

# Europe—The Middle Ages Overview

## Western Europe After the Roman Empire

- Before & during the fall of Rome:
  - 
  -
- 9<sup>th</sup> C.—Feudalism used as a means of protection against Vikings
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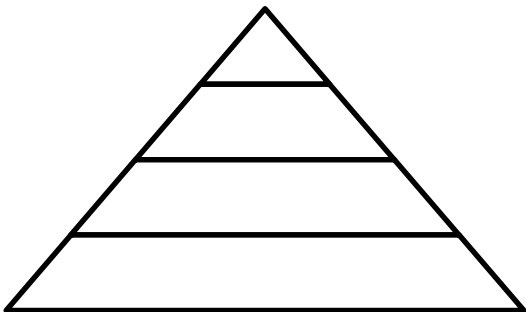
## The Dark Ages— 400-800 CE

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

## Feudalism

- A political, economic, & social system
- Vassal =
- Fief =
- Serfs =
- Chivalry =

### Feudalism



## France

1. Where did the Franks settle?
2. Why did the Franks convert to Christianity?



### Frankish Rulers

- Settled in present day France and Germany during 400s C.E.

#### Clovis—early king of the Frank

He would bring Christianity to the region. According to legend, his wife, Clothilde, had urged him to convert to her faith, Christianity. In 496, Clovis led his warriors against another Germanic army. Fearing defeat, he appealed to the Christian God. "For I have called on my gods," he prayed, "but I find they are far from my aid. . . . Now I call on Thee. I long to believe in Thee. Only, please deliver me from my enemies." The tide of the battle shifted and the Franks won. Afterward, Clovis and 3,000 of his warriors asked a bishop to baptize them. By 511, Clovis had united the Franks into one kingdom.

# France, Cont.

## Charles Martel

- Charles Martel extended the kingdom to the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
- He defeated the Muslims at the \_\_\_\_\_ in the year \_\_\_\_\_.
- Why do you think this battle was so important?

## Charlemagne

- Charlemagne nearly \_\_\_\_\_ the empire.
- What occurred in 800?
- Why was this event significant?
- What was one of his other great accomplishments?

## Charles Martel

By 700, an official known as the mayor of the palace, had become the most powerful person in the Frankish kingdom. Unofficially, he led armies and made policy. In effect, he ruled the kingdom.

The mayor of the palace in 719, Charles Martel held more power than the king. Charles Martel extended the Franks' reign to the north, south, and east. He also defeated Muslim raiders from Spain at the Battle of Tours in 732. This battle was highly significant for Christian Europeans. If the Muslims had won, western Europe might have become part of the Muslim Empire. Charles Martel's victory at Tours made him a Christian hero.

## Charlemagne

In 771 Charles, who was known as Charlemagne, or Charles the Great, ruled the kingdom. He conquered new lands to both the south and the east nearly doubling the kingdom. Through these conquests, Charlemagne spread Christianity. He reunited western Europe for the first time since the Roman Empire. He had become the most powerful king in western Europe.

In 800, Charlemagne traveled to Rome to crush an unruly mob that had attacked the pope. In gratitude, Pope Leo III crowned him emperor. The coronation was historic. A pope had claimed the political right to confer the title "Holy Roman Emperor" on a European king. This event signaled the joining of Germanic power, the Church, and the heritage of the Roman Empire. To Europeans, it seemed that the Roman Empire had been reborn, yet this would be a totally new kingdom. One of his greatest accomplishments was the encouragement of learning. He surrounded himself with English, German, Italian, and Spanish scholars. For his many sons and daughters and other children at the court, Charlemagne opened a palace school.

# Holy Roman Empire

- How was the Holy Roman Empire formed? (btw—the Holy Roman Empire is early Germany)

## Holy Roman Empire

After Charlemagne's death, divided b/w his sons

Part became: France

Part became: Holy Roman Empire

• It was strongest kingdom

Constant conflicts between emperors and popes

## William of Normandy

886—Anglo-Saxon kingdoms united into "Angleland" (England)

When the last Anglo-Saxon king died—battle over the throne

• William the Duke of Normandy—closest male relative—wanted throne  
• Anglos chose their own king, Harold (b/c William was French)

Battle of Hastings 1066—William defeats Harold & becomes king—"William the Conqueror"

## English Law

Magna Carta = "Great Charter"—1215

• Forced King John to sign; it placed clear limits on the royal power  
• Rights for the people guaranteed:  
• King couldn't tax without the consent of Great Council  
• Jury trial  
• Protection of the law



Parliament—created in 1295

• Legislative group made up of nobles and knights from every county



# England

- The tribes of the Anglos and Saxons united to form \_\_\_\_\_.
- Why did the English not want William of Normandy to be their king? (hint: where is Normandy? Ask me if you are not sure)
- The Battle of Hastings occurred in \_\_\_\_\_ (year). What occurred at the Battle of Hastings?
- The Magna Carta, the early legal code of the English, was signed in \_\_\_\_\_ (year).
- What aspects of the Magna Carta does the U.S. also use in their legal codes?
- Parliament-
- What do you suppose was the significance of the creating of Parliament?