

Early Russia

Timeline Cards



Subject Matter Expert

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Chapter 4 Ivan IV Vasilyevich (Ivan the Terrible 1530–1584) Tsar of Russia from 1533, leading his army at the Siege of Kazan in August 1552, 1850 / Universal History Archive/UIG / Bridgeman Images

Chapter 5 The Winter Palace as seen from Palace Passage, St. Petersburg, c.1840 (colour litho), Perrot, Ferdinand Victor (1808–41) / Pushkin Museum, Moscow, Russia / Bridgeman Images

Chapter 6 Portrait of Princess Yekaterina R. Vorontsova-Dashkova (oil on canvas), Russian School, (18th century) / Russian State Archive of Literature and Art, Moscow / Bridgeman Images

ISBN: 978-1-68380-156-6

CHAPTER 1: Introduction



In 476 CE, the fall of Rome completed a long decline for the Western Roman Empire.

Big Question: How did Russia become a Christian country?

CHAPTER 1: Introduction



In 565 CE, the Eastern Roman Empire—also known as the Byzantine Empire—was on the rise.

Big Question: How did Russia become a Christian country?

CHAPTER 1: Russia's Beginnings

The Slavs were among the earliest people to settle in Russia.



Big Question: How did Russia become a Christian country?

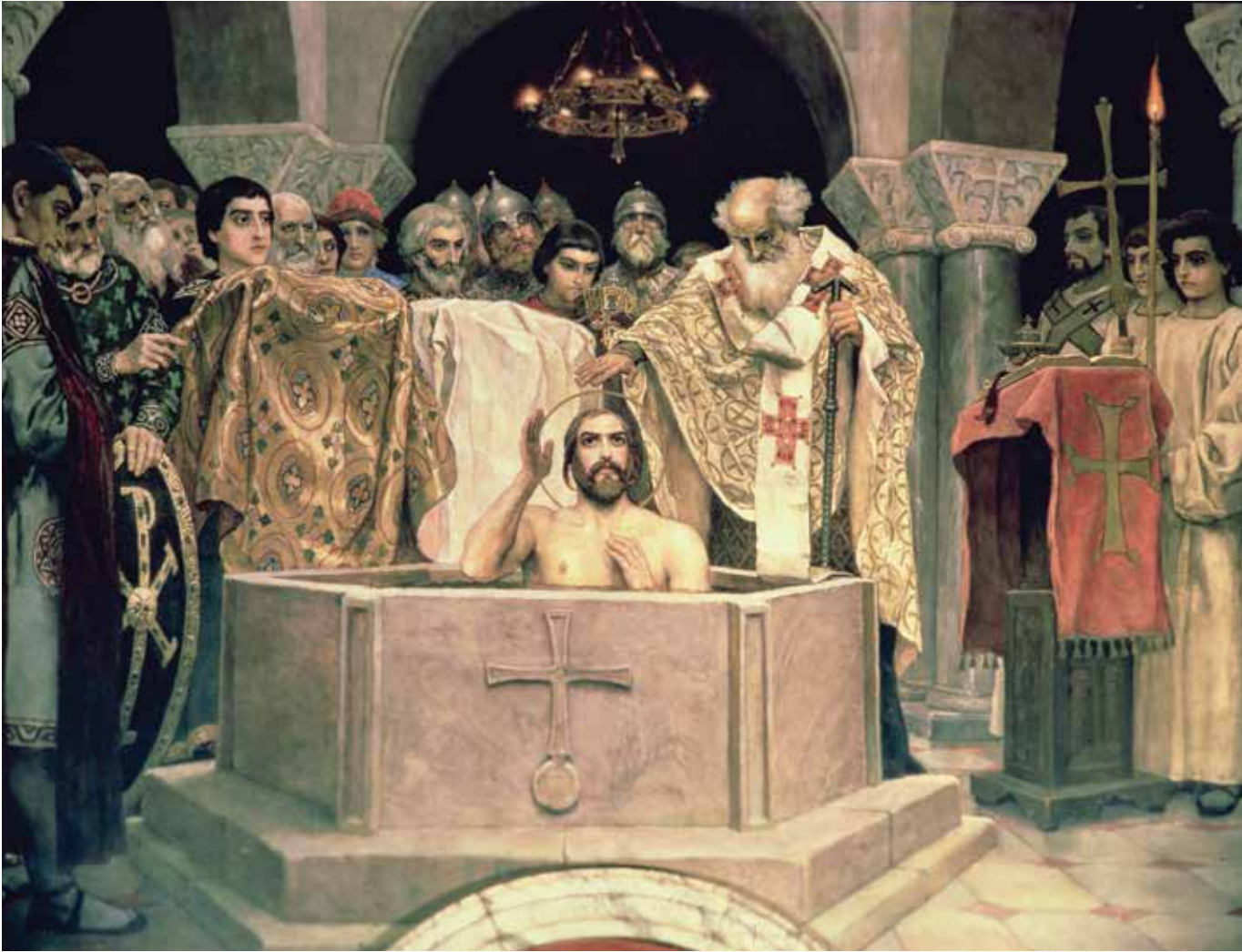
CHAPTER 1: Russia's Beginnings



In 954 CE, Princess Olga of Kiev traveled to Constantinople, where she learned about Orthodox Christianity.

