

European Christendom

AP World History Notes
Chapter 10

The Fall of the Roman Empire

- ▶ 395 CE = final division of Roman Empire into eastern and western halves
- ▶ 476 = end of the western Roman Empire
- ▶ Eastern half remained intact = the Byzantine Empire (aka Byzantium)



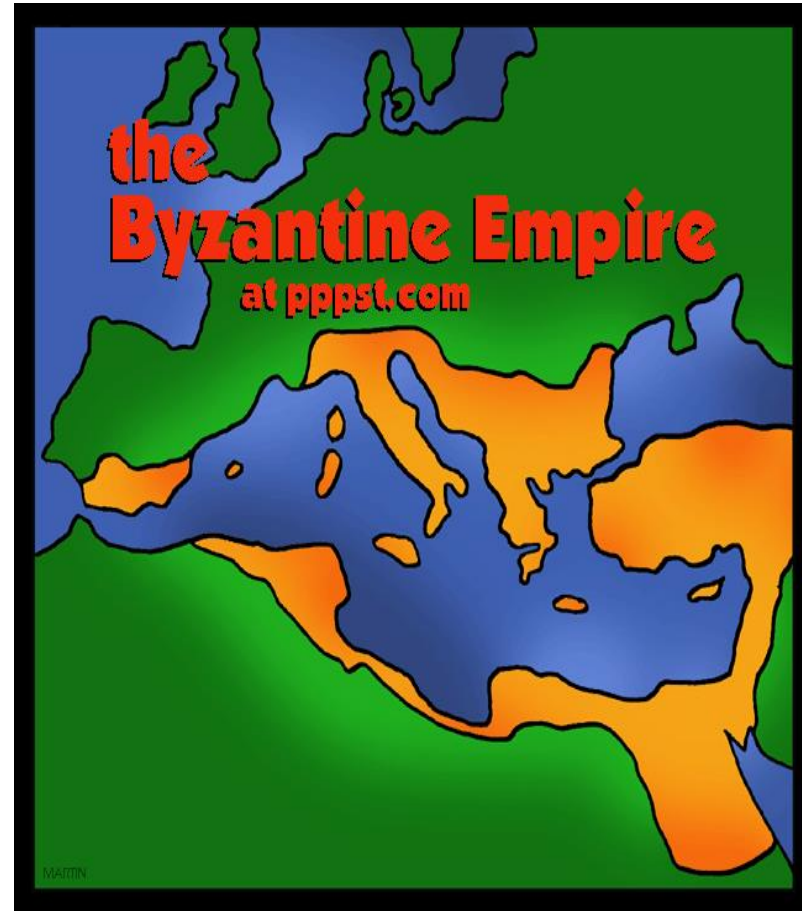
Western Europe After Rome



- ▶ Roads in disrepair
- ▶ Cities falling apart
- ▶ Central government broke down
- ▶ Long-distance trade stopped
- ▶ People moved to rural areas
- ▶ Christianity still dominant = Roman Catholicism

The Byzantine Empire

- ▶ Unified and centralized government
- ▶ Capital = Constantinople
- ▶ Religion = Eastern Orthodox Christianity
- ▶ Attempted to preserve some elements of the Roman Empire



The Byzantine Empire



- ▶ Enjoyed many advantages that allowed it to stay intact, unlike the western Roman Empire
 - Wealthier and more urbanized
 - More defensible capital; Constantinople was walled in
 - Shorter frontier to guard
 - Stronger army and navy
 - Strong leaders and clever diplomacy

Preservation of the Roman Empire

- ▶ Elements of the Roman Empire within Byzantium:
 - Roads
 - Taxation system
 - Military structures
 - Centralized administration
 - Laws and court system
 - Roman-style robes and sandals
- ▶ But a lot changed as well



The Byzantine State



- ▶ Never as large as the Roman Empire
- ▶ Reached its largest size during the reign of Emperor Justinian
- ▶ Lost many territories due to Arab/Muslim expansion in the 7th century = Syria/Palestine, Egypt, and North Africa
- ▶ Still controlled: the eastern Mediterranean, Greece, the Balkans, and Anatolia

