

Byzantines, Russians, and Turks Interact, 500–1500

Previewing Main Ideas

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?*

INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGY

eEdition

- Interactive Maps
- Interactive Visuals
- Interactive Primary Sources



INTERNET RESOURCES

Go to classzone.com for:

- Research Links
- Internet Activities
- Primary Sources
- Chapter Quiz
- Maps
- Test Practice
- Current Events

CENTRAL
ASIA

500

700

900

527

Justinian becomes ruler of Byzantine Empire. ▶



850s

Byzantine culture spreads to Russia.

690

Empress Wu Zhao assumes throne in China.

771

Charlemagne becomes ruler of Frankish Kingdom in Europe.

WORLD



Three Empires: Byzantine, Russian, Seljuk, c. 1100



1240
Mongols destroy Kiev.
(Mongolian archer on horseback)



1453
Constantinople falls to Ottoman Turks.

1100

1300

1500



1095
Pope Urban II (shown addressing the bishops of France) launches the first Crusade.

1347
Bubonic plague devastates Europe.

1502
Montezuma II takes charge of the Aztec Empire in modern-day Mexico.

How will you expand your empire?

You are the new ruler of the Byzantine Empire. Through expansion, you hope to make the empire even greater. Military conquest is an option, as shown here in a painting of a Turkish invasion of India. Your diplomats might persuade other groups to join you. You also know that rulers of several countries outside your empire would like to see their sons or daughters marry into your family. Now you must consider the best way to enlarge your empire.



EXAMINING *the* ISSUES

- **What are the benefits and drawbacks of a military conquest?**
- **Why might you choose diplomacy, or intermarriage with an outside ruling family?**

As a class, discuss the various ways to expand an empire. What option or options will you choose? Explain your decision. As you read the chapter, think about how empires expand.



The Byzantine Empire

MAIN IDEA

RELIGIOUS AND ETHICAL SYSTEMS After Rome split, the Eastern Empire, known as Byzantium, flourished for a thousand years.

WHY IT MATTERS NOW

Byzantine culture deeply influenced Orthodox Christianity, a major branch of modern Christianity.

TERMS & NAMES

- Justinian
- Justinian Code
- Hagia Sophia
- patriarch
- icon
- excommunication
- Cyrillic alphabet

SETTING THE STAGE As you learned in Chapter 6, the Western Roman Empire crumbled in the fifth century as it was overrun by invading Germanic tribes. By this time, however, the once great empire had already undergone significant changes. It had been divided into western and eastern empires, and its capital had moved east from Rome to the Greek city of Byzantium. The city would become known as Constantinople after the emperor Constantine, who made it the new capital in A.D. 330. (Byzantium would remain as the name of the entire Eastern Empire.) For nearly a thousand years after the collapse of the Western Empire, Byzantium and its flourishing capital would carry on the glory of Rome.

A New Rome in a New Setting

Roman leaders had divided the empire in 395, largely due to difficulties in communications between the eastern and the troubled western parts of the empire. Still, rulers in the East continued to see themselves as emperors for all of Rome.

In 527, a high-ranking Byzantine nobleman named **Justinian** succeeded his uncle to the throne of the Eastern Empire. In an effort to regain Rome's fading glory, Justinian in 533 sent his best general, Belisarius (beh-luh-SAIR-ee-uhs), to recover North Africa from the invading Germanic tribes. Belisarius and his forces quickly succeeded.

Two years later, Belisarius attacked Rome and seized it from a group known as the Ostrogoths. But the city faced repeated attacks by other Germanic tribes.

Over the next 16 years, Rome changed hands six times. After numerous campaigns, Justinian's armies won nearly all of Italy and parts of Spain. Justinian now ruled almost all the territory that Rome had ever ruled. He could honestly call himself a new Caesar.

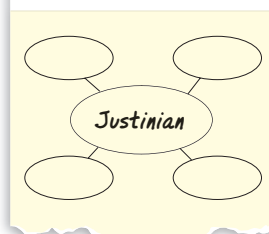
Like the last of the old Caesars, the Byzantine emperors ruled with absolute power. They headed not just the state but the church as well. They appointed and dismissed bishops at will. Their politics were brutal—and often deadly. Emperors lived under constant risk of assassination. Of the 88 Byzantine emperors, 29 died violently, and 13 abandoned the throne to live in monasteries.

▼ A glittering cross from the 11th century, Byzantine Empire



TAKING NOTES

Clarifying Use a cluster diagram to show Justinian's accomplishments as emperor of the New Rome.



Life in the New Rome

A separate government and difficult communications with the West gave the Byzantine Empire its own character, different from that of the Western Empire. The citizens thought of themselves as sharing in the Roman tradition, but few spoke Latin anymore. Most Byzantines spoke Greek.

Having unified the two empires, Justinian set up a panel of legal experts to regulate Byzantium's increasingly complex society. The panel combed through 400 years of Roman law. It found a number of laws that were outdated and contradictory. The panel created a single, uniform code known as the **Justinian Code**. After its completion, the code consisted of four works.

