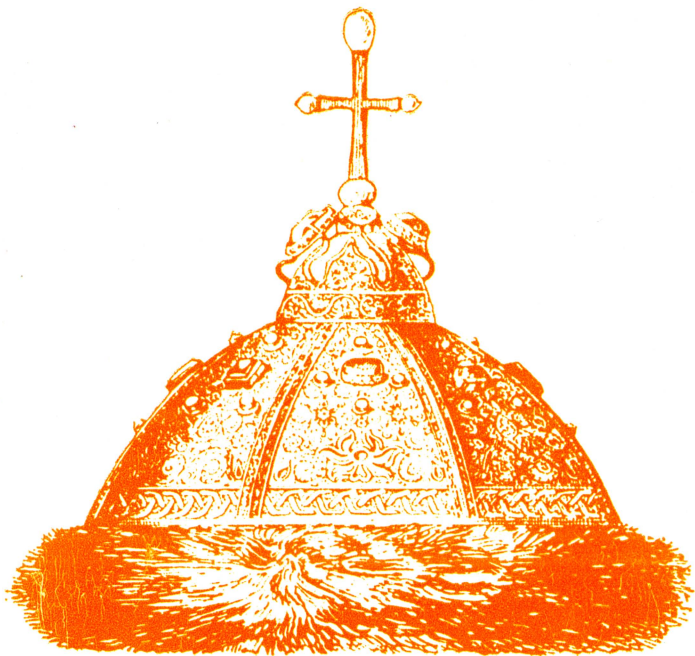


THE  
SAGA  
OF  
UKRAINE  
An Outline History



***THE AGE OF ROYALTY***

THE  
SAGA  
OF  
UKRAINE  
AN OUTLINE HISTORY

VOLUME ONE

The Age of Royalty

by MYRON B. KUROPAS

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 Chicago, 1960

**TO MY PARENTS**



Absorb all culture . . .

Forget not your own.

—TARAS SHEVCHENKO

## *Preface*

The concept of an indivisible, monolithic and unified Russia which has influenced American political thinking and foreign policy for such a long period of time is gradually disappearing. With the annual observance of "Captive Nations Week", Americans are becoming increasingly aware of the spirit of nationalism that exists in the countries presently suffering under the yoke of Soviet domination. Americans are discovering that this spirit of nationalism, if nurtured and encouraged to develop further, offers the best possible hope for the swift, total and permanent annihilation of Communist imperialism.

Of all of the Captive Nations, Ukraine remains one of the most important. Russians of every school of thought have long since realized that the basis of Russian imperialism rests upon the control and direct employment of Ukraine's vast wealth. Today, Ukraine's rich fertile black steppes are a major breadbasket for the Soviet Union's growing population and labor force. Ukraine produces 50% of the USSR's tractors, plows and metallurgical equipment and Russian heavy industry is lost without Ukraine's rich coal and iron deposits.

It is small wonder then, that, through the ages, Russia has employed every means at its disposal to obliterate the Ukrainian national spirit. They have pre-empted the name of Rus-Ukraine; they have adopted and falsified its history and they have renamed the country "Little Russia", West Russia and South Russia. Russians have always promoted the idea that Ukraine is the "Pennsylvania" or the "Texas" of Russia and they have denounced the Ukrainian language as a "peasant dialect".

The purpose of this series, of which this is the first volume, is to provide a brief introduction to Ukrainian history for English speaking people. This is an outline and as such it merely scratches the surface of a vast storehouse of material that is presently available in the English language. At best, an outline provides "branches" of organized facts, the "leaves" of which must be supplied by other sources. Each chapter is based on the material found in the listed references. It is hoped that these references will be consulted, studied and compared; only then can the reader hope to be thoroughly familiar with all of the forces that have molded Ukrainian history.

All four chapters in Volume One have appeared in print before. Chapters one and two were originally published in SCOPE, a publication of the Ukrainian-American Youth Council of Chicago while chapters three and four appeared in the TRIDENT QUARTERLY, published by MUN Enterprises.

The author is grateful to Miss Vera Strawniak, former editor of SCOPE.

for her unsparing criticism and fundamental improvement of the material contained in chapters one and two. Thanks of the author are due also to Mr. Michael Panasiuk of the Organization for the Rebirth of Ukraine (ODWU) for his willingness to finance the initial publication of this series. I am especially grateful to my sister Vera for her patient and understanding help in the preparation of this volume. Without her able assistance the technical details involved in such an undertaking would have been overwhelming.

*Chicago, Illinois*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Chapter One — In The Beginning</b>	<b>1</b>
Prehistoric Times. The Coming of Man. Early Colonists. Early Tribes. Invasion from the West. Invasion from the East. Migration of the Slavs. The Emergence of the Ukrainians. Invasion from the North. More Invasions from the East. The Ukrainian Tribes. The Great Russian and White Russian Tribes. The Work of Sts. Cyril and Methodius. The Council Idea.	
<b>References</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Review Exercises</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Chapter Two — The Kievan Kingdom</b>	<b>11</b>
The Founding of Kiev. The Origin of "Rus." The Varangian Influence. Oleh. Ihor. Olha. Sviatoslav. Yaropolk. Volodimir the Great. Sviatopolk I. Yaroslav the Wise. Iziaslav and Sviatoslav II. Vsevolod. Sviatopolk II. The Changing Religious Picture. The Changing Economic Picture. The Changing Political Picture. Volodimir Monomakh. Mstislav. Iziaslav II. Rostislav and Aristocratic Anarchy. Life in the Kievan Kingdom. The Sack of Kiev.	
<b>References</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Review Exercises</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Chapter Three — The Galician Kingdom</b>	<b>31</b>
Vladimirko. Yaroslav Osmomisl. The Galician-Volynian Union. Roman. The Great Revolt. Daniel. Lev. Jurij. The Fall of the Galician Kingdom. Political Organization. Trade and Cultural Influences.	
<b>References</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Review Exercises</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Chapter Four — Ukraine Under Polish-Lithuanian Rule</b>	<b>43</b>
The Rise of Lithuania. The Lithuanian Occupation. The Polish Occupation. The Treaty of Krevo. War With the Muscovites. The Union of Lublin. The Decline of Ukraine Under Poland-Lithuania. Lithuanian Political and Social Structure. Polish Political and Social Structure. The Cultural Revival. The Union of 1595.	
<b>References</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Review Exercises</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>APPENDIX A</b>	
<b>Great Princes of Kiev of the Dynasty of Rurik</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>APPENDIX B</b>	
<b>Descendants of Rostislav in Galicia</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>APPENDIX C</b>	
<b>Descendants of Volodimir Monomakh in Galicia-Volynia</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>APPENDIX D</b>	
<b>Answers to Review Exercises</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Maps</b>	
<b>The Kievan Kingdom in the 10th and 11th Century</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Ukrainian Principalities from the 11th to the 13th Century</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>The Galician-Volynian State from the 11th to the 13th Century</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Lithuania in the 14th Century (Incorporating Ukrainian Principalities)</b>	<b>45</b>

**Cover: The Crown of Volodimir Monomakh**

If I feel myself a Rusin and work for Rus with all my strength, it is not for reasons of a sentimental nature. . . . It is worthwhile to work for this people and no honorable work for this people is lost.

—IVAN FRANKO

# CHAPTER ONE

## IN THE BEGINNING

*Significant dates in:*

### **Ukrainian History**

Prehistoric Times  
 Cimmerians (about 1,000-700 B.C.)  
 Greek Colonization (800-700 B.C.)  
 Scythians (700-500 B.C.)

Sarmatians (400 B.C.-1st Cent. A.D.)

Alans (1st Cent. A.D.-200 A.D.)

Goths (200-400 A.D.)

Antae (360-602 A.D.)  
 Huns (400-500 A.D.)  
 Migration of Slavs (6th Cent.)  
 Avars (550-700)  
 Varagians (Northmen — 700 A.D.)  
 Ukrainian Tribes (700-1,000)  
 Magyars (850-860)  
 Rurik, ruler of Novgorod (862)  
 Pechenegs (860-1,000)

### **World History**

Homer (about 850 B.C.)  
 Assyrian Conquest of Egypt (670 B.C.)  
 Confucius (551-479 B.C.)  
 Egypt under Persian rule (525-404 B.C.)  
 Darius, Persian King (521-485 B.C.)  
 Age of Pericles (461-429)  
 Death of Alexander the Great (323 B.C.)  
 Hellenistic Age (323 B.C.-31 A.D.)  
 Pompey takes Jerusalem (641 B.C.)  
 Birth of Christ (? B.C.)  
 Roman Empire at its greatest extent under Trajan (98-117 A.D.)  
 Severe persecution of Christians under Diocletian (285-305 A.D.)  
 Constantinople becomes capital of Roman Empire (330 A.D.)  
 Fall of Rome (476 A.D.)  
 Justinian, Byzantine Emperor (527-565 A.D.)  
 Mohammed (570-632)  
 Charles Martel defeats Moslems at Tours (732)  
 Pepin (741-768)  
 Charlemagne (771-814)  
 Alfred the Great (871-901)  
 Northmen in America (about 1,000)

### **A. PREHISTORIC TIMES**

The period of global history known as the Tertiary Period found Ukraine basking in a tropical paradise. The climate at that time was similar to that of present day Central Africa, and many varieties of jungle flora and animal life flourished under these ideal conditions. The Ice Age changed the scene considerably and for the next few thousand years Northern Ukraine was blanketed by an enormous ice sheet with only the more vigorous of the Animal Kingdom surviving the extreme conditions. Then, towards the end of the Tertiary Period the climate grew warmer and the ice began its long northern retreat leaving behind thick layers of clayey loam, layers of sand and stone, and broad deep river beds carved out by the rivers that flowed from beneath the glaciers.

## B. THE COMING OF MAN

It was towards the end of the Tertiary Period that the initial traces of human existence made their first appearance in Ukraine. Vestiges of these early inhabitants are not as numerous in this region as in Western Europe where dry caves afforded a better preservative climate; nevertheless, excavations in Kiev, near Chernihiv and the region near Poltava date back to the Stone Age and indicate a level of prehistoric existence similar to that found in France and Germany.

## C. EARLY COLONISTS

Greek colonists began to settle along the Black Sea Coast around 800 B.C. Many nomadic tribes were already in existence in the area and their tribal traditions discouraged fraternization with the "foreigners". In time, however, a lively trade developed between the existing tribes and the Greek cities. Greek culture was transplanted into ancient Ukraine. Hellenistic genius produced a "Hellas of the Steppes" and the Ukrainian lands gained more or less the same significance as the coasts of Asia Minor and Southern Italy for agricultural products. Products from Ukraine became an important part of the Greek economic structure.

It is from the ancient Greek historians and chroniclers that most of our knowledge of this period is derived. *Herodotus* (5th century B.C.) left a vivid account of the ancient culture of Scythia and left ample evidence that Greek influence was not restricted to the Black Sea Coast but extended quite a distance inland as well.

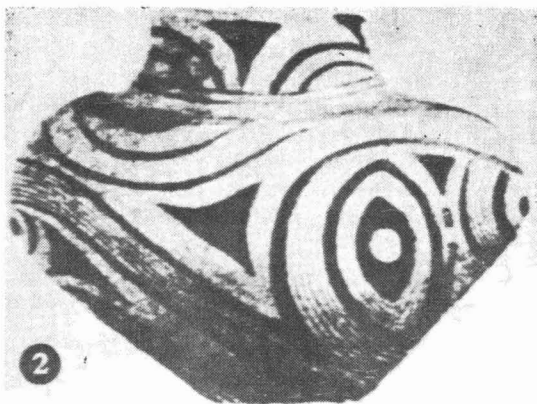
Among the most important early Greek settlements were Tyras, at the outlet of the Dniester, Olbia at the estuary of the Dnieper and Tanais, on the present site of Rostov.

The Greeks enlivened ancient Ukraine culturally and politically and made Ukrainian pre-history a prologue to the Kievan state. Later, when Greece fell under the influence of Rome, Roman culture played a similar role.

## D. EARLY TRIBES

The first inhabitants of the Ukrainian steppes of whom we have some knowledge are the *Cimmerians*. They ruled the area from approximately 1,000 B.C. to 800 B.C. They were described by the Greeks as being a cruel and barbaric group of savages but little else is known of them. During the seventh, sixth, and the better half of the fifth century B.C. the *Scythians*, of Iranian origin, were in command of the area. From the data available, it seems probable that the Scythian tribes were able to unite the steppes and form an empire that even engaged *Darius*, the Persian king in combat. Their culture was influenced by the Greeks and many examples of Greco-Scythian art have been found by excavators in Ukraine.

The Scythians were followed by another Iranian people, the *Sarmatians*, who were in charge during the fourth and third century. At about the time of Christ, supremacy passed to the *Alans*, relatives of the Sarmatians and also of Iranian origin, who held sway over the land until the second century A.D. The Alans were described in contemporary accounts as tall, handsome and blond. They developed an artistic style which employed the lavish use of



Ceramic pottery dating from the Trypillian culture of neolithic people of the third millennium B.C. Photo Courtesy of: *Ukraine in Pictures*.

enamel and precious stones for incrustation, a variation of the “animal style” art of the Scythians.

While the various tribes of the Ukrainian steppes had different names, their origins and way of life were very similar. They were often savage and cruel . . . the Scythians, for example, would “scalp” their dead enemies and wear the scalps as war trophies, similar to the fashion adopted by the American Indians. Nomadic by nature, they survived by fishing, a limited amount of agriculture, hunting and pillaging. They wandered the steppes for centuries with no general direction to their movement and with little tendency toward national unity.

## **E. INVASION FROM THE WEST**

The Germanic tribes living along the Vistula, Elbe and Oder Rivers began to move Southward late in the first century and early in the second century A.D. In the second century, the *Goths*, moving from the Vistula River region found suitable living condition along the eastern side of the Danube. They gradually moved further South, dispersed the Alans and settled along the Black Sea in a region that stretched from the Danube to the Sea of Azov. They acquired the nomadic habits and the material culture of the people they had displaced, and for a time it looked as if the Teuton would rule the area.

## **F. INVASION FROM THE EAST**

With the invasion of the *Huns*, a Turkish tribe, the influence of the Goths waned. Conquering the remaining Alan tribes, the Huns turned their attention to the Goths whom they easily defeated. Shamed by their defeat, the Goths began their retreat westward in the direction of the lower Danube. The Huns, finding only token opposition continued their westward trek and after the height of their power was reached during the reign of *Attila*, they retired to the Azov area where they came to be known as *Bulgars*.



## G. MIGRATION OF THE SLAVS

With the retreat of the Goths and the advance of the Huns, large areas of the Ukrainian steppes were opened to the *Slavs* who began to pour into the area from their ancestral homes located to the northeast of the Carpathian Mountains in the basin of the Vistula, Pripet, and upper Dniester Rivers. Roman writers of the first and second centuries A.D. inform us that Slavic villages of the time extended as far north as the Baltic Sea, to the vicinity of the *Lithuanians* and the Germans. The Germans called these Slavic peoples *Venetes*.

The southeastern Slavs, ancestors of the present day Ukrainians, migrated Southward into the steppe region and the adjoining vacated lands.

While the Slavs were living in proximate areas and were in close association with each other, their language and customs remained similar. With the beginning of the eastward migration, however, slight differences began to appear in the customs, language, and national character of the various Slavic tribes. In time, these differences gave birth to the myriad of modern Slavic nations.

## H. THE EMERGENCE OF THE UKRAINIANS

1) *The Antae* — Greek chroniclers of this period differentiated between the Slavs who lived in the South, in the neighborhood of Byzantium and the Balkans, and the Antae who lived along the shores of the Sea of Azov, the Dnieper and the Dniester. There is evidence to show that the Antae were an ancient Slavic tribe that had existed in the south of Ukraine for over 2,000 years and had survived the successive invasions of the Scythians, the Goths, and the Huns. Their emergence marks the beginning of historic life for the Ukrainian tribes.

The Antae, like the other steppe tribes, were nomadic and given to marauding expeditions. They would often join the Huns against the Goths and while the latter were retreating from the Huns, the Antae effectively delayed their departure. Later the Antae joined the Bulgars in warring expeditions. In the course of time, these ancient Ukrainians engaged the *Danubian Slavs*, the *Slovenes*, and the *Avars* in the 6th century.

It was a Turkish tribe that finally enabled the Antae to settle down, to indulge in commerce and farming and to begin the formation of a state. The *Khazars* had settled on the Caspian steppes and found it to their advantage commercially, to maintain peace and stability in the area. While the Khazars held back fresh Turkish invasions, the Antae were building a nation. They engaged in cattle breeding, agriculture and developed the arts of weaving and ceramics. Unfortunately, Khazar control weakened, and as the various invaders made their way into Ukraine, the Antae were forced to retreat to wooded and mountainous areas. Very little is known about the Antae after this period. History mentions them for the last time in 602 A.D.

2) *Ethnic Origins* — There are two main ethnic elements in the prehistory of the Ukrainian nation: a) the agricultural New Eastern substratum which goes back to the Neolithic Trypillian era and b) the ruling Indo-European classes, the Iranian Scythians, Sarmatians etc., who settled for a time in the



Greek silver chalice of the 4th century B.C. from the grave of a Scythian king found near Melitopol. Photo Courtesy of: *Ukraine in Pictures.*

ancient Ukraine and passed on leaving behind their anthropological and cultural influences. These origins are considerably different from the origins of the Russian nation which represents a much later Slavonised Finnic-Uralic conglomeration.