Political State of Byzantium



Empress Theodora
(Justinian's Wife)

- ▶ Centralized authority in Constantinople
 - Emperor viewed as “God’s earthly representative”
- ▶ Imperial court filled with grandeur, wealth, and court ceremonies
- ▶ Provinces within the empire ruled by generals who had civil authority and could raise their own armies
- ▶ Government focused on: collecting taxes, maintaining order, and suppressing revolts
- ▶ Did not become heavily involved in the lives of most people

Political State of Byzantium

- ▶ Began to face invasions after 1085 CE from:
 - Catholic Crusaders from Western Europe
 - Turkic Muslim invaders
- ▶ Empire officially fell when Ottoman Turks conquered Constantinople in 1453



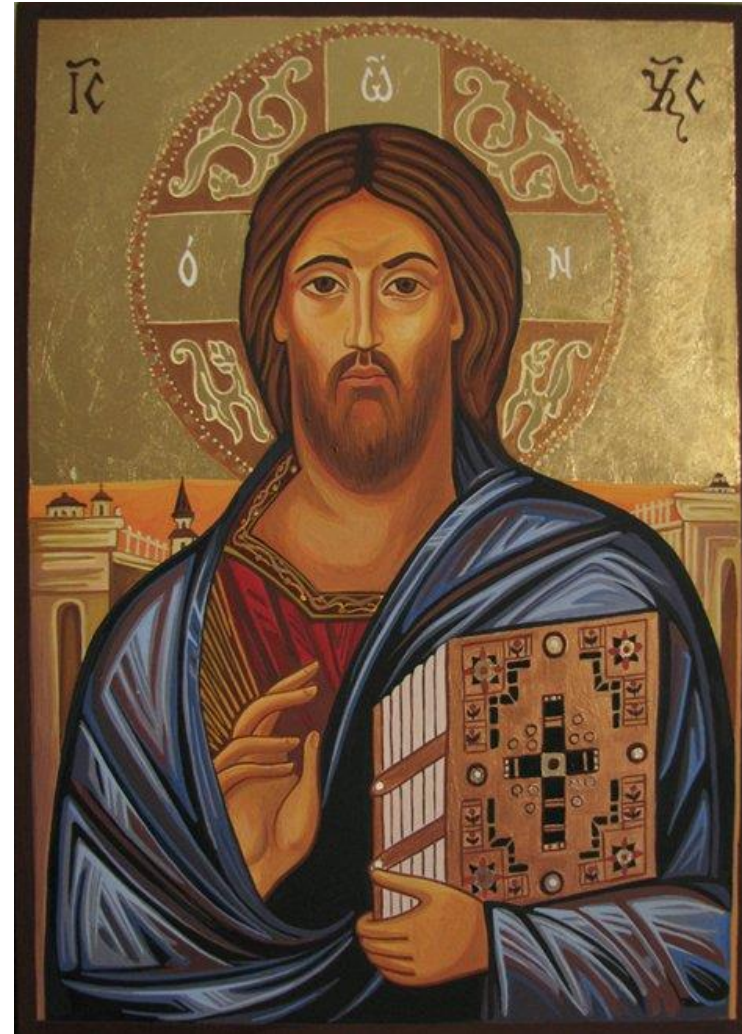
The Byzantine Church



- ▶ Caesaropapism = Church and state were connected
 - Unlike in Western Europe → where the Roman Catholic Church was independent from political authorities
- ▶ Emperor = assumed roles of head of state and head of the Church
 - Appointed Church leaders
 - Called Church councils into session
 - Made decisions about religious doctrine/rules
 - Treated the Church as a government department

The Byzantine Church

- ▶ Eastern Orthodox Christianity provided a cultural identity for people within the Byzantine Empire
- ▶ Empire (especially Constantinople) filled with churches, relics of saints, and icons
- ▶ Icons = religious paintings of Jesus, Mary, and other saints/holy figures



