

= Yaropolk Izyaslavich =

Yaropolk Izyaslavich ( died 1087 ) was a Knyaz ( prince ) during the eleventh @-@ century in the Kievan Rus ' kingdom and was the King of Rus ( 1076 ? 1078 ) . The son of Grand Prince Izyaslav Yaroslavich by a Polish princess named Gertruda , he is visible in papal sources by the early 1070s but largely absent in contemporary Rus sources until his father 's death in 1078 . During his father 's exile in the 1070s , Yaropolk can be found acting on his father 's behalf in an attempt to gain the favor of the German emperors and the papal court of Pope Gregory VII . His father returned to Kiev in 1077 and Yaropolk followed .

After his father 's death Yaropolk was appointed Prince of Volhynia and Prince of Turov in 1078 by the new Grand Prince , his uncle Vsevolod . By 1085 Yaropolk had fallen into a state of enmity with the Grand Prince , and by extension the Grand Prince 's son Vladimir Monomakh , forcing him to flee to Poland , his mother 's homeland . He returned in 1086 and made peace with Monomakh but was murdered the same year on a journey to Zvenyhorod . He was remembered in Rus sources as extremely pious and generous to the church and is recognized as a saint in the Eastern Orthodox Church .

= = Family background = =

Yaropolk was the son of Izyaslav Yaroslavich ( died 1078 ) , over @-@ king of the Rus ' , and Gertruda , daughter of the Polish Duke @-@ King Mieszko II Lambert ( died 1034 ) . Since the Kievan succession war of 1015 ? 1019 , the Polish ruler Boleslaw had taken an interest in Ruthenia ( Kievan Rus ) , hoping to gain control of the land of Red Ruthenia ( Czerwien Grody ) , seized by Vladimir the Great .

Despite some initial success , the expedition of Boleslaw to Kiev in 1018 failed to establish Svyatopolk Vladimirovich ( Boleslaw 's son @-@ in @-@ law ) , Prince of Turov , on the Kievan throne . The Polish ruler did at least gain the Red Ruthenia ( Czerwien Grody ) very briefly , though that was recovered for the Ruthenians by Grand Prince Yaroslav and Mstislav Vladimirovich , Prince of Chernigov , in 1031 .

In 1042 Grand Prince Yaroslav forced Duke Casimir of Poland to settle for a peaceful deal . Casimir recognised Ruthenian control of Red Ruthenia and returned 800 Ruthenian prisoners who had been in Polish custody since being captured two decades before by Boleslaw . Peace was secured by two marriages . Casimir was married to Yaroslav 's sister , while Casimir gave his own sister Gertruda to Yaroslav 's son , Izyaslav .

= = Political turmoil = =

In 1054 , Yaropolk became the son of the Grand Prince , as in that year Izyaslav ascended the throne of Kiev . Izyaslav 's rule and thus Yaropolk 's security were however quickly challenged by Izyaslav 's brother Svyatoslav and by his cousin Vseslav Briacheslavich . At this time among the Rurikids , there were two senior branches that could claim the Grand Princeship through descent from Vladimir the Great ; namely , the descendents of Yaroslav Vladimirovich and the descendants of Izyaslav Vladimirovich .

In 1067 , Vseslav rebelled in an attempt to overthrow Izyaslav and become Grand Prince himself , claiming the right as a great @-@ grandson of Vladimir the Great through Izyaslav Vladimirovich . Vseslav 's attempt was unsuccessful , and ended in his imprisonment . Troubles for Izyaslav were to continue though . In 1068 , Izyaslav 's alleged negligence to the advances and incursions of the Cuman people ( Polovtsy ) after the defeat at the Battle of the Alta River led the citizens of Kiev to revolt ; Vseslav was released , and took the Kievan throne while Izyaslav fled to Boleslaw in Poland . With Polish assistance Izyaslav returned in May 1069 , expelled Vseslav and retook the throne . This victory for Izyaslav secured the Kievan throne for the descendants of Yaroslav Vladimirovich , and thereafter the descendants of Izyaslav Vladimirovich confined themselves to Polotsk where they reigned with semi @-@ independent status .

= = Svyatoslav and exile to the west = =

Despite the successful exclusion of the Polotsk Rurikids , in 1073 Izyaslav was expelled from the Kievan throne by his brothers , Svyatoslav , Prince of Chernigov , and Vsevolod , Prince of Pereyaslavl . King Boleslaw was not as willing or able to assist Izyaslav this time around , and probably for this reason Izyaslav traveled further West ; at Mainz in early 1075 , Izyaslav sought the aid of King Henry IV of Germany , but to no avail .

Izyaslav sent Yaropolk to Rome to request aid from Pope Gregory VII . It is likely that while there Yaropolk made complaints about Boleslaw and about the money the latter had formerly seized from Izyaslav , as the pope subsequently issued a request that Boleslaw return it . Pope Gregory addressed a letter to Izyaslav , called " Demetrius " , " King of the Russians " , and to his " queen " Gertruda . The letter noted that Yaropolk , called " Peter " , had given his own as well as his father 's fidelity to the pope , and that it had been requested that the " kingdom of the Russians " be held of St Peter . Two papal legates were sent to Izyaslav , and Izyaslav was urged to give them his full cooperation .

