CHARLEMAGNES LEGACY HIGH MEDIEVAL FRANC (HIGH MEDIEVAL) pdf

1: Sacred Kingship and the Carolingians

*Charlemagnes Legacy: High Medieval *CXD [High Medieval] on www.enganchecubano.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers.*

A system of legal, military and social customs defining the relationship of holding land in lieu of services or labour. Feudalism was the result of the decentralisation of the Carolingian Empire. As a result, soldiers secured a system to rule over their lands with powers encompassing the judicial, political, economic and social domains. France was then divided into regions referred to as counts and his dynasty included a great section of the central part of Europe. One of the most important dynasties was the Carolingian dynasty, which included the greater section of central Europe as well as northern and central Italy. Charlemagne also introduced the law making education compulsory for children because he wanted every child to become good Christians as faith played a vital role in the development of the country. Medieval Life in France By the middle of 8th century, the Merovigian dynasty was overthrown. The king was a very important figure. He was not only considered a warlord, he was also a religious figure and the people were his chosen subjects as a Christian leader. These roles in leadership sprung from a mixture of politics, religion and culture. In the 12th and 13th century, French culture, authority and power were passed on from rural centers to the cities where the royal court was. Paris had become an artistic and commercial hub as well as an administrative and judicial center for the realm. This so called religion of royalty was introduced and spread through religious ceremonies and symbols. How Rich and Powerful was Medieval France The French Kings derived most of their power, honor and respect from religion, particularly from written works about Christianity embellished with illuminations. However, the Huguenots and the revolutionaries tried to destroy them in the 16th and 18th century respectively. By eradicating the power of the church and monarch and by eliminating these traces of religious power and influence of the church over the people, they believed that they can regain power. It was where the French Lords and his family lived in medieval France. Although it was used to describe a castle , it was not used in the same way as most castles during the medieval period. Historical scholars believed that castles in France had generally strong beginnings. The first castles were known as donjons. These early castles were towers that had a very simple design. They were referred to as such since these towers gave them the advantage over invaders and attackers. Throughout the course of the medieval period, castles slowly appeared with many built in France Normandy. These medieval castles were much bigger and stronger than the donjons. French monarchs were ruled by several dynasties of kings. The first was the Merovingian dynasty that ruled until , followed by the Carolingian dynasty. After the Carolingian dynasty, the Capetian dynasty ruled the realm from the 9th century to the 17th century. Here are a few of the famous kings and queens of France. He united most part of Western Europe and had laid a great foundation for modern France and Germany. Louis the Pious was known as a Fair and the Debonair king. He was the king of France and the co-emperor of the holy Roman Empire, together with his father Charlemagne. He attempted to reform France by making the rich pay higher taxes. However, he was vetoed by the aristocrats and failed in ending the division. Louis XVI was executed in during the French revolution. She was known to be the icon for Royal decadence and profligacy. She was beheaded during the French Revolution for charges of treason. The French knights founded and ruled the Crusader states. Bertrand du Guesclin was named the greatest French knight of his time. He defended Rennes against England and raised the morale of people of France. Medieval French Music During the 12 century, the earliest records of music in France were polyphonic organum. Secular music in France during the medieval period was also highly dominated by troubadours and trouveres, the known poets and musicians of the middle ages. They created music in several forms such as the ballad and lai. However, the most famous was Adam de la Halle. Notre Dame in Paris, France was one of the schools for polyphonic organum. This style flourished in the country especially at Notre Dame Cathedral from to Medieval French Food Banquets were great opportunities to entertain guests in style, especially during the French medieval period. French

foods and feasts were lavishly prepared. French cuisine was also mostly made from the meat of peacocks, herons and swans. Other exotic spices from far-away lands and farms such as saffron, cumin, ginger, nutmeg and cinnamon also made it to the list of top ingredients in preparing French food. This kind of food preparation was very common among aristocrats of medieval France. Medieval French Clothing Clothing and fashion in the medieval period were always dictated by the feudal system. It reflected the status of the person. Among the nations in Europe during the middle ages, there was a common standard of fashion. This only varied according to the customs and culture of the country, as well as their race. It has also changed over time. However, medieval French clothing was considered capricious. At some point in the medieval period, it became fickle and unpredictable. It changed from every quarter of any style of clothing as well as fashion. In these villages almost families were peasants. Peasants lived in dark huts that were made of wood or wicker. French Peasants worked to support their Lords and they gave almost half of their time to working in the fields, tending to farm animals, cutting timber and doing other manual labor. France also had several slave colonies in the Caribbean and the biggest was in Saint Domingue which was later known as Haiti. There were approximately five hundred thousand slaves in and they provided labor for crops and others. Medieval France Summary Feudalism was used by the Normans in France from the time they first settled in the region and it was a simple and effective system of control. All the lands were owned by the King and some were given to the church while the rest were leased out to Barons and Lords under strict agreement that they will provide services to the king in exchange to the lands leased out to them. A quarter of the land was kept by the King as his personal property and he has complete control over the system.