## I. INVASION FROM THE NORTH

Following natural waterways from Lake Ladoga, the *Varangians* (Northmen) from Scandinavia entered Slavic territory in the eighth century. At first the Northmen settled in small colonies, in towns that were trading centers, but later they came as conquerors and organizers of the Eastern Slavic tribes. Owing to the dis-unity of the Slavs and to the military prowess and administrative ability of the Northmen, Scandinavian influence soon extended to the Black Sea. A rather obscure Norse leader, *Rurik*, established himself at Novgorod on Lake Ilmen. He was ruling in 862 and as his power increased and the Varangian empire broadened, the Norse gradually took over the ruling centers of the Slavic tribes.

## J. MORE INVASIONS FROM THE EAST

a. In the middle of the 9th century, the barbarous *Magyars* crossed the Ukrainian steppes burning, pillaging, and causing great havoc. As they moved Westward, they took many of the local inhabitants and sold them to Greek traders as slaves.

b. In 860, the *Pechenegs*, leaving their home east of the Volga, entered the Ukrainian steppes, expelled the Magyars, who fled into the middle Danubian region, and established themselves on the steppes from the Don to the Danube. Their pillage and waste of the Ukrainian villages was more devastating than that of the Magyars. The terror of the Pechenegs remained to plague the Kievan princes until the beginning of the 11th century.

## K. THE UKRAINIAN TRIBES

Very little historical data is available concerning the Ukrainian tribes that existed after the disappearance of the Antae. For approximately 300 years (700-1000), the steppe tribes that existed are rarely mentioned by the historians of this period. An historical account written in the 10th century mentions the *Polians* (Rus) who settled in the present province of Kiev; the *Uliches*, between the Boh and the Dniester; the *Derevlians*, who settled in the triangle between the Pripet and the river Teteriv; and the *Luchans*, as tribes occupying Ukraine. Kievan chroniclers writing in the 11th century, mention the *Derevlians*, the *Uliches*, and the *Siverians* on the left bank of the Dnieper in the basin of the river Desna and other eastern tributaries of the Dnieper; the *Tivertses*, between the Dniester and the Pruth; the *Dulibs* on the Western Bug; and the *Drehoviches*. The tribes that existed at this time in Galicia, on the Don, and along the Sea of Azov were also part of the nucleus from which the Ukrainian people developed, but the Chroniclers make no mention of them.

For the most part these early Ukrainian tribes depended upon grain for their livelihood. Several varieties of livestock were raised but very little poultry. Bee-keeping was a thriving enterprise.

Foreign travelers and visitors to the Ukraine wrote of the friendliness and generosity of the people. Ukrainians were described as merry, congenial, and fond of songs, dances and festivity.

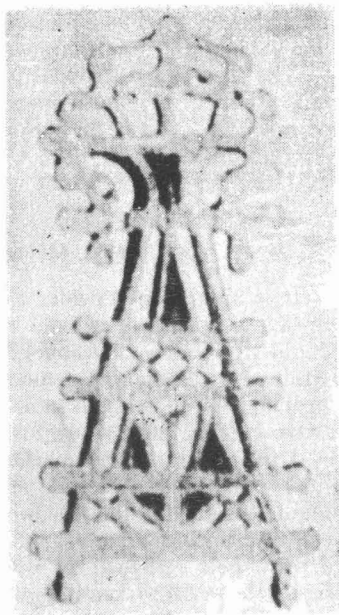
In the ancient law of these tribes there was no mutilation of the guilty as was the case in the East, and capital punishment was practically non-existent. The taking of another's life was permitted only in the time of war and then it was looked upon as the will of God.

Religion was of an animistic nature with gods of cattle, thunder and the like. Idols were rare and there were no temples or priests. Prayer was a personal matter generally practiced in quiet, secluded spots close to nature. Belief in a life after death was very strong as evidenced by excavations of the ancient funeral mounds.

The faithfulness of Ukrainian wives was widely known and provided a refreshing change in the mores of the ancient world. Divorce was accomplished simply by taking another woman and turning the wife away. Those who could afford it, generally had one or more wives.

Families were large, and clans, similar in structure to those of the Scotch, came on the scene as soon as the families intermarried. Each clan was ruled by a common council (*viche*) presided over by the elders (*starsi*) of all of the families in the clan. For protection the clans erected stockades (*horode*) and as each "*horod*" grew, it gave way to a town protected by fortifications (*ostroh*). In time the "*ostroh*" dominated an entire region; its decisions were binding on all adjoining villages and its name came to be applied to the inhabitants of the whole surrounding district. Merchants and markets flourished and as the influence of a particular "*ostroh*" increased, trade was established first with the Greek cities remaining in the Crimea and along the Danube, and later, with Byzantium itself.

As each successive wave of invaders entered Ukraine, new modes of artistic expression were introduced. The Goths developed new patterns of artistic design that prevailed in Ukraine over a long period of time. Here we see a bronze coat clasp covered with colored enamel found near the present city of Kaniv. Photo Courtesy of; Ukraine in Pictures.



In time the ancient clan of Dulibs disappeared, to be replaced by the *Buzhans* and the *Volynians*; the tribes of *Chernihiv* and *Pereyaslav* came into being about the towns of the same name in a territory formerly occupied by the *Siverians*; the land of the *Drehoviches* gave way to the *Turiv* and *Pinsk* tribes.

## L. THE GREAT RUSSIAN AND WHITE RUSSIAN TRIBES

While the Ukrainian tribes were becoming organized and were soon to come under the influence of the most powerful tribe, the *Rus*, other Eastern Slavic tribes were also settling in rather specific locales. Thus, the *Slovenes* were to be found along Lake Ilmen; to the south of them, along the upper Volga and Dnieper were the *Krivichi*; on the upper Dvina dwelt the *Polochane*; settled in the basin of the upper Oka were the *Vyatichi*; to the southwest, on the middle Dnieper and its tributary the *Sozh*, lived the *Radimichi*. All of these tribes were later to become part of two other groups of Slavonic peoples: the Great Russians and the White Russians.

## M. THE WORK OF STS. CYRIL AND METHODIUS

An important chapter in early Slavic history was written by two brothers, *Cyril* (827-869) and *Methodius* (825-885), Christian missionaries.

In 860, Cyril was sent to the Khazar nation by *Emperor Michael III* of Constantinople in response to a request for a Christian teacher. Later, he joined his brother, Methodius, for missionary work among the Bulgarians. After visiting *Pope Hadrian II* in Rome in 869, they left for more missionary work among the Slavs. To accomplish their task, they worked out the *Cyrillic*

alphabet, a modified form of the Greek alphabet, which largely superseded the ancient Slavonic characters.

The significance of their work consists in their having forged a link for the Slavs by introducing a more convenient written word and composing in the vernacular a text of the gospel. Their alphabet forms the basis for the modern Ukrainian alphabet. Both Cyril and Methodius were canonized by Pope Leo XIII in 1881.

## N. THE COUNCIL IDEA

It is significant to note that among the early Ukrainian tribes there was always a system of council rule. There was never one single authority who could decide on an important issue which faced a particular "ostroh" and while this system was democratic and more representative of the will of the people, it often resulted in a lack of harmony and cohesion among the various tribes. Even later, when towns such as Kiev and Chernihiv were founded, and the resulting trade brought many of the tribes into closer association, little unity was achieved. The existing situation was probably one of the main reasons that the Rus of Kiev, influenced by Nordic unity, military prowess, and a comparatively strong central administration, were finally able to extend their control over the Slavic tribes in the area and to organize the first independent Ukrainian nation.

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## REVIEW EXERCISES

### A. Fill In The Correct Word or Phrase:

1. The first vestiges of man in Ukraine date back to the\_\_\_\_\_Age.
2. An early Greek historian who wrote about Ukraine was\_\_\_\_\_.
3. Slavic tribes began to migrate into Ukraine immediately after the departure of the\_\_\_\_\_and\_\_\_\_\_.
4. Germans called the Slavs\_\_\_\_\_.
5. The early tribes of Ukraine worshipped\_\_\_\_\_.
6. Democratic principles in early Ukraine were encompassed in the \_\_\_\_\_idea.
7. A Turkish tribe, the\_\_\_\_\_enabled the first Ukrainian steppe tribe to engage in agricultural pursuits.
8. The\_\_\_\_\_were in Ukraine at about the time of Christ's Birth.
9. Three tribes which invaded Ukraine from the East were the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_and the\_\_\_\_\_.
10. A modified form of the Greek alphabet used by Ukrainians today is the\_\_\_\_\_alphabet.

**B. Match the Correct Letter With Each Statement.**

- |   |               |
|---|---------------|
| 1._____First tribe of which we have some knowledge. | A. Goths      |
| 2._____They "scalped" their enemies.                | B. Olbia      |
| 3._____Turkish invaders.                            | C. Cimmerians |
| 4._____Germanic invaders.                           | D. Vechi      |
| 5._____Scandinavian invaders.                       | E. Rurik      |
| 6._____A later name for the Huns.                   | F. Starsi     |
| 7._____A common council.                            | G. Scythians  |
| 8._____The elders of a Ukrainian tribe.             | H. Bulgars    |
| 9._____Norse leader.                                | I. Huns       |
| 10._____Greek settlement in Greek.                  | J. Varangians |

**C. Discussion Questions**

1. What effect did the Greek colonists have upon the early inhabitants of Ukraine?
2. Most early Ukrainian tribes were nomadic. The Antae were the first Ukrainian tribe that managed to establish a permanent settlement. What are some of the reasons for this?
3. What are some of the factors in the life of the early Ukrainian tribes that point towards a democratic tradition?
4. What early tribes are considered Ukrainian? What tribes are considered White Russian and Great Russian? Locate all of these tribes on a map of Eastern Europe.

\*\*\*\*\*

# CHAPTER TWO

## THE KIEVAN KINGDOM

*Significant Dates in:*

### Ukrainian History

Rurik (862)  
 Oleh (879-945)  
 Expedition Against Constantinople (907)  
 Ihor (914-945)  
 Olha (945-960)  
 Sviatoslav I (960-972)  
 Yaropolk (972-978)  
 The First Fratricidal Wars  
 Volodimir the Great (978-1015)  
 Christianity Adopted in Ukraine (988)  
 Sviatopolk I (1015-1019)  
 The Second Fratricidal Wars  
 Yaroslav the Wise (1019-1054)  
 Pecheneg Threat Broken  
 Construction of St. Sophia Begins (1037)  
 Kiev Becomes Metropolitan See (1037)  
 Last Expedition Against Byzantium (1048)  
 Iziaslav I (1054-1073; 1076-1078)  
 The Third Fratricidal Wars  
 The Decline of Kiev  
 Sviatoslav II (1073-1076)  
 Vsevolod (1078-1094)  
 Sviatopolk II (1094-1113)  
 Polovtsi Defeated (1111)  
 Volodimir Monomakh (1113-1125)  
 Mstislav (1125-1132)  
 The Period of Aristocratic Anarchy  
 (1132-1169)  
 The Sack of Kiev (1169)

### World History

Treaty of Verdun (843)  
 Alfred the Great (871-901)  
 Northmen Granted Normandy (911)  
 Otto the Great, German Emperor (936-973)  
 Northmen in America (about 1000)  
 King Canute of Denmark Conquers England  
 (1016)  
 Catholic-Orthodox Schism (1054)  
 Battle of Hastings and Norman Invasion of  
 England (1066)  
 First Crusade: Jerusalem taken by  
 Christians (1099)  
 Peter Abelard (1079-1142)  
 Concordat of Worms (1122)  
 Swedes Begin Occupation of Finland, Ger-  
 mans and Danes that of Livonia and  
 Estonia (1158)  
 Oxford University founded (1167)  
 Andrew Bogolubsky (1139-1174)

### A. THE FOUNDING OF KIEV

Many and various narratives concerning the birth of Kiev existed in the records of the ancient Kievan chroniclers. We can only guess as to their historical accuracy.

According to the most popular version, a man called *Kiy* gained command of a ford across the Dnieper River. In time, Kiy and his brothers *Shek* and *Khoriv* developed the area into an *ostroh* and named it after the oldest brother. Later, the descendants of the Kiy dynasty became the princes of the *Polians*, one of the ancient tribes in the area.



The Polians, however, were subject to the *Magyars*, an Eastern tribe that was ruling the area as vassals of the *Khazars*, another Eastern tribe. In addition to the heavy tributes the Polians were forced to pay the Magyars, they were constantly harassed by the attacks of the *Derevlians*, a warring Ukrainian tribe to the north. Survival was no easy matter but wise and efficient rulers had always managed to stem the tide. A crisis was reached when the Kiy dynasty died out leaving no heirs.

Farther to the north, the Slavic tribes of *Krivichi* and *Meres* were having their own difficulties. Once before, when *Varangian* domination had proven to be too great a burden, they had expelled the conquerors, but now that a worse anarchy had resulted, and Khazar control of the important trade routes could not be broken, they were inviting the conqueror to return. In response to this request, *Rurik* and his brothers, *Sineus* and *Truvar*, established themselves in Novgorod and dispatched armed contingents to seize adjacent areas. In one of these contingents were *Askold* and *Dir*, who, traveling south, arrived in Kiev, discovered that the country was without a ruler and seized control. In another contingent that left Novgorod a little later, were *Ihor*, a member of the royal family, and *Oleh*, a Varangian captain. They captured other towns along the Dnieper and thus were further delayed in their arrival in Kiev. Ihor was incensed at the boldness of Askold and Dir in assuming royal prerogative and assuming command. He had them brutally murdered, declared himself ruler of Kiev and established the Rurik dynasty that was to rule the Kievan kingdom for the next three hundred years.

Whether or not Kiev was founded by a man called Kiy and whether or not his descendants ruled over the Polians remains a mystery. We know that similar legends have arisen around other towns whose origins are also obscure. Thus Kharkiw is said to have been founded by a man called *Kharko* and Chernihiv by a man called *Cherniha* and so on.

The ancient chronicle was written during the time of Yaroslav, some two hundred years later and much of what is recorded is open to question. First, Rurik was not at all anxious to extend his empire Southward. A Norse adventurer and pirate who, as a vassal of *Emperor Lothaire*, ruled Southern Jutland and Friesland, Rurik had enough troubles maintaining these possessions without extending himself further. It is more likely that Askold and Dir were part of a separate expedition organized by Swedish merchants to open trade routes to the East.

The Chronicler's contention that Oleh was Ihor's captain becomes suspect once we discover that Oleh was Rurik's successor and a prince in his own right, hardly Ihor's captain. One modern historian states that Oleh was a Norwegian and suggests the possibility that Askold and Dir were eliminated because they were Swedish.

## B. THE ORIGIN OF RUS

Another controversial topic concerning this period of Ukrainian history centers around the origin of the term "Rus." It has been established that the early settlers of Kiev were called Polians. It is also known that some time later the inhabitants of Kiev were known as *Rus*; just when and why the area of Kiev became associated with the name of Rus is the crux of the controversy.

*Prof. D. Doroshenko* holds with the theory that "Rus" is of Varangian origin. The name is preserved to this day in the Finnish name for Sweden, "Ruotsi". In addition, a number of Arabian, Byzantine and West European historians of the time used the name "Rus" or "Rusios" in identifying a Scandinavian tribe of Vikings and military adventurers.

*Prof. Michael Hrushevsky* completely discounts the Nordic origin of "Rus".

The professor argues that if "Rus" were of Varangian origin, then it should have been applied to Novgorod as well as to Kiev, the country of the Polians. Similarly, Hrushevsky finds it difficult to believe that the Norsemen arrived in Kiev in two contingents, Askold and Dir, followed by Ihor and Oleh a few years later.

*Prof. George Vernadsky* also discounts the Nordic theory. He states that "Rus" is derived from a leading tribe of Alans, the *Rukhs*, or the "Radiant", who were living on the Ukrainian steppes in the third century A.D.

*Prof. Clarence Manning* feels that since there is a lack of reliable historical evidence concerning the origin of the name, it is dangerous to postulate possible answers. All we can say is that when written history opened its doors upon Ukraine a tribe called Rus existed around the vicinity of Kiev, and this tribe while influenced by the Scandinavians, never lost its truly Slavic character.

We must be satisfied with the facts that a tribe called Rus existed, that the name was associated with the vicinity of Kiev, and that the tribal name of Rus came to be applied to the city, the territory, and finally to the whole group of South-Eastern Slavs.

**Kievan Warrior in full battle regalia**



## C. THE VARANGIAN INFLUENCE

While there can be little doubt that the Norsemen played an important role in the Kievan Rus, the exact nature of their influence is not clear. It is known that at one time more Scandinavian names were found in the Prince's retinue than Slavic names. Whether the early Kievan rulers were of Scandinavian origin themselves or whether they were Ukrainian princes who had hired Scandinavian warriors into their service is still a matter for debate among some scholars. Two things however, are certain: Scandinavian military prowess and organization enabled the Rus of Kiev to extend their control over vast areas of land, and Scandinavian culture was soon assimilated into the Ukrainian pattern.

