish merchants and scholars contributed to the economic and cultural development of Poland during this period.

How did three major religions come to Eastern Europe?

**Three Early Kingdoms Develop**

During the Middle Ages, Eastern Europe included many kingdoms and small states. Sometimes empires absorbed national groups. Alliances or royal marriages might bind others together. A look at the kingdoms of Poland, Hungary, and Serbia will demonstrate these shifting fortunes.

**Poland Enjoys Greatness** Missionaries brought Roman Catholicism to the West Slavs of Poland in the 900s. Within a century, the first Polish king was crowned. To survive, Poland often had to battle Germans, Russians, and Mongols.

The marriage of Queen Jadwiga (yahd vee gah) to Duke Władysław Jagiełło (vwah.dis wahf yahg yeel loh) of Lithuania in 1386 ushered in Poland’s greatest age. Poland-Lithuania was the largest state in Europe, stretching from the Baltic to the Black Sea. Unlike in Russia or most of Western Europe, however, political power in Poland gradually shifted from the monarch to the nobles. They met in a **diet**, or assembly, where

### Three Early Kingdoms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Important Events</th>
<th>Poland</th>
<th>Hungary</th>
<th>Serbia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Duke Jagiello (below) and Queen Jadwiga (right) of Poland
the vote of a single noble could block the passage of a law. This *liberum veto*, or “free veto,” made it hard for the government to take decisive action.

Without a strong central government, Poland-Lithuania declined. It enjoyed a final moment of glory in 1683 when the Polish king Jan Sobieski (yahn soo BEE shkee) broke the Ottoman siege of Vienna. In the next century, however, Poland and Lithuania were gobbled up by ambitious neighbors and disappeared from the map.

**The Magyars Rule Hungary** The Magyars, who had raided Europe from the Asian steppes, eventually settled in Hungary. Like the West Slavs of Poland, they adopted Roman Catholicism. During the Middle Ages, Magyar rulers also controlled present-day Slovakia, Croatia, and parts of Romania. Like King John of England, the Hungarian king was forced to sign a charter recognizing nobles’ rights. Known as the *Golden Bull of 1222*, it strictly limited royal power.

The Mongols overran Hungary in 1241, killing as much as half its population. These invaders soon withdrew, so the Mongol invasion did not have the lasting impact on Hungary that it had on Russia. The expansion of the Ottoman Turks, though, ended Hungarian independence in 1526.

**The Serbs Establish a Balkan Kingdom** Some of the South Slavs who settled the Balkans became the ancestors of the Serbs. Early Serb leaders recognized Byzantine authority, and by the late 800s, most Serbs had accepted Orthodox Christianity. In the late 1100s, they set up their own state, which reached its height in the 1300s under Stefan Dusan (STEH vahn DOO shahn). Dusan also encouraged Byzantine culture, even modeling his law code on that of Justinian.

Dusan’s successors lacked his political gifts, however, and Serbia could not withstand the advance of Ottoman Turks. At the battle of Kosovo in 1389, Serbs fought to the death, a memory still honored by their descendants more than 600 years later.

**Checkpoint** How did each kingdom lose its independence?
Religions in Eastern Europe

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Religion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Byzantine empire</td>
<td>Eastern Orthodox Christianity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>Eastern Orthodox Christianity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>Roman Catholicism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Many Jewish settlements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech area</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Balkans</td>
<td>Serbian: Eastern Orthodox Christianity, Slovenes: Eastern Orthodox Christianity, Bosnians: Islam</td>
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Key Political Leaders

- **Byzantine empire**
  - Constantine established Constantinople (named for himself) as the capital of the Eastern Roman empire; converted to Christianity
  - Justinian, emperor during the Byzantine Empire's golden age

- **Russia**
  - Rurik, Rus prince who ruled Novgorod
  - Princess Olga of Kiev, converted to Christianity
  - Yaroslav the Wise, presided over golden age in Kiev
  - Ivan the Great, expanded Russia and centralized power
  - Ivan the Terrible, tsar who established absolute power

- **Eastern Europe**
  - Queen Jadwiga, queen of Poland, joint ruler of Poland-Lithuania
  - Duke Władysław Jagiełło, Lithuanian duke, joint ruler of Poland-Lithuania
  - Stefan Dusan, ruler of Serbia

Key Events in the Byzantine Empire, Eastern Europe, and Russia

<table>
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<tr>
<td>330</td>
<td>Constantinople becomes the capital of the Eastern Roman empire.</td>
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<td>527</td>
<td>Justinian begins his rule of the Byzantine empire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>862</td>
<td>Rurik begins his rule of Novgorod, establishing the Rus dynasty.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>622</td>
<td>Muhammad makes a journey, known as the hijra, from Mecca to Yathrib.</td>
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## Quick Study Guide

### Religions in Eastern Europe

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<td>Slovenes: Eastern Orthodox Christianity</td>
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<td>Bosnians: Islam</td>
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### Key Political Leaders

