

## 1 - INTRODUCTION and ORIGINS

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The Rivers Dnieper, Don, Volga

The great expanses of Eastern Europe

- tribes : Germanic, Baltic, Slavic, Finnish,  
plus Scythians (Aryans), Huns, Magyars, Kazaks, Cumans, Turkics, etc

### The VIKINGS

The Northmen / Norsemen / Normans / Norwegians

- Germanic tribes related to the Angles, Saxons, Goths, Franks, Burgundians, Lombards
- homelands: Denmark / Norway / Sweden / parts of Finland

The VIKING invasions of the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Centuries

### The VARANGIANS

RURIK (died c. 879 AD) [ also: Rorik / Hrorekr / Rurik ]

- semi-legendary founder of the RURIK dynasty
- a Viking or VARANGIAN prince

-NOVGOROD

- Holmgard
- Gardar / Gardaveldi / Gardariki
- Viking rule begins c. 862

OLEG (Helgi / + 912)

- conquered Kiev (c. 882)
- establishes trade network from Novgorod  
along DNIEPER River to the Black Sea
- proclaims himself GRAND PRINCE of KIEV  
=the Grand Principality of Kiev
- failed attempt to conquer Constantinople

> KIEVAN RUS

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Kyi, Shehek, Khoriv and Lybid

- landing on the shores of the River Dnieper to establish KYIV

## KIEVAN RUS

Oleg (Helgi / + 912)

IGOR (Ingvar / r. 912 – 945)

- further attacks upon Constantinople (941 - 945)
- the VARANGIAN GUARD
- the Drevlians

ST. OLGA (Helga / regent 945 – 969), widow of Igor

SVYATOSLAV I (Sveinald Ingvarsson / r. 945 — 972)

- Yarapolk, Oleg, Vladimir

VLADIMIR I (St. Vladimir / Valdamarr Sveinaldsson / Volodymyr / r. 980 – 1015)  
= “Vladimir the Great”

- son of Svyatoslav, kills his brothers to seize control over Kiev
- compiled the first Kievan Rus law code
- the CYRILLIC alphabet (St. Cyril / c. 860 AD)
- introduced Christianity into the country
- organized Kievan Rus lands into a confederation
- distributed major cities among his sons
  - eldest son would be Grand Prince of Kiev
  - brothers to succeed each other. moving up the hierarchy of cities

YAROSLAV the Wise (978 / r. 1019 — 1054)

- Prince of Novgorod

Principality of SMOLENSK

Vladimir II Monomakh (Vasily / Basileios / 1053 / r. 1113 - 1125)

- Grand Prince of Kievan Rus

Igor Svyatoslavich the Brave (Yuri / Ingvar Sveinaldsson / 1151 - c. 1202)

- battles against the Cuman / Polovtsy / Kipchak
- the river Kayala
- The Lay of Igor's Campaign*

The city of VLADIMIR (Volodymyr) becomes the new seat of the Russian Grand Prince (c. 1170)

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The *Primary Chronicle* / “Tale of the Bygone Years” (c. 1100) possibly by Nestor, a monk

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Nicholas V. Riasanovsky (1923 - 2011) with Mark D. Steinberg  
*A History of Russia* (1963 ; 2010)

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