Chapter 11: Byzantines, Russians, and Turks Interact

**Essential Question**
What characterized the rise and interaction of Byzantine, Russian, and Turkish civilizations in Eastern Europe and Central Asia?

**What You Will Learn**
In this chapter you will follow the individual achievements and shared histories of three great empires that existed on the margin between Europe and Asia.

**SECTION 1 The Byzantine Empire**
Main Idea: After Rome split, the Eastern Empire, known as Byzantium, flourished for a thousand years.

**SECTION 2 The Russian Empire**
Main Idea: Russia grew out of a blending of Slavic and Byzantine cultures and adopted Eastern Orthodox traditions.

**SECTION 3 Turkish Empires Rise in Anatolia**
Main Idea: Turkish people converted to Islam and founded new empires that would renew Muslim civilization.

**Previewing Themes**
- **Religious and Ethical Systems**: Two world religions, Islam and Christianity, met head-to-head as Arabs and Turks battled Byzantines and then Crusaders. At the same time, disputes over doctrine split Christianity into competing branches.
- **Geography**: What land did the Seljuk Turks occupy?
- **Cultural Interaction**: Byzantine influence inspired the growth of a unique Russian culture. The Turks meanwhile adopted Islam and sponsored a rebirth of Persian ways to create a dynamic cultural blend.
- **Geography**: Why might the Dnieper River have been important to Kievan Russia?
- **Empire Building**: The Byzantines, Slavs, Arabs, Turks, and Mongols waged bloody wars to expand their territories. However, each empire also brought together people of diverse traditions.
- **Geography**: How does the map indicate that there was probably conflict between the Byzantine and Seljuk empires?

**Visual Summary**
- Byzantium, AD 300-1500
- Russia, AD 300-1500
- Seljuk Empire, AD 300-1500

- Byzantium: Christian Church divides, 1054; Constantinople falls to Turks, 1453.
- Russia: Vladimir chooses Eastern Christianity, 988; Ivan III refuses to pay Mongol tribute, 1480.
- Seljuk Empire: Seljuk Turks migrate into Abbasid Empire, 970; Seljuk armies capture Baghdad, 1055; Seljuks defeat Byzantines at Manzikert, 1071.
The 11th Century: Comparing Two Churches

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.

Camp of a Prince

Empress Theodora and Her Court

The Ortaköy Mosque trumen above modern-day Istanbul, now called Istanbul.
The Byzantine Empire

Terms and Names

**Justinian** Powerful ruler of Byzantine Empire

**Justinian Code** Body of Roman law collected and organized by Justinian around A.D. 534

**Hagia Sophia** Church destroyed by mobs of rioters in 532 and rebuilt by Justinian

**patriarch** Leader of the Eastern church

**icon** Religious image used in practices by eastern Christians

**excommunication** Formal declaration that someone is no longer a member of the Church

**Cyrillic alphabet** Alphabet invented by Saints Cyril and Methodius, in which most Slavic languages, including Russian, are written

Before You Read

In the last chapter, you read about the Muslim world. In this section, you will learn about the Byzantine Empire.

As You Read

Use a diagram to show Justinian’s accomplishments as emperor of the New Rome.

A NEW ROME IN A NEW SETTING

(*Page* 301)

**How did the Roman Empire change?**

In the A.D. 300s, the emperor Constantine moved the capital of the Roman Empire to the east. He built a great new capital city, Constantinople. It was on the site of the old port city of Byzantium. Constantinople became the center of the empire. Power moved eastward.

The Roman Empire was officially divided in 395. The western area was overrun by German tribes. It did not exist after 476. However, the Byzantine, or eastern, part remained strong. It lasted for hundreds of years.

In 527, **Justinian** became the Byzantine emperor. He sent an army to try to regain control of Italy. He hoped to restore the Roman Empire once again. By about 550, Justinian ruled over almost all of the territory of the old Roman Empire.