#### Byzantine empire
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#### Eastern Europe
- Queen Jadwiga, queen of Poland, joint ruler of Poland-Lithuania
- Duke Władysław Jagiełło, Lithuanian duke, joint ruler of Poland-Lithuania
- Stefan Dusan, ruler of Serbia
- Józef Poniatowski, Polish general and statesman

### Key Events in the Byzantine Empire, Eastern Europe, and Russia

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### The Byzantine Empire, Eastern Europe, and Russia in 1300

[Map of the Byzantine Empire, Eastern Europe, and Russia in 1300]

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### Notes

- For self-test with vocabulary practice:
  - Web Code: naa-0941

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**Solutions for All Learners**

- Use the following study guide resources to help students acquiring basic skills:
  - Use the following study guide resources to help students accessing basic skills:
    - Online, Teaching Resources, Unit 2, p. SH30.
    - For: Progress Monitoring, Solutions for All Learners.

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**Less Proficient Readers**

- Use the following study guide resources to help English language learners:
  - Use the following study guide resources to help Spanish-speaking students:
    - Spanish Section Summaries, pp. 83, 85, 87
    - Spanish Note Taking Study Guide, pp. 82, 84, 86
  - Use the following study guide resources to help students acquiring basic skills:
    - Use the following study guide resources to help students accessing basic skills:
      - Teaching Resources, Unit 2, p. SH30.
Chapter 9

Connect

Essential Question Review

To connect prior knowledge with what you have learned in this chapter, answer the questions below in your Concept Connector journal. Use the journal in the Reading and Note Taking Study Guide to record your answers (or go to www.phschool.com Web Code: nad-0907). In addition, record information about the following concepts:

1. **Cultural Diffusion** Byzantine rulers thought of their empire as the successor to the Roman empire. Like the Romans before them, the Byzantines spread their culture across a wide expanse of Europe. Compare how the two empires spread their cultures. Think about the following:
   - language and learning
   - religion
   - art and architecture
   - political ideas
   - where their culture spread
   - how their culture spread

2. **Geography’s Impact** Rivers have played a central role in the development of civilization. Compare how rivers affected development of Russia and Eastern Europe with one of the following ancient civilizations: Egypt, Mesopotamia, India, and China. Think about the following:
   - migration
   - trade
   - cultural diffusion

3. **Trade** One of the earliest trading centers was Phoenicia, an ancient culture of sea traders. Compare Phoenician trade with that of Kiev. Consider the following in your answer:
   - method of transportation
   - relationship with trading partners
   - effect on expansion

Connections to Today

1. **Dictatorship: A Russian Tradition** The Russian tsars established a tradition of absolute dictatorship that continued under Soviet premiers. After the collapse of communism and the breakup of the Soviet Union, Russia set up a democratic government. Today, however, many people fear that Russia is again turning to autocratic rule. Research Soviet rulers such as Joseph Stalin and Nikita Khrushchev and a modern leader such as Vladimir Putin. Compare their rules to those of Ivan the Great and Ivan the Terrible.

2. **Conflict: Balkan Boiling Pot** Throughout the 1990s, violence exploded in the Balkans. In 1992, Eastern Orthodox Serbs, Bosnian Muslims, and Catholic Croats fought a bloody civil war in Bosnia. In 1998, Christian Serbs and Muslims of Albanian heritage clashed in Kosovo. These wars echo ethnic struggles that have gone on for more than 600 years in the Balkans as different ethnic and religious groups have dispersed throughout the region. Even when forced to live together, the different groups have remained independent. Instead of blending together, ethnic and cultural differences in the Balkan region have continued to simmer and occasionally boil over. Research a conflict in the Balkans that occurred after 1900. Describe the conflict and its causes.

### Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1076</td>
<td>Pope Gregory VII excommunicates King Henry IV of Germany.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1200</td>
<td>The Vikings who settled Russia and the Byzantine rulers thought of their empire as the successor to the Roman empire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1236–1241</td>
<td>Mongol armies called the Golden Horde conquer Russia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1386</td>
<td>Poland-Lithuania becomes the largest state in Europe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1453</td>
<td>Constantinople falls to the Turks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1462</td>
<td>Ivan the Great begins his reign in Russia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1556</td>
<td>Akbar becomes ruler of the Mughal empire in India.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1576</td>
<td>Mansa Musa, ruler of Mali, makes a pilgrimage to Mecca.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

History Interactive
For: Interactive timeline
Web Code: nap-0941
Chapter Assessment

Terms, People, and Places

Match the following definitions with the terms listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>autocrat</td>
<td>a large group of people who share the same language and cultural heritage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>patriarch</td>
<td>highest church official in the Eastern Orthodox Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>icon</td>
<td>highest ruler with complete authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>steppe</td>
<td>Mongol armies that invaded Russia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiev</td>
<td>charter limiting royal power signed by the Hungarian king</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Horde</td>
<td>holy image of a saint or other religious figure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Bull of 1222</td>
<td>center of the first Russian state</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. a large group of people who share the same language and cultural heritage
2. open, treeless grassland
3. highest church official in the Eastern Orthodox Church
4. sole ruler with complete authority
5. Mongol armies that invaded Russia
6. charter limiting royal power signed by the Hungarian king
7. holy image of a saint or other religious figure
8. center of the first Russian state

Main Ideas

Section 1 (pp. 282–288)
9. Summarize how the Byzantine empire became rich and successful.
10. Describe the schism between the Orthodox Church and the Church in Rome.