Big Question: How did Russia become a Christian country?

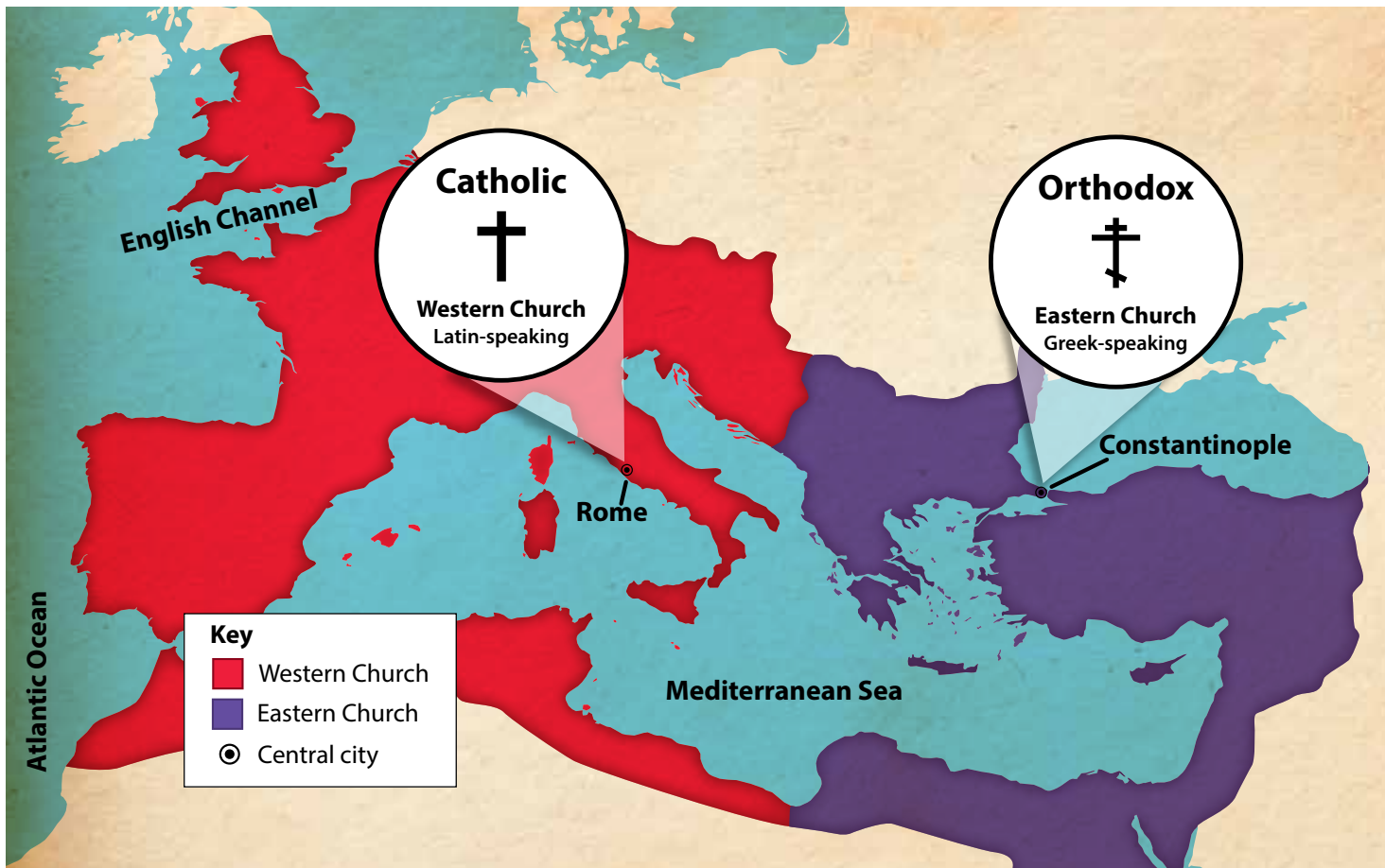
CHAPTER 1: Russia's Beginnings



After converting to Orthodox Christianity in 988 CE, Prince Vladimir forced all the people of Kiev to convert, too.

Big Question: How did Russia become a Christian country?

CHAPTER 1: Russia's Beginnings



In 1054 CE, the Christian Church split into Western Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches.

Big Question: How did Russia become a Christian country?

CHAPTER 2: The Mongols Invade

The Mongols attacked Kiev and other Russian cities, and then left the Tatars in charge of the conquered lands.



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Big Question: What are some key features of Russian geography, and how have these features influenced the nation's history?

CHAPTER 2: The Mongols Invade



Between 1271 and 1295, Venetian Marco Polo traveled throughout Asia, exploring the Mongol Empire.

