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Elements in Rethinking Byzantium

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KYIVAN RUS IN MEDIEVAL EUROPE

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Kyivan Rus in Medieval Europe

Elements in Rethinking Byzantium

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Abstract: While there has been a great deal (comparatively) written about Rus as part of medieval Europe in the last twenty years, the popular perception of it remains a part of the so-called “Byzantine Commonwealth.” This traditional framing discounts Russian ties to the west and exaggerates those to “Byzantium,” elevating the rhetoric used by Russian nationalists to separate Russia from Europe. This Element provides an accurate historical account of medieval Rus that corrects the modern misuse of medieval history: a resource for academics interested in the results of current research on the place of the Kingdom of Rus in the medieval world. It brings together and synthesizes existing scholarship on Rus to present a complete picture of the kingdom of Rus, and its orientation within the wider medieval world, with a particular focus on the eleventh and twelfth centuries.

Keywords: Rus, medieval Europe, Byzantium, medieval politics, Slavic Europe

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