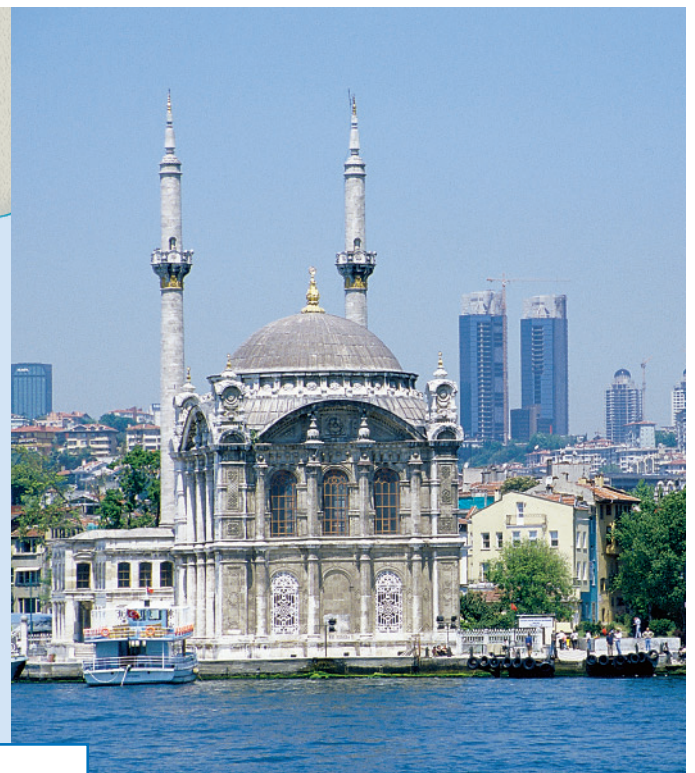
1. The *Code* contained nearly 5,000 Roman laws that were still considered useful for the Byzantine Empire.
2. The *Digest* quoted and summarized the opinions of Rome's greatest legal thinkers about the laws. This massive work ran to a total of 50 volumes.
3. The *Institutes* was a textbook that told law students how to use the laws.
4. The *Novellae* (New Laws) presented legislation passed after 534.

The Justinian Code decided legal questions that regulated whole areas of Byzantine life. Marriage, slavery, property, inheritance, women's rights, and criminal justice were just some of those areas. Although Justinian himself died in 565, his code served the Byzantine Empire for 900 years.

Creating the Imperial Capital While his scholars were creating the legal code, Justinian launched the most ambitious public building program ever seen in the Roman world. He rebuilt the crumbling fortifications of Constantinople, as workers constructed a 14-mile stone wall along the city's coastline and repaired the massive fortifications along its western land border.

Vocabulary

A *code* is a general system of laws, and it stems from the Latin word *codex*, meaning "book."



GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Maps

Human-Environment Interaction What aspects of Constantinople might slow an invasion from the west?

▲ The Ortakoy Mosque towers above modern-day Constantinople, now called Istanbul.

MAIN IDEA

Analyzing Motives

A Why do you think governments so often build magnificent buildings like Hagia Sophia?

Church building, however, was the emperor's greatest passion. Justinian viewed churches as the most visible sign of the close connection between church and state in his empire. The crowning glory of his reign was **Hagia Sophia** (HAY•ee•uh soh•FEE•uh), which means "Holy Wisdom" in Greek. A church of the same name had been destroyed in riots that swept Constantinople in 532. When Justinian rebuilt Hagia Sophia, many visitors hailed it as the most splendid church in the Christian world. **A**

As part of his building program, Justinian enlarged his palace into a vast complex. He also built baths, aqueducts, law courts, schools, and hospitals. By the time the emperor was finished, the city teemed with an almost visible excitement.

Beneath such excitement, a less obvious but vitally important activity took place: the preservation of Greco-Roman culture. Byzantine families valued education—specifically classical learning. Basic courses for Byzantine students focused on Greek and Latin grammar, and philosophy. The classics of Greek and Roman literature served as textbooks. Students memorized Homer. They learned geometry from Euclid, history from Herodotus, and medicine from Galen. The modern world owes Byzantine scholars a huge debt for preserving many of the great works of Greece and Rome.

Constantinople's Hectic Pace The main street running through Constantinople was the Mese (MEHS•ee), or "Middle Way." Merchant stalls lined the main street and filled the side streets. Products from the most distant corners of Asia, Africa, and Europe passed through these stalls. Everywhere, food stands filled the air with the smell of their delicacies, while acrobats and street musicians performed.

Meanwhile, citizens could enjoy free entertainment at the Hippodrome, which offered wild chariot races and performance acts. The Hippodrome (from Greek words meaning "horse" and "racecourse") held 60,000 spectators. Fans of the different teams formed rowdy gangs named for the colors worn by their heroes.

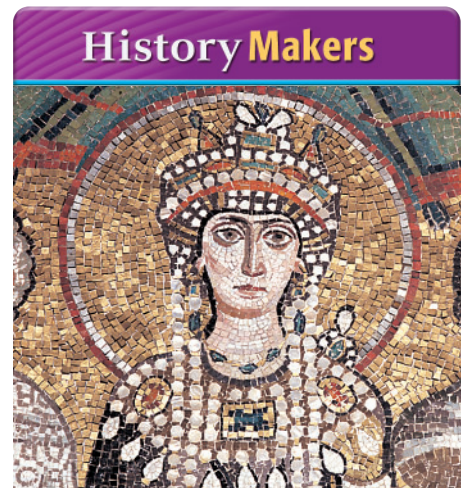
In 532, two such fan groups sparked citywide riots called the Nika Rebellion (because the mob cried "Nika!" or "Victory!"). Both sides were angry with the government. They felt that city officials had been too severe in putting down a previous riot of Hippodrome fans. They packed the Hippodrome and demanded the overthrow of Justinian. Belisarius, however, broke in with his troops and slaughtered about 30,000 rebels.

Justinian had considered fleeing during the Nika Rebellion, but his wife, Theodora, urged him to stay. As her husband's steely adviser, Theodora had immense power. She rallied Justinian to remain in the capital with a fiery speech:

PRIMARY SOURCE

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, quoted by Procopius in *History of the Wars*



Empress Theodora 500–548

The most powerful woman in Byzantine history rose from deep poverty. Early in life, Theodora was an actress. Eventually, she met Justinian, and in 525, they married.

