Wld. Hist. 9

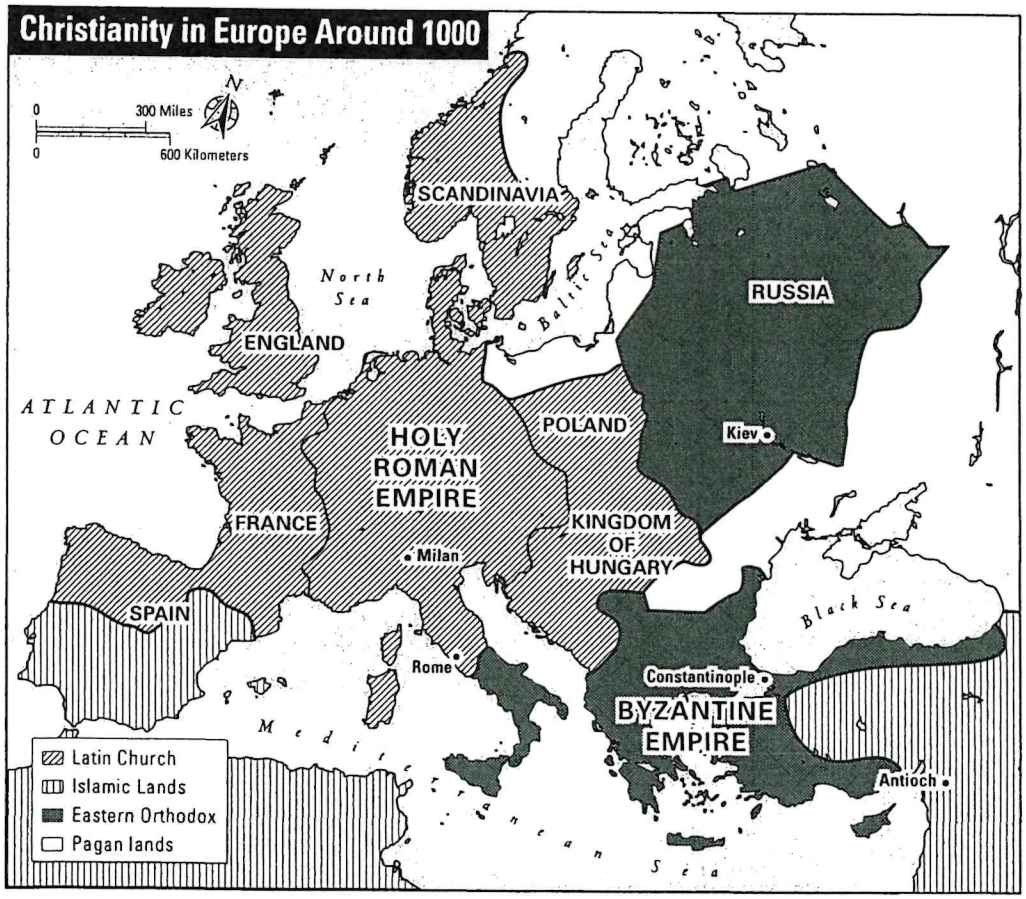
Feudal Europe's Religious Influences

The influence of the Latin Church—the Roman Catholic Church—grew in western Europe after 800. By 1000, at the end of the age of invasions, the Church's vision of a spiritual kingdom in feudal Europe was nearly realized.

A sign of the spread of Roman Christianity in western Europe was the increased presence of churches. The population of the continent was increasing rapidly—from around 14 million in 600 to 22 million in 950—and the need to accommodate all the new faithful caused a boom in religious buildings.

It was an era of new Roman Christian states. By 966 much of the Polish region had sided with Rome, as did that of Hungary around 986. Large sections of Scandinavia adopted the Latin Church by 1000. In the fifth century, Ireland became the "island of saints." Then, between 500 and 900, Ireland helped bring England under the influence of Roman Christianity.

However, in 988, in far eastern Europe, the prince of Kiev received baptism from the Eastern Orthodox, or Byzantine, Church, as regions to the south had done in the eighth century. Disputes between the two wings of Christianity—headed by Constantinople and Rome—would soon separate the two forever. 1054 A.D.



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1. What *two* forms of Christianity were found in Europe around 1000 C.E.?

2. Which **cities** were the leaders of each Christian religions?

3. What was the main religion of **southern Spain**?

4. Which religion appears to cover the greatest area **on the map**?