The Byzantine Church



- ▶ Eastern Orthodox came from the Roman Empire originally, so it shares many common elements with Roman Catholic Christianity:
 - Teachings of Jesus
 - The Bible
 - The Sacraments
 - A church hierarchy with patriarchs, bishops, and priests
 - Missionaries
 - Intolerance toward other religions

The Byzantine Church

- ▶ Byzantine Empire
- ▶ Greek
- ▶ Priests grew long beards
- ▶ Priests could get married
- ▶ Rejected the authority of the Pope of Rome
- ▶ Western Europe
- ▶ Latin
- ▶ Priests shaved
- ▶ Priests = celibate
- ▶ Accepted the Roman Pope as the sole authority for Christians everywhere

Eastern Orthodox

Roman Catholic

The Byzantine Church



- ▶ Further separation came between the Eastern Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church in 1054
 - Both Churches excommunicated each other
 - Declared that those in the opposing Christian tradition were not real Christians

Byzantium & the World

- ▶ Byzantium faced many threats from outsiders
 - Persian Empire
 - Arab armies/the Islamic world
 - Crusaders from Western Europe
- ▶ Biggest military weapon = “Greek fire”
 - Combination of oil, sulfur, and lime launched from bronze tubes
 - Worked like a flamethrower



Byzantium & the World

- ▶ Central player in long-distance trade of Eurasia
- ▶ Products made by Byzantine craftspeople in high demand
 - Jewelry
 - Gemstones
 - Silver and gold work
 - Linen, woolen, and silk textiles
 - Purple dyes

Byzantium & the World

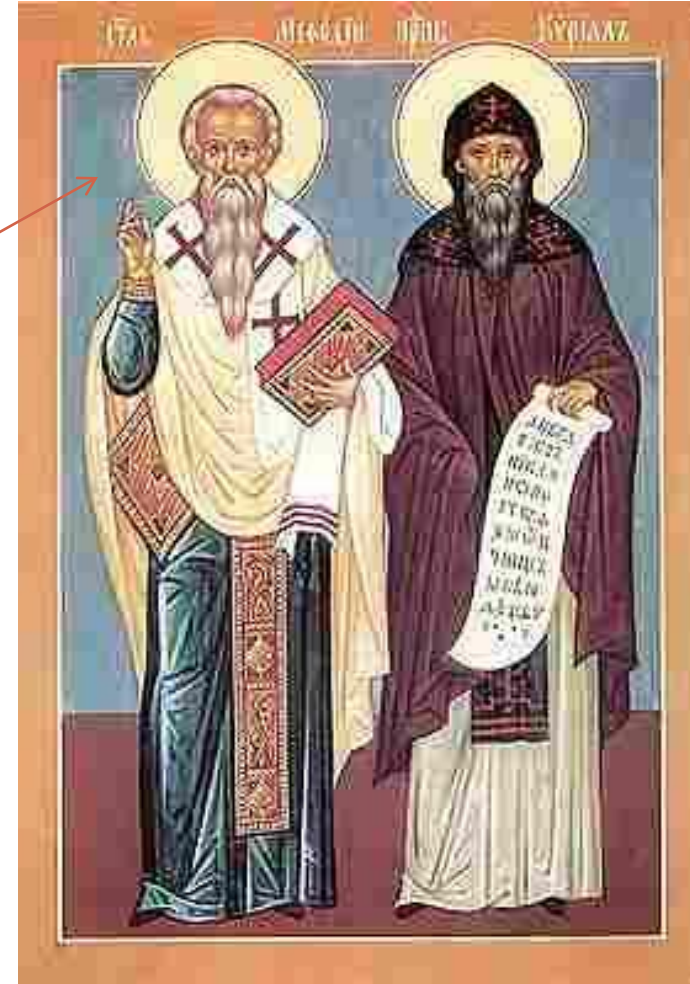


Aristotle

- ▶ Significant cultural influence in the world
- ▶ Preserved ancient Greek learning and transmitted it to the Islamic world and Western Europe
- ▶ Impacted scientists, philosophers, theologians, and intellectuals