As empress, Theodora met with foreign envoys, wrote to foreign leaders, passed laws, and built churches. During one political crisis, Theodora even confiscated the property of the general Belisarius. After she died in 548, Justinian was so depressed that he passed no major laws for the rest of his reign.

INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGY

RESEARCH LINKS For more on Empress Theodora, go to classzone.com

The Empire Falls

After Justinian's death in 565, the empire suffered countless setbacks. There were street riots, religious quarrels, palace intrigues, and foreign dangers. Each time the empire moved to the edge of collapse, it found some way to revive—only to face another crisis.

The Plague of Justinian The first crisis actually began before Justinian's death. It was a disease that resembled what we now know as the bubonic plague. This horrifying illness hit Constantinople in the later years of Justinian's reign. The plague probably arrived from India on ships infested with rats. Historians estimate that in 542, the worst year of the plague, 10,000 people were dying every day. The illness broke out repeatedly until around 700, when it finally faded. By that time, it had destroyed a huge percentage of the Byzantine population. **B**

Attacks from East and West From the very start of its rise to power, Byzantium faced constant challenges from foreign enemies. Lombards overran Justinian's conquests in the west. Avars, Slavs, and Bulgars made frequent raids on the northern borders. The powerful Sassanid Persians attacked relentlessly in the east. The Persians and Avars struck against Constantinople itself in 626. With the rise of Islam, Arab armies attacked the city in 674 and once again in 717. Russians attempted invasions of the city three times between 860 and 1043. In the 11th century, the Turks took over the Muslim world and fought their way slowly into Byzantine territory.

The Byzantines used bribes, diplomacy, political marriages, and military power to keep their enemies at bay. In the seventh century, Emperor Heraclius reorganized the empire along military lines. Provinces became themes, or military districts. Each theme was run by a general who reported directly to the emperor. These strategies, however, could not work forever. Slowly, the Byzantine Empire shrank under the impact of foreign attacks. By 1350, it was reduced to the tip of Anatolia and a strip of the Balkans. Yet thanks to its walls, its fleet, and its strategic location, Constantinople held out for another 100 years. Finally, the city fell to the Ottoman Turks in 1453.

The Church Divides

During the Byzantine Empire, Christianity underwent a dramatic development. Christianity had begun to develop differently in the Western and Eastern Roman Empires, due largely to the distance and lack of contact between the two regions. As the Eastern Empire became Byzantium and flourished, those differences grew and ultimately split apart the Church.

A Religious Split Eastern Christianity built its heritage on the works of early Church fathers. One was Saint Basil, who, around 357, wrote rules for the life of monks. Here, Saint Basil describes how monks and Christians should behave:

▼ Saint Basil



PRIMARY SOURCE **C**

The Christian should not be ostentatious [showy] in clothing or sandals, for all this is idle boasting. He should wear cheap clothes according to the need of the body. He should consume nothing beyond what is necessary or which tends to extravagance, for all this is abuse. He should not strive for honour nor always seek the first place. Each one should hold all men above himself. He should not be disobedient. . . . He should not be desirous of money, nor treasure up unnecessary things to no avail. He who approaches God ought to embrace poverty in all things, and be pierced with the fear of God.

SAINT BASIL, quoted in *The Letters*

MAIN IDEA

Making Inferences

B How might the plague have helped make Byzantium more vulnerable to foreign attack?

MAIN IDEA

Analyzing Primary Sources

C How might Saint Basil view a lavish and extravagant lifestyle?

> Analyzing Key Concepts

Roman Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy

Originally, Christianity had one church. Because of political conflicts and differences in belief, the western and eastern parts of the Christian Church split apart in 1054. The western church became the Roman Catholic Church, and the eastern church became the Eastern Orthodox Church.

Both churches believe in the gospel of Jesus and in the Bible as interpreted by their church. They also believe that God uses sacraments to convey his love to humans. Sacraments are visible signs of something sacred; for instance, the water used in baptism is a sign of God's power to cleanse people of sin. The Venn diagram below shows other similarities and differences.

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.

Leaders of the Two Churches



Pope John Paul II (right) is the supreme head of the Roman Catholic Church. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew (left) holds a slightly different position in the Orthodox Church. Eastern Orthodox churches pay him their highest honors because he heads the ancient Church of Constantinople, but they do not consider him their supreme authority.

INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGY


RESEARCH LINKS For more on Roman Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy, go to classzone.com

> DATA FILE

ROMAN CATHOLIC AND EASTERN ORTHODOX DATA

- U.S. state with highest percentage of Roman Catholics: Rhode Island, 51 percent.
2001 American Religious Identification Survey by Graduate Center of City University of New York
- U.S. states with highest percentage of Eastern Orthodox: New Hampshire and New Jersey, 0.90 percent each.
1990 National Survey of Religious Identification
- Vatican City is an independent state located in Rome, Italy. The Roman Catholic Church claims more than a billion members worldwide.
Concise Columbia Encyclopedia, third edition; www.adherents.com
- The largest of the Eastern Orthodox churches is the Russian Orthodox Church. It claims 90 million members worldwide.
www.adherents.com
- In 2001, the world region with the largest population of Roman Catholics: Latin America, 466,226,000
Encyclopaedia Britannica Book of the Year 2002
- In 2001, the world region with the largest population of Eastern Orthodox members: Europe, 158,375,000
Encyclopaedia Britannica Book of the Year 2002

Connect to Today

- 1. Forming and Supporting Opinions**
What do you think was the most important issue dividing the two churches? Explain your answer.
 See Skillbuilder Handbook, page R20.
- 2. Making Predictions** Do you think the schism between the Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church will ever be healed and the two churches reunited? Why or why not?

Another significant figure was Saint John Chrysostom (KRIHS•uhs•tuhm). As bishop of Constantinople from 398 to 404, Chrysostom was the **patriarch** (PAY•tree•AHRK), or leading bishop of the East. But even the patriarch bowed to the emperor.

