**Document B (modified excerpt)**

**A Russian View of the Mongols: The Chronicle of Novgorod**

**1238**

*The first impression of the Mongol impact in many places was one of utter devastation, destruction, and brutality. This document gives a Russian explanation from that perspective taken from the “Chronicle of Novgorod,” one of the major sources for the history of early Russia.*

That same year [1238] foreigners called **Tartars** came in countless numbers, like locusts, into the land of Ryazan, and on first coming they halted at the river Nukhla, and took it, and halted in camp there. And then they sent their **emissaries** to the Princes of Ryazan…demanding from them one-tenth of everything: of men and Princes and horses – of everything one-tenth…And the Princes said to them: “only when none of us remain then all will be yours.”…But it was too late to oppose the wrath of God…Thus also did God before these men take from us our strength and put into us **perplexity** and thunder and dread and trembling for our sins. And then the **pagan** foreigners surrounded Ryazan and fenced it in with a **stockade**…And the Tartars took the town on December 21, and they had advanced against it on the 16th of the same month. They likewise killed the Prince and Princess, and men, women, and children, monks, nuns and priests, some by fire, some by the sword…And who, brethren, would not **lament** over this, among those of us left alive when they suffered this bitter and violent death? And we, indeed, having seen it, were terrified and wept with sighing day and night over our sins, while we sigh every day and night, taking thought for our possessions and for the hatred of brothers.

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| **Word Bank**  Tartars – Mongols  emissaries – representatives  perplexity – confusion  pagan – offensive term used for someone who is not a Christian, Jew, or Muslim  stockade – barrier  lament – express sadness |

**Source:** Robert Mitchell and Nevill Forbes, trans., *The Chronicle of Novgorod, 1016-1471*. New York: AMS Press, 1970: repr. from

the 1914 edition, London, 81-83, 88.

**Retrieved from:** Strayer, Robert W. *Ways of the World: A Brief Global History with Sources*. N.p.: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2012. Print.