## D. OLEH (879-914)

*"No, there is not among us such a youth — except you Velha Vseslavich."*  
— Ancient BYLINA

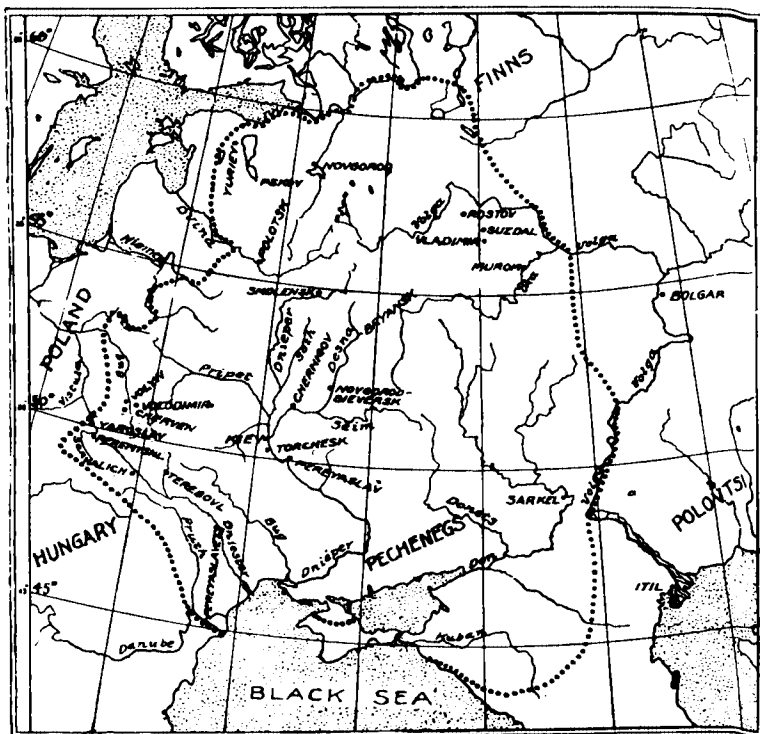
Very little information is available concerning such early rulers of ancient Kiev as *Bravlin* (who plundered Byzantine cities along the southern coast of Crimea), Askold, and Dir. Beginning with Oleh the picture becomes clearer.

The name of Oleh was always in the people's minds; his adventures were commemorated in ancient *bylini* (historical ballads) and his heroic deeds as a warrior were legend. The real Oleh, called Volha Vseslavich (son of Vseslav) was lost sight of when the people began to attribute magic powers to his person, associating him with the ability to turn himself into a bird or an insect at will. It is historical fact, however that Oleh, with reinforcements sent him by his subject tribes, marched on Constantinople in 907 and was able to wrest generous trade concessions from the Byzantines in treaties concluded in 907 and 911. He was killed in an expedition against the Khazars.

## E. IHOR (914-945)

*"His luck ran out among the Derevlans."*

The first years of Ihor's reign were spent in strengthening his father's holdings and his own position as a ruler. Once this had been accomplished and he had the backing of a strong and loyal army, Ihor invaded surrounding countries in an attempt to gain military fame and spoils. When Oleh's treaty with Byzantium terminated in 940, Ihor launched a large naval expedition against the empire which ended in disaster. In another treaty with the Byzantines concluded in 944, the Rus lost many of the concessions gained for them by Oleh. But Ihor continued his warring ways, organizing pillaging expeditions against the Caspian Sea coast and demanding larger tributes from subject tribes under the threat of annihilation. On one occasion, the Derevlans, after paying the Rus what they considered to be a just tribute, refused to surrender any more, and prevailed upon Ihor to leave them in peace. Needless to say the greedy Ihor refused. Leaving Kiev with a small army so that everyone could get a larger share of the booty, he attacked the Derevlans. This time, his luck ran out. He was captured and mercilessly put to death.



THE KIEVAN KINGDOM IN THE 10th AND 11th CENTURY.

## F. OLHA (945-960?)

*"Whoever does not avenge himself, God will not avenge."*

Bursting with wrath over the untimely death of her husband Ihor, Olha persecuted the Derevlians with a passion. Crying that "Whoever does not avenge himself, God will not avenge," Olha, as regent of Kiev in the name of her infant son, *Sviatoslav*, burned Derevlian villages, tortured and enslaved the inhabitants and exacted impossible tributes from the survivors. A third of the tribute which she accumulated went into her personal widow's treasury. In her later years Olha proved to be a wise ruler, educating her children, and fulfilling her duties as a widow by never remarrying in spite of many handsome offers including that of the Byzantine emperor himself. She became a Christian and was baptized by *Patriarch Polyeuctes* in 955, becoming the first member of the Kievan dynasty to accept Christianity. Her efforts to convert Sviatoslav were fruitless. She died in 969 and was later canonized.

## G. SVIATOSLAV (960-972)

*"He sought foreign lands but lost his own."*

Sviatoslav was a hero prince to his soldiers for he cared little for wealth and plunder and valued military reputation above all else. The real expansion of

the Kievan kingdom began under this energetic and resourceful leader who, caring little for civic administration, campaigned far from the capital. In his campaigns against the Khazars and Bulgars he came as a conqueror, rebuilding what had been destroyed in war. In 968, at the request of Byzantine Emperor Nicephorus, he went to war against the Bulgars, and after capturing their capital of Pereyaslavets (Preslav) decided to remain and expand his empire from there. By this time the Kievan Kingdom included the mouths of both the Volga and the Danube comparing in size to the Hunnic Empire of the 4th and 5th century. His absence from Kiev, however, made the ancient city vulnerable to the attacks of nomadic Eastern tribes, especially the Pechenegs, and Sviatoslav was forced to return. He drove the marauders off but, still yearning for his beloved Bulgaria, Sviatoslav divided his empire among his sons and returned to Pereyaslavets. But now the Byzantines, ever mindful of a balance of power, decided to cut Sviatoslav down to size. Emperor John Tzimiskes demanded tribute from the Ukrainian Prince was answered with Sviatoslav's invasion of Constantinople. Soundly beaten, Sviatoslav was stripped of all possessions and was sent on his way to Ukraine in shame. On his return journey, his party was ambushed by the Pechenegs and according to the Kievan chronicle, his skull became a drinking cup upon which was engraved, "he sought foreign lands but lost his own."

## H. YAROPOLK (972-978)

*"The first fratricidal wars."*

Sviatoslav had left Kiev to his oldest son, Yaropolk. *Oleh*, his second son, was made Prince of Ovruch and ruler over the Derevlans. The people of Novgorod had also wanted one of his sons to rule over them but since none of his heirs was willing to settle in the cold north, this request presented a problem. The dilemma was resolved when the Novgorodians asked for *Volodimir*, son of Sviatoslav's concubine *Malusha*. Upon the death of Sviatoslav, Yaropolk immediately attacked the Derevlian kingdom of his brother *Oleh*. In the ensuing battle, *Oleh* fell from his horse and was trampled to death leaving Yaropolk most of the kingdom. *Volodimir*, fearing a similar fate, fled to Scandinavia to recruit a mercenary army. Yaropolk then captured Novgorod and left vassals in charge while he returned to Kiev. *Volodimir* returned with a sizable army, recaptured Novgorod, added the principality of *Polotsk* which he left in the hands of a son, *Iziaslav*, and marched on Yaropolk. In the ensuing battle Yaropolk surrendered but was treacherously murdered.

## I. VOLODIMIR THE GREAT (978-1015)

a) EARLY CONQUESTS — *"An abundance of offspring helped secure his empire."*

*Volodimir* began his program of empire building early. He conquered and annexed the districts of the *Viatiches*, the *Radimiches* and the territory of Galicia. In 981 he conquered the *Chervensk* cities; in 983 he subdued the *Yatvyags*; and, in 985 he conquered the Bulgars of *Kama*. *Volodimir* built fortresses of protection throughout his colonies and placed his sons in command of various areas. Since there was always an abundance of offspring supplied by his legion of concubines, *Volodimir* had no trouble keeping personal control



A silver coin from the time of Volodimir. The TRIDENT, the three pronged figure in the center, later became the emblem of the Ukrainian National Republic. Photo courtesy of: Ukraine In Pictures.

over newly conquered areas. At this time Volodimir was a thoroughgoing pagan, building scores of *trebishcha* (pagan temples) to *Dashbog*, god of heaven and light, to *Perun*, god of thunder, and to *Stribog*, god of the winds. His pagan zeal even lead him to sacrifice Christians, among them protomartyrs, *Ivan* and *Theodore*.

b) THE ADOPTION OF CHRISTIANITY — “*They thought they were in heaven.*”

Volodimir had strengthened the Ukrainian nation internally through the introduction of his “dynastic idea.” A second important step towards unity was the establishment of a state religion. According to the Kievan Chronicler, Volodimir was visited by religious missionaries of different faiths in 986: Mohammedans from the Bulgars of the Volga, Roman Catholics from Germany, Khazars professing Judaism, and Greek philosophers from Constantinople all visited the prince. The acceptance of any one of these faiths was a crucial matter since it would determine the future course of the Kievan Kingdom drawing it either toward the East (Islam), or the West (Roman Christianity) or toward an independent position (Eastern Christianity, Judaism). Before making a final decision, Volodimir dispatched emissaries to the neighboring nations to study the religions more thoroughly. The emissaries who attended church services in *St. Sophia* in Constantinople were ecstatic in their praise of the service stating that they “did not know whether they were in heaven or on earth.” Their report, his grandmother’s conversion, and the close cultural ties that had been established between Constantinople and Kiev convinced Volodimir to accept baptism into the Eastern Christian Church. Later, after aiding the Byzantines in subduing a revolution, Volodimir married the Byzantine princess, *Anna*, and, in honor of his brother-in-law, adopted the Christian name of *Basil*. All pagan idols were soon destroyed and the inhabitants of Kiev were ordered to assemble on the banks of the Dnieper. With due ceremony they entered the river while priests on shore read the baptismal liturgy. The year was 988.

c) THE LAST YEARS — “*Unity in religion, unity in dynasty but still an Eastern plague.*”

Every effort was now extended to unify the Ukrainian nation under a common dynasty and a common religion. Volodimir built schools, churches and public buildings, endeavoring to improve the lot of the people as best he could. During the latter part of his reign Kiev became “Golden Kiev” because of the many gold cupolas which adorned the churches, and was second only to Constantinople in cultural achievement and wealth. Members of the Ukrainian royal family made matrimonial alliances with the Saxon royal family of England, the Kings of France and with royal blood in Hungary and Poland. In spite of all his many accomplishments, Volodimir’s last years were sad. Another Eastern menace, this time in the person of the Pechenegs, was plaguing the Ukrainian nation. The Pechenegs, who had invaded Ukraine in 860 and again in 880, were still ravaging the countryside in their ubiquitous assaults. Now, they were growing more powerful and Volodimir was helpless to stop them, for he was dying.

Many years after his death, Volodimir was canonized a saint of the Christian Church.

## J. SVIATOPOLK I (1015-1019)

“*The second fratricidal wars.*”

In spite of his wisdom, Volodimir repeated his father’s mistake: he divided his kingdom among his sons. Once again brother was to fight brother and once again Ukraine was to be torn asunder by bloody civil wars. Sviatopolk began the slaughter by killing *Boris* and *Hlib*. *Yaroslav*, who ruled in his father’s ancient city of Novgorod, set out to avenge his brothers with a following of Varangian mercenaries. Sviatopolk sought aid from his brother-in-law, *King Boleslav* of Poland and after a war which lasted three and one-half years was defeated. Another brother, *Mstislav* now came after *Yaroslav* with a following of *Yasian* and *Khazar* tribesmen. This time *Mstislav* was victorious but instead of killing *Yaroslav*, he divided the empire with him. *Yaroslav* received all lands west of the Dneiper while *Mstislav*, with his capital in Chernihiv, ruled all lands east of the river. When the benevolent *Mstislav* died in 1036 leaving no heir, all of Ukraine came into the hands of *Yaroslav*.

## K. YAROSLAV THE WISE (1019-1054)

“*His father plowed and harrowed the soil,  
He sowed the seed in the hearts of the faithful.*” — KIEVAN CHRONICLE

*Yaroslav* soon proved to be a “chip off the old Volodimirian block” in his pursual of a wise and concrete policy of empire consolidation. Good fortune was also his when the threat of the Pechenegs was broken by the arrival of two more Eastern tribes, the *Torks* and the *Polovstians* (Cumans). It was also fortunate for *Yaroslav* that the death of *King Boleslav* broke Poland’s power. Poland was to come back into its own only after *Casimir* took the reins of the Polish kingdom with the aid of *Yaroslav* and the German Emperor. *Yaroslav* soon became one of the most powerful men of Europe. *Irene*, daughter of *King Olaf* became his wife while his daughters married *King Casimir*, *Harold the Bold* of Norway, and *Henry I* of France. *Yaroslav* furthered the spread of Christianity among his people, built monasteries (*St. George’s* and *St.*



Cathedral of St. Sophia, Kiev, 1037. Rebuilt in 18th-19th century.

*Irene's*), initiated the construction of *St. Sophia* in Kiev, and encouraged the promulgation of Byzantine culture and education. The ambiguous relationship between the Ukrainian Church and that of Constantinople, was clarified. In 1037 the Ukrainian Church was organized as a diocese of the patriarchate of Constantinople with the Metropolitan of Kiev as its head. The Metropolitan was ordained by the patriarch while bishops were appointed upon the recommendation of the Prince. All of the metropolitans were Greeks with the exception of *Hilarion*, a deeply religious native son and founder of the Monastery of the Caves (*Pecherska Lavra*) a leading institution of the Kievan era. Yaroslav was truly a wise and just ruler. The entire *Ruska Pravda* or the Rus Law Code, basis of Ukrainian law for centuries to come, is attributed to him. Once again, however, the old pattern was repeated, for Yaroslav divided his empire among his sons, and with this move, initiated the beginning of the end. *Iziaslav*, the eldest, received Kiev and all its adjoining powers; *Sviatoslav* was assigned Chernihiv; *Pereyaslav* went to *Vsevolod*; Volynia to *Ihor*; Smolensk was given to *Viacheslav*, and *Rostislav*, Yaroslav's grandson, received Galicia. All sons faithfully pledged to keep the kingdom together.

#### **L. IZIASLAV (1054-1073; 1076-1078) and SVIATOSLAV II (1073-1076)**

*"And the brothers began to call petty thing great  
And to forge plots against one another."* — THE SONG OF IHOR

Yaroslav's desire for unity among his sons was wishful thinking for the



legacy of the Rurik dynasty had not changed. Once again bloody civil wars, inspired by dissatisfaction of what had been willed to them on the part of the princes, and a desire to unite Ukraine under a personal banner, were foisted upon the people. This time, however, Christian scruples prevented political fratricide, a very useful weapon during the time of Velodimir and Sviatopolk. Each prince went his own independent way hoping to win a place in the sun through military exploits. In the course of time the number of princes increased by the tens and hundreds so that Ukraine was slowly being fragmented. Iziaslav, in a desperate effort to regain what had been lost, formed a triumvirate with Sviatoslav and Vsevolod but after the trio had successfully seized some districts from their younger brothers and cousins, they set to quarreling among themselves. Meanwhile, the Torks had been driven off by the Polovsti in 1060 and now the latter, taking advantage of the abominable conditions on the Ukrainian homefront, were proving to be even more rapacious than their predecessors, the Pechenegs. The Ukrainian populace, tired of the bickering and the resultant free-wheeling of the Polovsti, revolted and Iziaslav was forced to flee. He returned the following Spring with the aid of *King Boleslav II* of Poland but his position was now weaker than ever. Sviatoslav, with the aid of Vsevolod, drove Iziaslav off for a second time. Sviatoslav ruled for two years after which time Iziaslav, never one to retire gracefully, returned. Iziaslav had gone first to Boleslav who refused to aid him. He then had to see the Holy Roman Emperor, *Henry IV* and *Pope Gregory VII* before he could finally convince Boleslav, his brother-in-law, to come to his rescue. Iziaslav received his chance and was victorious over Sviatoslav. He died less than two years later.

#### **M. VSEVOLOD (1078-1094)**

*"An honest effort was not enough."*

Sviatoslav the next logical successor had died in battle in 1078 while fighting his nephew, *Oleh*, leaving Vsevolod the kingdom upon the death of Iziaslav. Upon the death of Sviatoslav then, Vsevolod's succession was unopposed. A multi-lingual man, Vsevolod desperately tried to reunite the kingdom. His efforts to negotiate marital alliances failed miserably when his daughter, *Praxedes*, after an unsuccessful marriage with Henry IV, returned to Kiev and entered a convent.