It was only after Svyatoslav 's death in late 1076 that Izyaslav was able to recover the status of Grand Prince . Vsevolod , who had previously fought against him , was appointed Prince of Chernigov and thus heir to the Kievan throne , explaining perhaps Vsevolod 's lack of opposition . The Poles were persuaded by the papacy to give Izyaslav assistance recovering his kingdom , and on July 15 , 1077 , Izyaslav reentered Kiev .

= = Prince Yaropolk = =

Yaropolk is found aiding his father and his uncle Vsevolod in 1078 , when Oleg Svyatoslavich ( and his brother Boris ) attempted to gain the throne of Chernigov from Vsevolod . Oleg had been allied to the Polovtsy , and with their help defeated Vsevolod in battle . Grand Prince Izyaslav and Yaropolk , as well as Vsevolod 's son Vladimir Monomakh , were able to reverse this result , and Oleg was forced to retreat to Tmutarakan . Grand Prince Izyaslav , Yaropolk 's father , died as a result of the battle .

The Primary Chronicle records that in 1078 before the death of Izyaslav , Yaropolk was " ruling in Vyshhorod " , a city north of Kiev , while his brother Svyatopolk ruled as Prince of Novgorod , and Vladimir Monomakh ruled as Prince of Smolensk . After his uncle Vsevolod had become Grand Prince , Yaropolk was given Vladimir in Volhynia and Turov , while Monomakh received Chernigov .

Little is known for the following eight years , but by 1085 Vsevolod and Yaropolk are reported to have become entrenched against each other . The laconic account of these developments in the Primary Chronicle makes the course of events far from transparent . Vasilko and Vladimir Rostislavich , two Galicia based princes unhappy with territorial settlement under Vsevolod , were said to have attempted to expel Yaropolk in 1084 , but Grand Prince Vsevolod 's son Vladimir Monomakh drove these Rostislavichi away .

Following this , a gift made by the Grand Prince to Davyd Igorevich , which included land in Volhynia and control of trade with the Byzantine Empire , is said to have made Yaropolk hostile to the Grand Prince . By 1085 Vsevolod and Yaropolk are reported to have become entrenched against each other , and Vsevolod ordered his son , Vladimir Monomakh to march against Yaropolk . Lacking confidence in his own resources , Yaropolk fled Volhynia to Poland , leaving his followers ( and mother ) at Lutsk . Vladimir captured Lutsk and Yaropolk 's family , attendants and treasure , and assigned his whole principality to Davyd Igorevich .

= = Death and legacy = =

In the following year Yaropolk returned and reportedly came to an agreement with Vladimir Monomakh , but nothing specific is known of the terms other than Yaropolk being reinstated . In

1087 , Yaropolk was murdered . The circumstances of his murder are not clear , but the Primary Chronicle suggested the complicity of Riurik Rostislavich , Prince of Peremyshl , and his brother Vasilko Rostislavich , Prince of Terebovl . His murderer was a man called Neradets , who put a sword through Yaropolk before fleeing to hide with Riurik in Peremyshl ; the date given is November 22 , 1087 . His body was taken to Kiev and buried in the church of St Peter , the church which Yaropolk himself had endowed .

Yaropolk is said to have married to the German noble @-@ woman , Kunigunde , daughter of Otto , Margrave of Meissen . Whether by Kunigunde or not , Yaropolk had several children whose names have come into the record . A daughter Anastasia married her far relative Gleb Vseslavich , Prince of Minsk who was a member of the Polotsk branch of the Riurik 's family . The Annalista Saxo records another daughter , and that she married Günther , Count of Schwarzburg , though it does not mention her name . Three sons are known , namely , Yaroslav ( died 1102 ) , Viacheslav ( died 1104 ) and Vasilko . The fate of his descendants is as mysterious as his and only has some scarce records left .

Embedded in the Primary Chronicle is a eulogy to Prince Yaropolk , and among the honors assigned to him , is that he was in the habit of assigning a " tenth part of his wealth to the Mother of God " . Probably due to his personal devotion to the papacy and to St Peter , Yaropolk established a new church of St Peter at the monastery of St Demetrios in the city of Kiev . He was said to have left all his wealth to the Monastery of the Caves in Kiev . The Primary Chronicle 's eulogy is the first indication of saintly regard , and indeed today he is venerated as a saint in the Eastern Orthodox Church , with his feast day falling on the reported day of his death , November 22 .

= = Ancestry = =

= = Family = =

Wife ? Kunigunde , daughter of Otto

Anastasia ( daughter ) , married Gleb Vseslavich ( Prince of Minsk )

Volodar

Rostislav

? ( daughter ) , married Günther ( House of Schwarzburg )

Sizzo III

Yaroslav ( son ) ( ? ? 1102 )

Viacheslav ( son ) ( ? ? 1104 )

Vasilko ( son )