



AKS 33: The Byzantine Empire and the Mongol Empire

Chapter 11.1 & 11.2– Pages 301-313

Chapter 12.2 & 12.3 – Pages 330-338



33a – analyze the relationship of the Byzantine Empire to the Roman Empire

- WARM-UP:

Relationship Between Roman and Byzantine Empires


- Roman Empire had been divided into western and eastern empires by Diocletian
 - Capital moved east from Rome to Greek city of Byzantium – later became Constantinople (after emperor Constantine) because he was the one who moved the capital in A.D. 330





Relationship Between Roman and Byzantine Empires

- Western Roman Empire crumbled in the 5th century because it was overrun by invading German tribes
 - Remember the Huns???
- Byzantium (as the entire eastern empire came to be called) and its flourishing capital city, Constantinople, carried on the glory of Rome for another 1,000 years

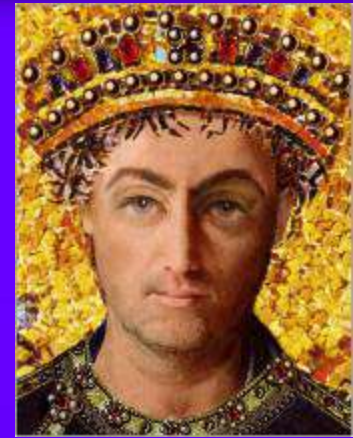


33b – describe the significance of Justinian’s law code, Theodora and the role of women, and Byzantine art and architecture

- WARM-UP:



Who was Justinian?



- High-ranking **Byzantine nobleman** who succeeded his uncle to the throne in 527
- Accomplishments:
 - Through a series of military conquests, Justinian gained control of almost all the territory that Rome had ever ruled
 - Creation of the **Justinian Code** (more on this in a minute)
 - Rebuilt Constantinople
 - Built **Hagia Sophia** (more on this later)
 - Justinian was head of both **church** & **state**

Justinian's Code



- Justinian set up a panel of legal experts to regulate Byzantium's increasingly complex society
 - They sifted through 400 years of Roman law
 - They found many laws that were outdated, so they created a single, uniform code known as the Justinian Code



Justinian's Code

- Consisted of 4 works:
 - *The Code*
 - Nearly 5,000 Roman laws still considered useful
 - *The Digest*
 - Quoted & summarized the opinions of Rome's greatest legal thinkers about the laws – 50 volumes
 - *The Institutes*
 - Textbook that told law students how to use the laws
 - *The Novellae*
 - New Laws – legislation passed after 534



Justinian's Code

- Marriage, slavery, property, inheritance, women's rights, and criminal justice were just some of the areas the code addressed
- The code served the Byzantine Empire for 900 years



Who was Theodora?



- Early in life, she was an actress, stage dancer, and essentially a mistress to a governor
- She converted to monophysitism (branch of Orthodox Christianity that says Christ maintains one nature – human to divine)
- Became Justinian's mistress, and later his wife in 525



Theodora's Political Influence

- Met with foreign diplomats, wrote to foreign leaders
- Passed laws, built churches
- Nika Rebellion
 - Mob packed the Hippodrome, demanded Justinian be overthrown – Justinian considered fleeing
 - Theodora convinced him to put the revolt down:
 - “My opinion is that now is a poor time for flight, even though it bring safety. For any man who has seen the light of day will also die, but one who has been an emperor cannot endure to be a fugitive. If now you wish to go, Emperor, nothing prevents you. There is the sea, there are the steps to the boats. But take care that after you are safe, you do not find that you would gladly exchange that safety for death.” - Theodora



Theodora & Women's Rights

- Laws that obligated a woman to remain on stage were abandoned
- She published edicts which allowed daughters to have equal rights with sons in matters of inheritance
- Made the wife's dowry her property after her husband's death
- Made it so the children of female slaves were not necessarily slaves themselves.
- She abolished the entire commerce of prostitution and bought girls back from their pimps. She converted a palace on the Asiatic into a convent, Metonoia, where former prostitutes could reside.



Theodora's Death

- She died of cancer in 548
- Justinian's rule declined steadily after this and he passed no major laws for the rest of his reign

Byzantine Art

- Marked by frescoes & mosaics



Byzantine Architecture

- Justinian had workers rebuild Constantinople's crumbling fortifications



Byzantine Architecture

- Justinian's passion was church-building
 - He viewed churches as the most visible sign of the close connection between church & state
- Hagia Sophia – “Holy Wisdom” in Greek



Byzantine Architecture

- Justinian also built baths, aqueducts, law courts, schools, hospitals, and expanded his palace into a vast complex



Istanbul: Roman Aqueduct



33d – analyze the role of Constantinople as a trading and religious center

- WARM-UP:



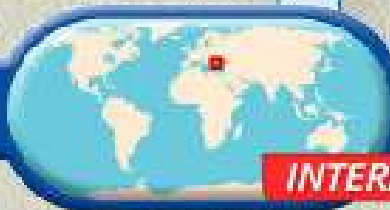
Constantinople as a Center for Trade

- Geographic Setting:
 - Constantinople: Greek seaport at a point near many trade routes between Asia and Europe.
 - It was called the Golden Horn because it was shaped like an ox's horn, was a natural harbor, and it was wealthy.
 - Could control Black Sea and the Sea of Marmora because it was on the Bosphorus Strait.
 - It was also easy to defend with its high walls and narrow waterways.
 - Constantine liked to call his eastern capital **New Rome**



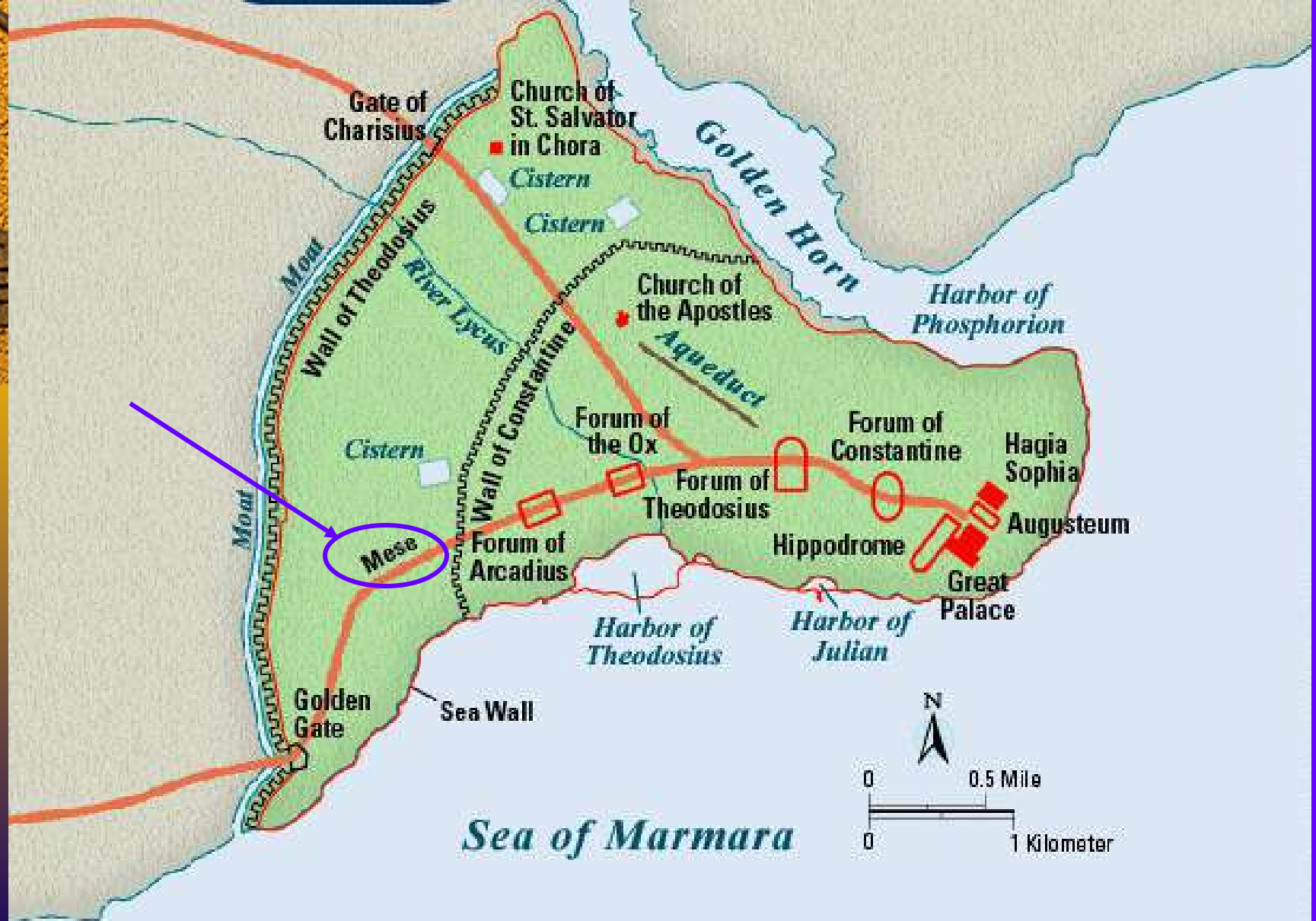
Constantinople as a Center for Trade

- **Mese** = “Middle Way” – main street
 - Merchant stalls lined streets
 - Products sold from Asia, Africa, & Europe
 - Food stands sold different types of foods
 - Acrobats & street musicians performed