A controversy that tested the emperor's authority over religious matters broke out in the eighth century. In 730, Emperor Leo III banned the use of **icons**, religious images used by Eastern Christians to aid their devotions. The emperor viewed the use of icons as idol worship. People responded with riots, and the clergy rebelled.

In the West, the pope became involved in this eastern dispute and supported the use of icons. One pope even ordered the **excommunication** of a Byzantine emperor—that is, he declared the emperor to be an outcast from the Church. In 843, more than 100 years after the controversy began, Empress Theodora restored icons to Eastern churches.

Differences between the Eastern and Western churches, continued to grow. In 1054, matters came to a head when the pope and the patriarch excommunicated each other in a dispute over religious doctrine. Shortly afterward, Christianity officially split between the Roman Catholic Church in the West and the Orthodox Church in the East.

Byzantine Missionaries Convert the Slavs As West and East grew apart, the two traditions of Christianity competed for converts. Missionaries from the Orthodox Church, for example, took their form of Christianity to the Slavs, groups that inhabited the forests north of the Black Sea. Two of the most successful Eastern missionaries, Saint Methodius and Saint Cyril (SEER•uhl), worked among the Slavs in the ninth century. Cyril and Methodius invented an alphabet for the Slavic languages. With an alphabet, Slavs would be able to read the Bible in their own tongues. Many Slavic languages, including Russian, are now written in what is called the **Cyrillic** (suh•RIHL•ihk) **alphabet**.

As these missionaries carried out their work, the Slavs themselves were creating a culture that would form one of history's most influential countries: Russia.



▲ (top) An 11th-century silver chalice displays the Cyrillic alphabet. (bottom) A closeup of the alphabet reveals its likeness to English.

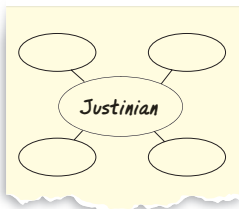
SECTION **1** ASSESSMENT

TERMS & NAMES 1. For each term or name, write a sentence explaining its significance.

- Justinian
- Justinian Code
- Hagia Sophia
- patriarch
- icon
- excommunication
- Cyrillic alphabet

USING YOUR NOTES

2. In your opinion, was Justinian a great leader? Why or why not?



MAIN IDEAS

3. How did the Byzantines help to preserve Greco-Roman culture?
4. What various methods did the Byzantines use to hold off their enemies?
5. Why did Eastern Christians rebel against Emperor Leo III in 730?

CRITICAL THINKING & WRITING

6. **FORMING AND SUPPORTING OPINIONS** Do you agree or disagree with the characterization of Justinian as a new Caesar? Why?
7. **ANALYZING MOTIVES** Why do you think Justinian decided the time had come to reform Roman law?
8. **DRAWING CONCLUSIONS** Why do you think the Justinian Code lasted so long?
9. **WRITING ACTIVITY** **RELIGIOUS AND ETHICAL SYSTEMS**
Imagine you are a Byzantine missionary attempting to convert a group of Slavs. Write a **speech** that you would give to the group in order to sway them.

CONNECT TO TODAY CREATING A LIST

Locate the Cyrillic alphabet and make a **list** of what, if any, letters resemble their English counterparts. Discuss with the class why this might be.



2

The Russian Empire

MAIN IDEA

EMPIRE BUILDING Russia grew out of a blending of Slavic and Byzantine cultures and adopted Eastern Orthodox traditions.

WHY IT MATTERS NOW

Early Russia was separated from the West, leading to a difference in culture that still exists today.

TERMS & NAMES

- Slavs
- Vladimir
- Yaroslav the Wise
- Alexander Nevsky
- Ivan III
- czar

SETTING THE STAGE In addition to sending its missionaries to the land of the **Slavs** during the ninth century, Byzantium actively traded with its neighbors to the north. Because of this increased interaction, the Slavs began absorbing many Greek Byzantine ways. It was this blending of Slavic and Greek traditions that eventually produced Russian culture.

Russia's Birth

Russia's first unified territory originated west of the Ural Mountains in the region that runs from the Black Sea to the Baltic Sea. Hilly grasslands are found in the extreme south of that area. The north, however, is densely forested, flat, and swampy. Slow-moving, interconnecting rivers allow boat travel across these plains in almost any direction. Three great rivers, the Dnieper (NEE•puhr), the Don, and the Volga, run from the heart of the forests to the Black Sea or the Caspian Sea. (See the map on page 308.)

In the early days of the Byzantine Empire, these forests were inhabited by tribes of Slavic farmers and traders. They spoke similar languages but had no political unity. Sometime in the 800s, small bands of adventurers came down among them from the north. These Varangians, or Rus as they were also called, were most likely Vikings. (The name "Russia" is taken from this group.) Eventually, these Vikings built forts along the rivers and settled among the Slavs.

Slavs and Vikings Russian legends say the Slavs invited the Viking chief Rurik to be their king. So in 862, he founded Novgorod (NAHV•guh•rahd), Russia's first important city. That account is given in *The Primary Chronicle*, a history of Russia written by monks in the early 1100s. Around 880, a nobleman from Novgorod named Oleg moved south to Kiev (KEE•ehf), a city on the Dnieper River. From Kiev, the Vikings could sail by river and sea to Constantinople. There they could trade for products from distant lands.

Kiev grew into a principality, a small state ruled by a prince. As it did, the Viking nobles intermarried with their Slavic subjects and adopted many aspects of Slavic culture. Gradually, the line between Slavs and Vikings vanished.

