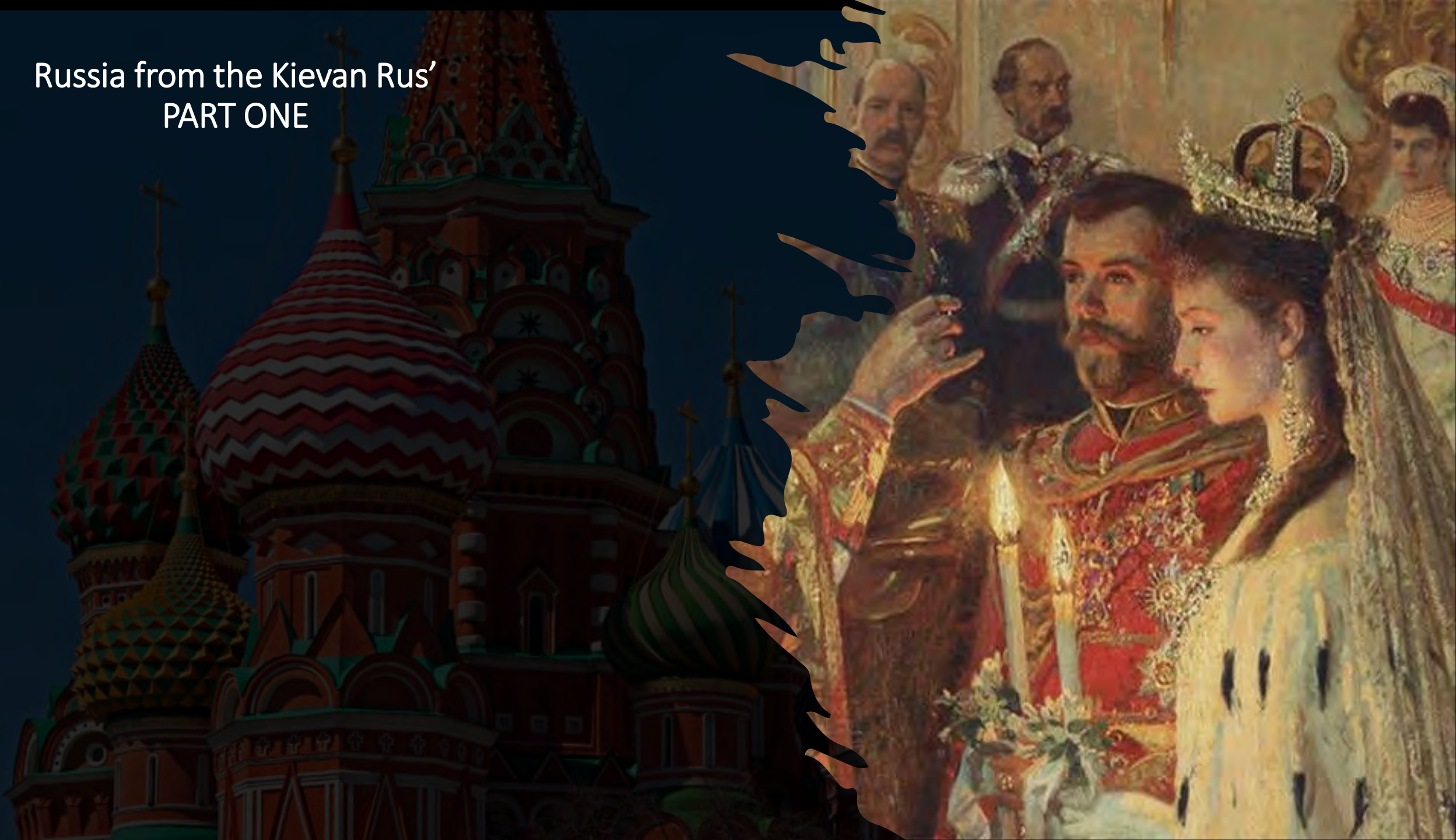


Russia from the Kievan Rus'
PART ONE



Origins of The Rus'

- By 750AD, Vikings (aka Varangians) traded furs, honey, and slaves via the Volga River route (**Bright Green Color**) to the Caspian Sea
- Islamic merchants bought those goods with luxury items and silver coins minted by an Islamic Empire that was headquartered in Baghdad





Vikings and Islamic Traders Meet at the Caspian port of Itil

- This 19th Century painting is based upon the extensive diary of a famed Islamic diplomat
- His narrative depicted powerful, well-armed brutal, crude pagan warriors
- They were renowned in Baghdad and Constantinople as guards and mercenaries
- About 2,900 slaves/year were traded there over a two-century period



Khazaria

- Turkic-speaking Khazars formed the dominant semi-nomadic group from about 650-850AD
- Volga Bulgars occupied a subservient, but growing force in this region