Constantinople, A.D. 550

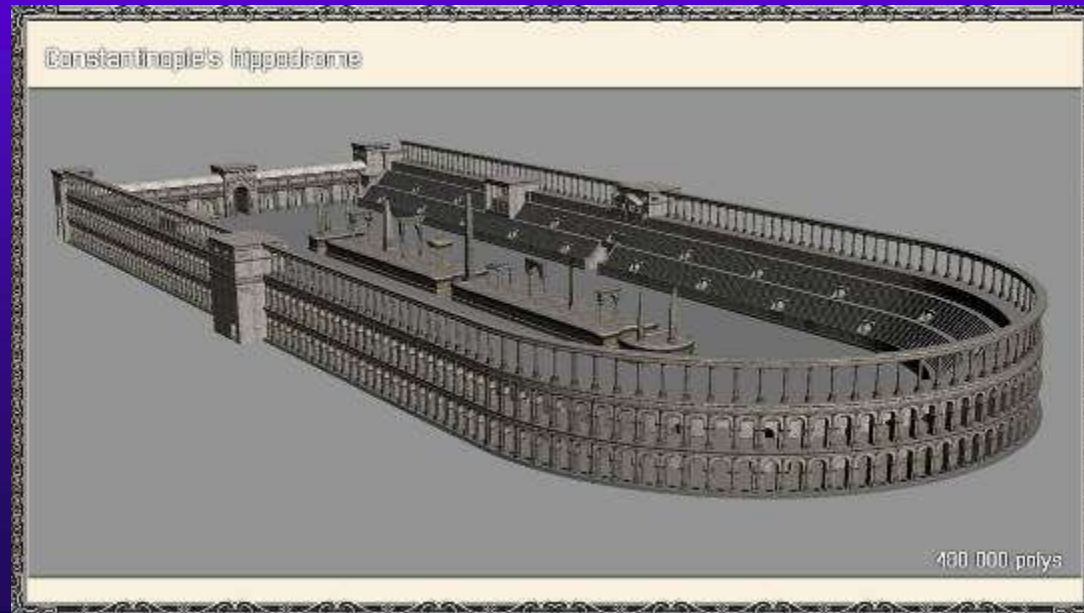
INTERACTIVE



Constantinople & Entertainment

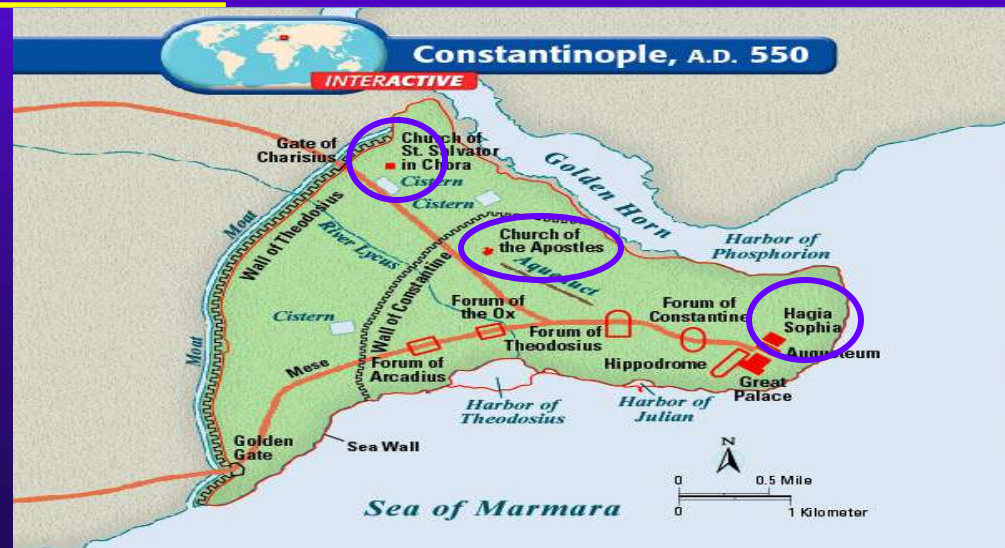
- **Hippodrome**

- Free to citizens
- Offered chariot races & performance acts
- Held 60,000 spectators
- Fans of different teams formed rowdy gangs named for the colors worn by their heroes



Constantinople as a Center for Religion

- Numerous churches
- Most famous = Hagia Sophia (means Holy Wisdom)
- Justinian viewed churches as a sign of the connection between church and state





1204:

Crusading knights from Europe
pillage Constantinople

1453:

Constantinople falls
to **Ottoman Turks**
– renamed **Istanbul**





33c – analyze the establishment of Christianity as the official religion of the Byzantine Empire

- WARM-UP:

The Beginning

- Constantine legalized Christianity in 312 with the Edict of Milan
 - Moved capital to Byzantium
- Theodosius made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire in 380
- It became the dominant religion in the Byzantine Empire when the Western Roman Empire fell





Byzantine Christianity

- Latin Christianity developed in such a way that the Pope became the solidified leader in religious affairs
- Byzantine Christianity was different
 - Inherited the Roman idea that the emperor was near divinity and practiced a form of Christianity where enormous religious and theological authority was placed in the emperor
 - This led to the eventual problems between the western and eastern churches



33f – define the role of Orthodox Christianity and the Schism

- WARM-UP:

