

The Muslim World,
Byzantines, Russians and Turks Interact,
and Societies and Empires of Africa

Pre-AP World History
Chapter 11



Yaroslav the Wise



● **Vladimir's son and ruler of Kievan Russia from 1019 to 1054; Yaroslav skillfully married off his daughters and sisters to the kings and princes of Western Europe, enabling him to forge important trading alliances. He also created a legal code for Russia, built the first library in Kiev, and oversaw the construction of hundreds of Christian churches in Kiev.**

● In 957, a member of the Kievan nobility, Princess Olga, paid a visit to Constantinople and public converted to Christianity. From 945 to 964, she governed Kiev until her son was old enough to rule. Her son resisted Christianity. However, soon after Olga's grandson Vladimir came to the throne about 980, he considered conversion to Christianity. *The Primary Chronicle* reports that Vladimir sent out teams to observe the major religions of the times. Three of the teams returned with lukewarm accounts of Islam, Judaism, and Western Christianity. But the team from Byzantium reported quite a different story. Their report convinced Vladimir to convert to Byzantine Christianity and to make all his subjects convert, too.

● Thanks to its Byzantine ties, Kiev grew from a cluster of crude wooden forts to the glittering capital of a prosperous and educated people. The rise of Kiev marked the appearance of Russia's first important unified territory. Vladimir led the way in establishing Kiev's power. He expanded his state into Poland and north almost to the Baltic Sea. He also fought off troublesome nomads from the steppes to the south. Vladimir's son Yaroslav the Wise came to the throne in 1019 and led Kiev to even greater glory. The decline of the Kievan state started with the death of Yaroslav in 1054. During his reign, Yaroslav had made what turned out to be a crucial error. He had divided his realm among his sons, instead of following the custom of passing on the throne to the eldest son. Upon their father's death, the sons tore the state apart fighting for the choicest territories. And because this system of dividing the kingdom among sons continued, each generation saw new struggles.

Yaroslav the Wise

◎ **Yaroslav created a legal code for all of Russia.**

What ruler of the

Byzantine Empire

created a legal code for

his empire?

Yaroslav the Wise

 **Justinian**



Alexander Nevsky



● **Alexander Nevsky – Russian prince who defeated a German invading army in 1242 A.D. and was given the title of grand-prince by the Mongol khan because of his cooperation with them; Nevsky encouraged his subjects to accept Mongol rule and pay massive amounts of tribute (payments) to the Mongols in exchange for peace.**

● In the middle 1200s, a ferocious group of horsemen from central Asia slashed their way into Russia. These nomads were the Mongols. They had exploded onto the world scene at the beginning of the 1200s under Genghis Khan, one of the most feared warriors of all time. The Mongols may have been forced to move out by economic or military pressures. They may have been lured by the wealth of cities to the west. Whatever their reasons for leaving, they rode their swift horses across the steppes of Asia and on into Europe. Their savage killing and burning won them a reputation for ruthless brutality. When Genghis Khan died in 1227, his successors continued the conquering that he had begun. At its fullest extent, the Mongol Empire stretched from the Yellow Sea to the Baltic Sea and from the Himalayas to northern Russia.

● In 1240, the Mongols attacked and demolished Kiev. They rode under the leadership of Batu Khan, Genghis' grandson. So many inhabitants were slaughtered, a Russian historian reported that "no eye remained to weep." A Roman Catholic bishop traveling through Kiev five years later wrote, "When we passed through that land, we found lying in the field countless heads and bones of dead people." After the fall of Kiev, Mongols ruled all of southern Russia for 200 years. The empire's official name was the "Khanate of the Golden Horde": *Khanate* from the Mongol word for "kingdom"; *Golden*, because gold was the royal color of the Mongols; *Horde*, from the Mongol word for camp.

Closure Question #2: Do you approve of Nevsky's cooperation with the Mongols? Was his policy practical or cowardly? Explain.

