

Byzantines, Russians, and Turks Interact**Section 2**

The Russian Empire

Terms and Names

Slavs People from the forests north of the Black Sea

Vladimir Grandson of Olga who ordered all his subjects to adopt Christianity

Yaroslav the Wise Russian ruler who helped Kiev gain power and wealth

Alexander Nevsky Russian noble who gained power in Moscow

Ivan III Moscow prince who led rebellion against Mongol rule

czar Russian emperor

Before You Read

In the last section, you read about the establishment and decline of the Byzantine Empire.

In this section, you will learn about the emergence of Russia.

As You Read

Use a chart to show how Mongol rule affected different parts of Russian society.

RUSSIA'S BIRTH (Pages 307–308)**Who were the Slavs?**

The **Slavs** lived in what is today eastern Russia. The area was bounded by the Ural Mountains and the Black Sea on the south and the Baltic Sea on the north.

The Slavs lived in the forest areas. They worked as farmers and traders. In the 800s, some Vikings called the Rus came from the north. They built forts along the rivers and blended with the Slavic people. They founded the cities of Novgorod and Kiev and became the rulers of the land. They began to trade in Constantinople. With them, they brought furs, timber, and the Slavs who were their subjects. They sold these people as slaves. In fact, the word *slave* comes from *Slav*.

Over time, the Vikings adopted the culture of the Slavs. Divisions between Vikings and Slavs disappeared. In 957

Princess Olga of Kiev converted to Christianity. Her grandson, **Vladimir**, also converted to Byzantine Christianity. He was the ruler of Russia. He ordered all of his subjects to adopt this religion. Now more than trade linked Russia to the Byzantine Empire.

Russia also looked to Constantinople for religious leadership. Teachers from the empire gave the Russian people instructions in the new religion. The king liked the idea that the ruler of the empire was also the head of the church.

1. How did Olga and Vladimir influence the Slavic people?

Section 2, *continued*

KIEV'S POWER AND DECLINE

(Pages 308–309)

What caused Kiev's rise?

Under the influence of Byzantine culture, Kiev grew to be a large, wealthy, and cultured city. It continued to grow as Vladimir took land to the west and to the north. His son, **Yaroslav the Wise**, came to power in 1019. He proved to be an able ruler as well. Under him, Kiev grew even more wealthy through trade and alliances made with western nations.

Then the state centered in Kiev began to have problems. After Yaroslav's death in 1054, his sons fought one another for control of the land. Trade declined, cutting the wealth of Kiev.

2. What caused Kiev's decline?

THE MONGOL INVASIONS; RUSSIA BREAKS FREE (Pages 309–311)**How did the Mongol invasions change Russia?**

In the middle 1200s, the Mongols reached Kiev. They quickly overran the Russian state, killing many people. The Mongols held control of the area for more than 200 years.

The Mongols had been fierce conquerors, but they were not harsh rulers. As long as the Russian people did not rebel, the Mongols let them keep their customs, including their Eastern Christian religion.

The Mongols made the Russians pay tribute, a sum of money that was owed every year. They used Russian nobles to collect the tribute. One of those nobles, **Alexander Nevsky**, gained power. His heirs became princes of Moscow. They later used this city as their base of power.

Control by the Mongols had important effects on Russia. It isolated the Russians from western Europe. Russian society developed in its own way. Rule by the Mongols united many different areas of Russia under one central authority. Before then, what is now Russia had been ruled by a number of princes. Mongol rule also led to the rise of Moscow, which had a good location near three major rivers—the Dnieper, the Don, and the Volga.

Ivan I increased the influence of Moscow. Overtime, Ivan and his successors added to the land that Moscow controlled. In the late 1400s, under **Ivan III**, Russia grew to be a mighty empire. In 1453, the Byzantine Empire had fallen, defeated by the Turks. In 1472, Ivan married the niece of the last Byzantine emperor. From that time, he called himself **czar**—the Russian version of Caesar. In 1480, Ivan finally broke with the Mongols.

3. Name three effects of Mongol rule on Russia.

Section 2, *continued*

As you read about the Byzantine culture that developed in Russia, take notes to answer the questions in the box.

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| 1. What ties linked Kiev to Byzantium? | 2. How did Vladimir and his son Yaroslav contribute to the power of Kiev? |
| 3. What factors brought about Kiev's decline? | 4. How did the Mongols treat the Russian people? |
| 5. What were some effects of Mongol rule on Russia? | 6. What events marked the beginning of an independent Russian Empire? |