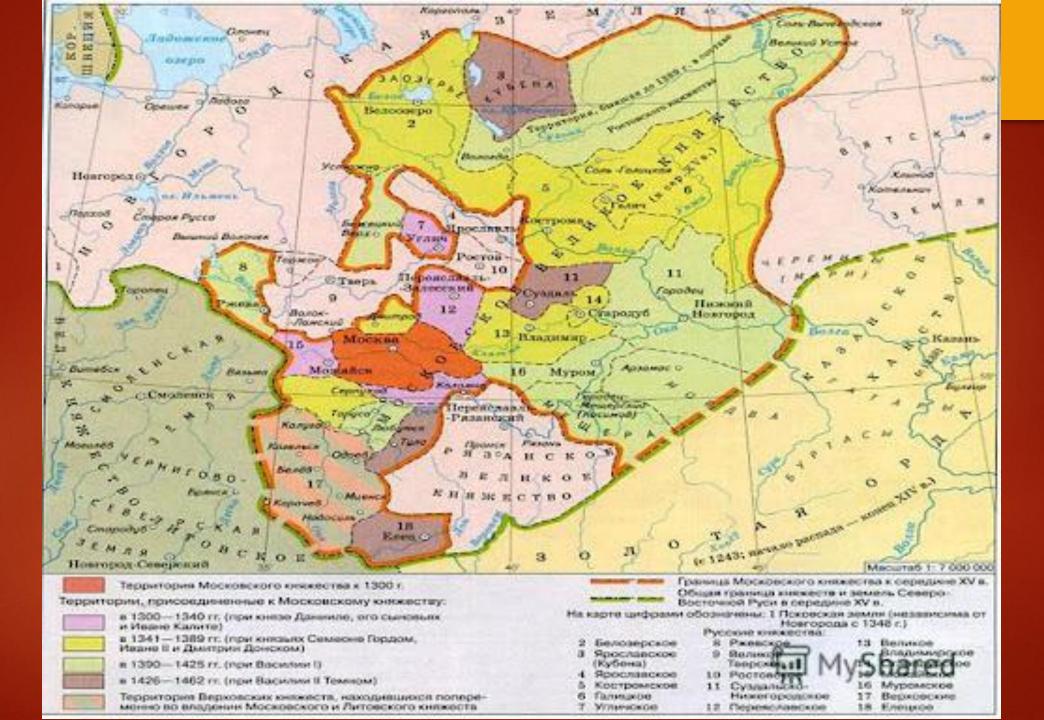
Rise of Moscow. Unification of Russian lands around Moscow



The founder of the Moscow princely dynasty and the first independent Moscow appanage prince was the youngest son of Alexander Nevsky, Daniel. At that time, Moscow was a small and poor lot. However, Daniil Alexandrovich managed to significantly expand its borders. In order to gain control over the entire Moscow River, in 1301 he took away Kolomna from the Ryazan prince. In 1302, the Pereyaslavsky inheritance was annexed to Moscow, the next year - Mozhaisk, which was part of the Smolensk principality.

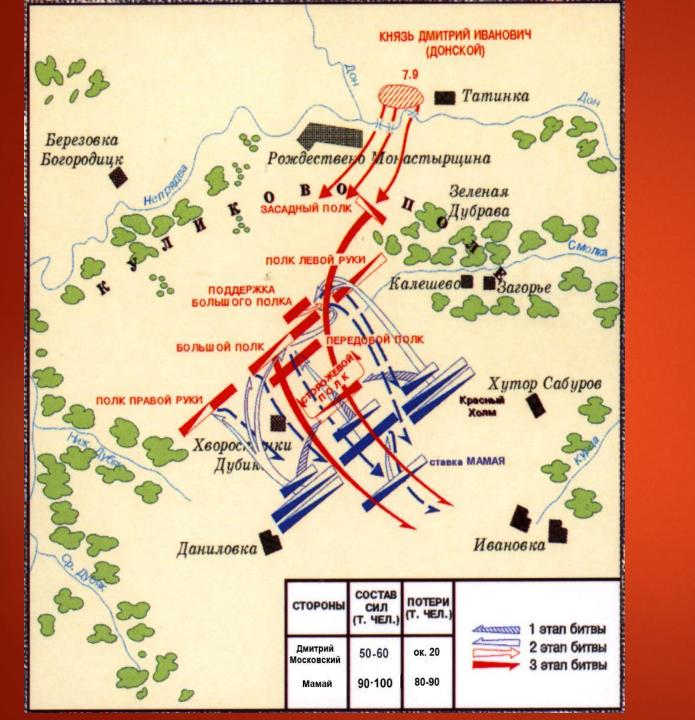
The growth and rise of Moscow were primarily associated with its location in the center of that part of the Slavic lands where the Russian nationality took shape. The economic development of Moscow and the Moscow principality was facilitated by their location at the crossroads of both water and land trade routes. The trading duties that traveling merchants paid to the Moscow princes were an important source of the growth of the princely treasury. In the XIV century, Moscow was promoted as the center of the Moscow Grand Duchy - one of the strongest in North-Eastern Russia.

No less important was the fact that the city was located in the center of the Russian principalities, which covered it from the invaders' raids. The Moscow principality became a kind of refuge for many Russian people, which also contributed to the development of the economy and the rapid growth of the population.

The skilful policy of the Moscow princes contributed to the rise of Moscow. Since the time of Ivan I Danilovich Kalita, Moscow has become the political center of the Vladimir-Suzdal Grand Duchy, the residence of the Russian metropolitans, and the church capital of Russia. The struggle between Moscow and Tver for supremacy in Russia ends with the victory of the Moscow prince.



In the second half of the 14th century, under the grandson of Ivan Kalita, Dmitry Ivanovich Donskoy, Moscow became the organizer of the armed struggle of the Russian people against the Mongol-Tatar yoke, the overthrow of which began with the Battle of Kulikovo in 1380, when Dmitry Ivanovich defeated the hundred thousandth army of Khan Mamai on the Kulikovo field.



The Golden Horde khans, realizing the importance of Moscow, more than once tried to destroy it (the burning of Moscow by Khan Tokhtamysh in 1382). However, nothing could stop the consolidation of Russian lands around Moscow. In the last quarter of the 15th century, under the Grand Duke Ivan III Vasilievich, Moscow turned into the capital of the Russian centralized state, which in 1480 forever threw off the Mongol-Tatar yoke (standing on the Ugra River).

Объединение земель вокруг Москвы

