Russian Kompromat and the Word Ruse

Ruse: A word derived through Old French, with a history connected to evasion and trickery.

- *Rus’: The historical name associated with the medieval Rus’ people and the later names Russia and Russian.*
- *Its earliest recorded meaning was connected to the evasive movements of a hunted animal or a circuitous route taken by a hunter pursuing prey.*

Princess Olga of Kyiv, who died in 969: A marriage proposal became part of a deception used to defeat an opponent.

Marriage Rus’sian

(Русь)

- *839 CE: The Annals of St. Bertin record people called Rhos visiting the court of Louis the Pious, a Frankish emperor. Frankish officials identified them as Swedes. This is direct evidence of contact between the early Rus’ and the Frankish world.*
- *5th–9th centuries: Frankish kingdoms developed in Western Europe, eventually contributing to the historical formation of France.*
- *9th–10th centuries: The name Rus’ became associated with the emerging polity centered around Kyiv and other Eastern European centers.*
- *Later medieval period: The names Rus’, Ruthenia, and eventually Russia developed along distinct historical and linguistic paths.* Ia is a feminine name.

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