Byzantium & the World

- ▶ Spread of Eastern Orthodox religion --> especially to Slavic-speaking peoples in the Balkans and Russia
- ▶ Cyril and Methodius = created a Slavic alphabet
 - Called Cyrillic script
 - Made it possible to translate the Bible and other religious texts
 - Helped in mass conversion



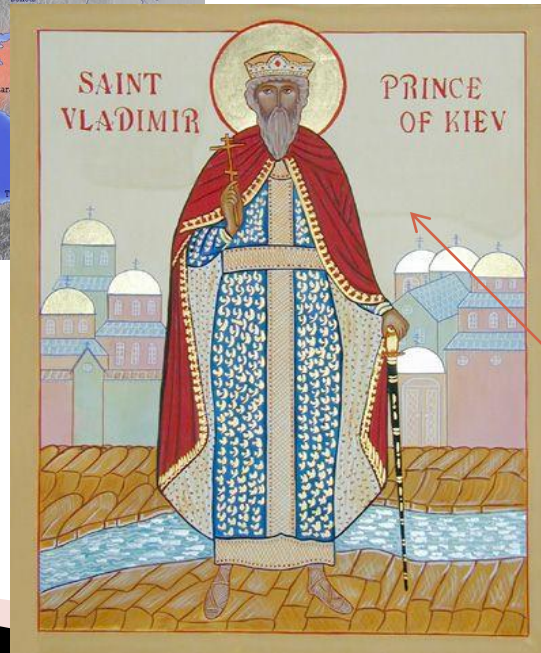
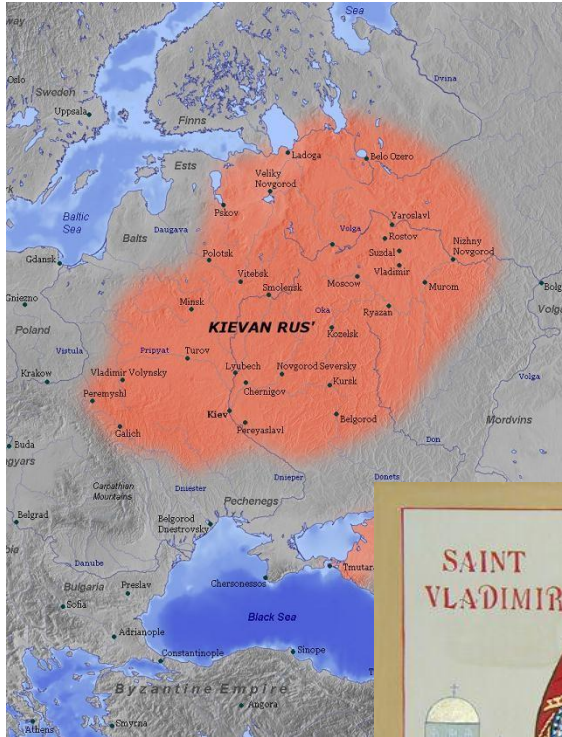
Slavic Peoples

А а (A)	Р р (R)
Б б (B)	С с (S)
В в (V)	Т т (T)
Г г (G)	У у (U)
Д д (D)	Ф ф (F)
Е е (E)	Х х (KH)
Ё ё (YO)	Ц ц (TS)
Ж ж (ZH)	Ч ч (CH)
З з (Z)	Ш ш (SH)
И и (I)	Щ щ (SHCH)
Й й (Y)	Ъ ъ (-)
К к (K)	Ы ы (Y)
Л л (L)	Ь ь (')
М м (M)	Э э (E)
Н н (N)	Ю ю (YU or IU)
О о (O)	Я я (YA or IA)
П п (P)	

