**Byzantine Empire and Russia:**

-Mona’s Notes

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BYZANTINE EMPIRE: (Gained control of entire Mediterranean):

-In 330 AD, the empire was founded.

-It existed until 1453 AD.

-Was called “New Rome” at first and LATER re-named “Constantinople”

Political Life:

-Autocratic Rulers (emperor runs everything)

-Emperor had divine mandate to rule.

-Emperor was head of state AND head of church.

-Hierarchy-bureaucracy (Bureaucracy=regulated all aspects of economy)

-Severe punishments for crimes.

-State provided cradle to grave care (similar to Communism)

-Network of government spies

-Diplomatic cunning

Powerful Empire:

-Diplomacy -Navy/Army = Powerful -Army-armored cavalry and mounted archers

-Greek fire -Terror -Did not like to fight (used trickery first)

-Had a very strong central government

-Center of trade

Religion:

-Constantine and Theodicies.

-Theodicies made Christianity the official religion of Rome.

-Built Jerusalem’s “Church of the Holy Sepulcher”

Christianity Spreads:

-Christianity = influential in empire

Divisions Grow…

-Byzantine emperor and Christians didn’t recognize the Pope as the leader of the Catholic Church

-Schism between Eastern (Greek) Orthodox Church and Roman Catholic Church in 1054 AD.

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| EASTERN ORTHODOX | ROMAN CATHOLIC |
| -State government controlled Church; emperor appointed bishops | -Church= separate from state government |
| -Greek language | -Latin language |
| -Priests could marry | -Priests could not marry |
| -Worship of icons banned | -Allowed icon worship |
| -Rejected Pope’s power | -Pope is supreme |

Definitions:

-Patriarch – Highly religious, holy man in charge of the Church. (i.e. Pope)

-Icon – Holy images of people or events.

-Schism – Split. (There was a ‘Great Schism’ between the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches.

-Excommunication – Getting kicked out of the church and outside the laws of the Church. (Basically going to hell and therefore not protected by the moral Church laws)

“Rome of the East” Importance:

-Preserved the heritage of Greece and Rome.

-Spread Christianity

-Buffer zone shielding medieval Europe from empire-building Persians, Arabs, Turks.

-Created and codified laws

-Influenced Russian culture

-Literacy almost dies out IN EUROPE (but is being preserved in the Byzantine Empire)

Preserved Heritage

-Greek and Latin grammar taught

-Classical Greek and Roman literature served as textbooks (i.e. Homer)

-Euclidian geometry -Herodotus’ history -Galen’s medicine

-Justinian code -Religious art

-The Byzantine Empire protected Western Europe from invaders from the east.

-Byzantium became the boundary between the Christian West and the Muslim East and the preserver of heritage.

Age of Justinian (527-565 AD):

-Revived the splendor of ancient Rome by conquest

-Empire reached greatest extent under Justinian I

-Collected classical works of science, math, philosophy, and stored them in libraries.

-Expanded and strengthened empire

-Rebuilt former Roman cities and founded new cities

-Beautified cities with:

-monuments, arches, amphitheaters

-monasteries

-baths, paved streets

-law courts

Hagia Sophia:

-Built under emperor Justinian

-Used more advanced arches and was VERY impressive

-When the Turks/Muslims took over, they destroyed/took over every Church EXCEPT the Hagia Sophia due to its greatness.

Decline and fall:

Impact on Russia:

-Alphabet -Art -Architecture -Religion -Music

Alphabet – A modified Greek alphabet became the Cyrillic alphabet.

Art Icons – Sacred images of people or events.

Brief History of Russia:

Early Russia:

-The first Russian state emerged in present-day Ukraine in the late 800’s (the country spans 9 time-zones)

-Vikings from Scandinavia conquer the local Slavic people. – The Norse people rule and the others are Slavic – The Vikings raided and stole at first, but then decided to conquer.

-In time, the Vikings adopted Slavic customs.

-The Vikings were absorbed into the local population.

Kievan Russia:

-This early Russian state was called Kiev after its most important city.

-Due to its location on the Dnieper River, Kiev flourished in trade. – Kiev becomes the CENTER of Russian culture.

-As trade expanded, Kievan Russia absorbed ideas from the nearby Byzantine Empire.

