

Location of Russia

- Slavic regions north of the Black Sea
- Access to Black Sea along Dnieper, Don, & Volga Rivers
- The **Steppes** of Russia



Byzantine Influence on Russia

- **Cyrillic Alphabet** created by Eastern Orthodox Missionaries
- Eastern Orthodox Christianity adopted by Prince Vladimir
- Architectural Influence – The Onion Dome
- Religious Art – Mosaics & Icons

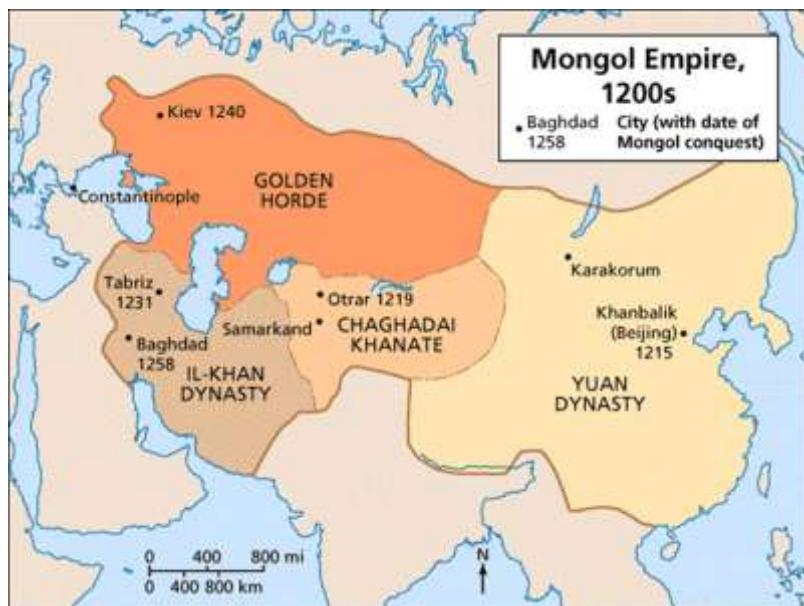


Viking influence in Russia

- **Kievan Rus**
- Vikings (the **Rus**), under the leadership of Rurik, establish the 1st State in Russia w/ Kiev as its capital.
- Vikings use Russian rivers as highways to travel to warm-weather ports of Black & Baltic Seas

Mongol Empire

largest contiguous land empire



Russia

Mongols

The Mongol Conquest

- **Genghis Khan** invades Russia creating the Khanate of the Golden Horde
- Mongols demand **Tribute** from Russian principalities
- Russia becomes isolated from Western European States
- Mongols keep open trade routes between China & Eastern Europe – Trade increases
- Kublai Khan creates Yuan dynasty in China; fails to take Japan
- Italian **Marco Polo** sits in Kublai's court; reports of China reach Europe.

Growth of Russia

- Vladimir adopts Eastern Orthodox Christianity
- Yaroslav creates an effective law code
- Ivan III (*the Great*) refuses to pay Mongol Tribute; Unites Russian Principalities
- Ivan begins to call himself **Czar** (Tsar) – Russian for Caesar