Kiev Becomes Orthodox In 957, a member of the Kievan nobility, Princess Olga, paid a visit to Constantinople and publicly converted to Christianity. From 945 to 964, she governed Kiev until her son was old enough to rule. Her son

TAKING NOTES

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

Nobles	Church
People	Moscow Princes

The Viking Invasions of Eastern Europe, 820-941



resisted Christianity. However, soon after Olga's grandson **Vladimir** (VLAD•uh•meer) 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 told quite a different story:

PRIMARY SOURCE

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*

This report convinced Vladimir to convert to Byzantine Christianity and to make all his subjects convert, too. In 989, a baptism of all the citizens of Kiev was held in the Dnieper River. Kiev, already linked to Byzantium by trade, now looked to the empire for religious guidance. Vladimir imported teachers to instruct the people in the new faith. All the beliefs and traditions of Orthodox Christianity flourished in Kiev. Vladimir appreciated the Byzantine idea of the

emperor as supreme ruler of the Church. So the close link between Church and state took root in Russia as well. **A**

MAIN IDEA

Analyzing Motives

A Why might Vladimir think it important that all his subjects become Christian?

GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Maps

- Human-Environment Interaction** Which geographical feature of Russia did Vikings use to further their invasions?
- Human-Environment Interaction** Besides east, what was the other basic direction taken by Vikings in their Eastern European invasions? Why do you think they chose to invade in that direction?

Kiev's Power and Decline

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.

Kievan Russia Vladimir led the way in establishing Kiev's power. He expanded his state west into Poland and north almost to the Baltic Sea. He also fought off troublesome nomads from the steppes to the south.

In 1019, Vladimir's son **Yaroslav the Wise** came to the throne and led Kiev to even greater glory. Like the rulers of Byzantium, Yaroslav skillfully married off his daughters and sisters to the kings and princes of Western Europe. Those marriages helped him to forge important trading alliances. At the same time, he created a legal code tailored to Kiev's commercial culture. Many of its rules dealt with crimes against property. Yaroslav also built the first library in Kiev. Under his rule, Christianity prospered. By the 12th century, Kiev was home to some 400 churches.

Kiev's Decline 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. The Crusades—the numerous clashes between Christians and Muslims for control of the Holy Lands of the Middle East that began in 1095—added to Kiev's troubles by disrupting trade. Then, just when it seemed that things could not get worse, a new threat emerged.

The Mongol Invasions

In the middle 1200s, a ferocious group of horsemen from central Asia slashed their way into Russia. These nomads were the Mongols. (See Chapter 12.) They had exploded onto the world scene at the beginning of the 1200s under Genghis Khan (JEHNG•gihs KAHN), 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's 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; and *Horde*, from the Mongol word for “camp.”

Mongol Rule in Russia Under Mongol rule, the Russians could follow all their usual customs, as long as they made no attempts to rebel. As fierce as they were, the Mongols tolerated all the religions in their realms. The Church, in fact, often acted as a mediator between the Russian people and their Mongol rulers.

Vocabulary

Khan is the Mongol word for “ruler.”



GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Maps

- Location** About how many miles did the Khanate of the Golden Horde stretch from east to west?
- Region** What role might geography have played in the Delhi Sultanate's escape from Mongol rule?

> Analyzing Primary Sources

Resisting Mongol Rule

Although Russians by and large obeyed their Mongol rulers, pockets of resistance existed, shown by this 1259 diary entry of a resident of Novgorod.

PRIMARY SOURCE

The same winter the accursed raw-eating Tartars [Mongols], Berkai and Kasachik, came with their wives, and many others, and there was great tumult in Novgorod, and they did much evil in the province, taking contribution for the accursed Tartars. And the accursed ones began to fear death; they said to [Prince] Alexander: 'Give us guards, lest they kill us.' And the Knayz ordered the son of Posadnik and all the sons of the Boyars to protect them by night. The Tartars said: 'Give us your numbers for tribute or we will run away and return in greater strength!' And the common people would not give their numbers for tribute but said: 'Let us die honourably for St. Sophia and for the angelic houses.'

Resident of Novgorod, from *Medieval Russia*

Rebelling Against the Mongols

Resistance against Mongol rule occasionally broke out into open rebellion, as this account from an anti-Mongol uprising in Tver in 1327 indicates.

PRIMARY SOURCE

The lawless Shevkal, the destroyer of Christianity, . . . came to Tver, drove the Grand Prince from his court and entrenched himself there with great haughtiness and violence. . . . The entire city assembled and the uprising was in the making. The Tverians cried out and began to kill the Tartars wherever they found them until they killed Shevkal and the rest [of his men]. They missed killing the messengers who were with the horses that grazed in the meadow [outside the city]. They [the messengers] saddled their best horses and swiftly galloped to Moscow and from there to the [Golden] Horde, where they brought the news of the death of Shevkal.

Tver Eyewitness Account, from *Medieval Russia*

DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTIONS

- 1. Comparing** *In what way did the reasons for the uprisings in Novgorod and Tver differ?*
- 2. Making Predictions** *Based on what you have read about the Mongols, what do you think their response was to the above events of resistance and rebellion?*

The Mongols demanded just two things from Russians: absolute obedience and massive amounts of tribute, or payments. By and large, the Russian nobles agreed. Novgorod's prince and military hero **Alexander Nevsky**, for example, advised his fellow princes to cooperate with the Mongols. The Russian nobles often crushed revolts against the Mongols and collected oppressive taxes for the foreign rulers.

Mongol rule isolated the Russians more than ever from their neighbors in Western Europe. This meant that among other things, the Russians had little access to many new ideas and inventions. During this period, however, forces were at work that eventually would lead to the rise of a new center of power in the country, and to Russia's liberation.

Russia Breaks Free

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. **B**

Moscow's Powerful Princes A line of Russian princes eventually emerged on the scene who would do just that. 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."

