

Western Europe

Ch 11

600-1450

Western Europe: After the Fall of Rome

- Middle Ages or medieval times
 - Between the fall of Roman Empire and the European Renaissance
- Dark Ages?
- Divide into the
 - Early Middle Ages
 - Germanic tribes.
 - Subsistence farmers
 - Chieftains
 - Most people illiterate
 - The High Middle Ages
 - Signs of recovery
 - Growth of towns
 - Trade w/Eastern Hemisphere established
 - Emergence of middle class
 - Renaissance begins at the end of the era



The Early Middle Ages



- Collapse of political, social, and military order left Europe in chaos
- Continuing invasions and conflicts
- The Church provided cultural unity and enabled the area to regain some control

The Early Middle Ages: Political Development (cont.)



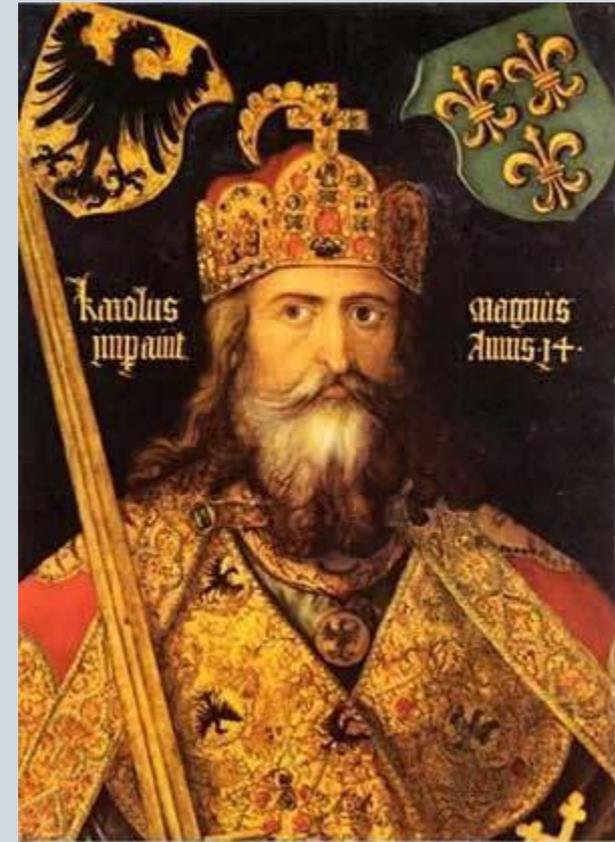
- Franks managed to organize Germanic kingdoms under their kings and looked as if they might unite Western Europe under one king
 - Clovis: converted to Christianity

Carolingian Dynasty (751-987)

- Charles Martel (Charles the Hammer)
- 732 Battle of Tours
- What does he stop?
- Next his son rules, Pepin the Short

Charlemagne

- Grandson of Charles Martel
- temporarily unified most of western Europe
- People needed protection from Vikings
- Administrative system divided into counties governed by a count
- Pope crowned Charlemagne emperor; implying heir to Roman throne
 - Showed superiority of church over political leaders
- After his death, the empire was divided: Treaty of Verdun



Charlemagne's Empire in 814



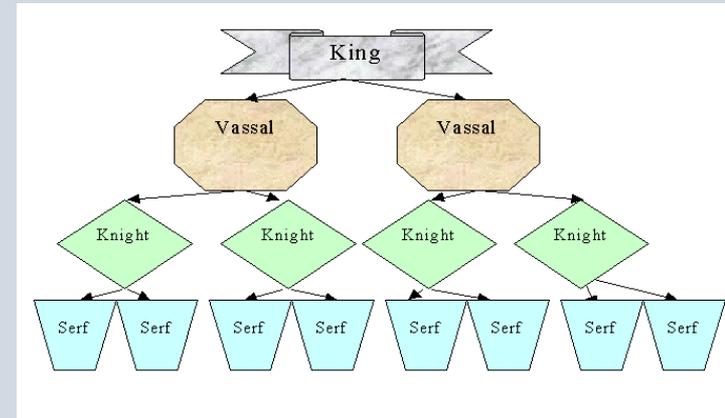
Politics

Feudalism

- King gives Vassals land in exchange for what?
 - Protection and loyalty
- Many lords and vassals became powerful...
- No centralized power

The only thing binding the people together was the Church/Christianity

- Head of the Church? The Pope
- The Church owned 1/3 of all the land in Europe (this = \$\$\$ and power)
- 1075- Conflict between Pope Gregory VII and Henry IV (Holy Roman Emperor) -Battle over Lay Investiture



