

(Return to Prof. Hammond)

VII. MONGOL INFLUENCE ON RUSSIA, -- DEBATE.

1. Hotly debated question -- widely divergent views.

2. Russian Nationalist Historians -- little influence.

a. Solovev -- "We have no reason to assume any great influence on Russia's internal administration, as we ~~can~~ do not see any traces of it."

b. Platonov -- "How could the Mongol influence on Russian life be considerable when the Mongols lived far off, did not mix with the Russians, and came... only to gather tribute or as an army...? We can consider the internal life of Russian society in the 13th century without paying attention to the fact of the Mongol yoke."

c. Kliuchevskii -- similar views.

2. "Eurasian" Historians -- Vernadsky. Great influence.

Vernadsky -- "A convenient method of gauging the extent of Mongol influence on Russia is to compare the Russian state and society of the pre-Mongol period with those of the post-Mongol era, and in particular to contrast the spirit and institutions of Muscovite Russia with those of Russia of the Kievan age.... The picture changed completely after the Mongol period."

(these 2 quotes Riasanovsky-73)

3. Florinsky -- rather ~~sympathetic~~ skeptical, anti-nationalist view.

"...it is unreasonable to claim that the invasion destroyed a flourishing Russian civilization: such a civilization simply did not exist."

VIII. MONGOL INFLUENCE NOT VERY SIGNIFICANT. -- arguments.

1. Mongols did not Colonize -- except in the South ~~in the south~~ (southern Ukraine, ~~in the~~ Volga, around Kazan, Astrakhan, Crimea)

Only a few Mongols living among the Russians, as tax collectors, administrators, merchants, etc.

2. Russian Political Structure Remained Intact --

Native princes continued to rule, under the Khan.

Khans left the Russians pretty much to themselves, so long as they recognized his authority, and paid their tribute.

3. Russian Church Not Molested -- no attempt by Mongols to impose their religion on the Russians. A cultural barrier.

Church actually prospered, grew in wealth and influence.

4. Mongol Society Too Different from Russian -- not much influence.

Mongols on a Lower Stage of Civilization from the Russians.

Nomads -- their type of society too different for the Russians to borrow much from them.

Backward -- Mongols not a superior civilization, but an inferior one. Not much to borrow, except in military science.

Religious difference -- also a barrier to borrowing, or to close contact.

IX. NEGATIVE INFLUENCE OF MONGOLS

1. Devastation -- initial invasion, plus later raids.

Invasions -- 48 between 1236-1462. ~~from~~ Raids of Crimean Tatars continued until 1769.

~~Hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, of people killed.~~

Homes, palaces, churches, monasteries sacked, burned.

2. Population Loss -- slaves, concubines, ~~innocent~~ soldiers for army.

hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, killed.

3. Decline of Skills -- Mongol draft of artisans. Stone masons, carpenters, shoemakers, etc. taken from Russian cities, forced to move to Mongol areas.

4. Decline of Trade -- especially in earlier decades.

Later trade revived, but Mongols got large share, ~~dominated~~ dominated much of the trade.

5. Economic Retardation -- ^{little} ~~no~~ capital could accumulate.

Tribute -- sucked Russia dry of much of her wealth.

Exorbitant tax rates, unscrupulous tax collectors, including Russian ones.

Some of best lands occupied by Mongols.

6. Cities Become Less Important -- Agriculture more important.

7. Loss of Western Russia -- to Poland & Lithuania. Not strong enough to ~~maintain~~ hold these areas.

8. Isolation -- helped to decrease Russian contacts with Byzantium, Western Europe.

Lessened the possible impact of Renaissance, Reformation, etc.

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9. Political Absolutism -- Veche declined in importance, Lost power, Princes emerged triumphant.

Idea of universal service to the state strengthened.

Torture, brutality, Capital punishment for first time.

X. POSITIVE INFLUENCES OF MONGOLS.

(by Positive I don't necessarily mean "good")

1. Mongol Words -- money (dengi), treasury (kazna), fool (durak), rank (chin), tavern (kabak), etc.
2. Administrative Methods -- Russians may have adopted some of the Mongol techniques in tax collection, census, coinage, draft
3. Military Techniques -- Some authors (Vernadsky) argue that the Russians borrowed the cavalry tactics of the Mongols, as well as weapons, methods of organization. Others dispute this, say that during the Muscovite period Russian armies continued to be based on infantry, as in the Kievan period. (riasanovsky)

4. Mongol Nobility --

Some came and served the Russian princes, especially after the Golden Horde declined.

Some Russians married Mongols, including Russian princes who married into the family of ~~Qam~~ Chingis Khan.

~~At the end of the 17th century, about 17% of Russian noble families traced their ancestry to Easterners, mostly Mongol.~~

About 130 distinguished noble families (Godunovs, Turgenevs)

5. "Asiatic Despotism" imitated by Princes of Moscow???

Some argue that ~~hmm~~ the despotism of the princes of Moscow was a direct continuation, and imitation, of Mongol despotism.

Possibly some influence.

However, ~~hmm~~ at the same time strong national monarchs were also appearing throughout Europe, in areas which had no contact with Mongols.

Probably due to other factors.

XI. SUMMARY ON MONGOL INFLUENCE.

1. ~~Great.~~ Primarily negative.

Retarded Russian development.

2. Borrowing of Mongol ideas, techniques, system of government, --
slight.

~~Legal system quite different.~~

Models ← Byzantium, ~~Western Europe~~ Kievan Russia, Western Europe