-By 988 AD, the efforts of missionaries along with trading contacts convinced the ruler of Kiev, (Price Vladimir) to convert to Christianity.

Mongol Rule:

-In the 1200’s, Mongols from Central Asia conquered a huge empire that stretched from China to Eastern Europe.

-In the 1240’s, a group of Mongols called the Tatars by the Russians destroyed Kiev and other cities.  
-For nearly 250 years, Mongols controlled Russia.

-Mongols had little effect on Russian culture

-Mongols isolated Russia from the Byzantine Empire and Western Europe

-Russia was a tributary state of the Mongols.- It paid tribute to the Mongols.

Muscovite Russia:

-By the 1300’s, the city of Moscow gained importance as Mongol power slowly declined. (The Princes who collected the taxes gained power under Mongol rule as well.)

-Moscow’s location near several rivers facilitated trade. (Moscow became the most powerful state in Russia.)

Ivan the Great:

-Ivan III ruled from 1468-1505.

-Created a strong, unified Russian state.

-Conquered other lands and ended Mongol rule in 1480.

The First Czar:

-Ivan the Great married Sophia, the niece of the last Byzantine emperor in 1472.

-Took the title ‘czar’ (tzar) meaning ‘Caesar’ (emperor)

-Autocratic ruler

Ivan the Terrible:

-Grandson of Ivan the Great

-Ivan IV was crowed czar in the mid-1500’s

Reign of Ivan the Terrible:

-Created a secret police

-Conducted a reign of terror against powerful, independent nobles

-Introduced reforms including a new law code.

-Expanded Russia’s borders and renewed contact with Western Europe.

-Encouraged the growth of Feudalism, which expands under his reign.

Romanov Dynasty:

-The Romanov’s came to power in a time of trouble in the early 1600’s.

-Michael Romanov, grand-nephew of Ivan the Terrible, is chosen as czar.

-The Romanov’s ruled for 300 years.

Peter the Great:

-Grandson of Michael Romanov.

-Ruled from 1682-1725.

-Sets out to modernize Russia.

-Russia expands under his reign- he wins the Great Northern Wars against the Sweds and gains parts of Sweden.

Russian Topography:

-Baltic=east; Pacific=west; Constantinople blocks Black Sea from the rest of the world.

-Eurole Mountains=dividing line between Europe and Asia.

-Russian Steppe=huge, vastly flat grass-land; located south-east of Russia; has VERY fertile soil (Chernozen soil)

-Siberia= “permafrost”: not arable land; lowly populated- very cold.

Themes:

-Expansion by conquest:

-need for warm-water ports=motivation for conquest

-The necessity of a strong, central government

-Boyars – land-owning aristocracy; own the serfs and make most of the money in Russia; they have their own small armies.

Alexander Nevsky:

-1220-1263

-Leader in battle on Ice (Neva River) against Sweden.

Pendulum of Russian History:

-History goes back and forth in Anti- and Pro- West

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| --- | --- |
| Anti-West Isolationist Xenophobic: | Pro-West for Progress and Change- Encourage New Ideas, Technologies, etc. |
| -Most tears | -A few tears |
| -Russian Orthodox | -Intellectual elites |
| -Military |  |
| -Boyars | -Merchants/businessmen |
| -Peasants | -Young members of middle class |
| -DEMAGOGUE- | -REFORM-MINDED- |

**The Mongols:**

-*“The Mongol Empire was created on horseback, but could not be governed on horseback.”*

-Mongols lived in yurts, made of animal skins.

-Later, these yurts evolved into ‘Yurt Palaces’, which were much harder to move from place to place.

-Khanate – Kingdom run by Kahn’s.

Marco Polo:

-Marco Polo is said to have travelled to China and to have met the Great Khan (Kublai)

-He, according to the story, became the Khan’s emissary with a ‘passport’ made of gold.

Genghis Khan and the Mongols:

-Genghis Khan and his descendants were ruthless, massacring whole cities that resisted him.

-The Mongols refer to Genghis Khan as the ‘Father of the Nation’.

-The Mongols emphasized religious tolerance, tax policies, and ‘free-trade-zones.’

-Genghis introduced a script for the Mongol language and writing, but didn’t learn it himself.

-The Mongols provided a VERY harsh, but fair code of law that made people feel safer. (The Silk Road of China was much safer under Mongol rule than under Chinese rule.)