Section 2 (pp. 289–293)
11. How did the Rus, other Viking groups, and the Byzantine empire affect the rise of Kiev?
12. What were the effects of the Mongol rule of Russia?
13. Describe the achievements of Ivan the Great.

Section 3 (pp. 294–297)
14. How did the Balkans become home to such a diverse mix of peoples?
15. How did Poland-Lithuania become the largest state in Europe?

Writing About History

In this chapter’s three Section Assessments, you developed skills for writing a biographical essay.

Writing a Biographical Essay Many fascinating people helped shape the fortunes of Russia and the Byzantine Empire. Write a biographical essay about one of the following in which you present a conclusion about the personality, actions, and importance of the person: Justinian, Theodora, Ivan the Great, or Ivan the Terrible. Consult page SH18 of the Writing Handbook for additional help.

Prewriting
• Do online or library research to read accounts of each of the people listed above.

Choosing the person who interests you most and gather information about him or her.

Make a timeline of important events in the person’s life and draw conclusions about his or her personality and importance.

Drafting
• Write a thesis statement that presents your conclusion about the person.
• Write an introduction presenting your thesis statement and two or three major points that support your conclusion.
• Use specific facts to support your main points in the body of your essay, and sum up in your conclusion.

Revising
• Choose the person who interests you most and gather information about him or her.
• Make a timeline of important events in the person’s life and draw conclusions about his or her personality and importance.

Critical Thinking

16. How did the Byzantine empire preserve the heritage of Greece and Rome and help to shape the cultures of Russia and Eastern Europe?

17. Draw Conclusions The Byzantine empire preserved part of the heritage of the Roman empire. Why was this important?

18. Synthesize Information Why was Justinian such a successful ruler?

19. Analyze Visuals What aspects of Constantinople appear most prominent in this map? Why does the artist emphasize those?

20. Test Conclusions (a) Patriotic Russians called Moscow the third Rome. Why do you think they did so? (b) Do you think Moscow was truly the heir to Rome? Why or why not?

21. Analyze Information How did absolute power develop in Russia?

22. Geography and History How did the location and geographic features of the Balkans affect its history?

23. Recognize Cause and Effect Why did many Jews migrate to Eastern Europe?
Document-Based Assessment

Constantinople: “The Great City”

The Byzantines called Constantinople “The Great City” and “The New Rome.” By the time of Constantine, Rome was in steep decline. Byzantium—renamed Constantinople—became the capital of Constantine’s empire and a center of governmental, religious, and economic life. The city inspired both praise and condemnation, as the documents below illustrate.

Document A

“The focal point of Constantine’s new city was the Milion, or the First Milestone. It consisted of four triumphal arches forming a square and supporting a cupola [dome], above which was set the most venerable [revered] Christian relic of all—the True Cross itself, sent back by the Empress Helena from Jerusalem a year or two before. From it all the distances in the Empire were measured; it was, in effect the centre of the world.”

—A Short History of Byzantium, by John Julius Norwich, 1997

Document B

“The city itself is squalid and fetid and in many places harmed by permanent darkness, for the wealthy overshadow the streets with buildings and leave these dirty, dark places to the poor and to travelers; there murders and robberies and other crimes . . . are committed. . . . In every respect she exceeds moderation; for, just as she surpasses other cities in wealth, so, too, does she surpass them in vice.”

—From Journey of Louis VII to the East (1147) by Odo of Deuil, a monk who accompanied the French king on the Second Crusade

Analyzing Documents

Use your knowledge of the Byzantine empire, Russia, and Eastern Europe and Documents A, B, C, and D to answer questions 1–4.

1. Constantine’s placement of the relic given by Empress Helena, as described in Document A, suggests that the A power of the Byzantine empire had shifted to the holy city of Jerusalem.
   B holy city of Jerusalem was still the center of civilization.
   C focus of the Christian world would shift to the East.
   D Byzantine rulers had opposed the crusaders who reclaimed Jerusalem for Christianity.

2. According to Document B, Constantinople’s wealth and grandeur
   A helped to eliminate poverty and crime.
   B were the result of highly supervised trading.
   C led to greater literacy and appreciation for the arts.
   D existed side by side with poverty and crime.

3. Document D shows that religious toleration
   A extended to all faiths in ancient Constantinople.
   B was limited in ancient Constantinople.
   C was a founding principle of the city, thanks to Constantine.
   D derived from a strong economic foundation.

4. Writing Task. Write a letter home from a visitor to ancient Constantinople, describing “The Great City.” Use these documents along with information from the chapter in your letter.