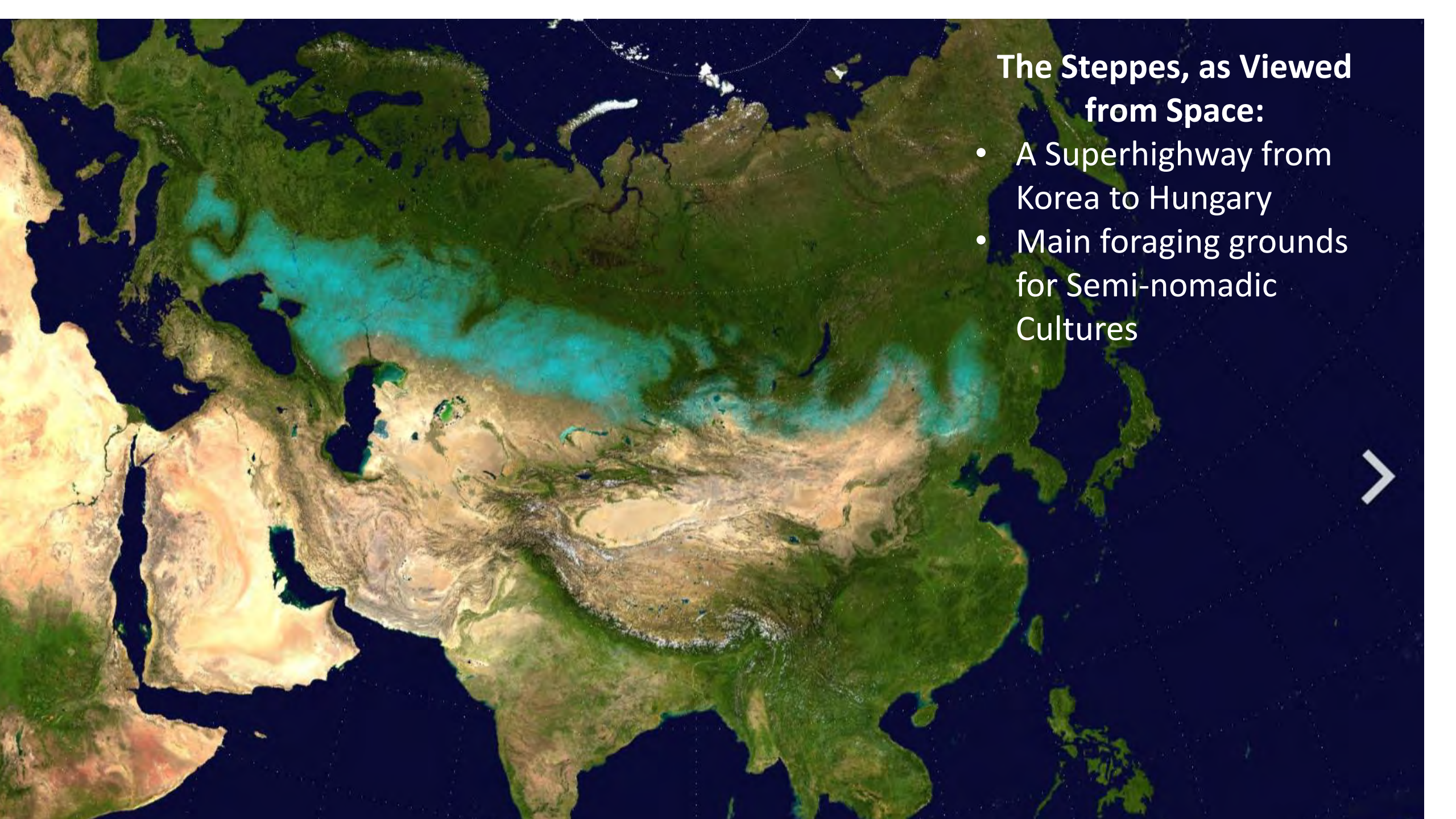


Constantinople



Climate Range in Eastern Europe (and Beyond)

- Forest and Taiga provided agricultural products
- The Steppe was the:
 - Invasion route of nomads
 - Prime agricultural land



The Steppes, as Viewed from Space:

- A Superhighway from Korea to Hungary
- Main foraging grounds for Semi-nomadic Cultures





Rus' Develop the Dnieper River Route

- Silver from Islamic Empire declines
- Byzantines and Khazars attempt to limit Rus' trade access
- The Rurik Clan of Vikings gain control of the Polan Tribe living around Kiev by about 860AD





Oleg the Wise

- First documented Viking leader of Kiev
- Extended control over additional Slavic Tribes
- Gained advantageous trade concessions after Byzantine War of 907

Igor of Kiev: 912-945AD

- Son of Oleg the Wise
- Byzantine Wars 941-44 resulted in a reduction in trade concessions
- Killed by a rebellious Slavic tribe of the Drevlians



