

THE KINGDOM OF RUS'

Christian Raffensperger

PAST IMPERFECT ARC HUMANITIES PRESS

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For Iris and Malcolm

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Timeline of Events

This timeline contains events of relevance to Rus', as well as some major events that impact the larger medieval European world, in an attempt to more fully situate Rus' in medieval Europe. It continues from the first Viking explorations in eastern Europe through to the middle of the twelfth century when the picture of Rus' changes. It is selective and meant to illustrate a sampling of events related to the subject of this volume.

793	The first major Viking attack on England, at Lindisfarne.
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Late 700s, early 800s	Viking attacks continue throughout western Europe, but raiding also takes place in the Baltic Sea and includes exploration down the Western Dvina and other rivers in eastern Europe.
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859–862	The “Povest' vremennykh let” (PVL)—the main source for early Rus'—describes the arrival of the first Rusians in eastern Europe. They come initially as raiders, but then as invited leaders, to the local population. It is more than likely that this is a later justification for rule, given the chronicle's backing by the ruling family, descendants (theoretically) of Riurik.
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