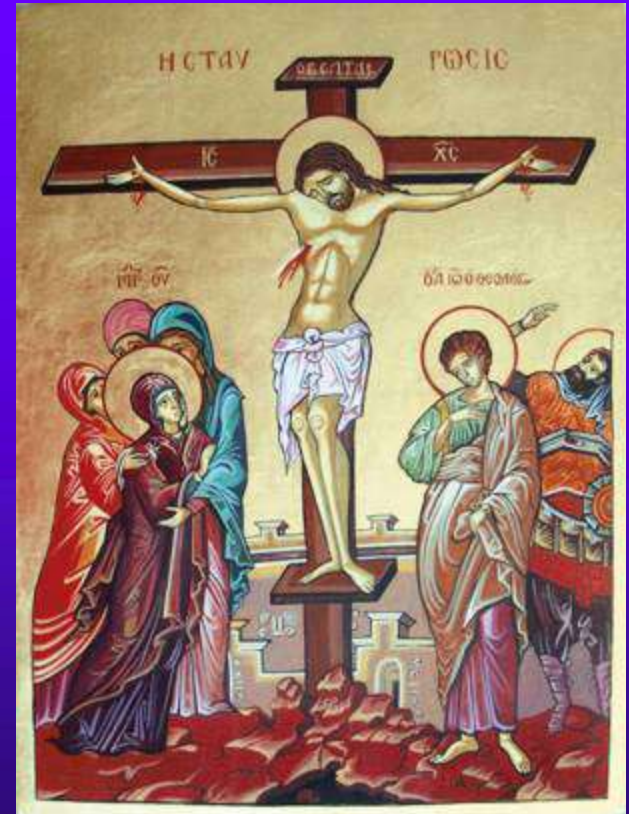


The Church Divides

- Christianity had begun to develop differently in the Western & Eastern Empires
 - This was mainly due to the **distance** and lack of **contact between the two regions**
- Eastern Orthodox Christianity
 - Built heritage on the works of early Church fathers, particularly St. Chrysostom, who was the patriarch (leading bishop of the East)
 - Even the patriarch bowed to the emperor

The Schism

- 730: Emperor Leo III banned **the use of icons** (religious images used by Eastern Christians to aid their devotions)
 - Viewed the use of icons as idol worship
 - People rioted, clergy rebelled
- **Western pope** supported the use of icons



The Schism

- Controversy continued until it came to a head in 1054
 - The pope and the patriarch **excommunicated** (being thrown out of the church) each other in a dispute over religious doctrine
- Shortly afterward, Christianity officially split:
 - Roman Catholic Church in the West
 - Eastern Orthodox Church in the East



Roman Catholic

Services are conducted in Latin.

The pope has authority over all other bishops.

The pope claims authority over all kings and emperors.

Priests may not marry.

Divorce is not permitted.



Similarities

They base their faith on the gospel of Jesus and the Bible.

They use sacraments such as baptism.

Their religious leaders are priests and bishops.

They seek to convert people.

Eastern Orthodox

Services are conducted in Greek or local languages.

The patriarch and other bishops head the Church as a group.

The emperor claims authority over the patriarch and other bishops of the empire.

Priests may be married.

Divorce is allowed under certain conditions.



Missionaries

- As two sides grew apart, each competed for converts
- Orthodox missionaries took their form of Christianity to the Slavs – a group that lived in the forests north of the Black Sea
 - Saint Methodius & Saint Cyril
 - Missionaries who invented an alphabet for the Slavic languages so they could read the Bible in their native tongue
 - It became known as the Cyrillic alphabet



An 11th-century silver chalice displays the Cyrillic alphabet. →



33e – explain the influence of the Byzantine Empire and Vikings on Russia with particular attention to its impact on Tsar Ivan III and Kiev

- WARM-UP:

Viking Influences on Russia

- 800s
 - Small bands of adventurers from the north, called Varangians, or Rus, mixed with the Slavic peoples living in modern-day Russia
 - These guys were most likely Vikings
 - They built forts along the Dnieper, Don, and Volga Rivers & settled among the Slavs



Viking Influences on Russia

- 862
 - Legend says Slavs invited Viking chief Rurik to be their king – he settled in Novgorod, Russia's first important city



Viking Influences on Russia

880

- Oleg, a nobleman from Novgorod, moved south to Kiev, a city on the Dnieper
 - From Kiev, the Vikings could sail by river and sea to Constantinople and trade for products
 - Viking nobles intermarried with their Slavic subjects and eventually, the line between Slavs & Vikings vanished
 - Later the blending of Slavic and Byzantine culture will form Russian Culture



Kiev becomes linked to Constantinople

- 957
 - Princess Olga, a member of the Kievan nobility, visited Constantinople
 - She publicly converted to Christianity
 - Governed until her son was old enough to rule
 - He resisted Christianity





