

KEY POINTS: Chapter 9

Essential Question: *What influences did Byzantine culture/society have on Eastern Europe and Russia?*

Identify:

Hagia Sophia – new church constructed in Constantinople during reign of Justinian

Greek fire – Byzantine weapon made of mixture of chemicals that ignited when touched by H₂O; to drive away attacking Arab ships

Tsar – Slavic meaning king; derived from “Caesar”

Theodora – didn’t marry imperial heir, sister Zoë overthrow her & put in convent, regain power at the age of 70

Boyars – Russian aristocrats; possessed less political power than counterparts in W Europe

Tartars – Mongols; captured Russia cities and destroyed Kievan state in 1236; left Russian Orthodoxy and aristocracy intact

Iconoclasm – religious controversy within Byzantine Empire in 8th century; emperor attempt to suppress veneration of icons; means breaking of images; icon veneration restored after long struggle

What branch of Christianity was supported by the Byzantine Empire? Orthodox Christianity

What areas of the globe were affected by culture and politics of the Byzantine?

Areas that had not been previously controlled by major civilizations

Which area was most affected? Eastern Europe (Balkans and W Russia)

Which areas did the Byzantines control? Eastern Europe (Balkans and W Russia)

In what direction was trade taking place in both eastern and western Europe during the early Postclassical period? Northern

What commonalities were there between the development of eastern and western Europe?

Similarities were that civilization spread northward b/c of missionary appeal of religion, new trading activities brought northern regions in contact with major world trade centers, and same source of cultural inspiration, political ideas, and artistic styles

What differences? Different versions of Christianity, different cultural organizations, little mutual contact, commercial patterns went north to south rather than east to west; major portions of E Europe more advanced than W in political sophistication, cultural range, and economic vitality

The Byzantine Empire

Where was the capital? Capital: Constantinople

What was the common language? Common language: Greek

Describe the empire’s political style. Complex administration around a remote emperor, who was surrounded by elaborate rituals

List Justinian’s accomplishments.

Rebuilt Constantinople, systematized Roman legal code, Hagia Sophia, recapture old Roman Empire with help of Belisarius (held territory briefly until Germanic peoples won it back)

What was most significant about Justinian’s code?

Reduced confusion, united and organized new empire, paralleling state bureaucracy, helped spread Roman legal principles in various parts of Europe

Look at the geographic extent of the empire in 565 CE – compare maps on pages 197 and 201. What happened to the size of the empire? It was reduced to half its size.

What Roman achievements did the Byzantines spread? Engineering, military tactics, and law

What group became a threat to the Byzantine Empire in the 7th century?

Arab Muslims became a threat because they built a fleet and kept on attacking Constantinople.

Explain how this threat affected the Byzantine economy.

The invasions and taxation weakened the position of small farmers and resulted in greater aristocratic estates and new power for aristocratic generals. The free rural population was forced into greater dependence.

What role did the emperor have in religion?

The emperor was held to be ordained by God to be head of the church and state. He appointed church bishops and passes religious and secular laws.

Describe how the empire’s political system was similar to that of the Chinese.

Aristocrats predominated, but talent also counted among this elite of highly educated scholars.

Describe the Byzantine government structure and administration.

Bureaucrats were specialized into various offices and officials close to the emperor were mainly eunuchs. Provincial governors were appointed from the center and were charged with keeping tabs in military authorities. An elaborate system of spies helped preserve loyalty while creating intense distrust even among friends.

Describe the Byzantine economy.

Bureaucracy regulated trade and controlled food prices. The peasant class supplied goods and provided the bulk of tax revenues. Food prices were kept low to content the lower class in a system supported largely by taxes on the hard-pressed peasantry. Silk production expanded with silkworms and techniques imported from China. Various luxury products were sent north. The empire had a favorable trading position with less sophisticated lands. Only China produced luxury goods of comparable quality. The empire trade with India, the Arabs, and East Asia and received simpler goods from W Europe and Africa. The large merchant class never gained significant political power because of the elaborate network of government controls.

Describe what was characteristic about Byzantine art.

The adaptation of Roman domed buildings, elaboration of powerful and richly colored mosaics, and a tradition of icon paintings of the saints and other religious figures. The art was often richly ornamented. The blue and gold backgrounds set with richly dressed religious figures represented the unchanging brilliance of heaven.

List some of the differences between the Western Christian church and the Eastern Orthodox Church.

What bread to use for the celebration of Christ's Last Supper to use during church liturgy, priest celibacy, papal supremacy

By the late 11th century which group became a threat to the Byzantine Empire? Seljuk Turks

***** **What happened in 1453?** Turkish sultan brought mercenaries from the West and Constantinople fell in two months

The Spread of Civilization in Eastern Europe

How was Orthodox Christianity spread to Eastern Europe and Russia? Missionaries

Who were the two most famous orthodox missionaries? Why?

Cyril and Methodius went to spread the Orthodox religion to southern Russia, where their knowledge of the Slavic language greatly helped them.

What other religion was spread to parts of Eastern Europe? Roman Catholicism

What area had the largest influx of Jews? Poland

What group of languages characterized Eastern Europe and Russia? Slavic

Explain how/when/where Kievan Rus' was founded.

How: Traders from Scandinavia went through Slavic lands by moving along the rivers of W Russia. They set up some governments along their trade route.

When: 855 CE.

Where: city of Kiev

How did Christianity spread to Kiev? King Vladimir converted to Christianity, thus converting the people as well

Who made the church appointments in Kiev? They were Orthodox Christians so the king made church appointments.

Describe what influences Byzantines had on Kievan Rus'.

Central ruler had wide powers, fervent devotion to power of God and to many Eastern saints, ornate churches filled with icons & the smell of incense, monastic movement, monogamy, almsgiving

Describe what effects the Mongol invasions had on the Russian territory.

Russian literature grew less creative, trade activity decreased; Russian affairs were left alone, new harmony among various Russian social classes

In Depth and Conclusion

What modern nations share characteristics from both eastern and western Europe? Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Russia, Ukraine, Lithuania,

What religion was adopted in Poland? Roman Catholicism

What disadvantages did Eastern Europe suffer in comparison to Western Europe?

Under outside control (Tatars and Turks), Byzantine patterns never recaptured, key features of Kievan social structure disappeared; less vigor in politics, economy, and culture

What role did the Byzantine Empire have on shaping later developments in Eastern Europe?

It shaped one of the major versions of Christianity and its active effort in spreading religion, commerce, and the trappings of civilization northward helped prepare for later developments in E Europe.