AMSCO Chapter 7

Byzantine Empire and Kievan Rus

1. Byzantine Empire
2. Constantinople and parts of Mediterranean, North Africa, Spain, Italy, Greece, Balkans and Southwest Asia, then Rome
3. Strong stone walls protected against invaders
4. Byzantine government – highly centralized and bureaucratic
5. Justinian the Great – wife Empress Theodora, expanded Hagia Sophia, established Body of Civil Law (Justinian Code); eastward and westward expansion nearly bankrupted empire
6. Byzantium after Justinian – Bulgars seized Balkans, Germanic tribes took Italy, Arabs took Syria, Egypt and North Africa
7. Heraclius – Greek, not Latin, speaker; once again expanded to the East.
8. Leo III - regained much land taken by Muslims; policy of iconoclasm opposed worshipping of religious images and icons (influenced by Islam); this policy was opposed by monks and popes
9. Basil II – expanded territory
10. Religion – theocracy, no separation of church and state; emperor was also head of church; monasteries founded during 300-400s that provided help to the people, but NOT education (like in Western Europe)
11. Missionaries were sent abroad to convert
12. Missionary Cyril – created own alphabet in 863, based on Greek, eventually Cyrillic alphabet adopted by Russians and other Slavs of Easter Europe, helping spread Eastern Orthodox Church as well
13. Conflict with Rome – over icons, authority of the Pope, supremacy of Rome over Constantinople, led to Schism, or split, between Western Church in Rome and Eastern Church in Constantinople
14. Trade and Prosperity – geographically central link between Europe and China via Silk Roads; silk weaving became a huge industry, agriculture was strong, with workers tied to the land and a limit on how much land one person could own
15. Concentration of Wealth – most land in hands of a few people led to peasant revolts and refusal of large land owners to pay taxes, resulting in a weakening of the government
16. Free Peasant Revolts – free but not landowners, paid rent to landowners and worked for them, also paid taxes; when landowners tried to force them into forced peasant status, they revolted
17. The Arts – all religious in nature, God’s will and salvation, focused on Jesus, Mary and the saints; icons, mosaics, illuminated manuscripts
18. Education – all religious based, University of Constantinople founded in 850 trained bureaucrats and classical studies of Ancient Greece and Rome
19. Life in the City – lavish homes, huge churches, imperial palace, public baths, hippodrome (stadium); other Byzantine cities were Antioch, Thessalonica, Trebizond
20. Decline and Fall
21. Conflict on both eastern and western borders, plus wealthy refusing to pay taxes undermined government control
22. Seljuk Turks defeat Byzantine forces at Battle of Manzikert
23. Normans from France also fight and take over Italy
24. After asking Rome for help, Constantinople was attacked by Christian crusaders in the fourth crusade
25. In 1453 Ottoman Turks conquered Constantinople, ending Byzantine Empire
26. Slavic Peoples and the Origins of Russia
27. East Slavic (Ukraine and Russia), West Slavic (Poland, Slovak, and Czech), and South Slavic (Serbian, Croatian and Slovenian) groups emerged around 500 BCE and survived as hunter gatherers because the north was too cold and the south did not have fertile soil
28. Rise of Kievan Rus
29. East Slavs came into contact with Vikings, who took control of Dnieper River valley. Known as Rus, the Vikings settled in a city called Kiev, so Kievan Rus
30. Collection of city states that governed themselves and paid taxes to Grand Prince of Kiev, who ruled with a council of nobles called boyars.
31. Both prince and nobles were elected from the Viking military
32. Kiev Converts to Christianity
33. Byzantines wanted to convert Kievan Rus to eliminate a threat, but also to spread Eastern orthodoxy
34. Prince Vladimir I of Kievan Rus married sister of Byzantine emperor, converted to Christianity, with all his subjects, making it the official religion
35. Hundreds of Byzantine priests and scholars were sent to Kiev and Byzantine style churches were built
36. Some pagan traditions survived among peasants
37. Golden Age of Kievan Rus – 10th – 11th centuries had strong government and cohesive society
38. Slave Trade – sold honey, hides, fur, timber and slaves to Byzantines, which helped relieve food shortage; Kievan princes received gold in exchange
39. Decline of Kiev
40. Increased dependence of Constantinople hurt Kiev when routes were overrun by nomadic groups; also as Byzantine empire declined, so did Kiev
41. In 1240, Mongols conquered Kiev and controlled area for 250 years – Khanate of the Golden Horde, stayed on the steppes and collected taxes from the Russian princes of the forest
42. Novgorod – one of largest cities, founded by Viking Rurik in 10th century; became multicultural with Germans, Finns, Swedes and Slavs, population of 400,000; warmer climate during this time helped with farming, more food surplus and better trade.