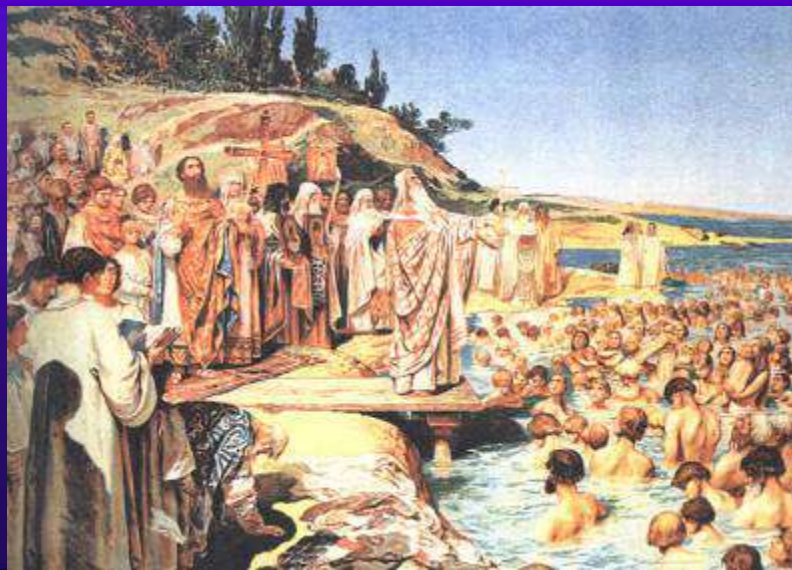
Kiev becomes linked to Constantinople

- 980
 - Vladimir, Princess Olga's grandson, came to the throne
 - He sent teams to **observe the major religions of the time**
 - Teams that observed Islam, Judaism, & Western Christianity told mediocre stories
 - Team from Constantinople told this story:
 - “The Greeks led us to the [buildings] where they worship their God, and we knew not whether we were in heaven or on earth. For on earth there is no such splendor or such beauty, and we are at a loss how to describe it. We only know that God dwells there among men, and...we cannot forget that beauty.” – from *The Primary Chronicle*



Kiev becomes linked to Constantinople

- Report convinced Vladimir to convert to **Byzantine Christianity**
 - Made all of his subjects convert also
 - 989: He held a **baptism** of all citizens in the Dnieper River
- Kiev, already linked to Constantinople by trade, now looked to it for religious guidance as well



Kievan Russia:

Kiev becomes a prosperous city because of its strategic location along the Dnieper River that linked trade routes between Scandinavia and the Byzantine Empire

- Yaroslav the Wise
 - Vladimir's son, came to power in 1019
 - Helped Kiev rise to power by:
 - Married off his daughters and sisters to kings and princes of western Europe to create trade connections
 - Created a legal code
 - Built libraries & churches





Kiev's Decline

- Yaroslav divided his realm among his sons
 - Result: Sons tore the state of Kiev apart fighting amongst each other for territory
- The Crusades disrupted trade
- Mongols attacked and demolished Kiev in 1240 – took over
- The capital is now moved from Kiev to MOSCOW
 - Tolerated all religions and allowed Russians to follow their usual customs, but demanded obedience & a large amount of tribute from the principalities

Mongol Influence in Russia

- Isolated Russia more from Western Europe
 - Caused Russia to develop differently from the rest of Europe because they were cut off from their ideas and inventions
- Encouraged the rise of Moscow as a center of power
- Encouraged the guidance and control of the Byzantine Church



The Russian Empire

- After the Mongols occupied Russia for about 200 years, the Russians finally broke free
- **Ivan III**
 - Openly challenged **Mongol** rule
 - Took the title of “czar” – Russian version of Caesar – and **claimed his intent to make Russia the “Third Rome”**





The Russian Empire

- 1480
 - Ivan refused to pay tribute to the Mongols
 - Armies faced each other at the Ugra River about 150 miles SW of Moscow
 - Neither side advanced to fight
 - Probably due to fear of the other side
 - After a time, both armies turned around and marched home
 - This bloodless standoff traditionally marks the Russian's liberation from Mongol rule

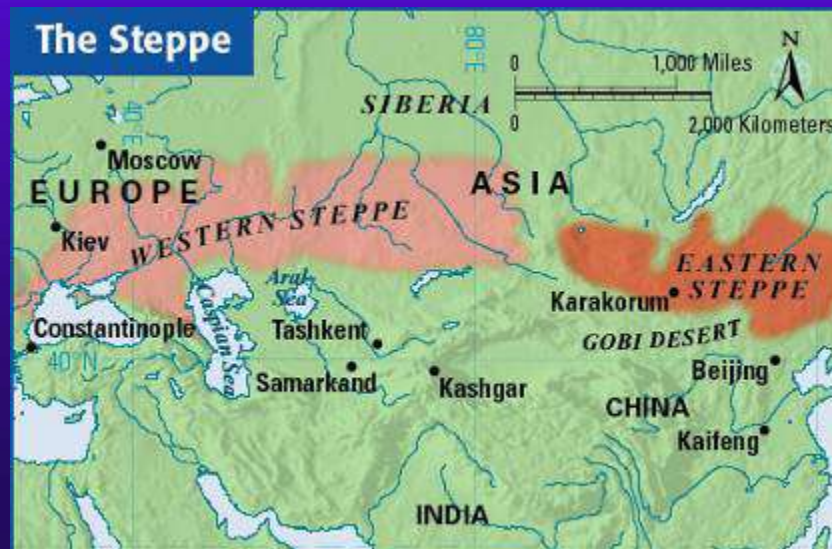


33g – evaluate the impact of the Mongols on the Eurasian continent

- WARM-UP:

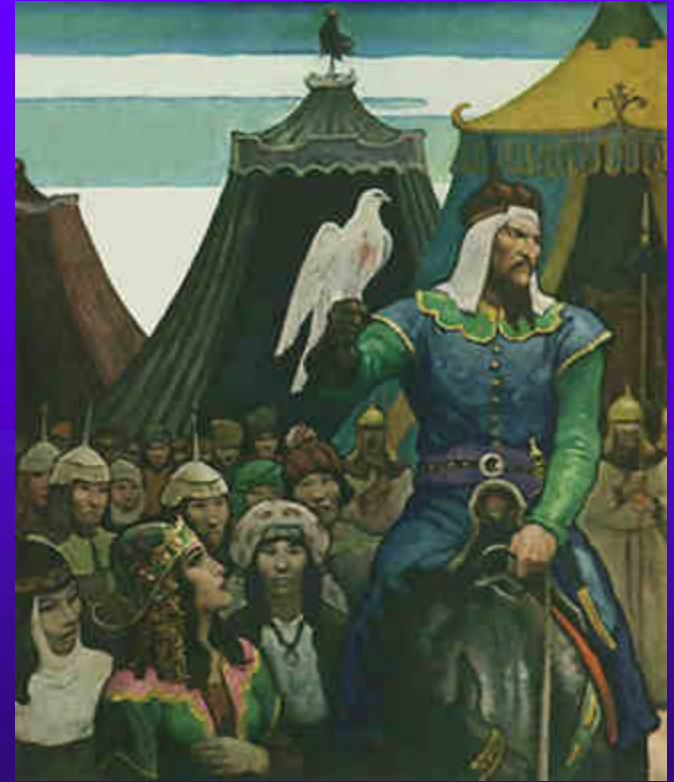
The Rise of the Mongols

- Problems Between Steppe Nomads & Settled Communities
 - Because of scarcities and hardships of their lifestyle, steppe nomads **raided towns and villages** to acquire pasture land for their herds and resources for survival



The Rise of the Mongols

- Genghis Khan – aka Temujin
 - 1200 – sought to unify Mongols under his leadership
 - He defeated his rivals one by one
 - 1206 – accepted title Genghis Khan, or “universal ruler”