CHAPTER 2: The Mongols Invade



The city-state of Muscovy became increasingly powerful under strong rulers, such as Ivan I (“Ivan the Moneybag”).

Big Question: What are some key features of Russian geography, and how have these features influenced the nation’s history?

CHAPTER 3: Ivan the Great



Ivan III, also known as Ivan the Great, ruled with absolute power and declared himself czar.

Big Question: How did Ivan III gain more control over those he ruled?

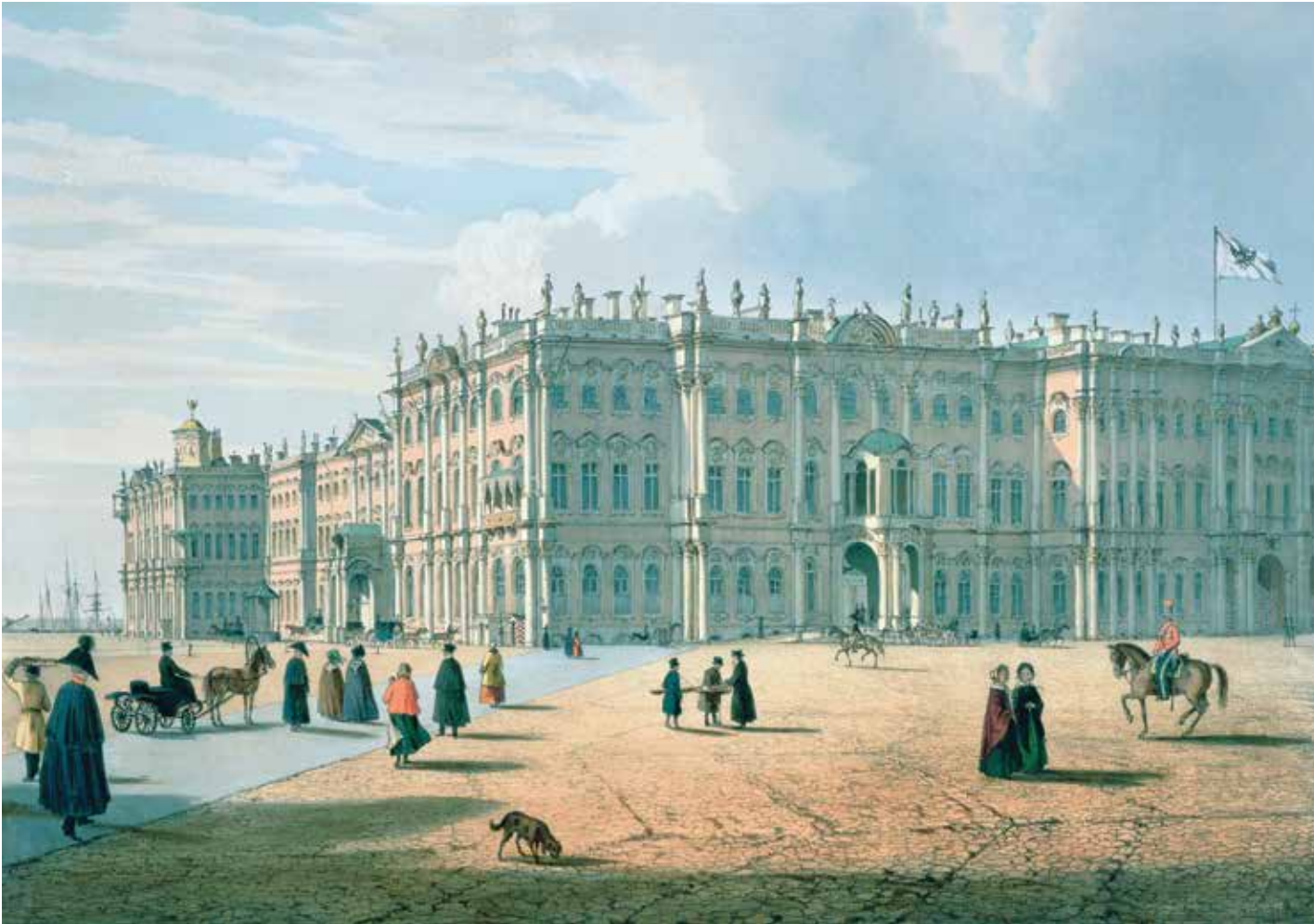
CHAPTER 4: Ivan the Terrible



Ivan IV, also known as Ivan the Terrible, expanded Russia's borders.

Big Question: Why was Ivan IV called "Ivan the Terrible"?

CHAPTER 5: Peter the Great



Peter the Great modernized and Westernized Russia. He hired European architects to design and build the Winter Palace in St. Petersburg.

Big Question: What did Peter the Great hope to do for Russia?

CHAPTER 6: Catherine the Great



Catherine the Great was born a German princess but became one of Russia's greatest rulers.

Big Question: Why did serfdom continue in Russia?