The Early Middle Ages: Economic Development



- Manorialism defined both economic and political obligations between lords and peasant laborers
 - Serfs tied to the land; received protection, justice, and the right to graze animals. In return, they were obliged to give a portion of their products to the lord.
- Trade based on barter
 - New ideas like the iron plow and three field system helped the serfs produce more goods

Political and Religious Power of the Roman Catholic Church



- Missionaries traveled in Western Europe
- Bishops directed churches in urban areas
- Church supported monasteries in rural areas
 - The Benedictine Rule
- Monasteries played important role in providing stability during Dark Ages
 - Protection, schools, libraries, copied books which saved part of the intellectual heritage of the classical civilization

The Revival of Civilization: The High Middle Ages

- Changes about 1000 CE
 - Innovations from eastern Europe and Asia make the difference
 - Moldboard plow (allowed for deeper turning of soil)
 - Three field system (1/3 left fallow instead of 1/2)
 - Horse collar
 - Viking raids became less serious as regional governments grew stronger
 - Population increased with agricultural production
 - Created demand for more trade/towns grew
- As local economies grew, political and cultural changes occurred





By the 1400's

- Powerful Monarchies emerged
- England, Spain, France grew into centralized governments but faced many challenges
- England: William the Conqueror (Battle of Hastings:1066); King John signed the Magna Carta in 1215; what did this do?
 - Parliament is formed in the 1200's (representing the 3 Estates...)
- European states began competing for goods, trade routes, power...
 - This competition leads to increased technology and a more dominate place it in the world economy

100 Years War

1337-1453

- B/T France and England
- Fought over who would take the French throne
- Fought in France
- Joan of Arc-1429
 - Battle of Orleans
 - She was captured in 1430, burned at the stake
- France Wins but the land is destroyed
- English Longbow...



The Crusades

1095-1204

Pope Urban II-1095

- Christian Knights are called to take back the Holy Land (where is the Holy Land?)
- Crusade #1: Christians won...
- Muslims took it back shortly afterward-led by Saladin
- Crusade #3: Kings Crusade (Richard the Lionhearted, Philip Augustus, Barbarossa)
 - Time of Robin Hood
- Crusade #4: Knights got a bit distracted as they passed through Constantinople (1204)
- 1212:Childrens Crusade

This leads to tension b/t Christians and Muslims still going on today...but also to Cultural Diffusion!

The Impact of the Crusades

- ❑ Crusades laid the foundation for the emergence of European countries in the next era
 - Put them into direct contact with oldest areas of world civilizations
- ❑ As Crusaders returned they brought back silks, porcelains, carpets, perfumes, spices, new foods etc.
- ❑ Europeans would not be content to remain in isolated, drafty castles; a whole new world awaited them



Economic Developments

- Genoa and Venice benefitted from the Crusades
 - Carried knights and goods to and from the Holy Land; grew wealthy
 - Brought ideas about banking to the West
- Merchants invested in trading ships
- Internal trade grew
 - Hanseatic League (north) formed to facilitate trade
- Kings received revenue from towns and built armies gaining power over aristocrats
- Guilds formed
- Merchant class develops
 - Social class structure more complex; serfs became craftsmen, etc



Economic Developments (cont.)

- As life became more complex women faced more restrictions
 - In early Germanic societies women had considerable freedoms and gained respect. Many joined monastic life
- As cities grew, women were excluded from guilds and their role in commerce decreased.
 - Women seen as subservient and were encouraged to be docile and obedient.



Culture and Arts

- As wealth grew- rise in specialized occupations
- Charlemagne brought teachers to his court and opened a school for clergy and officials (Carolingian Renaissance)
- After the 1st Crusade universities established in Italy
- Others follow; most established for clergy
- Combination of Christian learning and the classics which had been preserved in the Middle East
- Thomas Aquinas & Peter Abelard tried to reconcile values of Christianity with reason (scholasticism - Aquinas)



Culture and Arts (cont.)



- Development of vernacular
 - Previous literature written in Latin
 - Chaucer wrote *Canterbury Tales*; provided insight into medieval life in England
 - Others follow and by end of 14th C Latin no longer the preferred written language



Architecture, etc...



Gothic Architecture

- Replaces Romanesque
- Flying buttresses
- Notre Dame (Paris)



Bubonic Plague (1340's)

- AKA: Black Death
- People start to lose faith in the church
 - But not lose their religion...