1. Who was Justinian?

LIFE IN THE NEW ROME

(*Pages* 302–303)

**What changes did Justinian bring?**

Justinian directed legal experts to create a complete code of laws based on the laws of ancient Rome. This body of civil law—the **Justinian Code**—served the empire for 900 years.
Justinian also worked at making Constantinople a strong but also a beautiful capital. He built high, sturdy walls to protect the city from attack. The main street of the city was lined with shops and open-air markets. People bought and sold goods from Asia, Africa, and Europe there.

In 532, riots broke out against the emperor. Justinian’s troops maintained control of the city, killing thousands of rioters. A church called Hagia Sophia (“Holy Wisdom,” in Greek) had been destroyed by the mobs. Justinian rebuilt it to become the most beautiful church in the Christian world.

2. How did Justinian make Constantinople a strong and beautiful capital?

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THE EMPIRE FALLS (Page 304)
What weakened the empire?

The Byzantine Empire faced many dangers. A terrible disease broke out in 542. The illness killed thousands of people and returned every 8 to 12 years until about 700. This weakened the empire.

Also, the empire was forced to confront many enemies over the centuries. Constantinople remained safe during this time despite many attacks. Eventually, though, the empire shrank. By 1350, the empire included only the capital city and lands in the Balkans—part of southeastern Europe.

3. What were the two biggest problems the empire faced?

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THE CHURCH DIVIDES (Pages 304–306)
Why did the church divide?

Although it was based on the Roman Empire, the Byzantine Empire had developed a culture of its own. People in the Byzantine Empire spoke Greek, not Latin. They belonged to the Eastern Orthodox Church, not the Catholic Church. The Eastern Church was led by the patriarch, the leading bishop. However, even the patriarch had to obey the emperor.

The feeling of separateness from Rome grew worse when one emperor banned the use of icons. Icons are religious images used by eastern Christians to aid their devotions. The emperor thought this was like idol worship. Iconoclasts, or “icon breakers” went into churches destroying images. The pope supported the use of icons. One pope even ordered the excommunication of a Byzantine emperor. That means that the pope said the emperor could no longer be a member of the Church.

Slowly the Eastern and Roman churches grew further apart. In 1054, the schism, or split, became permanent.

Some missionaries traveled from the Byzantine Empire to the north. Two missionaries, Saint Methodius and Saint Cyril developed an alphabet for the Slavic languages. Many Slavic languages, including Russian, are now written in what is called the Cyrillic alphabet.

4. What are two differences between the Eastern and Roman churches?

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As you read about the history of Constantinople, the leading city of the Byzantine Empire, take notes to answer questions about the timeline.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Question</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>527</td>
<td>Justinian becomes ruler of the eastern empire.</td>
<td>1. What did Justinian accomplish during his reign?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>537</td>
<td>Justinian completes building the Hagia Sophia.</td>
<td>2. How did the plague affect Constantinople?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>542</td>
<td>Deadly plague sweeps through Constantinople.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>674</td>
<td>Arab armies attack Constantinople.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>860</td>
<td>Russians invade Constantinople for the first of three times.</td>
<td>3. How did the Byzantines first try to prop up their shaky empire?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1054</td>
<td>Christianity splits into the Roman Catholic Church in the west and the Orthodox Church in the east.</td>
<td>4. What factors led to the schism?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1204</td>
<td>Crusading knights from Europe pillage Constantinople.</td>
<td>5. What was the effect of the split?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1453</td>
<td>Constantinople falls to Ottoman Turks.</td>
<td>6. What factors enabled the city to survive foreign attacks for hundreds of years before finally falling?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Russian Empire

Terms and Names

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Slavs</th>
<th>People from the forests north of the Black Sea</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vladimir</td>
<td>Grandson of Olga who ordered all his subjects to adopt Christianity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yaroslav the Wise</td>
<td>Russian ruler who helped Kiev gain power and wealth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexander Nevsky</td>
<td>Russian noble who gained power in Moscow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ivan III</td>
<td>Moscow prince who led rebellion against Mongol rule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>czar</td>
<td>Russian emperor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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?

