

Kiev was the first town to be developed on the Dnieper, while Novgorod--the new town--developed at the north. In the northern town Rurik, a Viking, showed ability as a protector of the place, and from this beginning in 862 he became the first Ruler of Russia. on the death of Rurik in 879, Oleg, a relative, reigned instead of the infant son of Rurik.

Oleg was a contemporary of Alfred the Great, of England, and of Charles the Bald, of the Western Empire. Oleg was daring and brave, and coming down the river to Kiev, he invited two Vikings then in charge of the town to visit his ship, where he killed them and in taking over the city, began the movement which resulted in Russian nationality. By the 10th century, the Slavs cover the greater part of Europe.

One hundred years later in 980, Vladimar I, became ruler. He was a pagan and sacrificed about a thousand lives to his gods. The outburst of a boyar, who refused willingly to give up his child, resulted in the death of both father and son, but it had its effect in creating dissatisfaction on the part of the ruler with paganism.

The Jews were numerous in Khazar, and their Khan had adopted their faith. Vladimar asked why the Jews were scattered over the earth, and on being told that it was on account of their sins, he immediately lost interest in Judaism. He refused to become a follower of Islam, because no Russian could be happy without strong drink; the Roman Catholic church placed supreme power in the hand of a Pope so that didn't suit the king. Finally, he completely fell for the outward manifestations of the Orthodox church, and felt that the show would appeal to his people, which it did. While the church