#### **N. SVIATOPOLK II (1094-1113)**

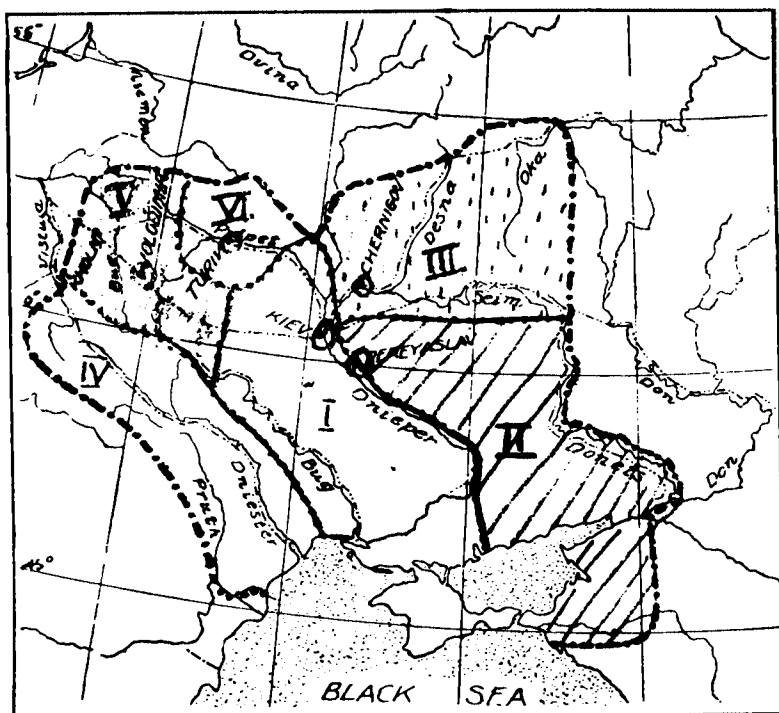
*"The first oasis in a desert of turmoil."*

Sviatopolk, Vsevolod's son was able to stem the downward trend of the empire with a conference of all branches of the royal family at *Lake Lubche*. It was decided that each dynasty should retain its patrimony, reigning undisturbed by others and co-operating to drive off the common enemy, the Polovtsi. A series of yearly campaigns, dating from 1103 to 1111 were finally successful in driving off this nomadic horde.

#### **O. THE CHANGING RELIGIOUS PICTURE**

*"The Orthodox-Catholic Schism."*

There was a growing split between the Eastern Church in Constantinople



UKRAINIAN PRINCIPALITIES FROM THE 11th TO THE 13th CENTURY.

I—Kiev, II—Pereyaslav, III—Chernihiv, IV—Galacia, V—Volynia, VI—Turiv.

and the Western Church in Rome. The Eastern Christian Church, through its close contact with the origins of the faith, claimed to preserve Christianity in its purest form. The Western Christian Church enjoyed considerable independence under the Pope and resented the interference of the emperor in ecclesiastical matters of the Eastern Church. Certain theological differences also appeared. As early as the third century the date and celebration of Easter was disputed; the divinity of Christ became an issue in the fourth century and in the eighth and ninth centuries, the use of images was debated. Other differences arose over the use of leavened bread for communion, the Immaculate Conception, celibacy which was not prescribed (nor allowed) for the lower clergy of the Eastern Church, the ceremony of baptism and the profound question of the double procession of the Holy Ghost. When in 1054, the ambassadors of Pope Leo IX pronounced the excommunication of the Patriarch of Constantinople the Orthodox-Catholic Schism was complete. Christianity in Ukraine went the way of Constantinople, its spiritual fount, and Catholics were considered just as heretical to the Orthodox as the Protestants later seemed to the Catholics. A segment of the Ukrainian Church, primarily

in the West, formally reunited with Rome under Pope Clement VIII in 1595, with the understanding that the Byzantine rite would be preserved. Orthodoxy and Catholicism remain the dominant religions of the Ukrainian people to the present.

## **P. THE CHANGING ECONOMIC PICTURE**

*"Debts were mounting and the people suffered."*

The constant warring among brothers and the exploits of the various nomadic tribes were slowly ruining the prosperity of the Dnieper region. The first to suffer were the masses, who, left penniless by the devastation, were forced to go into debt. Labor for others was the only way one could get rid of his debt. A very low premium was placed on physical labor, however, and eventually the peasant found himself either an indentured laborer (*Zakup*) or a virtual slave (*Kholop*). The constant strife had also resulted in migrations northward and depopulation through war losses.

Other factors which contributed to the economic decline of the Ukrainian nation were the reorientation of trade routes as a result of the decline of Constantinople and the rise of West European commercial cities, and deforestation depriving Kiev of wealth as well as natural defense barriers.

## **Q. THE CHANGING POLITICAL PICTURE**

*"A divided kingdom."*

In spite of the efforts of Yaroslav's descendants to reunite Ukraine, the dismemberment had already begun, gaining momentum as conditions grew progressively worse. The first and most complete separation was that of *Galicia* (Halichina) where the dynasty of *Rostislav*, Yaroslav's grandson, ruled in 1084. The region of *Chernihiv* ruled by the dynasty of *Oleh* seceded during the reign of Sviatopolk II. In the middle of the 12th century, the principalities of *Pereyaslav* and *Turiv-Pinsk* (Polisia on the Pripet) followed suit. Finally the region of Volynia broke off, to be ruled by the dynasty founded by the sons of Isiaslav II. Years later *Prince Roman*, a member of this same dynasty was successful in reuniting Volynia and Galicia, forming the Volyno-Galician state or the Galician Kingdom.

## **R. VOLODIMIR MONOMAKH (1113-1125)**

*"The Last Oasis."*

The masses, tired of the chaos that was rampant in Ukraine, revolted after the death of Sviatopolk II and installed a most popular prince, Volodimir Monomakh. Monomakh came close to restoring the glory that was Kiev, reuniting after his supremacy much of what had been lost. He married the Swedish princess, *Christine*, forming a much-needed alliance with the Swedish crown, and began a revision of the *Ruska Pravda* in an effort to improve the lot of the people.

## **S. MSTISLAV (1125-1132)**

*"An easy and smooth succession, but little else."*

Mstislav, because of his father's popularity succeeded to the throne with no opposition. He brought dignity to the House of Monomakh, continuing his

**Holy Virgin (detail) Mosaic**  
**in the Cathedral of**  
**St. Sophia, Kiev.**



father's policy of better things for the people and concluding dynastic alliances with Sweden, Denmark and the royal house of Byzantium. The die had been cast years before, however, and in spite of his noble efforts, it was only a matter of time before Kiev fell.

**T. IZIASLAV II, ROSTISLAV**  
**and ARISTOCRATIC ANARCHY**  
*"The beginning of the end."*

The people of Kiev were prepared and willing to follow Monomakh and Mstislav. They even supported the sons of Mstislav. Iziaslav II and Rostoslav until the latter set to quarreling. The population had had their fill of these aristocratic squabbles and refused to interfere in the feuds that soon broke out among a long line of princes. Whenever a capable prince seized the throne of Kiev there was peace for a time but towards the end, chaos was so widespread that the reign of a prince was measured in weeks.

**U. LIFE IN THE KIEVAN KINGDOM**

a) *Political organization* — The political organization of the Kievan Kingdom was a combination of monarchical, aristocratic and democratic government. The monarchical element included the prince whose main function

was that of a military defender and not that of an autocratic ruler. His secondary function was to serve in a judicial capacity, selecting local judges for the outlying districts and judging the more serious cases himself. The aristocratic element consisted of the boyars or land aristocracy (*Druzhina*). Relatively independent of the prince, the *Druzhina* convened whenever it was necessary to discuss government matters or to introduce new legislation. The democratic element was organized around the city council (*veche*) consisting of all adult males in the population. Unanimity was necessary for all decisions. During the time of Volodimir and Yaroslav, power was centralized around the prince and the *veche* was rarely heard from; but at other times the *veche* could wield great power, even to the extent of expelling unpopular princes (the expulsion of Iziaslav in 1068).

b) *Social structure* — The Ukrainian social structure during the Kievan era was based upon a free society with no hereditary classes or castes. Social classes existed only in a very limited sense and it was an easy matter to pass from one to another. The boyars and other land owners made up the upper classes, the merchants and master artisans comprised the middle classes while unskilled labor, the poorer artisans, agricultural laborers, peasants and farmers made up the lower classes. There also existed a group of half-free and slave denizens (mostly war prisoners who were working off their ransom) but their number was a small fraction of the total population.

The growth of Christianity brought about another social class, the so-called "church people." The clergy, their families, church assistants and people in various church charitable organizations belonged to this group which was under the jurisdiction of special church courts. Two groups of clergy existed, the "black clergy" (monks) and the "white clergy" (priests and deacons). Only monks could become bishops while the priests were usually selected from among the married men.

c) *Cultural development* —

1. *Pre-Christian art* — the first archeologic traces of pre-Christian Ukrainian art date back to the *Trypillian Period* (named after Trypillia, a locality on the Dnieper River south of Kiev). This culture flourished from the first to the third millenium B. C. and developed an original style of ornamental pottery and sculpture contemporary with the oldest Greek art. During the *Scythian Period*, art expressions in Ukraine were similar to those found in Persia, Assyria, and Babylon. The remaining art periods were largely influenced by the various nations and tribes that established their life in Ukraine: the Greeks, the Romans, the Huns, etc.

2. *Architecture* — With the acceptance of Christianity in 988, Greek Byzantine art began to flourish in Ukraine. Many Greek builders and artists were invited to come to Kiev and to help develop Ukrainian Byzantine architecture. The most important of the surviving Byzantine edifices is the *Cathedral of St. Sophia* built during Yaroslav's time. A five naved building with many apses, this structure had nine domes. Ten more domes were added during restoration and reconstruction which took place in the 17th and 18th centuries. The interior of the Cathedral is rich with mosaics.



**ZOLOTOVERKHIY (Golden Domed).** Monastery, Kiev, 1108. Rebuilt in 17th-18th Century.  
Destroyed by the Bolsheviks in 1934.

frescoes, and *ikons*, some of the other art forms of the Kievan period. One of the most famous ikons of this period is the ikon of *Our Lady of Vsyhhorod* (Vsyhhorod is a town near Kiev), dating back to the 11th century. Another important structure decorated with mosaics and frescoes was *Zolotoverkhiy* (Golden Domed) a magnificent Byzantine structure torn down by the Soviets in 1934-35 along with some thirty other ancient Ukrainian churches in Kiev.

3. *Music* — Musical instruments during the Kievan era were considered pagan forms of expression and had no place in ecclesiastical ceremonies. Even the organ, an instrument introduced by Byzantium, was never used in Church; choral music was the only permissible type of religious musical expression. Church singers during this period, influenced by local secular music, developed the so-called "Kievan songs," music written without staves and without exact indication of tone. Kievan songs were always sung in unison. Secular music developed around the singers of the *druzhina* and were generally songs that described heroic battles and exploits. Musical instruments such as *kobzas*, *gusli*, and *pipes* were used by the professional musicians (*skomorokhi*) who sang for the prince and his court. In general, however, the *skomorokhi* were looked upon as "tools of Satan" and with the exception of a few court jongleurs, their lot in life was not a pleasant one.

4. *Literature* — Although Ukrainians had a very rich oral literature before the time of Volodimir, the development of written literary expression began during his time. The first books to arrive in Ukraine were from Bulgaria and Constantinople and from these primary sources a distinct Ukrainian literature developed. As in the case of music the three most frequent subject matters for ancient Ukrainian literature were spiritualism,

**Our Lady of Vyshhorod,  
ikon, 11th-12th century**

Taken out of Ukraine in 1153, this world famous work of art later became known as Our Lady of Vladimir. Formerly housed in the Moscow Kremlin, it is presently on permanent display in the Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow.



heroism and nature. One of the most famous of the spiritual poems is *Of Justice and Injustice*, based on Ukrainian spiritual life from the dim past to the time of Christianity. The most outstanding heroic epic poem is the *Song of the Legion of Ihor*, a description of the expeditions of Ihor of Novhorod-Siversky against the Polovtsians.

## **V. THE SACK OF KIEV**

*"Justice is now shedding bitter tears of sorrow.*

*While the Dame Injustice whirls in drunken dancing."* — JUSTICE AND INJUSTICE

It has already been related how the unsettled conditions in Ukraine had persuaded many of the inhabitants to emigrate. Some went north into Galicia, Volynia, and Chernihiv. A few of these refugees did not stop there but traveled across the forests of *Bryansk*, settling finally in an area between the upper Volga and Oka Rivers. This land had already been colonized to a certain extent by the *Vyatichi* and the *Krivichi*. Slavic tribes mentioned in Chapter I. These same Slavic tribes were influenced to a great extent by the Finnic population in the area, which changed their anthropological physiognomy, modified the Slavic tongue and forged the substructure of the modern Great Russian.\*

\*Some modern Russian historians such as *Pokrovski*, *Kliuchevsky* and *Platonov* consider the Great Russian to be 80 per cent Finnish.

In spite of the hardships suffered by the people during this period of Ukrainian history, the emigration beyond Chernihiv was slight. Very few were willing to exchange the fertile black soil of Ukraine for the sands and marshes of the Northeast. Only those who had very great provocation were likely to make the move. A prince who had lost his holdings in ancient Ukraine and was disgruntled with the democratic traditions inherent in the "council idea" of rule would have just the necessary motivation.

And so it was that the descendants of the younger *George (Jurij) Monomakh* settled in the Volga region and founded the Muscovite dynasty. In his new home the Northern prince was able to carve out an autocratic empire. Suzdal was the first city to gain prominence; Vladimir became the second when *Andrew (Bogolubsky)*, son of George Monomakh, tired of the constant checks of his councils (*veche*), and moved his capital there in 1157. Moscow, first mentioned in 1147, was to become the third.

In spite of a common dynasty, a gulf had grown between the Kievan Rus and the people of the North. Differences in psychological temperament nurtured by the differences in climate and terrain, cultural differences enhanced by the proximity of the Southern people to Georgia and Armenia whose culture was more oriental than the Greco-Byzantine tradition of Kiev, and the differences which existed between the patriarchial, autocratic rule of the North and the "council idea" in Kiev, helped to widen the gulf. The final break came in 1169, when Andrew of Vladimir, taking advantage of the existing turmoil in Kiev devastated the ancient capital. The attack was motivated not by an eagerness to control the city, the reason behind similar forays in the past, but by a desire to ruin and destroy Kiev and Rus forever. Everything of value, whether ecclesiastical, civil, or cultural, was carefully removed and transported North. Even the head of the Church, the Metropolitan, symbol of religious supremacy, was taken along. It would be decades before Kiev would rise from its ruins. But the ancient tradition of Rus lived on for in a few years the princes of Galicia would call themselves the Grand Princes of Rus.†

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†The people of the North eventually adopted the name of their capital city and called themselves Muscovites. It was not until the 17th century when *Tsar Alexis*, nourishing hopes of recovering the lost area around Kiev that the Muscovites gave any significance to the use of the word Rus.

"It was not until Moscow saw itself in a position to make itself the heir of Kiev in the eyes of the world that it preempted very definitely the name of Rus, proclaimed that Rus was Russia, and dangled it before the eyes of the world to win belief that both Kiev and Moscow belonged together under the aegis of Moscow and St. Petersburg." — CLARENCE MANNING



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## REVIEW EXERCISES

### A. Fill in the Correct Word or Phrase

1. The first Varangian contingent to arrive in Kiev was headed by \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
2. According to Prof. Doroshenko, the name "Rus" is of Scandinavian origin. Profs. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ do not subscribe to this theory.
3. According to Prof. \_\_\_\_\_ "Rus" comes from \_\_\_\_\_ a leading tribe of Alans.
4. Two famous poems of this period of Ukrainian history are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The most important contribution made by the Varangians in Kiev was in the form of \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Three Eastern tribes that played havoc in Ukraine during this period were the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The year 988 is an important date in Ukrainian history because \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Yaroslav the Wise is best known for \_\_\_\_\_ an ancient law code.
9. Two early Ukrainian rulers who were later canonized were \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Kiev was sacked by the Muscovites in the year \_\_\_\_\_.
11. Important Great Russian cities in the order of their founding are \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

*Match the correct letter with each statement*

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. _____ Responsible for adoption of Christianity in Ukraine.         | A. Volodimir         |
| 2. _____ Slain by the Pechenegs.                                      | B. Olha              |
| 3. _____ Sought vengeance for husband's premature death.              | C. Sviatoslav        |
| 4. _____ Slain by the Derevlans.                                      | D. Yaroslav          |
| 5. _____ Historical ballads   | E. Iziaslav          |
| 6. _____ His daughters married the kings of Norway and France.        | F. Ihor              |
| 7. _____ Boyars or landed aristocracy.                                | G. P. Lavra          |
| 8. _____ Muscovite prince who sacked Kiev.                            | H. Polians           |
| 9. _____ Ancient Ukrainian tribe that ruled Kiev.                     | I. Mstislav          |
| 10. _____ Last of the great Ukrainian princes.                        | J. Monomakh          |
| 11. _____ Year of the Orthodox-Catholic Schism.                       | K. bylini            |
| 12. _____ Prince who was deposed by the people.                       | L. druzhina          |
| 13. _____ Prince who peacefully divided his kingdom with his brother. | M. Andrew Bogolubsky |
| 14. _____ Family conference held here.                                | N. L. Lubche         |
| 15. _____ Monastery of the Caves.                                     | O. Vsevolod          |
| 16. _____ His daughter married Henry IV.                              | P. Yaropolk          |
|   | Q. 1169              |
|   | R. 1054              |

*Discussion Questions*

1. The Kievan Kingdom under the rule of Volodimir and Yaroslav was a strong and impregnable empire. Why was this so? Compare Kiev under Volodimir and Yaroslav with the Kiev that existed a few years later.
2. What was the influence of Byzantine culture in the Kievan Kingdom? What examples of Byzantine culture can be found in Ukrainian art today?
3. What democratic principles were found in the political life of Kiev? How were they different from the political picture that prevailed in Vladimir?
4. From what you have learned about Ukrainian history so far, what arguments can you give in support of the distinction between Ukrainians and Russians?
5. Beginning with Sviatoslav, each Kievan prince divided his kingdom among his sons before his death. What effect did this have upon the kingdom?
6. What are some of the factors that led to the fall of Kiev?

