Chapter 9 Reading Guide: Civilization in Eastern Europe: Byzantium and Orthodox Europe

Chapter Summary. In addition to the great civilizations of Asia and Africa forming during the postclassical period, two related, major civilizations formed in Europe. The Byzantine Empire, with its capital in the great city of Constantinople, was based in western Asia and southeastern Europe, and expanded into eastern Europe. The other was defined by the influence of Catholicism in western and central Europe. The Byzantine Empire, with territory in the Balkans, the Middle East, and the eastern Mediterranean, maintained very high levels of political, economic, and cultural life between 500 and 1450 C.E. The empire continued many Roman patterns and spread its Orthodox Christian civilization through most of eastern Europe, Belarus, Ukraine, and Russia. Catholic Christianity, without an imperial center, spread in western Europe. Two separate civilizations emerged from the differing Christian influences.

1. Why did Vladimir feel he had to choose a major religion for his people? Which religion did he choose and why?

2. Why was Vladimir’s decision important for the future of Russia and Europe?

THE BYZANTINE EMPIRE

3. What area/region did it include? What language did it use?

4. Why was this language beneficial?

5. Who was allowed to participate in the bureaucracy that had not during Roman times?

JUSTINIAN’S ACHIEVEMENTS

6. Who was the empire under the threat of?

7. Discuss some of Justinian’s achievements politically and socially

8. What helped to unify the empire, like it did during the Roman Empire?

9. What was the reason for raising taxes?

ARAB PRESSURE AND THE EMPIRE’S DEFENSES

10. What method was used to convert people in the Middle East to Christianity in the 600s?

11. What eventually threatened Byzantine holdings in the Middle East? What military means did they use?

12. Where did the burden of maintaining the empire fall, militarily and economically?

BYZANTINE SOCIETY AND POLITCS

13. Who was head of the church?

14. How do we know that women exerted more importance/power during the Byzantine empire?

15. Who served in the Byzantine bureaucracy? What did they have to be schooled in?
16. How were military recruited? Who was this similar to?

17. What new role did the Byzantine Empire take in the economy? Who did it mean to benefit and why? Whom did it hurt and why?

18. What kinds of artistic/architectural innovations came out of Byzantium?

19. What first major religious controversy arose in the 8th century (700s)? Why?

20. To what extent was the Byzantine empire tolerant of diversity? Provide evidence.

**THE SPLIT BETWEEN EAST AND WEST**

21. Complete the chart provided

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
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<tr>
<td>Head of church</td>
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<td>Priests celibacy</td>
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<td>Rituals</td>
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22. In 1054, what brought the differences between the East and West to a head?

**THE EMPIRE’S DECLINE**

23. What group of nomadic invaders hastened the decline and what united them?

24. What caused the biggest blow to the empire’s economy?

25. When did Constantinople fall to the Turks?

**THE SPREAD OF CIVILIZATION IN EASTERN EUROPE**

26. Who spread Christianity north?

27. Why are Cyril and Methodius important and what made the spread of Orthodox Christianity successful in its spread north?
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THE EMERGENCE OF KIEVAN RUS’
28. What ethnic group of people settled this area of Eastern Europe and briefly describe their political and cultural tradition.

29. What group of people migrated into this area? How? Why?

30. Whom did they trade with?

31. What did Yaroslav do to build unity?

KIEVAN DECLINE
32. What internal problems did they have? Externally what affected their economy?

33. What nomadic group struck the final blow? What did they call them?

34. What did the Russians consider themselves?