MAIN IDEA

Analyzing Issues

B What about Moscow's location was significant?

History Makers



Ivan III
1440–1505

Those around him often viewed Ivan as cold, calculating, and ruthless. This may have been due in part to a difficult upbringing. Ivan came of age during a time of great civil strife in Russia. His father, Grand Prince Vasili II, was at one point imprisoned and blinded by opposition forces.

Ivan's cautious and calculating style drew criticism from Russians eager for more bold and swift action against the Mongols. Even a close aide questioned his tactics. "Would you surrender Russia to fire and sword?" he asked the prince. After Russian forces won the standoff at the Ugra River, however, such criticism turned to praise.

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.

An Empire Emerges The Russian state would become a genuine empire during the long, 43-year reign of **Ivan III**. Upon becoming the prince of Moscow, Ivan openly challenged Mongol rule. He took the name **czar** (zahr), the Russian version of Caesar, and publicly claimed his intent to make Russia the "Third Rome." (The title "czar" became official only during the reign of Ivan IV.)

In 1480, Ivan made a final break with the Mongols. After he refused to pay his rulers further tribute, Russian and Mongol armies faced each other at the Ugra River, about 150 miles southwest of Moscow. However, neither side advanced to fight. So, after a time, both armies turned around and marched home. Russians have traditionally marked this bloodless standoff as their liberation from Mongol rule. After this liberation, the czars could openly pursue an empire.

Such a defeat for the Mongols would have seemed impossible nearly two centuries earlier, as they pushed west from present-day China and crushed nearly everything in their path. One of the peoples whom they conquered back then was a new group that had risen to power in Central Asia—the Turks.

SECTION 2 ASSESSMENT

TERMS & NAMES 1. For each term or name, write a sentence explaining its significance.

- Slavs
- Vladimir
- Yaroslav the Wise
- Alexander Nevsky
- Ivan III
- czar

USING YOUR NOTES

2. Which group fared the worst under Mongol rule?

Nobles	Church
People	Moscow Princes

MAIN IDEAS

3. How did Yaroslav's decision to divide his realm among his sons help cause Kiev's decline?
4. What main demands did the Mongols make on their Russian subjects?
5. How did Ivan III lead the Russians to their independence from the Mongols?

CRITICAL THINKING & WRITING

6. **RECOGNIZING EFFECTS** How did Vladimir's conversion to Christianity affect Kiev?
7. **FORMING AND SUPPORTING OPINIONS** Do you approve of Nevsky's cooperation with the Mongols? Was his policy practical or cowardly? Explain.
8. **ANALYZING ISSUES** How was Ivan I both friend and foe to the Mongol rulers?
9. **WRITING ACTIVITY** **EMPIRE BUILDING** Imagine you are a reporter for a major Russian newspaper. Write a **headline** and lead **paragraph** about Ivan III's standoff with Mongol forces at the Ugra River and its aftermath.

INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGY INTERNET ACTIVITY

Use the Internet to create a **photo gallery** of modern-day Moscow. Possible subjects include the city's architecture, street scenes, and people.

INTERNET KEYWORD

Moscow photos

Russian Religious Art and Architecture

Russian religious art follows an ancient tradition dating back to the early Church. At first, Christians feared that artwork showing people might lead to idol worship. Gradually, however, the Church came to accept the use of icons, or depictions of holy people. In the West, other types of art eventually replaced the icon, but the Eastern Orthodox Church still uses icons today.

Icons are painted according to strict rules. This approach also shaped other religious art in Russia. To construct a church or create a religious artifact was a sacred task, performed according to rigid guidelines. Art was not a form of self-expression.

INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGY

RESEARCH LINKS For more on religious art, go to classzone.com



▲ Cross and Illuminated Manuscript ►

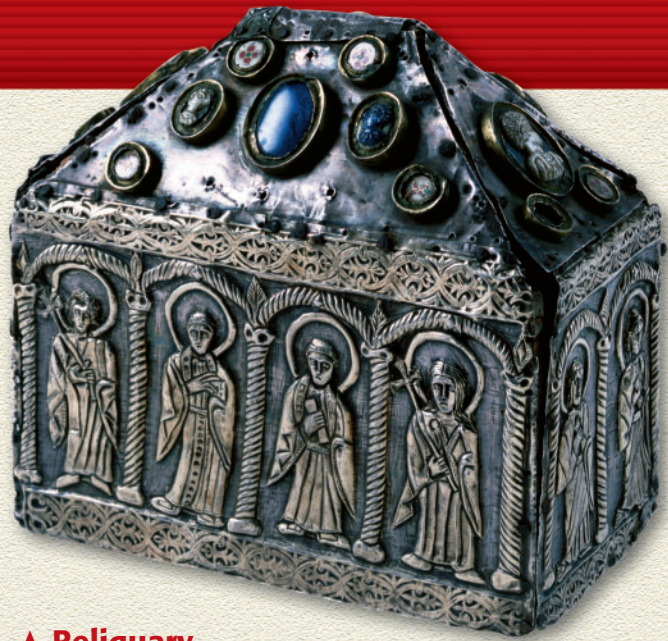
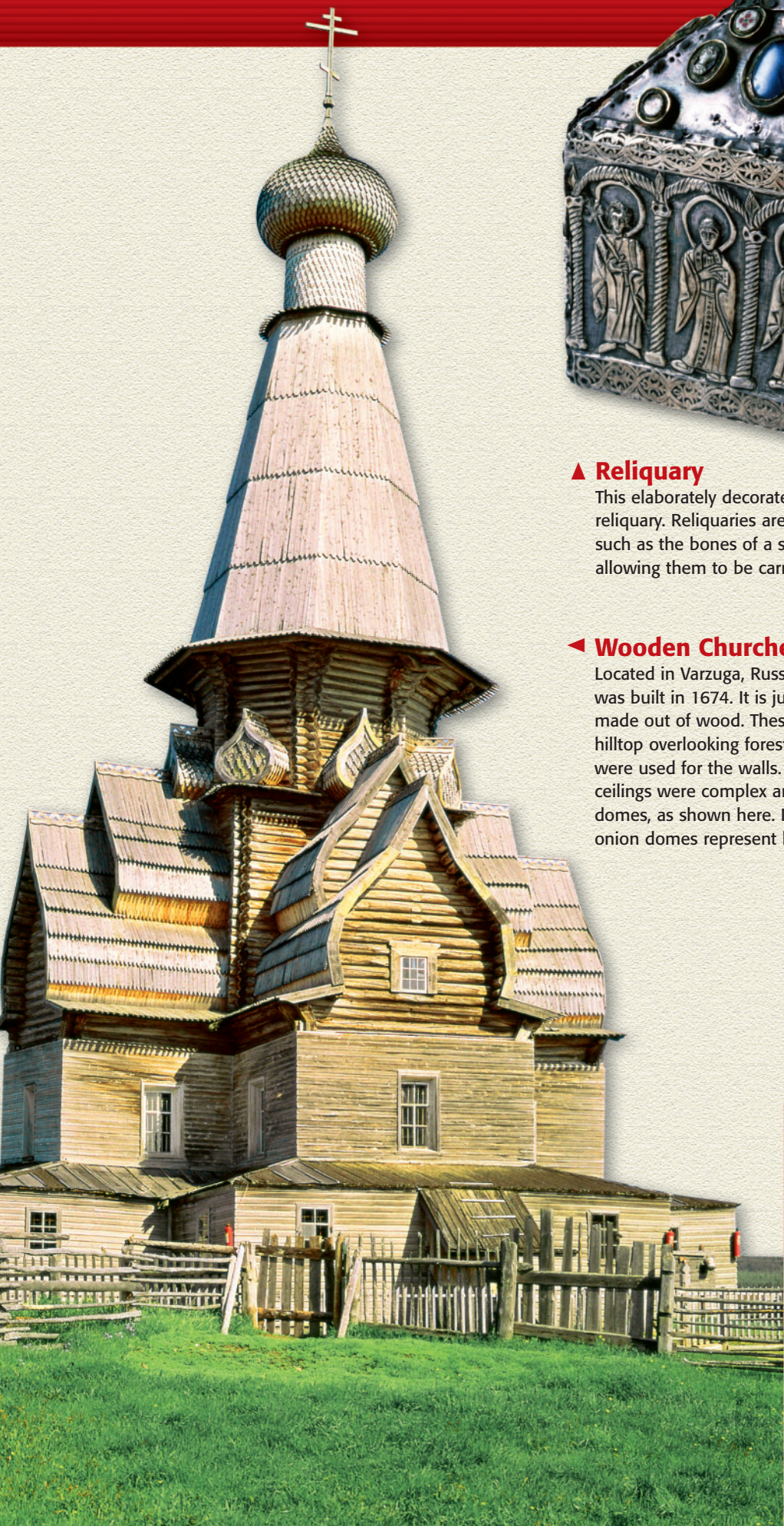
The cross above was carved from ivory and shows the Archangel Michael. In Christian belief, Michael is the leader of the heavenly hosts and a spiritual warrior who helped the Israelites. That is why he is often shown with a sword, as he is here.

The illuminated manuscript was made during the 15th century and shows a scribe writing out the Gospel. Illuminated manuscripts were handwritten books decorated with gold or silver, vivid colors, elaborate designs, and small pictures. The word *illumination* originally referred to the gold or silver decoration, which made the pages seem as if light were shining on them.

Icon ►

This 12th-century Russian icon is of the Archangel Gabriel. According to the Bible, Gabriel was the messenger who told the Virgin Mary that she would give birth to Jesus. In Orthodox churches, artists must follow certain rules when making icons. For example, icons are always two-dimensional because they are seen as windows through which worshipers can view heaven.





▲ Reliquary


This elaborately decorated silver chest is a Russian cathedral reliquary. Reliquaries are containers that hold sacred relics, such as the bones of a saint. Most reliquaries are portable, allowing them to be carried in processions.

◀ Wooden Churches

Located in Varzuga, Russia, the Church of the Dormition was built in 1674. It is just one of many churches in Russia made out of wood. These churches were often built on a hilltop overlooking forests and villages. Roughly cut logs were used for the walls. However, the designs of the ceilings were complex and included the use of onion domes, as shown here. In the Russian Orthodox Church, onion domes represent heaven.

Connect to Today

1. Making Inferences Why do you think the archangels Michael and Gabriel were popular subjects for Russian religious art?

 See Skillbuilder Handbook, Page R10.

2. Comparing and Contrasting What types of religious art are common in our society today? How are they similar to or different from the art on these two pages?



3

Turkish Empires Rise in Anatolia

MAIN IDEA

CULTURAL INTERACTION
Turkish people converted to Islam and founded new empires that would renew Muslim civilization.

WHY IT MATTERS NOW

In the 20th century, the collapse of the Turkish empire left ethnic and religious hostilities that still affect the world.

TERMS & NAMES

- Seljuks
- vizier
- Malik Shah

SETTING THE STAGE To the east of Constantinople and south of Russia, the mighty Muslim empire of the Abbasids had ruled since the eighth century. (See Chapter 10.) By the mid-tenth century, however, their control of the region would end as a powerful group known as the Turks emerged.

TAKING NOTES

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

Occupiers	Events
Abbasids	
Persians	
Seljuks	
Mongols	

The Rise of the Turks

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 to the new Persian ruler. It wasn't long, however, before the Persians themselves fell to a powerful group in the region.