## NOTES.

# CHAPTER THREE

## THE GALICIAN KINGDOM

### *Significant Dates in:*

#### **Ukrainian History**

Vladimirko (1141-1153)  
 The Sack of Kiev (1169)  
 Yaroslav Osmomisl (1153-1187)  
 The Galician-Volynian Union (1187-1199)  
 Roman (1199-1205)  
 The Great Revolt (1205-1240)  
 The Battle of the River Kalka (1223)

Kiev taken by the Tatars (1240)  
 Daniel (1240-1264)  
 Lev (1264-1301)  
 Jurij I (1301-1308)  
 Andrew and Lev II (1308-1320)  
 Jurij II (1320-1340)  
 Kiev Falls under Lithuanian Rule (1320)  
 The Fall of Galicia (1349)

#### **World History**

Founding of Moscow (1147)  
 Henry II of England (1154-1189)  
 Saladin recaptures Jerusalem (1187)  
 The Third Crusade (1189-1192)  
 Richard the Lion-Hearted  
 Philip II of France  
 Frederick Barbarossa  
 Temuchin (Genghis Khan) (1206-1227)  
 Magna Carta (1215)  
 Death of St. Francis (1226)  
 Alexander Nevsky of Muscovy (1252-1263)  
 Kublai Khan (1259-1294)  
 Death of St. Thomas Aquinas (1274)  
 End of Crusades (1291)  
 Model Parliament in England (1295)  
 Death of Dante (1321)  
 Ivan I Kalita of Muscovy (1325-1341)  
 Black Death in Europe (1348)

As we have noted in Chapter II, the political power of Kiev began to wane after the rule of *Yaroslav the Wise*. Partitioning of the once powerful kingdom had begun in 1084, the first and most complete secession being that of Galicia (Halichina) where the dynasty of *Rostislav*, grandson of Yaroslav, ruled. Ukraine was divided into principalities, some large and some small, but all tending to become subdivided as the members of the royal family increased. The King, or Grand Prince of Kiev was considered the senior among the royal princes and all others were expected to obey him and to live in peace with each other. With the fall of Kiev in 1169, the Prince of Suzdal claimed to be the senior prince and Kievan supremacy was weakened. In time, the Kingdom of Galicia known later as the Galician-Volynian Kingdom, gained in stature and became the senior Ukrainian principality, surpassing Kiev in importance. For the next two hundred years the spark of Ukrainian independence was kept alive in this area.

### A. VLADIMIRKO (1141-1153)

"An able effort sustained his embryonic kingdom"

One of the most able rulers of the Rostislav dynasty, Vladimirko's competence strengthened the embryonic kingdom. He managed to overcome and successfully defend his crown against rebellious nobles (boyars), *Iziaslav II* of Kiev and invading Hungarians. During his reign the Kingdom of Galicia came to include *Podolia*, *Bukovina*, and *Bessarabia*.

### B. YAROSLAV OSMOMISL (1153-1187)

"A prince wise and well spoken, pious and honored in foreign lands and famous by reason of his armies."  
— ANCIENT CHRONICLE

During his father's reign Yaroslav married the daughter of *Jurij the Long-handed* of Suzdal and with help from his father-in-law, was able to further strengthen the Galician holdings. A fiery, powerful and often impulsive character, Yaroslav was nevertheless possessed with keen political insight, and prudence in matters of state finances. Trade flourished, diplomatic relations were extended, and a bishopric was established in *Hallich*, the Galician capital.

### C. THE GALICIAN — VOLYNIAN UNION (1187-1199)

"Insurrection resulted in greater unity."

Yaroslav was plagued, however, by internal affairs during his tenure. The boyars, landed aristocracy whose origins dated back to the ancient *druzhina* of Kievan times, constantly demanded a bigger voice in matters of government. Their demands and influence increased while the power of the prince tended to decline. Upon the death of Yaroslav, the boyars were powerful enough to expel Yaroslav's heirs, seize the reigns of rule for themselves, and offer the nominal crown of Galicia to *Roman Mstislavich* of *Volynia* whom they believed would give them greater powers. For a time it looked as if their insurrection had succeeded. Yaroslav's son, *Volodimir*, however, was not to be put aside so easily; escaping to Hungary, Volodimir enlisted the aid of *Bela III* who invaded Galicia and expelled Roman. But instead of returning the crown to Volodimir, Bela placed it on the head of his own son, *Andrew*. The boyars were satisfied with this state of affairs for they in fact continued to rule the country; the population, especially the clergy, however, resented the foreign occupation. After the Hungarians had betrayed him, Volodimir enlisted the aid of *Emperor Barbarossa* of the Holy Roman Empire. Barbarossa, preoccupied with preparations for his famous crusade, commissioned *Casimir the Just* of Poland, an Empire vassal, to come to the aid of Volodimir. Casimir expelled the Hungarians, and Volodimir ruled until his death in 1199. When the latter left no heirs, Galician rule again returned to Roman. Galicia and Volynia were united at last.

## D. ROMAN (1199-1205)

*"His courage was equal to that of a bison and like his grandfather. Monomakh, he was the terror of the heathen Polovtsi."* — ANCIENT CHRONICLE

The son of a Polish princess, Roman had spent his youth in Poland and Germany, an experience that later provided him with a shrewd understanding of the Central European political situation. After Volodimir's death, Roman was able to firmly unite Galicia and Volynia, becoming the most important political power in Ukraine. He subdued the defiant boyars and after successfully expelling his father-in-law, *Rurik*, from Kiev, reunited most of ancient Ukraine. The Galician kingdom now included all Ukrainian territory from the Carpathians to the Dnieper. Unfortunately, Roman died in battle at a most inopportune time.

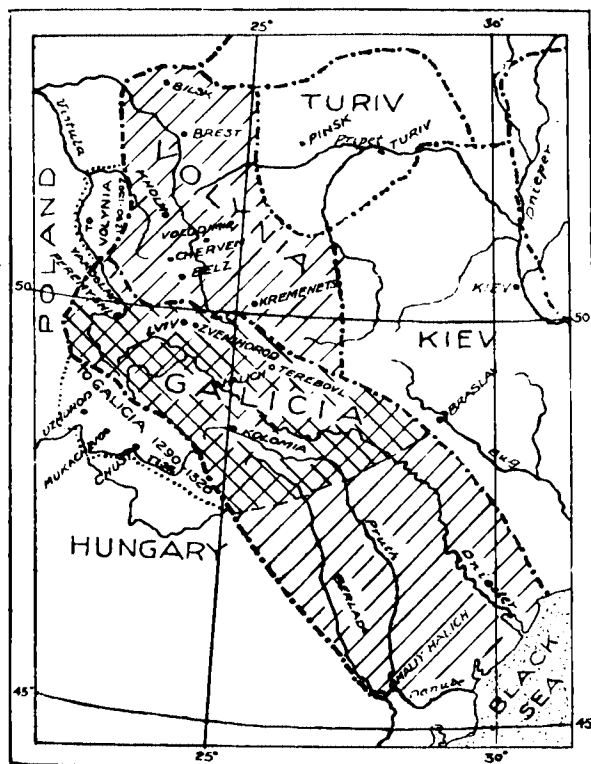
## E. THE GREAT REVOLT (1205-1240)

*"An untimely death resulted in chaos."*

At the time of his death, Roman had two sons, *Daniel*, age 3, and *Vasilko*, who was one. Their mother, sensing the intentions of the rebellious boyars, escaped with her two young sons and placed herself under the protection of *Andrew II* of Hungary, an ally of her late husband. Andrew immediately declared himself protector of Galicia intending to rule until Roman's sons were of age to occupy the throne. The boyars were not content under the protectorate of Andrew and once again invited another ruling dynasty, this time two sons of *Ihor*, of the dynasty of *Sviatoslav*, to rule them. Ascending the throne, the two young rulers found life unbearable because of continuous interference from the aristocracy; and after careful consideration, they decided to eliminate the nobles. After assassinating scores of boyars, they themselves were unseated and subsequently hanged.

The action of the insurgent boyars convinced Andrew that annexation of Galicia was the only possible means for securing the kingdom. He invaded Galicia and planned to proselyte the population into the Roman Catholic faith. In this endeavor he was aided by *Leizsko* of Poland. The Ukrainian people violently resisted all attempts at conversion; the two allies subsequently quarreled, and *Leizsko*, with the aid of *Mstislav*, nephew of *Rurik* of Kiev, drove the Hungarians from Galicia. Under the terms of the Polish-Hungarian treaty which followed, *Mstislav* received Galicia, and the sons of Roman, *Daniel* and *Vasilko*, received part of Volynia.

Undaunted and supported by the local population, *Daniel* and *Vasilko* were soon successful in repossessing most of Volynia. With the death of *Mstislav*, they focused their attention upon Galicia where their rule was opposed by the hostile nobles, and the King of Hungary. Once again, with the support of the people, they were able to overcome all obstacles. By 1240, *Daniel* sat on the throne of Galicia and *Vasilko* was Prince of Volynia. For all practical purposes Galicia and Volynia were reunited.



THE GALICIAN-VOLYNIAN STATE FROM THE 11th TO THE 13th CENTURIES. Map Courtesy of: *History of the Ukraine* by D. Dorashenko.

## F. DANIEL (1240-1264)

*"His destiny was tragic."* — N. KOSTOMARIW

The reign of Daniel ranks with that of Volodimir and Yaroslav the Wise of Kiev. An able and sincere ruler, his rule was nevertheless, in the words of Kostomariw, a 19th century Ukrainian historian, "a tragic one". Kostomariw goes on to state that Daniel "achieved more than any other Ukrainian Prince, making an effort that perhaps no other could emulate. The whole of Ukraine was at one time united under his power. But his inheritance did not last because he did not strengthen it sufficiently for the future. He was not allowed to bring about a complete victory over the Tartars and with regard to his western neighbors his policy was not cunning enough to be completely successful. Courageous and fearless, Daniel was too frank and honorable to be a great politician. In all his dealings we do not find a trace



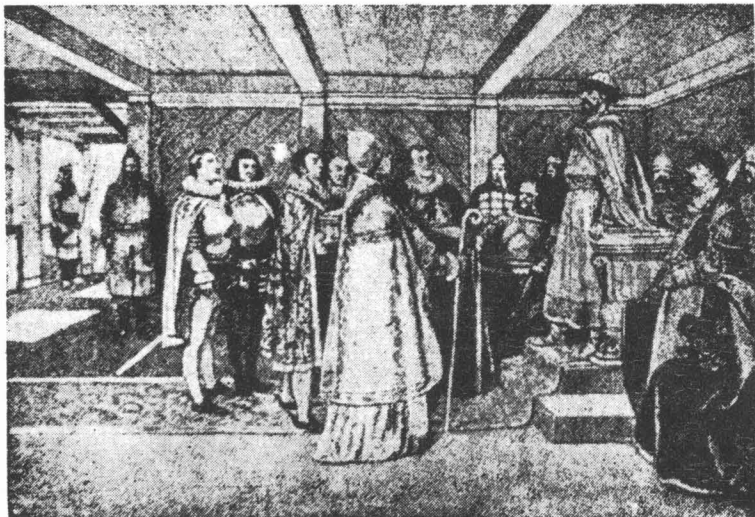
KING DANIEL (1240-1264) Photo Courtesy of:  
*History of Ukraine by D. Doroshenko.*

of craftiness, even of that most innocent artfulness used by men if they do not wish to be deceived by others. This Ukrainian prince was a complete contrast to the cunning Russian princes who, though different in their respective natures and temperament, all had in common the policy of craftiness and violence. . . . The person of King Daniel remains a noble and the most attractive personality in Medieval Ukrainian history."

(1) *The Tartar Invasion*: The greatest threat to Daniel and fourteenth century Ukraine was the presence of another Eastern menace, the *Tartars*, who a few years prior to Daniel's ascension to the Galician throne, had invaded and terrorized virtually all of eastern Europe and half of Western Europe.

The home of this Mongol Horde was in the *Gobi Desert*. There they led a nomadic life, plundering their neighbors and serving as mercenary troops under various would-be *Khans* (princes). In 1206 the great *Temuchin* (Genghis Khan) was elected their leader. With superb leadership and military cunning, he united Mongolian resources and so strengthened the Mongolian nation that in a series of swift campaigns his armies conquered *Turkestan*, *Bokhara*, *Khiva* and *Northern Persia*. Travelling westward, Temuchin's "Golden Horde" reached the Caspian Sea in 1222. The presence of the menacing Mongolians alarmed all the Ukrainian princes; in a general assembly held in Kiev that same year they decided to meet Temuchin's forces in battle. It was an unfortunate decision, for in the battle of the *Kalka River* in 1223 in which both Daniel and Mstislav participated, the combined Ukrainian forces were soundly defeated. The Tartars, for some unknown reason, did not press their advantage but instead, returned East where they were to remain for the next fourteen years. This time interval enabled Daniel to regain his rightful heritage and strengthen his position among his own people. In 1237 the Tartars returned under the leadership of *Khan Batu*, Temuchin's grandson, capturing The Great Russian princedoms one by one. They eventually overwhelmed Kiev and continued unchecked through all of





King Daniel receives his royal crown from the Papal emissary.

Volynia, Galicia, Poland, and Hungary, being stopped finally in Silesia, near Liegnitz in 1242. The Great Kha Khan, *Ogotai*, Temuchin's successor, died at this particular moment in history and the Khan Batu, anxious to claim the Mongolian throne, was compelled to return to his homeland. He re-crossed the whole of the ruined Ukrainian territory and, discovering that he had not been selected to succeed the Great Khan, decided to carve out his own empire along the banks of the Volga. Here he remained, founded his dynasty, and sent ambassadors to all princes of the ruined areas demanding submission and tribute. Thus, for the Great Russian nation the period of the "Tartar Yoke" began, lasting until 1480. We shall discover later that this period of Russian history was to profoundly influence both the historical course and the psychological character of the Great Russian people.

(2) *Closer union with the West*: While Russia suffered under Tartar domination, Daniel, ostensibly submitting to Tartar sovereignty, turned to the West for aid. Pope Innocent IV, already moved by the previous pleas of Kievan Metropolitan Akerovich, promised to organize a Crusade against the Tartars. There was even some talk of a union between the Roman Catholics and Orthodox. The Pope sent his emissary, *Plano Carpini*, to study the situation but a crusade never materialized, and Daniel abandoned any plans he may have had to unite with the Western Church.

His relations with Rome must have remained amiable, however, for in 1253, a Legate of the Pope crowned Daniel, King of Galicia. It should be noted that while Daniel continually formulated plans for a secret rebellion against the Tartars, other princes such as *Alexander Nevsky* of Moscow recommended loyalty to the Khan.



The Cathedral of the Assumption in Volynia. Photo Courtesy of: *History of Ukraine* by I. Tykhor et al.

Toward the end of his reign Daniel was faced with still another hazard, the growing might of *Lithuania*, a threatening power from the North. Daniel was forced to form a strong coalition against the Lithuanians together with the Poles and the *Knights of the Teutonic Order*. His dream to finally expel the Tartars and their influence over Ukrainian soil never materialized.

### G. LEV (1264-1301)

*"The most ambitious and energetic of Daniel's heirs."*

Daniel's sons coveted the Lithuanian throne. One of them, *Shvarno*, succeeded in making himself Grand Duke of Lithuania but died shortly afterwards. Daniel was succeeded by his younger son, *Vasilko*, who also died shortly after his succession. Thus, Lev, the most ambitious and energetic of Daniel's heirs, took over upon his brother's death. While Lev never engaged the Tartars who were content to let the Galician situation alone as long as they received their due tributes, he was fairly successful in extending his father's holdings. He managed to push the Galician frontiers northwards beyond the river *Narev* and to recover part of *Munkach* (Carpatho-Ukraine) from Hungary.

### H. JURIJ (1301-1308)

*"His royal seal bore the inscription 'King of Rus.' "*

By the beginning of the fourteenth century the dynasty of Roman had died out in Volynia and all of Galicia and Volynia once again fell into the hands of a single ruler, Jurij I, son of Lev. His royal seal bore the inscription "King of Rus". A strong prince and a capable administrator, his reign found Ukraine basking in prosperity and peace. During his rule, however, the Metropolitan of Kiev, fearful of Tartar attacks, moved to Moscow. While

KING LEV (1264-1301) Photo Courtesy of:  
*History of Ukraine by D. Doroshenko.*



Galicia received permission to establish a new diocese, the religious bonds uniting the Ukrainian people were loosed in that the Dnieper region remained subject to the former Metropolitan.

## I. THE FALL OF THE GALICIAN KINGDOM

The reign of King Lev and that of his son, Jurij, was the last period of greatness and power for the Galician (Volynian) kingdom as an independent Ukrainian state. Poland, reconstructed under *Casimir the Great*, and Hungary under the dynasty of *Anjou* as well as certain internal developments eventually proved too much for the Ukrainian nation.