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

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?
Turkish Empires Rise in Anatolia

Terms and Names

Seljuks  Turkish group that migrated into the Abbasid Empire in the 10th century and later established their own empire
vizier  Prime minister in a Muslim kingdom or empire
Malik Shah  Famous Seljuk sultan

Before You Read

In the last section, you read about the growth of Russia.
In this section, you will learn about the Turks in Anatolia.

As You Read

Use a chart to show important events and features of the various occupations of Baghdad.

THE RISE OF THE TURKS

(Pages 314–315)

Who were the Seljuk Turks?

The Turks were nomads from central Asia. They lived by herding sheep and goats. They traded with the settled peoples of the Abbasid Empire.

Beginning in the 900s, they moved into the lands of that empire and began converting to Islam.

The Turks were fierce and highly skilled fighters. The rulers of the empire began to buy them as children to train them for their armies. These Turkish military slaves were known as mamelukes. The Turks became an important political factor in the empire. Turkish soldiers many times removed caliphs from the throne in Baghdad and put new rulers in their place.

While the Turkish influence was growing, the empire itself was shrinking. Local leaders in several areas split off to establish their own states. In 945, a Persian army seized control of the empire. Members of the Abbasid family continued to hold the position of caliph and act as religious leaders. The new rulers of the government were from outside the dynasty. They were called sultans.

Large numbers of Turks settled in the empire as these changes took place. They were called Seljuks after the name of the family that led them. In 1055, the Seljuks captured Baghdad and took control of the government. The Seljuks used their force to take land from another empire—the Byzantine Empire. They won almost all of Anatolia. Anatolia was the name for the peninsula where modern Turkey is located. In this position, the Seljuks stood almost at the gates of Constantinople.

The Seljuks relied on the government experience of Persians in ruling their empire. They chose the Persian city of Isfahan as the capital of their kingdom.
They gave Persians important positions in the government. For example, Nizam al-Mulk was a Persian who served as vizier, or prime minister. In return, Persians became loyal supporters of Turkish rule.

The Turks also adopted Persian culture. The nomadic Seljuk Turks had arrived in Southwest Asia as basically illiterate. They were not familiar with the traditions of Islam, which they had just adopted. They looked to Persian scholars to teach them the proper way to follow Islam. They began to use the Persian language for art and education. Turkish rulers even took the Persian word for “king”—shah—as their title.

One of the greatest Seljuk rulers, Malik Shah, became a patron of the arts. He made the capital city more beautiful by building many mosques, or Muslim houses of worship. Persian became so important that Arabic—the language of the Qur’an—almost died out in Seljuk lands.

1. What influence did Persians and Persian culture have on the Seljuks?

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________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

SELJUKS CONFRONT CRUSADERS AND MONGOLS (Pages 316–317)

Why did the Seljuk Empire collapse?

After Malik Shah died unexpectedly in 1092, the Seljuk Empire collapsed quickly. Weak rulers could not maintain it. Collapse was also due to the Crusades. Rulers in western Europe sent armies to capture the holy lands of the Middle East. These were places sacred to Christians.

The First Crusade began in 1095, and the Christian armies captured Jerusalem. They established a Latin Kingdom that lasted about a century. Eventually, the Turks gathered enough strength to fight back. They retook the city in 1187.

Just when the Crusades became less of a threat to the Muslim world, the Mongols moved in from the east. They were led by a brutal leader, Genghis Khan. They killed tens of thousands of people and overran huge stretches of territory. Baghdad was captured in 1258. The Mongols killed the last caliph and took control of the government from the Seljuk Turks.

2. What brought the Seljuk Empire to an end?

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________________________________________________________________________
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________________________________________________________________________
As you read about the rise and decline of the Turkish Empire in Anatolia, make notes in the chart to describe the outcome of each action or situation.