Cyrillic Alphabet

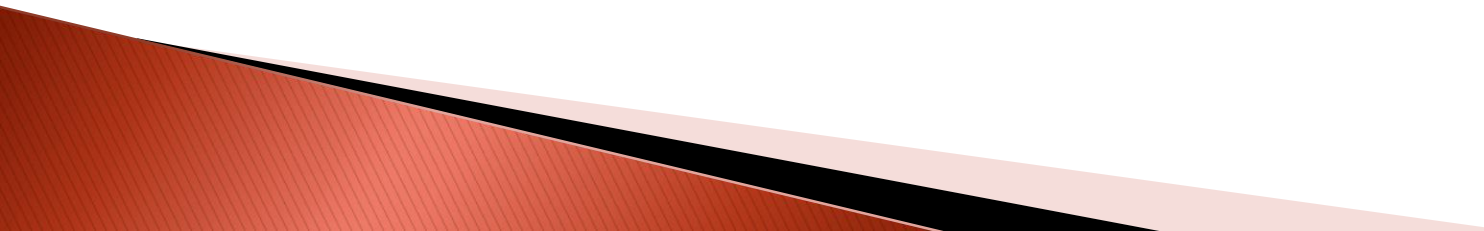


Conversion of Russia



- ▶ Most significant expansion of Eastern Orthodox Christianity = to Kievan Rus
 - Modern-day Ukraine and western Russia
 - Major city = Kiev
 - Highly stratified society
 - Ruled by many different princes
 - Prince Vladimir = Prince of Kiev

Conversion of Russia

- ▶ Prince Vladimir = wanted to bring a new faith to Rus that would unify the many diverse peoples of the region
 - ▶ He also wanted to link Rus into wider networks of communication and exchange in the world
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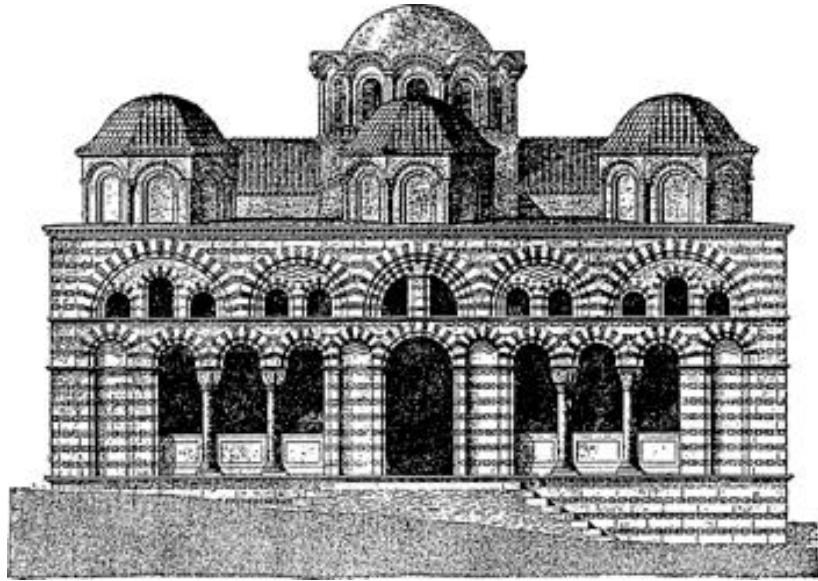
Conversion of Russia

- ▶ Prince Vladimir was drawn to Eastern Orthodox Christianity because of:
 - The splendor and wealth of Constantinople
 - The beauty of Eastern Orthodox churches
- ▶ As a result of this conversion he received:
 - A sister of the Byzantine emperor as a bride
 - Byzantine priests and advisors



Interior of St. Mark's
Basilica

Conversion of Russia



- ▶ Kievan Rus consequently adopted many Byzantine cultural elements:
 - Architectural styles
 - Cyrillic alphabet
 - Use of icons
 - Monastic tradition stressing prayer and service
 - Idea of imperial/state control of the Church

The Barbarian Kingdoms about 500