Jurij was succeeded by his two sons, *Andrew* and *Lev II* who ruled until 1320 when both died leaving no male heirs. The boyars selected a close relative of Jurij I, Boleslav of Poland, to be their ruler; baptized in the Catholic Church, Boleslav now accepted the Orthodox faith and adopted the name of *Jurij II* in honor of his grandfather. Discord soon arose between the new ruler and the boyars. Noting the dissension, Poland and Hungary entered a secret pact to seize Galicia at the first opportunity; this opportunity presented itself when Jurij was poisoned by the boyars, who now planned to make *Liubart of Lithuania* their nominal prince. In 1340, the Poles and Hungarians began their invasion but were halted in their tracks when the boyars threatened Tartar retaliation. The Hungarians fled beyond their borders and were not heard from again. Casimir also promised not to molest the Galician-Volynian nation but once the Tartar threat had been removed he tried again. He met with little success and Liubart remained nominal head of state. Then in 1349, after convincing the Tartars not to interfere, Casimir launched a surprise attack against Liubart that resulted in Poland annexing all of Galicia and part of Volynia. A period of new life for the Ukrainian people had begun.

## J. POLITICAL ORGANIZATION

In general, each prince ruled his own dominion exclusively with no interference from the other princes. All matters of state, taxes, and the trial

of important cases were in the hands of the prince and his retinue (Druzhina, boyars, nobles).

The lot of the common people was unfortunate. They had little or no voice in the government and the multitude of misfortunes which befell Ukraine and its inhabitants forced the villagers and smaller tradesmen into even greater dependence upon the nobility. The laws and the administration of the prince favored the upper classes while the people suffered. It is small wonder, then, that most of the population did not zealously resist Tartar control. Tartar taxation was often lower than that of the princes had been and their lot was relatively good as long as they followed Tartar dictates.

## K. TRADE AND CULTURAL INFLUENCES

Even at the time of the supremacy of Kiev, a lively trade with Western Europe had developed in the West Ukrainian provinces. With the fall of Kiev, the role of intermediary in East-West trade relations fell to Galicia. Galician towns such as Halich, L'viv, Lutsk and Kholm became important commercial centers and large foreign colonies were to be found within their walls. There was a merging of West European elements with the basic Byzantine and Ukrainian styles.

The sons of Roman, Daniel, and Vasilko were the greatest town builders in Medieval Ukraine. Daniel founded and built L'viv (named after his son, Lev) and Kholm, while Vasilko built many beautiful churches and castles throughout Volynia. Volodimir, Vasilko's son, built the towns of Brest-Litovsk and Kamenets-Litovsk.

In addition to the Chroniclers who were concerned with contemporary Ukrainian history, the religious writers remain the best known to modern historians. The best known authors of the twelfth century were *Metropolitan Klym*, *Kyrilo*, bishop of Turiv (author of the *Prayer of Daniel*), and *George Zarubsky*. Outstanding authors of the thirteenth century were *Simon*, *Policarp* and *Serapion*.

The most original and distinguished art work of this period was that of the goldsmiths. They were able to free themselves of Byzantine influences and concentrate strictly on a West European-Ukrainian form.

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An ancient Ukrainian religious picture depicting Christ crowning Yaropolk and his wife Prince and Princess of Galicia and Volynia. Photo Courtesy of: Ukraine in Pictures.



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## REVIEW EXERCISES

### A. Fill in the Correct Word or Phrase

1. The breakup of the Kievan Kingdom began with the secession of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The name of \_\_\_\_\_ ranks with that of Volodimir and Yaroslav.
3. Kiev was taken by the Tartars in the year \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The greatest internal problem faced by the Ukrainian rulers of this period came from \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Yaroslav Osmomisl's son, Volodimir, regained Galicia with the aid of \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Two Hungarian rulers, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ managed to briefly include Galicia as part of their domain.
7. The ancestral home of the Tartars is located in \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Kiev fell under Lithuanian rule in the year \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Galicia fell under Lithuanian rule in the year \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Two *kinds* of writers are best remembered from this period, the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_.

### B. Match the Correct Letter With Each Statement

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. _____ Genghis Khan                                   | A. Khan               |
| 2. _____ Married the daughter of Jurij the Long handed. | B. Jurij              |
| 3. _____ A prince among the mongols.                    | C. Lev                |
| 4. _____ Papel emissary.                                | D. Mongols            |
| 5. _____ Wrote <i>Prayer of Daniel</i> .                | E. Kyrilo             |
| 6. _____ Recovered part of Carpatho-Ukraine.            | F. Temuchin           |
| 7. _____ "King of Rus" on royal seal.                   | G. Andrew and Lev II  |
| 8. _____ His dynasty ruled Galicia.                     | H. Daniel             |
| 9. _____ Great town builders.                           | I. Plano Carpini      |
| 10. _____ Too honest to be a good politician.           | J. Daniel and Vasilko |
| 11. _____ Sons of Jurij.                                | K. Yaroslav Osmomisl  |
| 12. _____ Golden Horde.                                 | L. Rostislav          |

### C. Discussion Questions

1. What effect did the constant dissatisfaction and rebellion of the boyars have upon the Galician-Volynian Kingdom?
2. What were some of the factors that prevented the Galician-Volynian Kingdom from reuniting all of Ukraine?
3. Why was Daniel's destiny a tragic one?
4. Discuss the political organization of this period? Did it differ from Kiev?
5. While Ukraine was ruled by the Monomakh dynasty, what was occurring in Muscovy? What effect did these events have upon the Great Russian people? How does this factor add to the argument that Ukrainians are different from Russians?

## **N O T E S**

# CHAPTER FOUR

## UKRAINE UNDER POLAND-LITHUANIA

*Significant Dates in:*

### Ukrainian History

#### **THE LITHUANIAN OCCUPATION**

Gedymis (1316-1339)

Liubart (1340-1389)

Casimir Invades Galicia (1349)

#### **THE POLISH OCCUPATION**

Casimir III (1333-1370)

Volodislav of Galicia (1372-1378)

The Treaty of Krevo (1385)

Yagello (1377-1401)

Battle of the River Vorskla (1399)

Battle of Grunwald (1410)

Treaty of Horodlo (1413)

Svidrihailo (1430-1432)

Casimir IV (1447-1492)

Menhli-Hirey Sacks Kiev (1484)

War With Muscovy (1501-1514)

The Treaty of Lublin (1569)

Establishment of Uniate Church (1595)

### World History

Hundred Years War (1339-1453)

The Black Death (1348-1349)

Dimitri Donskoy of Muscovy (1359-1389)

The Great Schism (1378-1415)

Council of Ferrara-Florence (1438-1439)

Prince Henry of Portugal (1394-1460)

Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519)

Fall of Constantinople (1453)

Ivan III of Muscovy (1462-1505)

Marriage of Ferdinand & Isabella (1469)

Machiavelli (1469-1505)

Copernicus (1473-1543)

Spanish Inquisition (1480)

Columbus Discovers America (1492)

Henry VIII of England (1509-1547)

Beginning of Reformation of Luther (1517)

The Voyage of Magellan (1521-1522)

Charles V of Spain (1519-1556)

Council of Trent (1545-1563)

Elizabeth I of England (1558-1603)

Moscow Becomes a Patriarchate (1589)

Edict of Nantes (1598)

### A. THE RISE OF LITHUANIA

Lithuanian power had begun to rise during the second half of the 13th century. Long a backward and neglected group (even today their language preserves very archaic forms and of all European languages is closest to Sanskrit) the Lithuanians, in their determined struggle for survival, had developed a strong organizing capacity. Under the leadership of various princes they soon attempted to extend their sovereignty over their more highly civilized Slavic neighbors.

Lithuanian expansion really began with *Mendovg*, the first and only king in Lithuanian history by the authority of Pope Innocent IV, and a contemporary of King Daniel of the Galician-Volynian Kingdom. Daniel in the later



years of his reign. had sensed Mendovg's designs on Ukrainian territory, had allied himself with the Poles and the Teutonic Knights, and had declared war on the Lithuanians. Fearing disaster, Mendovg allowed Daniel's son Roman to annex a few Lithuanian towns in order to pacify Daniel. A few years later *Voishelk*, Mendovg's son, recognized *Shvarno*, a son of Daniel, as his successor to the Lithuanian throne. When Shvarno died in 1264. Daniel's other sons failed to press their legacy.

## B. THE LITHUANIAN OCCUPATION

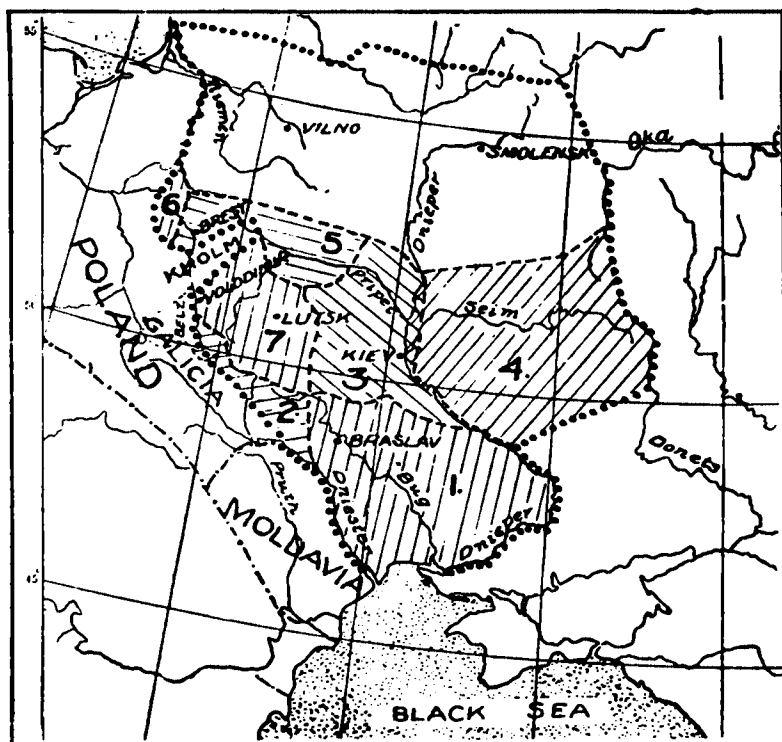
By 1325 most of White Russia had been seized by the Lithuanian princes. During Daniel's final years the Lithuanians had also annexed Ukrainian districts in the vicinity of the upper Buh, the Pripet and the Pinsk rivers. Later, a Lithuanian prince, *Vid*, seized the Ukrainian province of Polisia. During the reign of *Gedymin* (1316-1339) even Kiev fell under Lithuanian control.

Thus imperceptibly, and without much resistance, the Ukrainian provinces fell, one after another, under Lithuanian control. In most cases the two sides made a treaty, the Prince of Lithuania promising "protection," the Ukrainian prince promising "allegiance." The Lithuanian princes quickly adapted themselves to the local customs and culture proclaiming "we neither destroy the old customs nor introduce new ones." They accepted the Greek Orthodox faith, adopted the Ukrainian language and permitted local governments to exist under Lithuanian sovereignty. To the many Ukrainian princes who had grown weary both of Tartar corruption and the civil strife among themselves, Lithuanian strength and order provided a welcome change.

A) *The Legacy of Olgerd* (1341-1377)—During the reign of Gedymin, Lithuania was threatened by the growing power of the German knights of the Teutonic and Livonian Orders. Their pressure increased during the reign of *Olgerd*, his son.

Olgerd left the defense of his western frontiers to his brother, *Keistut*, and concentrated his own efforts on strengthening and expanding the state. He gradually and peacefully incorporated first the *Chernihiv-Sieversk* region, then the *Principdom of Pereyaslav* and finally Kiev where he established his son, *Volodimir*, as nominal head. When the Tartars learned that *Theodore*, their Kievan vassal had been replaced, they prepared for war. Olgerd took up the battle, defeated the Tartars in the *Battle of Sini Vodi* and secured not only the whole territory of Kiev but *Podilia* as well.

Olgerd continued to establish his relatives as heads of State and the annexed territories continued to enjoy self government and practical independence in local affairs. The Lithuanians absorbed the culture of their new territories very quickly; the Greek Orthodox Church made headway at court through the marriages of many Ukrainian princesses and the Ukrainian language was soon adopted as the official language of the Lithuanian royal court. *Vilno*, in the 14th century was no longer a Lithuanian town but the capital of the Lithuanian-White Russian and Ukrainian state with true Lithuanians



LITHUANIA IN THE 14th CENTURY incorporating Ukrainian principalities (shaded)  
 1. Braslav; 2. Podolia, 3. Kiev, 4. Chernihiv, 5. Turiv; 6. Pidliasha. Map courtesy of:  
 Doroshenko, *History of the Ukraine*.

forming only one-tenth of the total population.

B) *Liubart of Volynia* (1340-1389) — Liubart, Olgerd's brother, had married a princess of Galicia and had been installed as the Prince of Galicia in 1340. He ruled there until Poland, under *Prince Casimir III* (The Great), suddenly attacked Galicia in 1349 and annexed it as part of Volynia. The other Lithuanian princes quickly came to Liubart's aid and conquered the Volynian cities but they could not recapture Galicia. Casimir, in turn, even with assistance from *King Louis* of Hungary and the Pope, could not wrest more Ukrainian lands from the Lithuanians. The two powers finally came to an understanding according to which Galicia was to remain in the hands of Poland while Liubart was to keep Volynia. Liubart ruled Volynia until his death in 1389.

### C. THE POLISH OCCUPATION

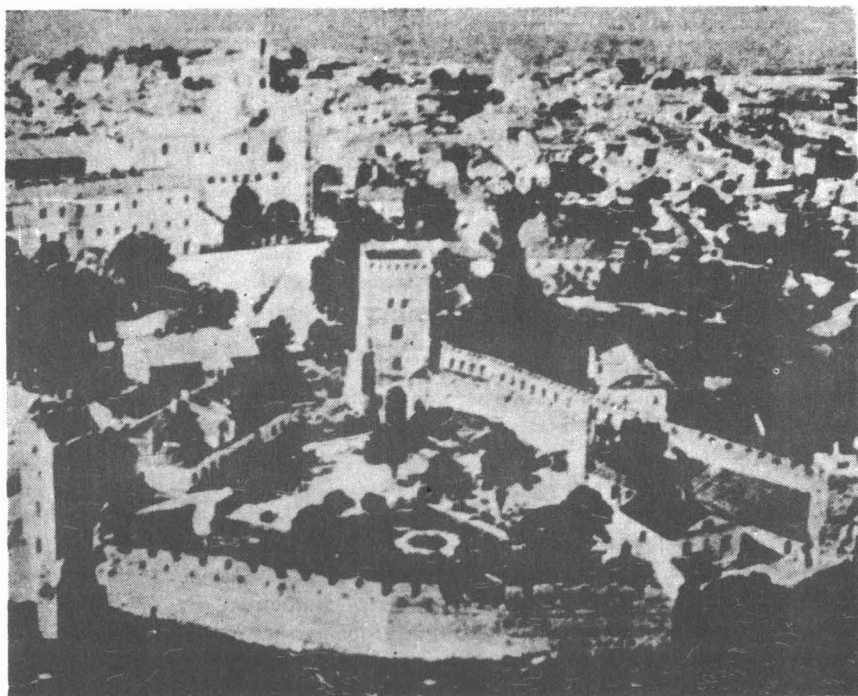
Poland's occupation of Ukrainian soil was in direct contrast to that of Lithuania. Casimir rooted out the anti-Polish factions in Ukraine, dispossessed the Ukrainian nobles of their large estates and invited large numbers of Poles to settle in Galicia. Because of his policy and his religious intolerance of the Orthodox in Ukraine, Casimir was anything but popular.

In time Casimir gained the friendship of the Tartars. After obtaining their promise not to interfere, Casimir contracted a secret alliance with the Teutonic and Livonian Knights and made plans to invade Lithuania from two directions. In 1366 Poland attacked Lithuania from the South while the German Knights invaded from the North. Casimir succeeded in capturing the town of Volodimir but failed miserably in his attempts to add the town of Belz and Kholm to his booty. Liubart recaptured Volodimir after the death of Casimir.

### D. THE TREATY OF KREVO

When Casimir died in 1370 leaving no male heirs, his nephew, *Louis of Hungary*, became King of Poland. Planning to place all Polish possessions in Hungarian hands according to the Polish-Hungarian alliances of 1264 and 1339, Louis proceeded to award Galicia to a Silesian prince, *Volodislav*, who ruled the area under Hungarian supervision from 1372 to 1378. After Louis's death, the Poles elected *Yadwiga*, his daughter, as their queen. As the daughter of Louis and the grand-daughter of *Wladislaus Lokietek*, a Polish duke of royal lineage, Yadwiga had an equal right, by inheritance, to the thrones of Hungary and Poland. The Poles were anxious to be rid of Hungarian interference in their affairs entirely and, once Yadwiga became their queen, they convinced her to lead an army and recapture Galicia. Her attempt was successful and Galicia, in 1387, was once again a part of Poland.

