Kievan Russ and The Huns
Essential Question:

- How did the Huns impact Europe?
- How did the Huns affect the Roman Empire and the Dark ages?
- Why did the decline of Constantinople present economic challenges to Kievan Rus’?
- What impact did these challenges have on Slavic peoples in this region?
Kievan Rus’

Kievan Rus, first East slavic state in Europe from the late 9th to the mid-13th century

- Slav: member of the most numerous ethnic and linguistic body of peoples in Europe

It was founded by the Viking Oleg, ruler of Novgorod from about 879.

Kievan Rus’ begins with the rule (882-912) of Prince Oleg. He seized Smolensk and Kiev from Novgorod south along the Dnieper river valley in order to protect trade from Khazar invasion from the east and moved his capital to the more strategic Kiev.

Extending his rule, Oleg united local Slavic and Finnish tribes, defeated the Khazars, and, in 911, arranged trade agreements with Constantinople.
Accomplishments of rulers

Sviatoslav I (died in 972) achieved the first major expansion of Kievan Rus’ territorial control, fighting a war of conquest against the Khazar Empire.

Vladimir the Great (980-1015) introduced Christianity with his own baptism and, by decree, that all the inhabitants of Kiev and beyond. Kievan Rus’ reached its greatest extent under Yaroslav I (1019-1054); his sons assembled and issued its first written legal code, the Rus’ Justice, shortly after his death.

During winter the Kievan princes made circuits among neighbouring tribes to collect tribute, which consisted of furs, money, and slaves.

As spring came, they loaded their goods into small boats and moved them down the Dnieper in convoy to discourage attacks by nomadic steppe tribes. Their ultimate destination was Constantinople, where their rights of trading were strictly defined by treaty. This was arranged by Igor’s son Svyatoslav.
What role did trade and agriculture play in Kievan Rus’

The decline of Constantinople – a main trading partner of Kievan Rus’ – played a significant role in the decline of the Kievan Rus’.

The trade route from the Varangians to the Greeks, along which the goods were moving from the Black Sea (mainly Byzantine) through eastern Europe to the Baltic, was a cornerstone of Kiev wealth and prosperity.

Kiev was the main power and initiator in this relationship, once the Byzantine Empire fell into turmoil and the supplies became erratic, profits dried out, and Kiev lost its appeal.
Religion - Christianity

In 988 the Christian Church in Rus' territorially fell under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople after it was officially adopted as the state religion. According to several chronicles after that date the predominant cult of Slavic paganism was persecuted.

Vladimir's choice of Eastern Christianity may also have reflected his close personal ties with Constantinople, which dominated the Black Sea and hence trade on Kiev's most vital commercial route, the Dnieper River.

- Vladimir: was a prince of Novgorod, grand prince of Kiev, and ruler of Kievan Rus' from 980 to 1015.
The conversion was born of a pact with Byzantine Emperor Basil II, who promised his sister’s hand in marriage in exchange for military aid and the adoption of Christianity by the Kievan state.

Although the religion came from Constantinople, the service was in the vernacular, as the Bible had been translated into Old Church Slavonic by the missionaries Saints Cyril and Methodius in the 9th century.

*The state declined beginning in the late 11th century and during the 12th century*

Economic factors such as the collapse of the Rus’ commercial ties to Byzantium due to the decline of Constantinople and the accompanying diminution of trade routes through its territory.
Contributions to History:

- **Architecture**

Rus’-Byzantine relations became closer following the marriage of the *porphyrogenita* Anna to Vladimir the Great, and the subsequent Christianization of the Rus’: Byzantine priests, architects and artists were invited to work on numerous cathedrals and churches around Rus’, expanding Byzantine cultural influence even further. Numerous Rus’ served in the Byzantine army as mercenaries, most notably as the famous Varangian Guard.

- **Economy**

During the Kievan era, the peoples of Rus’ experienced a period of great economic expansion, opening trade routes with the Vikings to the north and west and the Byzantine Greeks to the south and west; traders also began to travel south and east eventually making contact with Persia and the peoples of Central Asia.

The state finally fell to the Mongol invasion of the 1240s.
Historical Significance: cause and consequence

A period of fratricidal uncertainty followed Vladimir’s death in 1015, as Vladimir’s eldest surviving son, Svyatopolk the Accursed, killed three of his other brothers and seized power in Kiev. His remaining brother—Yaroslav, the vice-regent of Novgorod—with the active support of the Novgorodians and the help of Varangian (Viking) mercenaries, defeated Svyatopolk and became the grand prince of Kiev in 1019.

Under Yaroslav, Kiev became eastern Europe’s chief political and cultural centre. Yaroslav embellished his capital with the cathedral of St. Sophia, a church in Byzantine style that still stands, and he encouraged the growth of the monastery at Pechersk under Anthony of Kiev. Yaroslav also collected books and had them translated. In an attempt to head off the sort of familial bloodshed that had prefaced his own rise to power,

Yaroslav introduced an order of succession that privileged seniority but held that the territory of Kievan Rus as a whole belonged to the family. That edict had no lasting effect, and upon Yaroslav’s death in 1054, his sons divided the empire into warring factions. The title of grand prince of Kiev lost its importance, and the 13th-century Mongol conquest decisively ended Kiev’s power. Remnants of the Kievan state persisted in the western principalities of Galicia and Volhynia, but by the 14th century those territories had been absorbed by Poland and Lithuania, respectively.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=etmRl2_9Q_A
The Huns:

The Huns were nomadic (roaming) group of people who were known to have lived in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia between the 1st century AD and the 7th century. But, their exact origin remains a mystery. People were afraid of the Huns.
Attila the Hun:

Attila was the last and most powerful leader of the Hunnic Empire.

His empire stretched from Central Europe to the Black Sea and from the Danube River to the Baltic. During his rule, he was among the direst enemies of the Eastern and Western Roman Empires: he invaded the Balkans twice and encircled Constantinople in the second invasion. He marched through France as far as Orleans before being turned back at Chalons.

On the day of his marriage, Attila passed out flat on his back and died. He had a massive nosebleed which caused him to choke on his own blood.
Impact of the Huns on Europe:

The Huns did not appear one day and throw Europe into confusion. They moved gradually westward, and were noted first in Roman records as a new presence somewhere beyond Persia. Some Hunnic clans moved north and west, pressing into the lands above the Black Sea.

In 395 the Huns began their first large-scale attack on the Eastern Roman Empire. They entered parts of Syria, threatened Antioch, and swarmed through the province of Euphratesia.

They moved through what is now Turkey and then attacked the Sassanid Empire of Persia, driving almost to the capital at Ctesiphon before being turned back.

The Eastern Roman Empire ended up paying large amounts of tribute to the Huns to keep them from attacking.
Religion:

Tengriism
People in Central Asia practiced this religion, which focused on living in harmony with the natural universe. This religion is considered to be one of the oldest religions.
Military:

The Huns were natural warriors, having shot a bow and ridden on a horse for his entire life.

On the battlefield, the Huns would fire a shower of arrows, inflicting casualties in long range.

The Huns lived, ate, and slept on horsebacks. The horse was a highly important part of their society.
The End of the Huns:

In the end, the Huns were instrumental in bringing down the Roman Empire

They forced other Germanic and Persian tribes into Roman lands

After Attila’s death, Attila’s sons fought over who would rule the Huns. The resulting chaos was exploited by the Ostrogoths and other Germanic tribes, who used the opportunity to revolt against the Huns. The Hunnish empire soon broke apart.
Minds On Activity!

kahoot.it

Game pin: 950234
Consolidation

What did we learn? How does it connect to our Enduring Understandings and Essential Questions?

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