Alexander Nevsky

- **Russia was overrun by Mongols in the 1200s A.D. What invading group overran and gained control of the Indus River Valley in India circa 1000 B.C.?**

Alexander Nevsky

 **The Aryans**



Ivan III / Czar



- **Ivan III – The first czar (the Russian version of Caesar) of Russia; Ivan ruled for 43 years, openly challenging and eventually breaking from Mongol rule in 1480. Ivan publicly claimed his intent to make Russia the “Third Rome” following the collapse of the First Roman Empire in Italy and the Second Roman Empire in Constantinople.**
- The city of Moscow was first founded in the 1100s. By 1156, it was a crude village protected by a log wall. Nonetheless, it was located near three major rivers: the Volga, Dnieper, and Don. From that strategic position, a prince of Moscow who could gain control of the three rivers could control nearly all of European Russia – and perhaps successfully challenge the Mongols.
- *During the late 1320s, Moscow’s Prince Ivan I had earned the gratitude of the Mongols by helping to crush a Russian revolt against Mongol rule. For his services, the Mongols appointed Ivan I as tax collector of all the Slavic lands they had conquered. They also gave him the title of “Grand Prince.” Ivan had now become without any doubt the most powerful of all Russian princes. He also became the wealthiest and was known as “Ivan Moneybag”. Ivan convinced the Patriarch of Kiev, the leading bishop of Eastern Europe, to move to Moscow. The move improved the city’s prestige and gave Moscow’s princes a powerful ally: the Church. Ivan I and his successors used numerous strategies to enlarge their territory: land purchases, wars, trickery, and shrewd marriages. From generation to generation, they schemed to gain greater control over the small states around Moscow.*

Closure Question #3: How was Ivan I both friend and foe to the Mongol rulers?

Ivan III / Czar

- ◎ **Ivan hoped to establish Russia as the “Third Rome”. What general established himself as the first dictator of the first Roman Empire?**

Ivan III / Czar

 **Julius
Caesar**



Seljuks



Seljuks – Non-Arabs hired by the Fatimid Dynasty as soldiers. The Seljuk Turks were converted to Islam and eventually became the dominant power in the eastern portion of the Arab Empire.

The Abbasid Dynasty eventually fell apart due to corruption among leaders and a decline in the army. As a result the Arab Empire was split into many smaller kingdoms, including Spain, Morocco, and the Fatimid Dynasty in Egypt. The Seljuk Turks were a nomadic people from central Asia. They eventually conquered the Byzantine Empire that had been established by Constantine, leading to the Crusades.

As powerful as the Abbasids were, they constantly struggled to maintain control of their empire. Spain broke away in 756, six years after the Abbasids came to power. After setting up their capital in Baghdad, the Abbasids lost their grip on other parts of the empire as well: Morocco in 788 and Tunisia in 800. In 809, they lost some regions of Persia. Then, in 868, the Abbasids lost control of Egypt. Finally, in 945, Persian armies moved into Baghdad and put an end to the power of the caliph, an Islamic religious or political leader. Even though the caliph continued as the religious leader of Islam, he gave up all political power in the new Persia ruler. It wasn't long, however, before the Persians themselves fell to a powerful group in the region.

As early as 1300 B.C., Chinese records mention a people called the Tu-Kiu living west of their borders. The Tu-Kiu may well have been the Turks. For centuries, these nomads rode their horses over the vast plains. They herded goats and sheep, lived in tents, and used two-humped camels to carry their goods. The Islamic world first met them as raiders and traders along their northern frontiers. The Abbasids took note of the Turks for their military skills. They began buying Turkish children to raise as slaves, train as soldiers, and employ as bodyguards. The Abbasids came to prize the slaves for their skill and loyalty. On the subject one author wrote, "One obedient slave is better than 300 sons; for the latter desire their father's death, the former desires long life for his master."

Seljuks

- **The Fatimid Dynasty hired the Seljuk Turks to fight as mercenaries in their army. What other empire previously discussed in this class hired mercenaries to fight in its military?**

Seljuks

 **The Roman
Empire**



Vizier

● **New political office established by the Abbasid Dynasty; the Vizier was the leader of the Caliph's personal council of advisors and represented the Caliph when all political decisions were made.**

● In the tenth century, a growing number of Turks began converting to Islam and slowly migrating into a weakened Abbasid Empire. One of the first of these migrating Turkish groups was known as the Seljuks, after the family that led them. The Seljuks gradually grew in number and strength. In 1055, they attacked and captured Baghdad from the Persians. Nearly 20 years later, the Seljuk sultans marched on the Byzantine Empire. At the Battle of Manzikert in 1071, Turkish forces crushed the Byzantine defenders. Within ten years, the Seljuks occupied most of Anatolia, the eastern flank of Byzantium. This brought the Turks closer to the Byzantine capital, Constantinople, than the Arabs or Persians had ever come. This near conquest of the New Rome also inspired the name of the Seljuk sultanate of Rum (from "Rome"). Rum survived in Anatolia after the rest of the Seljuk Empire had crumbled.

