Civilization in Eastern Europe

AP World History Notes
Chapter 9
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

- 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

Empress Theodora (Justinian’s Wife)
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

- 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

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

### 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.
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
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
Eastern Europe, 4th - 7th c.

- Monastic life flourished in this area as Christianity (Byzantine or Eastern Orthodoxy) spread
- Greek and Latin influences gave way to Slavic languages: Cyrillic Alphabet
- Rome (Vatican) and Byzantine would compete in spreading their religions and cultural traditions
- Legacies of this conflict/divide are still felt today
Schism

- After Arab peoples conquered most of SW Asia, the influence of the patriarchs in Jerusalem, Alexandria, and Antioch declined, and only Constantinople and Rome remained as principal Christian centers.
- While there were political strains, the schism is mostly religious and theological.
- Icons, Practice, God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit
- Autonomy (Constantinople) v. Primacy (Vatican)
- 1054 C.E.-the patriarch and the pope mutually excommunicated each other
- Creation of Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox faiths
Influence and Challenges of Byzantium

● As its Mediterranean influence waned, Byzantium turned its attention to eastern Europe and Russia.
● Political, commercial, and cultural ties to Slavic peoples.
● Like elsewhere, generals and local aristocrats started to rebel against imperial rule. Free peasantry numbers started to decline and thus the Byzantium’s military system and tax receipts.
● During the 12th and 13th centuries, the Normans (Scandinavians from Normandy) and other western European peoples mounted a series of crusades to take back the Holy Lands.[1204-1261 control of Constantinople]
Byzantium and Eastern Europe

- With the sack of Constantinople and the rise of the Turks from the east, Byzantium started to move north.
- A weakened Byzantium led to Slavic peoples to take advantage. The Serbs, Croats, and Bulgars all established kingdoms in this vacuum.
- North of Bulgaria another Slavic people began to organize large states: the Russians. The Dneiper, Don, and the Volga trade helped to connect Scandinavia and Byzantium.
- One of the most important cities at this time was Kiev. About 989 Prince Vladimir of Kiev converted to Orthodox Christianity and in time Byzantine art and architecture dominated Kiev and other Russian cities.
Kievan Russ
Kievan Russia

- Russian Orthodox Church
- Legal traditions and written law codes
- Trade and financial resources
- 30,000+ people living in Kiev alone
- Mongols invade and force many Russians north
Principalities of Eastern Europe

- During the time of 1000-1200, many modern-day peoples will emerge such as the Hungarians, Poles, Lithuanians, Finns, Estonians, and the Volgar Bulgars.
- With the sacking of Kiev by the Mongols in 1240 and the subsequent rule of the Khanate of the Golden Horde under Ghenghis Khan’s grandson Batu, competition between various nomadic groups will continue through most of the next two centuries.
- It will not be until 1462 when Ivan III establishes authority as tsar that Moscow will emerge as a major political center.