

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 <sup>taking</sup> in ~~the~~ 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 him 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~~ Judaism. He refused to become a follower of Islam, because no Russian could be happy without strong drink; and 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. ~~There~~ While the church has been ~~guilty~~ guilty of slavery, extravagance and oppression, it has had a real hold on the Russian people and at times was the only unifying force left in the nation.

The history of Russia for a thousand years has been that of poverty and oppression for the people, and extravagance on the part of the ruling powers, very few if any of whom were of full Russian blood. I am inclined to believe that negro slavery in America never reduced its subjects to the depths to which the serfs of Russia were submerged. The ~~ruling~~ nation was always trying to advance its interests by taking part in the wars of other nations, and the