The Conquering Seljuks 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 northeastern 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." Over time, Turkish military slaves, or mamelukes, became a powerful force in the Abbasid Empire.

In the tenth century, a growing number of Turks began converting to Islam and slowly migrating into the weakened Abbasid Empire. One of the first of these

migrating Turkish groups was known as the **Seljuks** (SEHL•JOOKS), 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. **A**

MAIN IDEA

Contrasting

A What advantages would a nomadic people like the Turks have in fighting settled people like the Persians or Byzantines?

The Turks Secure Persian Support 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 (IH•S•fuh•HAHN) 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 Nizam al-Mulk, for example, was a Persian who served as the **vizier**, or prime minister, of the most famous of 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. 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.

PRIMARY SOURCE

Burning with longing-fire,
wanting to sleep with my head on your doorsill,
my living is composed only of this trying
to be in your presence.

JALALUDIN RUMI, quoted in *Unseen Rain*

Seljuk shahs like the great Malik Shah took pride in supporting Persian artists and architects. Malik beautified the city of Isfahan, for example, by building many 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.

History Makers



Malik Shah 1055–1092

Malik Shah is thought to be the greatest of the Seljuk sultans. Among his achievements, he built the great mosque Masjed-i-Jame (shown above) in Isfahan. Malik also patronized intellectuals and artists like Omar Khayyam (OH•mahr ky•YAHM), who is most famous today for the *Rubaiyat* (ROO•bee•AHT). The *Rubaiyat* is a collection of poems describing the poet’s love of life’s pleasures. Omar also created a more accurate calendar for Malik.

Malik Shah was also capable of great cruelty. When his brother Takash revolted against him, Malik punished Takash by blinding him. Malik Shah died suddenly at the age of 37, possibly poisoned by his wife.

INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGY

RESEARCH LINKS For more on Malik Shah, go to classzone.com



▲ This drawing from an early 13th-century manuscript illustrates the Turkish siege of a city.

Seljuks Confront Crusaders and Mongols

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.

The Seljuks and the Crusaders Pope Urban II launched the First Crusade in 1095. He called on Christians to drive the Turks out of Anatolia and recover Jerusalem from Muslim rule. Armies from Western Europe soon poured through Constantinople and proceeded on to Palestine. In 1099, the Crusaders captured Jerusalem and massacred its Jewish and Muslim inhabitants. They established a Latin Christian kingdom that lasted about a century. **B**

Eventually, a fragment of the former Seljuk Empire gathered enough strength to fight back. Under their famous Kurdish captain Saladin, the Muslims recovered Jerusalem in 1187. Eventually, Saladin and his Western opponent King Richard I of England signed a truce. Their agreement gave Jerusalem to the Muslims but granted Western pilgrims access to Christian holy places.

Subsequent popes called for further Crusades. But each new military expedition proved weaker than the last. By the 13th century, the Western powers seemed to pose little problem for the Turks. It was around this time, however, that a new threat emerged from the east—the mighty and brutal Mongols.

Seljuks Face the Mongols As you have read 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 ruler 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's 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

MAIN IDEA

Summarizing

B Why did the Crusades take place?

Wassaf speaks to the Mongols' fierce and overwhelming fighting methods:

PRIMARY SOURCE

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 judgements 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 flaring 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*

When Hulagu finally took Baghdad, he burned down the caliph's palace and had tens of thousands of people killed. Mongol belief forbade the spilling of sacred blood. So Hulagu executed the last Abbasid caliph by having him wrapped in a carpet and trampled to death by horses.

With untold brutality, Genghis Khan and his successors shaped the biggest land empire in history. (See Chapter 12 for more about the Mongol Empire.) The warrior Mongols, however, knew little about administering their territory. As a result, their vast empire crumbled in just a few generations. And out of the rubble of the Mongol Empire rose another group of Turks—the Ottomans. They would build an empire that lasted into the 20th century. You will learn more about the Ottoman Empire in Chapter 18.



Turkey

Today, Turkey is a nation located between Europe and Asia just north of the Mediterranean Sea. About 80 percent of its residents are descendants of the Seljuks and other Turkish groups.

Turkey became a republic in 1923. Many of today's Turks, like their ancestors, practice Islam, as evidenced by the nation's flag (shown above). It depicts the crescent and the five-pointed star, the symbols of the Islamic faith.

INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGY

INTERNET ACTIVITY Write about a cultural practice in Turkey. Go to classzone.com for your research.

SECTION 3 ASSESSMENT

TERMS & NAMES 1. For each term or name, write a sentence explaining its significance.

- Seljuks
- vizier
- Malik Shah

USING YOUR NOTES

2. Which occupier proved to be the worst for Baghdad?

Occupiers	Events
Abbasids	
Persians	
Seljuks	
Mongols	

MAIN IDEAS

3. Why did the Seljuks need to seek religious guidance from the Persian peoples they had conquered?
4. How did the death of Malik Shah affect the Seljuk Empire?
5. What agreement did Saladin and England's King Richard I reach about Jerusalem?

CRITICAL THINKING & WRITING

6. **ANALYZING ISSUES** In what ways would it be accurate to say that the Persians actually won over the Turks?
7. **FORMING AND SUPPORTING OPINIONS** Do you think it is wise for rulers to place members of conquered peoples in positions of government? Why or why not?
8. **MAKING INFERENCES** Based on the observations by the Persian historian Wassaf, why do you think the Mongols were such successful conquerors?
9. **WRITING ACTIVITY** **CULTURAL INTERACTION** Write several paragraphs comparing the ways in which the different groups in this section interacted.

CONNECT TO TODAY CREATING A SUMMARY

Identify a modern-day Arab poet. Then analyze one of his or her works and write a brief **summary** that expresses its main idea.