Saint Olga, Widow of Igor Avenges his Death

- Buries the first Drevlian peace mission alive; lures second mission to their death in a bath house which was then set afire
- Invests their main city and sets Fire-Pigeons to destroy the city's homes
- Rules as Regent for her infant son Sviatoslav



Sviatoslav I

- Eliminated the Khazars as a threat
- Conquered the first Bulgarian Empire as allies of both Byzantium and the increasingly powerful Pecheneg Tribe; BUT:
- Killed by Pechenegs in 972 at connivance of Byzantium



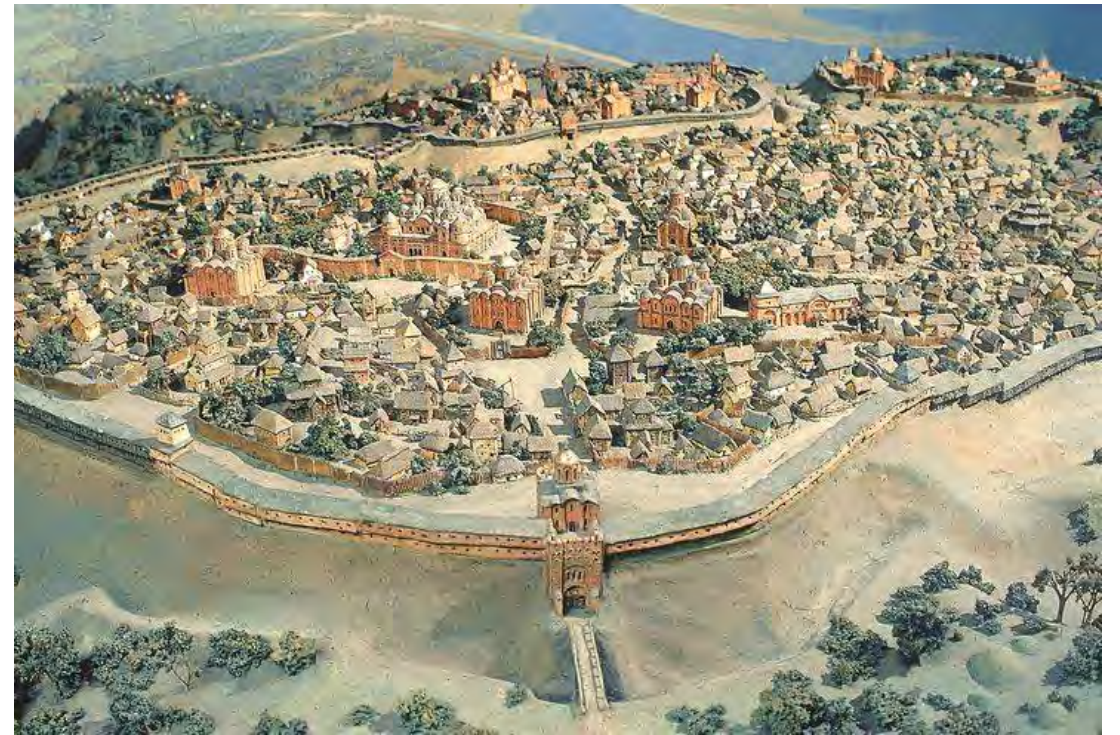


Vladimir I

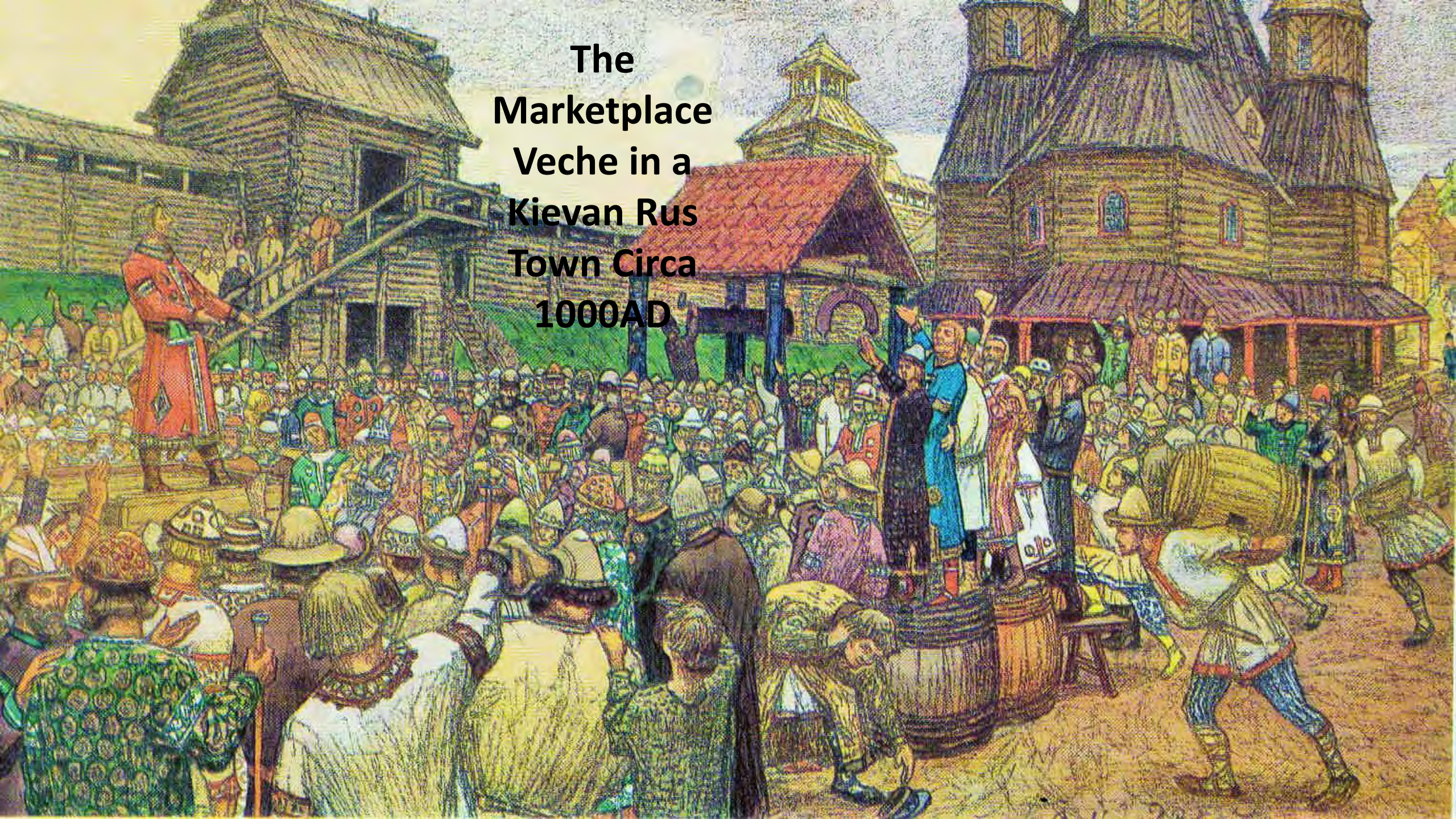
- At about 978AD, a young (but illegitimate) Prince Vladimir landed on a shore of the Gulf of Finland
- His older brother had inherited Kiev in 972, but then killed their middle sibling, causing Vladimir to flee to Sweden from his post at Novgorod
- Oldest brother was in turn killed by Vladimir's Viking mercenaries

Vladimir begins his rule 980-1015

- Relocates masses of Slavic tribe families from the North to construct defenses around Kiev against Pechenegs
- Displays pagan gods in attempt to solidify authority
- Subdues rebellious Slavic tribes



**The
Marketplace
Veche in a
Kievan Rus
Town Circa
1000AD**





Baptism of Vladimir the Great (aka Saint Vladimir)

- Marries a Byzantine Princess as a reward for Kiev's military assistance to that empire
- Divorces his current wife, setting stage for future dynastic battles troubling rest of Rurikid princes
