

Early Russia

- I. Geography
 - A. Located in Eastern Europe and linked to Asia
 - B. Rivers running north to south linked Russia to the Byzantine world
 - 1. Byzantine culture was spread to Russia through trade routes
- II. Byzantine influence on Russia
 - A. Byzantine missionaries were sent to Kiev to convert Russians to Orthodox Christianity
 - 1. Orthodox Christianity has traditions similar to Roman Catholics but did not acknowledge the pope as its leader
 - B. Cyrillic became the written script which was based upon the Greek alphabet
 - C. Art and architecture was adopted by Russia
 - 1. “onion-shaped” Russian domes were based upon the Roman/Byzantine dome
 - D. Ivan the Great
 - 1. named himself Tsar, which is Russian for “Caesar”
 - 2. adopted Byzantine customs
 - 3. like Justinian, was an absolute ruler
 - E. Ivan the Terrible
 - 1. grandson of Ivan the Great
 - 2. was mentally unstable
 - a) killed his son in a fit of rage!
 - 3. organized the oprichniki, the agents of terror, as his personal protectors
 - 4. set a standard in Russia for oppressive and violent rule