2: France in the Middle Ages - Wikipedia

The Legacy of the Roman Empire and the Middle Ages in the West The Roman Empire reigned from 27 BCE to CE throughout the Mediterranean world, including parts of Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa.

A 15 year old boy with the name of Clovis became leader of his small Frankish tribe in He began killing the other members of his family to reduce the number of competitors for the authority. He then proceeded to unite and consolidate other tribes, and within 5 years, he united the Franks under his own personal rule. The Franks were not a very sophisticated or highly organized tribe. They were hunters and trappers, like the Ostrogoths and Visigoths, and they supplied recruits for Roman armies. Medieval key points Medieval France is represented by the area we know today as France. Key points marking France in the Middle Ages are The Viking invasions of west Francia, to , and the piecemeal dismantling of the Carolingian Empire when the local powers rebelled. The feudal system of rights and obligations existing between lords and vassals became more apparent The seigneural economic system advanced The region controlled by the House of Capet â€" growth and the struggles they had with Norman and Angevin regions Artistic and literary revolution The Hundred year war giving rise to the House of Valois in to The Black Death epidemic in French nation expanding, Paris becoming the capital of France and French people claiming their sense of identity. Charlemagne Empire Charlemagne or Charles the Great changed the face of France by introducing a law that made school compulsory for every child. He wanted them to be educated and to be good Christians. Near the end of the rule of Charlemagne, Vikings tried to invade the northern and western perimeters of his kingdom, but were unsuccessful. After his death however in , his throne successors failed in keeping political unity and stability. The great Charlemagne Empire started to crumble. Viking advances increased and invasions into France were made capable through waterways leading inland, such as the Seine and Loire rivers. This inspired the Vikings to demolish Paris in While Charles the Simple ruled in France, he was forced to hand over a part of land near Paris to the Vikings which today is known as Normandy. The Capetian dynasty came into power and ruled for more than years. With the Carolingian era allowed for institutions to form which would later influence the development of France for centuries to come. This trade was visible throughout the reign of the Capetians. Due to the new order, the new dynasty was left with little immediate control of the areas beyond the middle Seine and adjacent territories, while powerful territorial lords as 10th and 11th-century counts, had large land and domains of their own which they acquired through marriage and through private arrangements with lesser nobles for protection and support. The Normandy Empire Scandinavian invaders captured the area around lower Seine as the Duke and Duchess of Normandy in acted in suspicion when Duke William took possession of the kingdom of England and declared himself and his heirs as equals to the king outside of France, even though he was still subject to the crown. Before the marriage, Duke William become successor to the disputed English throne of Henry II, at that stage he was also the count of Anjou and duke of Normandy. With his marriage to ex-queen Eleanor, Duke William gained even more control of south-west France. This crusade led to the incorporation into the royal domain of Lower in and Upper Languedoc in In , Phillippe the IV failed to seize Flanders. Religion and France Faith was very important in France during the Middle Ages and influenced the development of France greatly. Religious Crusades was in the order of the day. Pope Urban II was the preacher for the first crusade in Claremont in Claremont subsequently played a leading role in following crusades. Between the 12th and 13th centuries, many major cathedrals were erected in France, including the most famous one, Notre-dame in Paris which construction started in the s. She was a peasant who claimed that she had visions and in , followed the directions of those visions to conquer the English and crown Charles VII as rightful king. She led troops and in the Battle of Orleans she was victorious, but failed to capture Paris. In she was captured by Burgundians who in turn sold her to the English. She was burned at the stake two years later in Rouen.

3: Middle Ages - Wikipedia

During the High Middle Ages, France and England began to exhibit the fundamental characteristics of unified kingdoms when extremely effective kings instated reforms to sterilize borders, build permanent bureaucracies, expand the concept of sovereignty, and enforce the rule of law.