1. In 945, Persian armies move into Baghdad.

2. In the tenth century, large numbers of Turks known as Seljuks migrate into the Abbasid Empire.

3. The Seljuks march on the Byzantine Empire.

4. The Seljuks choose a Persian city, Isfahan, as their capital city.

5. The Turks adopt Persian as the language of culture and adopt features of the Persian way of life.

6. Malik Shah, the last of the strong Seljuk leaders, dies.

7. The Seljuks fight back against the Crusaders after a century of domination.

8. Further Crusades occur, but each is weaker than the last one.
A. Terms and Names If the statement is true, write “true” on the line. If it is false, change the underlined word or words to make it true.

Example: Emperor Constantine rebuilt the city of Byzantium and named it Constantinople. ___________________________true________________________

Example: Justinian sent an army under Belisarius to recover North Africa from the Ostrogoths. ___________________________Vandals________________________

1. An icon is a religious doctrine. ____________________________________________

2. The religious dispute over icons prompted the pope to excommunicate, or ban from the Church, a Byzantine emperor. ____________________________________________

3. In the Roman Catholic Church, the patriarch and other bishops head the church as a group. ____________________________________________

4. The Justinian Code is a four-part body of law created during the reign of the emperor Justinian. ____________________________________________

5. Built during the reign of Justinian, the Hagia Sophia was intended to be the world’s most beautiful palace. ____________________________________________

6. In 1054, a solution was found to the conflicts between the Roman Catholic Church in the West and the Orthodox Church in the East, which was to merge the churches. ____________________________________________

7. The Cyrillic alphabet is named after St. Cyril, who invented it so that Slavic peoples could read the Bible in their own languages. ____________________________________________

B. Extended Response Briefly answer the following question on the back of this paper.

Identify two words or phrases you would use to describe Byzantine culture and explain your choices.
A. Terms and Names  Write the letter of the term or name that best answers the question.  A term may be used more than once or not at all.

a. Olga  
b. czar  
c. Ivan III  
d. Slavs  
e. boyars  
f. Vikings  
g. Mongols  
h. Vladimir  
i. Yaroslav the Wise  
j. Alexander Nevsky

1. Which prince of Moscow led the Russians to freedom from the Mongols?  
2. Which people attacked and demolished Kiev?  
3. Which term is the title of the Russian emperor and is the Russian version of the term Caesar?  
4. Which people came from the forest region north of the Black Sea?  
5. Which group of invaders probably founded Novgorod and later settled in Kiev?  
6. Who created a legal code for Kiev that emphasized and protected property and commerce?  
7. Who was the first member of the Kievan nobility to convert to Christianity?  
8. Under which Kievan ruler did all of the citizens of Kiev convert to Byzantine Christianity?  
9. Which Russian prince and military hero advised his fellow princes to cooperate with the Mongols?  
10. Which people’s traditions were combined with those of the Greek Byzantines to provide the foundation for Russian culture?

B. Extended Response  Briefly answer the following question on the back of this paper.

How did Kiev and Moscow each come to dominate Russia at different points in history?
A. Terms and Names  Write the letter of the best answer.

1. The Abbasids were rulers of the
   a. Seljuk Empire.
   b. Persian Empire.
   c. Muslim Empire.
   d. Turkish Empire.

2. Which of the following is true of the mamelukes?
   a. They were Persians.
   b. They were originally slaves.
   c. They were trained as merchants.
   d. They were of little value to the Abbasids.

3. In 945, when the Persians conquered Baghdad, the power to govern was assigned to the
   a. vizier.
   b. sultan.
   c. caliph.
   d. mamelukes.

4. Seljuk culture was influenced most by
   a. Arabic culture.
   b. Jewish culture.
   c. Persian culture.
   d. Mongolian culture.

5. In the Seljuk Empire, the vizier was a type of
   a. political leader.
   b. military leader.
   c. religious leader.
   d. royal bodyguard.

6. Malik Shah was the last strong, effective
   a. Seljuk leader.
   b. Abbasid caliph.
   c. Persian general.
   d. Mongol warrior.

B. Extended Response  Briefly answer the following question on the back of this paper.

How did the Seljuks build their empire, and what led to its fall?