● ***Back in Baghdad and its surrounding region, Seljuk rulers wisely courted the support of their newly conquered Persian subjects. In fact, the founder of the Seljuk Dynasty, Toghril Beg, chose the Persian city of Isfahan as the capital of his kingdom. This favorable treatment made the Persians loyal supporters of the Seljuks, and the Turks often appointed them as government officials. The brilliant Nazam al-Mulk, for example, was a Persian who served as the vizier, or prime minister, of the most famous Seljuk sultans, Malik Shah. The Turks also showed a great admiration of Persian learning. The nomadic Seljuks had arrived in Southwest Asia basically illiterate. They were unfamiliar with the traditions of Islam, which they had just adopted. As a result, they looked to their Persian subjects for both cultural and religious guidance.***

Closure Question #1: Do you think it is wise for rulers to place members of conquered peoples in positions of government?

Vizier

- **The office of Vizier was part of the bureaucracy of the Abbasid Dynasty. What is the name of the ancient Chinese dynasty which used tests over Confucianism to determine who qualified to serve in its bureaucracy?**

Vizier

◎ The Han Dynasty

Malik Shah

Thought to be the greatest of the Seljuk sultans, Malik lived from 1055 to 1092. He built the great mosque Masjid-i-Jame in the capital city of Isfahan, supported architects and artists like Omar Khayyam (Poet and Scientist). He died suddenly at age 37, possibly poisoned by his wife.

The Seljuks looked to their Persian subjects for both cultural and religious guidance. The Turks adopted Persian as the language of culture and adopted features of the Persian way of life that they so admired. Seljuk rulers were called shahs, from the Persian word for a king. They also promoted Persian writers like the mystical Islamic poet Jalaludin Rumi, whose poetry is widely read today. Rumi often wrote of his desire to achieve a personal experience of God. Seluk shahs like the great Malik Shah took pride in supporting Persian artists and architecture. Malik beautified the city of Isfahan, for example, by building splendid mosques. The Turks' political and cultural preference for the Persians caused the almost complete disappearance of the Arabic language from Persia. Arabic was kept alive mainly by religious scholars studying the Qur'an.

As a result of their policies, the Seljuks won strong support from the Persians, who were proud of their long heritage and eager to pass it on. Like other conquering peoples throughout history, the Seljuk Turks found that they had much to learn from those whom they had defeated. Malik Shah ruled as the last of the strong Seljuk leaders. After his unexpected death in 1092, no capable shah appeared to replace him. So, the Seljuk Empire quickly disintegrated into a loose collection of minor kingdoms. Just at that point, the West launched a counterattack against the Turks and other Muslims for control of the Holy Land of the Middle East. This series of military campaigns was known as the Crusades.

Closure Question #2: In what ways would it be accurate to say that the Persians actually won over the Turks?

Malik Shah

- **Malik Shah built his empire at a very young age, dying when he was only 37. What young man built a powerful Empire, the Hellenistic Empire, circa 300 B.C. and also died at a very young age?**

Malik Shah

 **Alexander**
the Great

Closure Question #3: Based on the observations by Persian historian Wassaf, why do you think the Mongols were such successful conquerors?

- As you have learned previously, the Mongols were a group of nomadic clans along the Asian steppes. In the early 1200s, they grew into a unified force under the rule of Genghis Khan and swiftly conquered China. The Mongol armies eventually turned to the west and leveled any cities that dared to resist them. They slaughtered whole populations. In 1258, Genghis' grandson Hulagu led his troops to the outskirts of Baghdad, which by this time was surrounded by a defensive wall. The account of what followed by Persian historian Wassaf speaks to the Mongol's fierce and overwhelming fighting methods:
- “The arrows and bolts, the lances and spears, the stones from the slings and catapults of both sides shot swiftly up to heaven, like the messengers of the prayers of the just, then fell as swiftly, like the judgments of fate... In this way, Baghdad was besieged and terrorized for fifty days. But since the city still held out the order was given for baked bricks lying outside the walls to be collected, and with them high towers were built in every direction, overlooking the streets and alleys of Baghdad. On top of these they set up the catapults. Now the city was filled with the thunder and lightning of striking stones and falling naphtha pots. A dew of arrows rained from a cloud of bows and the population was trampled underfoot... The cry went up, ‘Today we have no strength against Goliath and his army!’” –Wassaf, quoted in The Mongol Empire***

Closure Assignment #5

- ① Answer the following questions based on what you have learned from Chapter 11, Section 3:
 1. Do you think it is wise for rulers to place members of conquered peoples in positions of government?
 2. In what ways would it be accurate to say that the Persians actually won over the Turks?
 3. Based on the observations by Persian historian Wassaf, why do you think the Mongols were such successful conquerors?