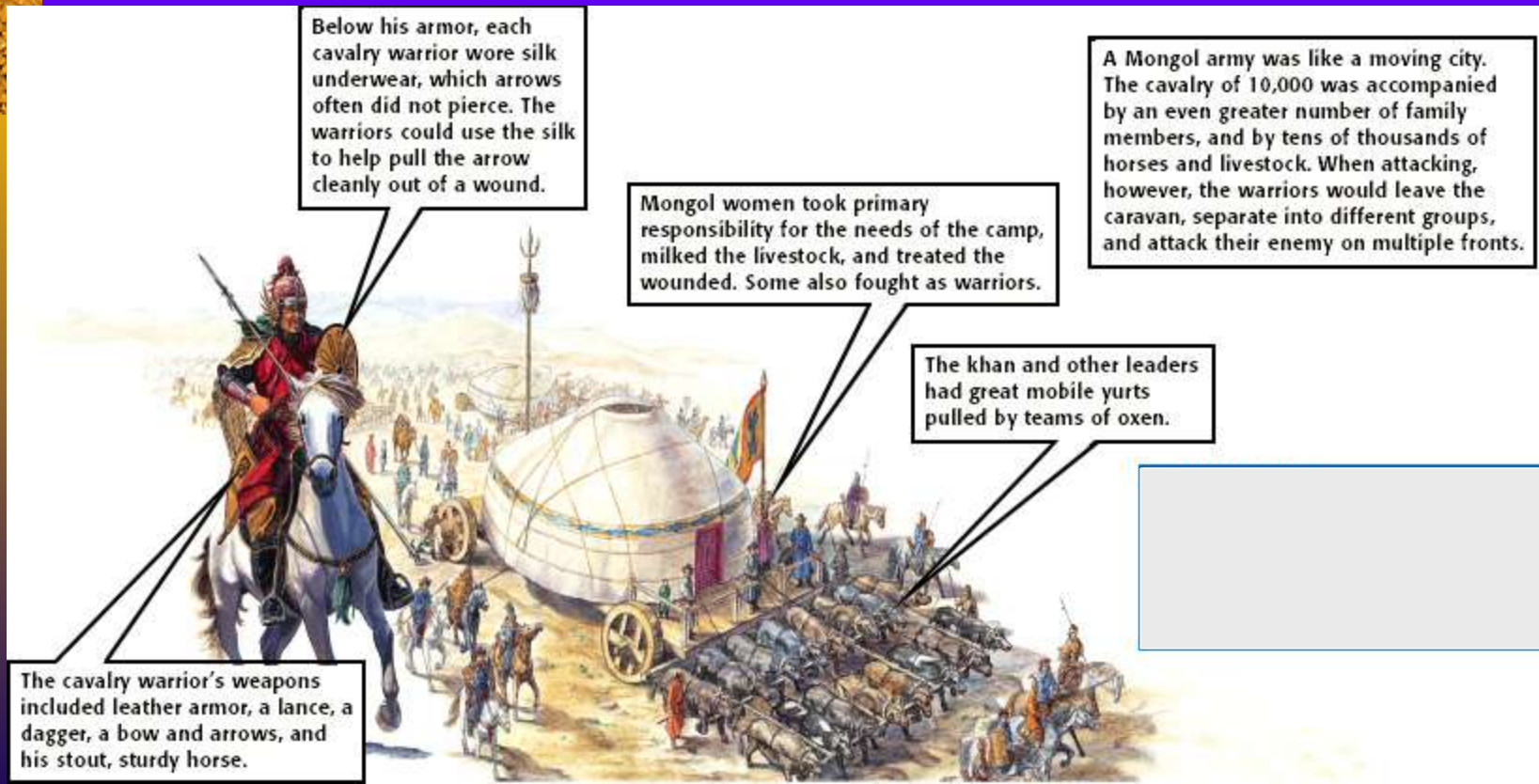


The Rise of the Mongols

- Characteristics of Genghis Khan's Success:
 - Brilliant organizer
 - Gifted Strategist
 - Used cruelty as a weapon

The Rise of the Mongols

- Genghis Khan – Brilliant Organizer
 - Following Chinese model, he grouped his warriors in armies of 10,000, grouped into 1,000-man brigades, 100-man companies, and 10-man squads



The Rise of the Mongols

- Genghis Khan – Gifted Strategist
 - Used various tricks to confuse the enemy
 - Sometimes, a small Mongol cavalry unit would attack, then pretend to gallop away in flight. The enemy usually gave chase. Then the rest of the Mongol army would appear suddenly and slaughter the surprised enemy forces
 - Gifted horseback riders (Cavalry) – could ride backward and fire their bow and arrow – provided a huge advantage for the Mongols over their enemies