In an effort to bring themselves closer to Lithuania and to strengthen their position against the Germanic Knights, the Poles offered the hand of Yadwiga to the Lithuanian duke *Yagello* hoping that the latter, grateful for the Polish noble's efforts in his behalf, would submit to their demands. The preliminary negotiations of Yagello and the Polish nobles brought about the signing of the so-called *Krevo Union* on Aug. 15, 1385. Yagello agreed to accept Roman Catholicism, to be elected King of Poland, to marry Yadwiga, to baptize all pagan subjects, to recover Lithuanian and Polish territories lost to the Germans, and to surrender to the Polish crown all his Lithuanian, White Russian, and Ukrainian lands. Only the first three points of the treaty were carried out. Yagello renounced his Orthodox faith for Catholicism, was crowned king of Poland under the title of *Wladislaus II* (1377-1401) and married Yadwiga despite the latter's vociferous objections.



The City of Lutsk in Western Volynia. The castle of Liubart is in the foreground.  
Photo Courtesy of: Ukraine in Pictures.

A) *Vitovt* (1386-1430) The projected union of states, outlined in the *Treaty of Krevo*, met great difficulties largely because of the unwillingness of most of the Lithuanian nobles, who stood to lose by the union, as well as the White Russians and Ukrainians to accept the Polish demands. The malcontents rallied around the person of *Vitovt* a relative of Yagello's and a member of the Lithuanian royal family. Vitovt had many supporters and was finally able to force Yagello to recognize him as the Prince of Lithuania. Vitovt planned to continue Lithuania's expansion program and his early efforts were successful. When his armies were defeated by the Tartars in the *Battle of the River Vorskla* in 1399, however, his position at home was weakened and he was forced to make concessions to Yagello. Yagello pushed for closer union and it was finally agreed that whomever died first, Vitovt or Yagello, the other would succeed him. Lithuanian nobles, however, were not treated as equals of Polish nobles in the Polish court and bad feelings still existed. The closer union accomplished one good thing for both countries. In 1410 the combined forces of Yagello and Vitovt broke the power of the Teutonic Knights with a decisive victory in the famous *Battle of Grunwald* (Tannenberg). In time Vitovt was able to gain certain concessions for his Lithuanian nobles by the *Treaty of Horodla* (1413), and even took practical steps in his efforts to be-

come a King of Lithuania by setting the date of his coronation. The first date had to be postponed because the crown was intercepted by the Poles and Vitovt died before the second scheduled date.

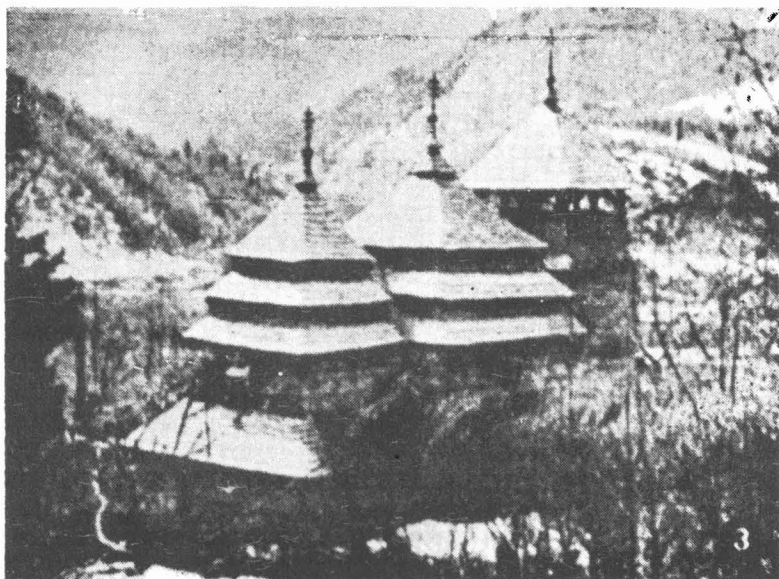
B) *Svidrihailo* (1430-1432) After Vitovt's death, the Lithuanians, accustomed to 40 years of independence, refused to recognize Yagello as their ruler and chose instead, Yagello's younger brother, *Svidrihailo* to be their ruler. The Lithuanians soon regretted their choice, however, for *Svidrihailo* was neither a politician nor a general. He was replaced by *Sigismund I*, Vitovt's younger brother. *Svidrihailo*, although a Roman Catholic, had been a friend of the Orthodox Ukrainian and White Russian nobles. They rallied to his side after *Sigismund* took the Lithuanian throne but in the civil war that followed, they lost battle after battle and never succeeded in placing *Svidrihailo* back on the Lithuanian throne. Both *Svidrihailo* and *Sigismund* died soon after. The Lithuanian crown went to *Casimir IV*, Yagello's son and when Yagello himself passed away, the Polish crown went to *Vladislav*, his eldest son.

C) *Casimir IV* (1447-1492) *Casimir* was a shrewd politician and at first placated the Orthodox elements in his domain. The Ukrainians were pacified when *Casimir* placed *Prince Olelko*, *Olgerd's* grandson on the Kievan throne. Once *Vladislav* died and *Casimir* sat on the Polish as well as the Lithuanian throne, he ceased to consider his White Russian and Ukrainian subjects. Soon the Kievan Princedom was abolished and a Lithuanian was established in Kiev as *Casimir's* lieutenant. Ukrainians rebelled. Under the leadership of *Prince Michailo Olelkovich*, the Ukrainians opened secret negotiations with Moscow in an effort to obtain aid against the Poles and Lithuanians. The plot was discovered, however, and *Olelkovich* was beheaded.

## E. WAR WITH THE MUSCOVITES

While *Gedymin* and *Olgerd* were uniting round Vilna the Ukrainian and White Russian lands broken by the Tartar invasion, Moscow was fast becoming the ruling force among the tiny principalities of the north-east. Through diplomacy, guile, political marriages and very often, crime, Moscow had managed to incorporate the important princedoms of *Tver*, *Rostov*, *Riazan* and *Novgorod*. Moscow was now focusing its attention on the south. *Ivan III (The Great)*, after annexing all Great Russian territories, no longer called himself the Prince of Moscow but "Lord of all Russia," claiming Ukrainian and White Russian territories as hereditary appendages of the House of *Rurik*.

During the reign of *Vitovt* lesser Great Russian princes had sought the aid of Lithuania against Muscovite aggression. Now that Poland dominated the Ukrainian lands and largely dictated Polish-Lithuanian policy, especially in matters of religion, many lesser Ukrainian princes, mainly from the Chernihiv-Sieversk border region, began to prefer the over-lordship of Moscow. During the last half of the 15th century a number of Ukrainian princes had applied to Moscow for protection against Lithuania, religious tolerance being the principal factor influencing their decision. As part and parcel of the Treaty of *Krevo* Poland had forced Roman Catholicism upon the Ukrainian inhabitants of Lithuania, and while all of Poland's hopes were not realized as yet,



Wooden churches were a common sight in Ukraine during the Polish-Lithuanian Period. Here we see a church in Kostryna, in the Boiko region. Photo Courtesy of: *Ukraine in Pictures*:

Poland was still pushing for a formal union. The Orthodox religion was no longer safe. Moscow, on the other hand, offered a solution for the Muscovites were of the same faith. War became more and more imminent as religious friction increased. Hostilities broke out in 1501 and lasted with intervals until 1514. The Muscovites now occupied the territory of Sieversk, a part of White Russia and Smolensk.

A) *The Crimean Tartars* — The Golden Horde of Tartars had been broken up in the first half of the 15th century. Part of it had settled in the Crimea under the military dynasty of *Menhli-Hirey*. For a time Menhli-Hirey had accepted the overlordship of Lithuania and even protected the Ukrainian territories against the Eastern Tartars. When Turkish power began to grow, however, Menhli-Hirey became a Turkish vassal. In time he also became an ally of Ivan III and in Ivan's behalf invaded Ukraine in 1484. Kiev was taken and plundered as badly as at the time of the Khan Batu with vast areas left in total devastation. Lithuania was too weak to effectively intercede.

B) *Michael Hlinsky* — An interesting figure in Ukrainian history during this period was *Michael Hlinsky*. Born in Ukraine, Hlinsky, while still a young man, had visited Western Europe, lived for many years at the court of *Emperor Maximillian* and finally entered the military service of *Prince Albrecht* of Saxony whose army he accompanied to Friesland, Italy and Spain. Having acquired a good education in military science he returned to Ukraine and soon became a close friend of *Grand Duke Alexander* of Lithuania. This friendship brought Hlinsky and his relatives many benefits and titles. When

Alexander died unexpectedly in 1505 and his brother *Sigismund II* (1506-1548) succeeded him, Hlinsky was accused of having shortened Alexander's life and both he and his relatives were deprived of their possessions. After realizing that justice for him under Sigismund's regime was impossible, Hlinsky resolved to lead a rebellion. Arousing the populace of Turiv, and having the promised support of Muscovy and the Crimean Tartars, Hlinsky began his insurrection. Unfortunately, his allies were too slow in coming to his aid and Hlinsky's rebellion was shortlived. He and his followers found refuge in Moscow.

## **F. THE UNION OF LUBLIN**

The situation in Lithuania was growing progressively worse. The Crimean Tartars and the Muscovites were an ever present threat. A formal union with Poland seemed like the only solution. After another war with Moscow over the territory of Latvia had further drained Lithuanian resources, Sigismund II convened the Polish and Lithuanian parliaments (Seims) in Lublin in 1569 for the purpose of uniting the two states. The treaty that was concluded became known as the Union of Lublin and provided for the following:

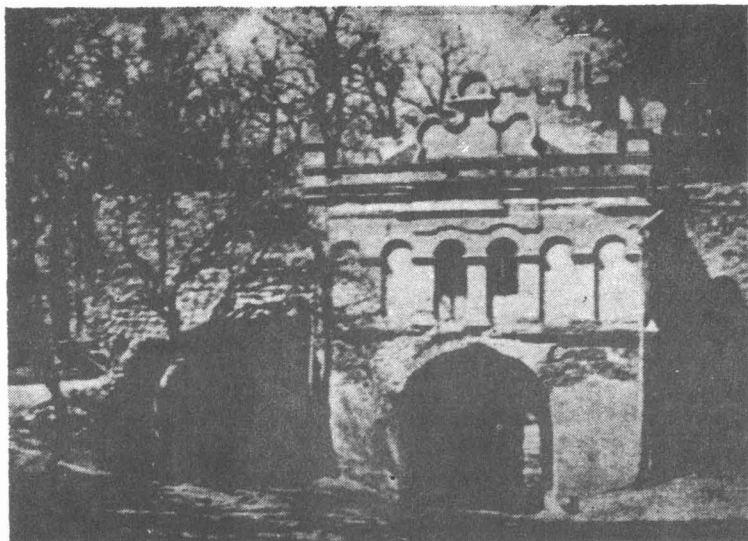
1. The Polish Kingdom and the Lithuanian Princedom were to form one state.
2. The King of Poland and the Great Prince of Lithuania was to be one and the same person elected by the united Polish Seim and Senate.
3. On coronation the King was to take an oath to both States.
4. There was to be a united Seim and Senate for both States.
5. A common foreign policy was to be pursued.
6. A common mint and coinage was to be established.
7. Rights for Polish nobles to acquire lands in Lithuania were laid down and similar rights were guaranteed Lithuanian nobles in Polish territory.

The special rights of the newly united Ukrainian provinces were guaranteed by separate charters and Ukrainian nobles of Kiev, Volynia and Podolia were united in rights with those of Poland without any difference on account of religion. Posts of state officials in Ukraine both clerical and secular, were to be occupied only by natives of the territory and the functioning of the courts and administration was to be in the Ukrainian language.

Every effort was made to reconcile the breach that had been created between the Ukrainians and Poland-Lithuania because of religious intolerance. Had these same concessions come at an earlier time Ukrainian history may have travelled a different road. Now it was too late.

## **G. THE DECLINE OF UKRAINE UNDER POLAND-LITHUANIA**

The chief element in the growth and development of the Lithuanian Princedom was the Ukrainian and White Russian population. These two branches of eastern Slavs had put all their gifts, creative power, and material means into the building of the Lithuanian state; the Lithuanian people merely supplied the organizing cement which united what had been broken by the disintegration of the Kievan state and the Tartar invasions. Lithuania had a gifted and energetic dynasty that considered itself heir to the old Kievan state; their coming to power in Ukraine was not an invasion or a "conquest" but rather a



Sixteenth century castle gate in princely Peremyshl. Photo Courtesy of Ukraine in Pictures.

“gathering” of lands analagous to the uniting of the Kievan princes in the 10th and 11th centuries.

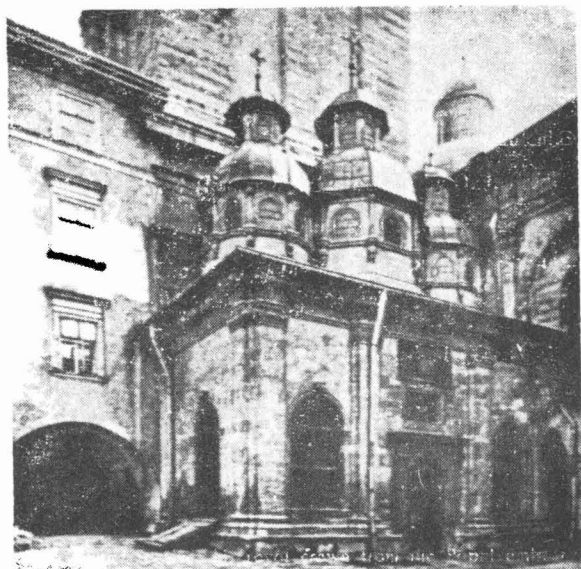
This picture was changed, however, when Poland, inspired by overzealous proselyting forces entered upon the scene and came into direct conflict with the Ukrainian Orthodox population. At first Ukrainian resistance was largely passive but as Polish pressure continued, as more and more privileges were denied the Orthodox, and as Poland tried to introduce a foreign social structure in Ukraine, the discord mounted.

A few years earlier many Ukrainians, caught between the Muscovites and the Poles, had decided to leave their homes and to search elsewhere for the freedom and security they desired. They were attracted by the deserted eastern regions of their country, and, being a hardy and adventurous lot, they organized themselves into armed bands and made the steppes of eastern Ukraine their permanent home. Here they found the freedom from foreign oppression they yearned for. In time they built forts and permanent military establishments known as *siches*. A new and brilliant era of Ukrainian history was dawning. A small band of energetic Ukrainians had given birth to The Age of the Kozaks.

## H. LITHUANIAN POLITICAL AND SOCIAL STRUCTURE

The constitution of the Lithuanian state (*The Lithuanian Statute*) and the principles of law upon which the judicial system was based, grew out of the old Ukrainian law (*Ruska Pravda*) as practiced in the Kievan state. Certain changes, in the old law of course, had occurred, but they came about naturally and as a result of changing conditions.





Trinity Chapel of Uspenska Church (1578) in Lwiw. Photo Courtesy of Ukraine in Pictures.

As in the Kievan Kingdom, where the monarchial power belonged solely to the royal House of Rurik, dynastic rights in Lithuania emanated from the House of Gedymin. Various districts, especially the former minor princedoms preserved a wide local autonomy. The Prince had no constitutional limits to his power but in practice he was forced to share his authority with the Council of Lords (Rada Paniw). In time the influence of the Rada was diminished in proportion to the growing importance of the Seim where the lesser nobles were represented. By 1566 a formal statute had fixed the Seim as a permanent institution and prescribed the order of representation, namely, two knights from each district. The Seim was divided into two chambers, the Council of Lords and the Council of Knights. Later, a new administrative division of state was carried out according to which the Princedom was divided into 13 provinces. The provinces were in turn divided into districts. Governors of Provinces (*Voevods*) were nominated by the Prince while the heads of districts (*starosts*) were elected by the nobles.

In the beginning of the 16th century slavery still existed in Ukraine. The origin of slavery was the same as in the Kievan kingdom, the class being recruited from prisoners of war, descendants of slave parents, marriage with an enslaved man or woman or through sentence of death commuted to slavery. *The Statute of 1588* abolished slavery entirely placing former slaves on an equal footing with serfs.

## **I. POLISH POLITICAL AND SOCIAL STRUCTURE**

When Poland first annexed Galicia she was anxious to consolidate her posi-



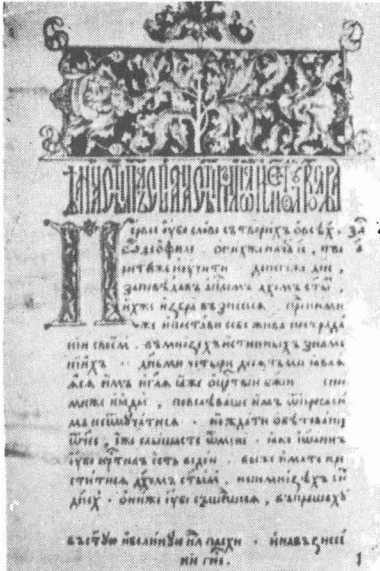
St. Nicholas, a 16th century icon from Busovyska, Galicia. Photo courtesy of Ukraine in Pictures.

tion and few changes were introduced. As Poland's position in Galicia became more secure, however, numerous changes followed. The Polish gentry (*szlachta*) had been urged to colonize Galicia and as their number grew, the privileges they enjoyed multiplied. Chief among these privileges was one granted by the Polish King in 1374 according to which the *szlachta* was exempt from all taxation and duties. The land was assured to the *szlachta* as their private property and the peasants on their large estates were put under the direct jurisdiction of the landlords. In addition, the Polish Crown confiscated the large estates of the Galician aristocracy and turned them over to the Poles. All administrative and judicial posts were gradually placed in the hands of Polish officials. By 1443, the administration of Ukrainian provinces had been brought into the line with the rest of Poland and the Polish King divided Ukrainian territories into three provinces of *voevodstvo*: Rus (Lwów, Halicz, Peremyshl, Sianik and Kholm); Western Podolia; and Belz (Belz, Rava, Sokal, Zovka, Kamianka Strumilova, and Brody). After the Treaty of Lublin, Western Podolia was reunited with eastern Podolia and three more provinces were added: Braslav, Kiev and Volynia.