- Vladimir forced a mass baptism of the remainder of Kiev in the adjacent river

Eleventh Century Church of Tithes in Kiev

- Begun by Vladimir, completed by his son Iaroslav the Wise
- By mid-11th Century, Kiev is compared to Constantinople
- Iaroslav the Wise and his children marry into the great families of Europe





Iaroslav the Wise

- Son of Vladimir, rules from 1019 after bitter succession struggle
- He and his sons pass earliest law, the Russkaya Pravda
- Reliance on revenge as a solution for physical harm replaced by fees, which went often to the Prince or the Church





Church of the Intercession

- Built in about 1165 by Andrey Bogolyubsky, Grand Prince of Vladimir
- Example of the stature of the newer towns and their princes, springing up after Kiev's fame

Novgorod in the 12th Century

- Trade with Baltic cities of Hanseatic League expanded
- Settlements NE of Novgorod:
 - Increased fur sources
 - Raised conflicts with cities of Vladimir, Suzdal as well as Volga Bulgars





12th Century Icon: Our Lady of Vladimir

- Crafted in Constantinople in 1131 in what henceforth would become a native Rus style,
- Similar icons would adorn not only churches but private homes



Family Challenges mount as Other Cities Gain Importance

- Kiev continues to grow in wealth but:
- Younger sons and disaffected relatives challenge the distribution of powerful princedoms
- Growing threat of the Mongol Horde not met with a unified army



Volodymyr (on the left in Kiev), OR
Vladimir (on the right in Moscow)?