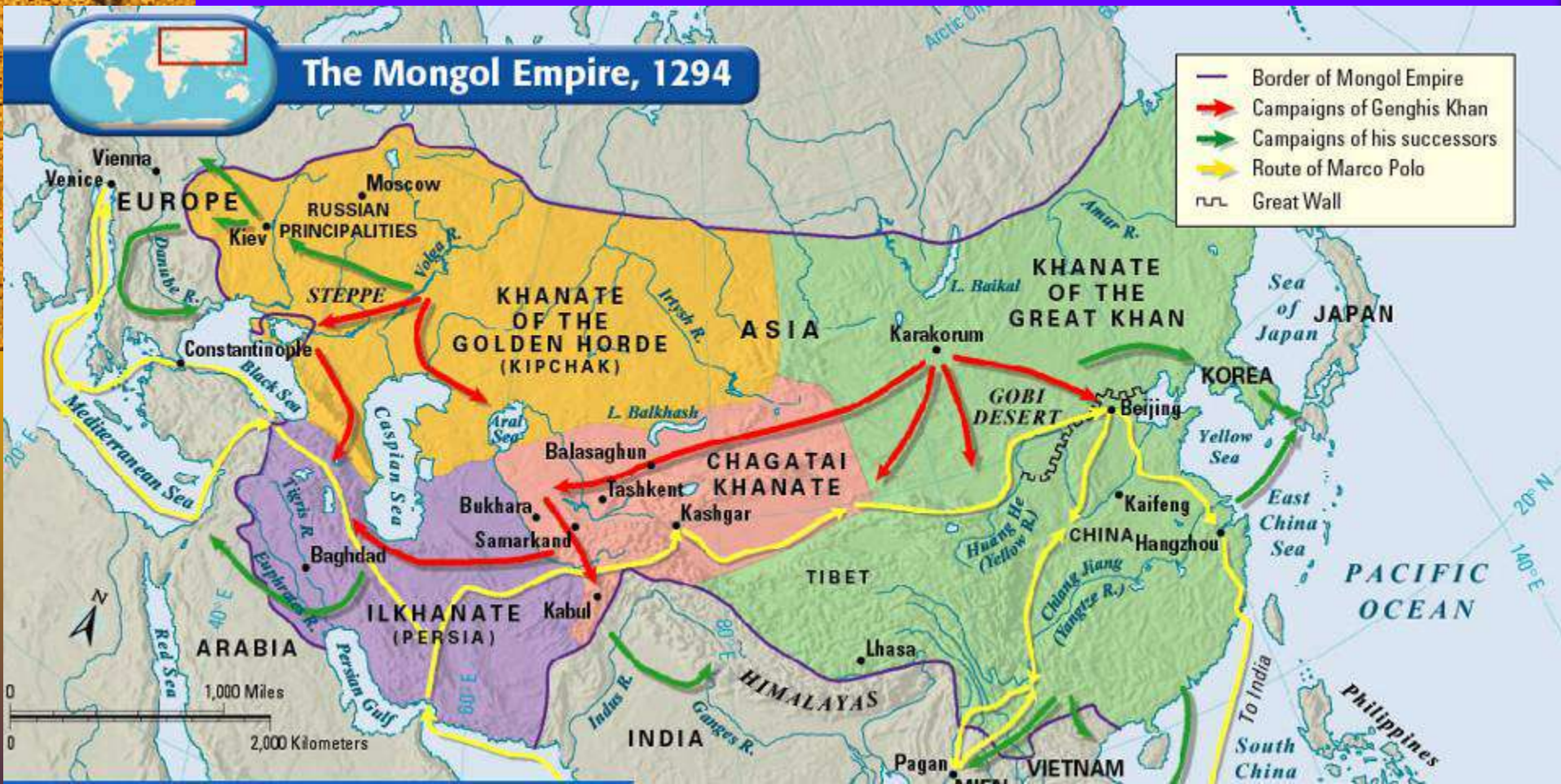


The Rise of the Mongols

- Genghis Khan – Cruelty
 - Terrified enemies into surrender
 - If a city refused to open their gates to him, he might kill the entire population when he finally captured it
 - This led many towns to surrender without a fight



The Khanates





The Khanates

- Mongols ruled ruthlessly at first, destroying the land and irrigation systems and wiping out populations
- Later they adopted aspects of the cultures they ruled and imposed stability, law, and order across much of Eurasia
- Cultural differences between the khanates eventually led to it splitting up



The Pax Mongolica – Mongol Peace

- A period of peace from the mid-1200s to the mid-1300s, whereby the Mongols established stability and law throughout much of Eurasia
- This peace made travel and trade safer and promoted the exchange of goods and ideas across Asia and Europe
 - *Some historians speculate that the epidemic known as the Bubonic Plague that devastated Europe in the 1300s was first spread along these trade routes. More to come on this later*
- End of Pax Mongolica led to disorder

The Mongol Empire

- Kublai Khan
 - Grandson of Genghis Khan
 - Known as The Great Khan
 - Gained control of China in 1279 and united them for the first time in 300 years
 - Called his dynasty the Yuan Dynasty



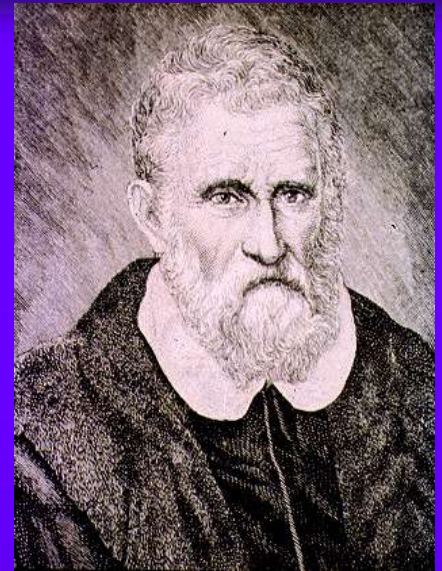


The Mongol Empire

- Kublai Khan's Rule
 - Built palaces in Shangdu & modern-day Beijing
 - Moved his capital from Mongolia to China
 - Kept Mongol identity, but tolerated Chinese culture and kept Chinese officials in local gov't
 - Gave most high gov't positions to foreigners because the Mongols believed that foreigners were more trustworthy since they did not have local loyalties
 - Example: Marco Polo



The Mongol Empire



- Marco Polo
 - Venetian trader
 - Traveled to China & visited Kublai Khan's court
 - Served Kublai Khan for 17 years
 - Much of what is known about the Yuan Dynasty is based upon his travel narratives.
- When he returned to Italy, he was imprisoned during a war with a rival city
 - Fellow prisoner recorded stories into a book – they were an instant success all over Europe, but most people did not believe a single word of it (the whole European superiority mentality)



The Mongol Empire

- Expanded Trade
 - Made caravan routes across Asia safe
 - Established mail routes to link China with India and Persia
 - Greatly **improved** trade
 - Eventually the compass, paper money, playing cards, gunpowder, and printing will travel the secured Silk Road.
 - Invited foreign merchants to visit China
- Failure to conquer Japan:
 - **Kublai Khan launched the largest seaborne invasion in history up until WWII against Japan**
 - **was never able to capture Japan**
 - **lost many Mongol soldiers and ships in the Sea of Japan.**
 - **His seaborne invasion of 150,000 soldiers was swept away by a “divine wind” or kamikaze (typhoon)**

The Mongol Empire

- Legacy of Yuan Dynasty for China:
 - It united China
 - Expanded foreign contacts
 - Made few changes to Chinese culture and system of government





The Mongol Empire

- Reason for the Fall of Yuan Dynasty:
 - Civil discontent because of famine, floods, and disease
 - Economic problems and official corruption
 - Power struggles among Yuan family members
 - Rebellions of Chinese
 - Overexpansion and heavy taxation
 - Military defeats
 - Ineffective rulers