Compared to the life of the Polish *szlachta*, the life of the town population was pitiful. They were denied the right of participating in political life since no representation in the Seim was granted to them. Outside of the cities the situation was even worse. More and more of the free peasants, in order to survive, were being forced to become serfs on the land the *szlachta* had seized.

## **J. THE CULTURAL REVIVAL**

The fall of Constantinople deprived the Ukrainian people of their cultural



(Left) The first dated book printed in Ukraine, *Apostol*, was published in Lwiv in 1574. It was financed by the brotherhood of the Church of the Assumption. (Right) Title page of the *Ostrih Bible*. Photos Courtesy of Ukraine in Pictures.

and religious fount. Left to itself in a land that was occupied by an invader that did everything in his power to crush the Ukrainian spirit, it soon looked as if Ukrainian culture would become extinct. With neither an educated clergy nor an intelligentsia to guide them, the Ukrainian population was in the first stages of becoming a mass of illiterate peasants. Fortunately, the 16th century brought a revival, small in scope but vitally important to the preservation of Ukrainian national and cultural identity.

The best way to counter-balance the Polonization that was gradually infecting the country was through the establishment of schools. Since Polonization was practically synonymous with Roman Catholicism the early schools adopted a severely Orthodox point of view, education becoming a religious affair with little regard for secular subjects.

The first of the great Ukrainian schools was that of *Ostrih* established by *Prince Konstantin Ostrozky*. It was here that the *Ostrih Bible*, the first Eastern Slavonic bible, appeared. Another great center of Ukrainian culture, established in 1586, flourished in Lwiv under the direction of the *Staroperegian Brotherhood*. Brotherhoods were similar in nature to medieval guilds but they also concerned themselves with philanthropic enterprises. The third center of the cultural revival was in Kiev, reorganized in the Monastery of the Caves (*Percherska Lavra*) under the direction of *Peter Mohyla*.

The influence and the beneficial results of this system of education would have been far greater if it hadn't been for the renewal of the struggle for supremacy of religion between the Greek Church and the Church of Rome.



Prince Konstantin Ostrozky, benefactor of Ukrainian culture. Photo Courtesy of Ukraine in Pictures.

## K. THE UNION OF 1595

In an effort to obtain aid against the growing Turkish menace, the Eastern Emperor, *John Palaeologus* (1425-1448) had entered into communication with the Papal See, expressing his desire to reunite the Byzantine Church with Rome. Pope Eugene IV (1431-1447) was overjoyed by the news and arranged for the two factions of the Christian Church to meet in Ferrara (Italy) in 1438. In 1439 they met again in Florence and after long debates an agreement was reached and the Christian Church was reunited. After the fall of Constantinople, however, the Greek Church repudiated the *Union of Ferrara-Florence* and branded all unionists as traitors who slighted God to serve the Pope. In a few short years all signs of the union were obliterated.

The Orthodox Church in Ukraine, refusing to bow to Poland and suspicious of the efforts of Moscow to establish a Third Rome, remained under the influence of the Greeks. Unfortunately, some of the Greek patriarchs weren't particularly interested in the welfare of the Ukrainian people, demanding great sums of money and attempting to get greater control of the Orthodox Church. A serious blow was dealt by the *Patriarch Jerimias* when he conferred the right of priest supervision to the brotherhoods. This was direct undermining of the traditional Orthodox Church administration and was bound to lead to trouble. Suspicions between the brotherhoods and the clergy grew, a fight finally breaking out between *Gideon Balaban*, the Bishop of Lwiw and the brotherhood. Balaban, realizing that the disruption that had been created could eventually lead to the downfall of the Orthodox Church in Ukraine, and

that neither Poland nor Moscow offered any salvation, decided to place the Church directly under the jurisdiction of the Pope. Balaban conferred with the other bishops and in 1595, two of them, *Terletsy* and *Poty* went to Rome. *Pope Clementine VIII* welcomed the representatives from Ukraine and agreed to all of their demands. On December 23, 1595, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church was officially accepted into the union and the Pope issued a special bulletin to solemnize the occasion:

"We permit, we allow, we approve all the Sacred Rites and Ceremonies used by the bishops and clergy in the divine offices, in the celebration of Mass, administration of Sacraments and all the other religious functions which were introduced by the Greek Fathers."

In 1596 the King of Poland called a public council of the Orthodox Church at Brest to confirm the union. This was his biggest mistake. As soon as the bishops saw that the Poles were putting their fingers into the pie, many of them refused to ratify the union. Among the dissenters was the initiator of the union himself, Balaban, and *Kopistinsky*, Bishop of Peremyshl. The more insistent the King became, the more adamantly the dissenters refused to comply. Old hatreds erupted once again and soon there were two Ukrainian religious councils, the Orthodox and the *Uniates*. Both duly anathemized and deposed the bishops of the other faction. The Uniate Church, like it or not, had the Poles on their side and consequently enjoyed a stronger position. The Orthodox could only retaliate with words and their words were strong. The pamphlets of people like *Ivan Vyshensky*, a polemicist of genius, did much to undermine the Uniate position.

The Ukrainian population was now definitely split along religious grounds and to a large extent has remained so until the present day. While the defense of Orthodoxy led, indirectly, to the resurgence of Ukrainian nationalism in the person of the famed Kozaks, the religious split of the Ukrainian nation has not had a beneficial effect upon efforts for a united Ukraine.

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## REVIEW EXERCISES

### A. Fill in the Correct Word or Phrase

1. Lithuanian expansion really began with \_\_\_\_\_, the first and only king in Lithuanian history.
2. Lithuania in the 14th century included the Ukrainian provinces of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The Tartars were defeated by Olgerd in the Battle of \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Ukrainian culture was kept alive during this period by \_\_\_\_\_.
5. One of Daniel's sons, \_\_\_\_\_, was once recognized as a successor to the Lithuanian throne.

### B. Match the Correct Letter With Each Statement

- |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1. _____ Ukrainian military establishment.           | A. Szlachta           |
| 2. _____ Parliament.                                 | B. Battle of Grunwald |
| 3. _____ Led an unsuccessful rebellion.              | C. Menhli-Hirey       |
| 4. _____ Polish gentry.                              | D. Starost            |
| 5. _____ Lithuanian who married a Galician princess. | E. Volodislav         |
| 6. _____ Teutonic knights defeated here.             | F. Sich               |
| 7. _____ Wladislaus II.                              | G. Statute of 1588    |
| 8. _____ Objected to marriage.                       | H. Liubart            |
| 9. _____ Silesian prince who ruled Galicia.          | I. Gideon Balaban     |
| 10. _____ Head of a district.                        | J. Seim               |
| 11. _____ Initiated Union of 1595.                   | K. Ivan Vyshensky     |
| 12. _____ First dated book printed in Ukraine.       | L. Uniates            |
| 13. _____ Orthodox polemicist.                       | M. <i>Apostol</i>     |
| 14. _____ Abolished slavery.                         | N. Michael Hlinsky    |
| 15. _____ Ukrainian Catholics.                       | O. Yadviga            |
| 16. _____ Sacked Kiev.                               | P. Yagello            |

### C. Discussion Questions

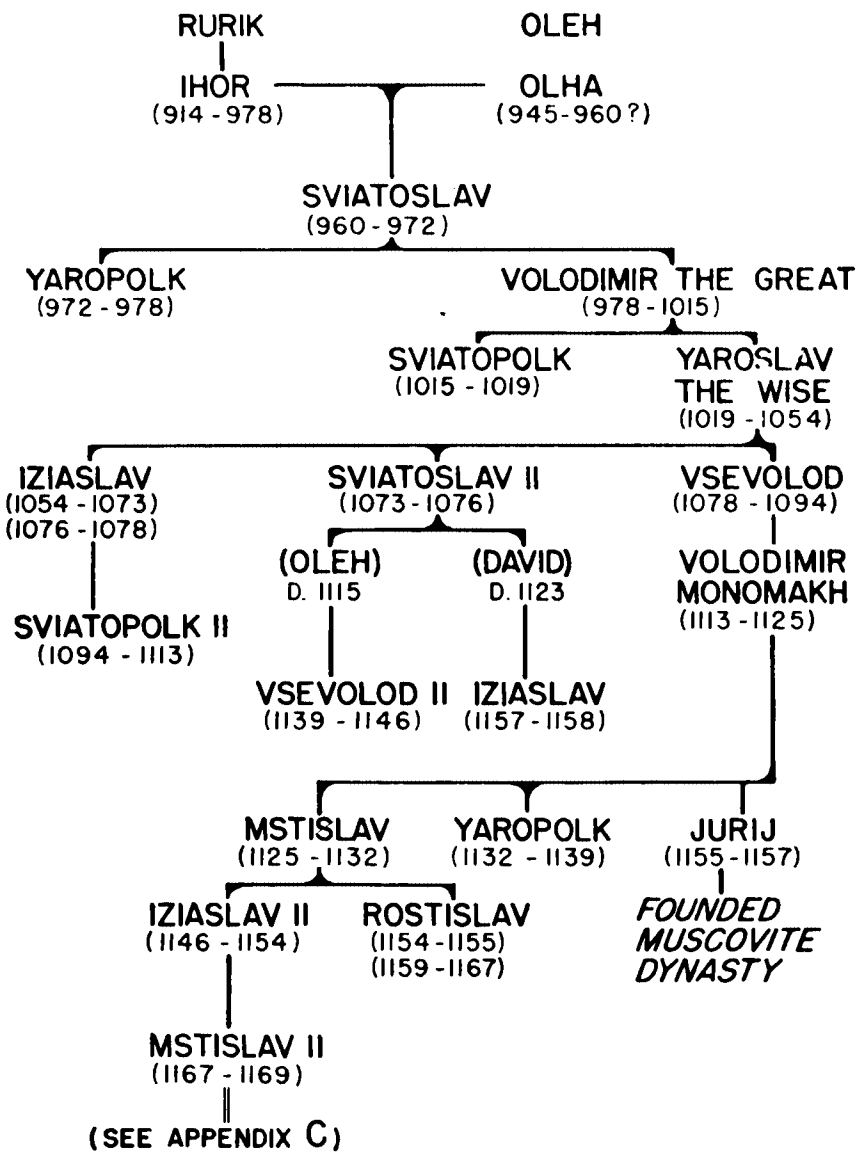
1. Trace the entire history of the Ukrainian Church from the time of Volodimir (988) to the Union of 1595. Why is the Ukrainian Church divided? What recent event augurs well for an eventual permanent union?
2. Compare Ukraine under Lithuanian rule with Ukraine under Polish rule. What mistakes did the Poles make?
3. Was the Ukrainian democratic tradition preserved during Polish-Lithuanian rule? Why or why not? What was occurring in Muscovy during the same period? How did life in occupied Ukraine differ from life in Muscovy?
4. Did Lithuanian culture have any effect upon the inhabitants of Ukraine? Why or why not? Did Polish culture have any effect upon Ukraine? Why or why not?

## **N O T E S**

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APPENDIX A

GREAT PRINCES OF KIEV OF THE DYNASTY  
OF RURIK



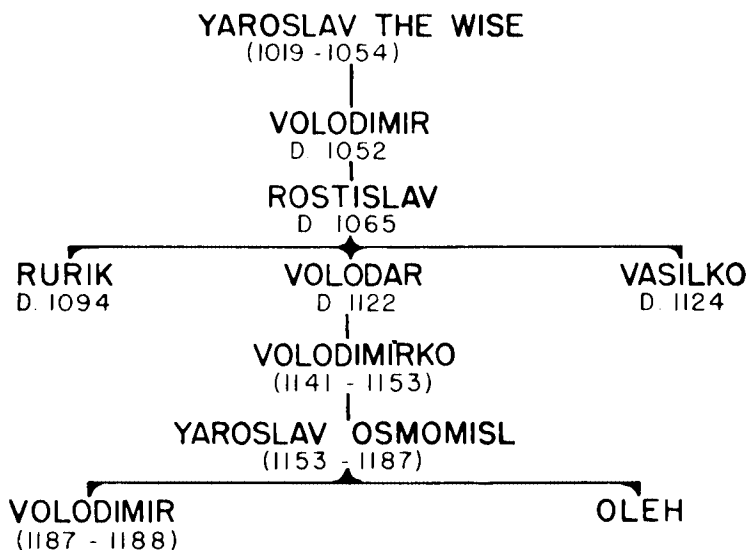


## N O T E S

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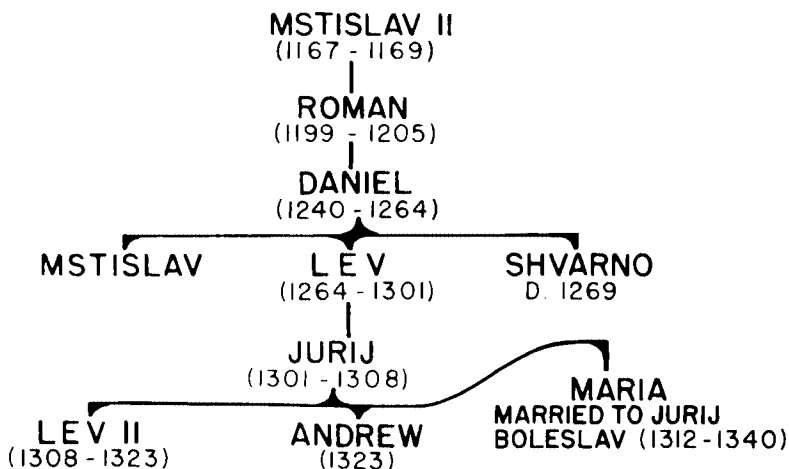
APPENDIX B

DESCENDANTS OF ROSTISLAV IN GALICIA



APPENDIX C

DESCENDANTS OF VOLODIMIR MONOMAKH  
IN GALICIA-VOLYNIA



## NOTES

## APPENDIX D

### Answers To Review Exercises

#### Chapter One

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>A. 1. Stone<br/>         2. Herodotus<br/>         3. Goths; Huns<br/>         4. Venetes<br/>         5. Nature<br/>         6. Council<br/>         7. Khazars<br/>         8. Alans<br/>         9. Huns; Magyars; Pechenegs<br/>         10. Cyrillic</p> | <p>B. 1. C<br/>         2. G<br/>         3. I<br/>         4. A<br/>         5. J<br/>         6. H<br/>         7. D<br/>         8. F<br/>         9. E<br/>         10. B</p> |
|--|---|

#### Chapter Two

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>A. 1. Askold; Dir<br/>         2. Hrushevsky; Vernadsky<br/>         3. Vernadsky; the Rukhs<br/>         4. <i>The Song of Ihor; Of Justice and Injustice</i><br/>         5. Military prowess and organization<br/>         6. Pechenegs; Polovtsians; Torks<br/>         7. Christianity was adopted<br/>         8. Ruska Pravda<br/>         9. Olha; Volodimir<br/>         10. 1169<br/>         11. Suzdal; Vladimir; Moscow</p> | <p>2. C<br/>         3. B<br/>         4. F<br/>         5. K<br/>         6. D<br/>         7. L<br/>         8. M<br/>         9. H<br/>         10. J<br/>         11. R<br/>         12. E<br/>         13. I<br/>         14. N<br/>         15. G<br/>         16. O<br/>         B. 1. A</p> |
|---|---|

#### Chapter Three

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>A. 1. Galicia<br/>         2. Daniel<br/>         3. 1240<br/>         4. boyars<br/>         5. Casimir the Just<br/>         6. Bela III; Andrew II<br/>         7. The Gobi Desert<br/>         8. 1320<br/>         9. 1349<br/>         10. Chroniclers (historians); religious writers</p> | <p>B. 1. F<br/>         2. K<br/>         3. A<br/>         4. I<br/>         5. E<br/>         6. C<br/>         7. B<br/>         8. L<br/>         9. J<br/>         10. H<br/>         11. G<br/>         12. D</p> |
|---|---|

#### Chapter Four

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>A. 1. Mendovg<br/>         2. Braslav; Podolia; Kiev; Chernihiv; Turiv; Pidliasha<br/>         3. Sini Vodi<br/>         4. The Orthodox Brotherhoods<br/>         5. Shvarno</p> | <p>11. I<br/>         12. M<br/>         13. K<br/>         14. G<br/>         15. L<br/>         16. C</p> |
|--|---|
- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>B. 1. F<br/>         2. J<br/>         3. N<br/>         4. A<br/>         5. H</p> | <p>6. B<br/>         7. P<br/>         8. O<br/>         9. E<br/>         10. D</p> |
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## **N O T E S**

