

Super-Excellent Info #3 Succession, Nomads, and the Decline (?) of Kievan Rus'

Excellent Timeline (for fun & showing off)

968	<i>Primary Chronicle</i> makes first reference to attack by Pechenegs
1015	Killing of Boris & Gleb by his brother, Sviatopolk
1019	Mstislav & Iaroslav decide to divide the realm after fighting
1036	Mstislav dies; Iaroslav becomes sole ruler of Kievan Rus'
1054	Iaroslav (the Wise) dies after admonishing sons to get along
1055	Polovtsy (Cumans) appear in the steppe; first invasion in 1061 (by <i>Chronicle</i>)
1072	Boris & Gleb are canonized
1096	Polovtsy attack Kiev, burn Pecherskii monastery
1097	Conference at Liubech to resolve succession issues
1113-25	Rule of Vladimir Monomakh in Kiev (called out of proper succession)
1136	Civic uprising in Novgorod, rejects Kiev's right to appoint prince
1169	Prince Andrei Bogoliubskii (or his son) sacks Kiev, then returns to northeast
1184	Grand prince Sviatoslav launches victorious campaign against Polovtsy
1185	Prince Igor defeated by Polovtsy (basis for "Tale of Igor's Campaign")
2003	Edward Keenan publishes book claiming "Tale" is a forgery

People & Stuff You Should Know

Boris & Gleb	Pechenegs	Polovtsians (Cumans, Kipchaks)
Iaroslav the Wise	<i>Tale of Igor's Campaign</i>	<i>izgoi</i>

Some Other Points Worth Noting

- Dmtryshyn's [Medieval Russia](#) has a genealogy of various rulers at the end that might help to orient you (there are also a glossary and chronology).
- On patronymics: Russian uses a system of naming whereby a person has both a first name and a patronymic, based on the name of his or her father. Thus Sviatopolk Vladimirovich = Sviatopolk, son of Vladimir; Olga Vladimirovna = Olga, daughter of Vladimir. Sometimes brothers are referred to collectively in early sources with the patronymic: Iaroslavovichi = the sons of Iaroslav.
- It is worth taking a bit of time to examine the maps I have posted on the web site in order to get a better sense of where the various principalities of Rus' were located. Often the reading discussion will make much more sense if you have this basic knowledge.