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Early Rus and Muscovy's Rise



In the early 13th century, the Mongols invaded the territories of the Kievan _____, causing a decline in the region's power and influence. This event paved the way for the rise of a new power center in the northeast: the Grand Duchy of _____. Initially, Muscovy was just one of many small principalities, but it began to gain prominence under the leadership of Prince _____, the youngest son of Alexander Nevsky. Daniel laid the foundation for Muscovy's expansion by uniting the surrounding _____.

Muscovy's strategic location, near the Volga River, allowed it to control the vital trade routes between the Baltic and the _____. This economic advantage helped it to attract more residents and to increase its wealth. Furthermore, the _____ of Muscovy cleverly navigated their relationship with the Mongols, paying _____ while also consolidating their power locally. By the 14th century, under the rule of Prince _____, Muscovy had become the most powerful of the Russian principalities. Ivan was granted the title of Grand Prince by the _____ and given the right to collect taxes from other Russian territories, which significantly increased Muscovy's wealth and _____.

Another key figure in Muscovy's rise was Ivan III, known as Ivan the Great. He expanded the _____ of Muscovy further and declared independence from the Mongol Yoke. His marriage to Sophia Palaiologina, the niece of the last Byzantine _____, also brought prestige and claims of succession to the Byzantine legacy, symbolized by the adoption of the double-headed _____ as Muscovy's coat of arms.

Under Ivan IV, also known as Ivan the Terrible, Muscovy transformed into the Tsardom of _____, marking the beginning of a new era in Russian history. Ivan IV's reign was characterized by military conquests and the centralization of state power, but also by the _____, a policy of terror against the nobility.

Muscovy's evolution from a modest principality to the dominant _____ in the region laid the groundwork for the Russian Empire, shaping the future of Eastern _____ for centuries to come.

Mongols Europe Black Sea oprichnina princes Ivan I eagle influence Daniel
territory power territories Russia Emperor Muscovy Rus tributes