Podcasts Sacred Kingship and the Carolingians By the eighth century, a decisive and irrevocable change had come over the European continent: As the Western Roman Empire fell, Germanic tribes settled down and carved out little kingdoms for themselves in the old provincial territories. Slowly, from the fifth century to the eighth, Europe gradually shifted from a Romanized civilization to a Germanic one. The advent of the Germans brought new ideas about kingship to the fore, as well as new conceptions of how the divine power was exercised on earth. These ideas are best exemplified by the most successful of the Germanic dynasties of the early Middle Ages, especially the Carolingians, who more than any other dynasty created the concept of Christian sacred kingship that was later adopted by the Ottonians and the House of Wessex. The first Germanic kingdom to rise to any sort of dominance in Europe was that of the Franks. The first Christian king of the Franks, Clovis r. The reign of the greatest of the Carolingians, Charlemagne, ushers in what may be considered the high water mark of sacerdotal kingship in the Middle Ages. It was during this period that sacerdotal kingship went from a tradition implicitly taken for granted to a doctrine to be consciously defended, and a general historical rule is that by the time cultural traditions have to be defined and defended they are on their way out anyhow. Shortly after the extinction of the Carolingians in in the west, in the east , new movements and philosophies would emerge within the Church that would challenge the idea of Christian theocratic monarchy that had been prevalent in Europe for almost seven centuries by the time of the Gregorian reforms. Charles the Great, in many ways, is the archetypal Christian king. He was seen as such during his lifetime, and after his death his reign was always looked back on fondly as a period of peaceful coexistence between Church and State. The image of Charlemagne as a pious, yet victorious, Christian monarch was especially popular in the late Middle Ages when the Church and State were torn asunder and the future of the Holy Roman Empire was in serious jeopardy. The first Carolingian of significance, Charles Martel d. Charlemagne managed to keep a tight reign on the Frankish clergy through the well established policy of royal consent or veto whereby an episcopal appointee would be presented to the king for his approval or disapproval and still win the admiration of the Frankish clergy and laity alike [2]. Clerical biographers, such as Einhard and Alcuin, tended to praise the virtue of Charlemagne while ignoring the less noble aspects of the Carolingian court, just as Eusebius had done with Constantine and his family so many centuries earlier. When Charles was crowned Roman emperor by the Pope in the year , his kingship took on a much more sacral identity than had any previous Frankish king before him. Thus began what may have been the most intensive and effective propaganda campaign of the Middle Ages, with the goal of establishing the Carolingians as the God-ordained rulers of the new Roman Empire. Charlemagne carried out this project by assembling at his court a vast array of scholars and intellectuals from around Europe, partly to consolidate and legitimize the authority he claimed, partly out of a genuine love of learning and scholarship. The concept of kingship that comes out in writings of the Carolingian era is that of earthly kingship as a mirror of heavenly kingship, and vice versa. As society of the medieval world was dizzyingly hierarchical, so too did the Carolingians fit God into the social hierarchy. The Carolingian ruler, though as Holy Roman Emperor was owed the obedience of all Christian peoples, was himself subject to the Emperor of heaven. Thus the Carolingian kingdom was seen to be a kind of holy reflection of the kingdom of heaven. God the Father, looking into the mirror, would see the reflection of the Carolingian Emperor, his earthly parallel. It is proper that under him, one only be the ruler on earth, in merit an example to all men" [8]. Charlemagne was conscious of the rivalry that his imperial title would provoke with the Byzantines and therefore did all in his power to portray an image of splendor and imperial glory greater than what the Byzantines could muster. He also mimicked the hallowed practice of

Byzantine emperors of summoning a Church council, which he did at Frankfort in to deal with the Iconoclasm controversy. However, the council ended up on what became the wrong side of the debate, condemning the use of images in keeping with German tradition that generally frowned on the use of pictorial representations of the divine. This embarrassing deviation from orthodoxy was quietly forgotten after the controversy was over and the Pope had come out in favor of images [10]. Though he consciously copied the Byzantines in many things, such as his style of architecture, for example [11], he was careful to avoid some of the more ostentatious displays of Byzantine power, particularly the pomp and ceremony of the court at Constantinople. Nevertheless, there was always room for a little gloss, as the Bishop Notker of St. He thus set himself up as a true competitor to the claims of the Byzantine emperor, and a competitor of no small consideration at that. The kingdoms of Europe, therefore, had to decide between acknowledging the Byzantine emperor as the true ruler over all Christians or praying for the well being of the Frankish emperor at Aix-la-Chapelle [15]. This was the dilemma that many central European kingdoms fell into, such as those of Italy and the Balkans. Power struggles between east and west for the Balkans would be a bone of controversy for centuries to come. How was it exactly that Charles went about creating his image? He largely modeled it on the examples of the great Christian monarchs of old, men such as Constantine, Theodosius, and within his own cultural tradition, Clovis. Like other Christian rulers before him, he went to considerable expense to fund the building of Churches and establishment of monasteries. The church that received the greatest patronage was the Church of St. Peter in Rome, into which Einhard says: He sent great and countless gifts to the popes, and throughout his whole reign the wish that he had nearest his heart was to re-establish the ancient authority of the city of Rome under his care and by his influence, and to defend and protect the Church of St. Peter, and to beautify and enrich it out of his own store above all other churches" [17]. Like wise King Solomon, the good Christian king must be a builder of sacred edifices. Whatever else may be said about Charlemagne, it cannot be denied that he excelled at this. It is possible that he might even have built or repaired more churches than his grandfather, Charles Martel, had plundered! On the personal level, he was sincerely pious and generous, always desiring knowledge and always willing to give to the poor and needy [18]. His love of wisdom, which prompted him to assemble the greatest body of scholars then known in Europe, carried over into his private life. He was very fond of reading stories of the lives of the saints, and Einhard mentions that he had a proclivity towards St. One final thing must be said about the Carolingians: It is during this age that idea of sacerdotal monarchy first develops as a doctrine. Hitherto, it had been an ancestral custom among the Christian peoples of Europe, something simply taken for granted without much reflection. Beginning in Carolingian times, and climaxing during the Investiture Controversy, sacerdotal monarchy starts to develop as a doctrine, complete with its own lines of argumentation and apologists. Essential to this development was an emphasis on the ecclesiastical or priestly function of the king. This had been common in Byzantium for centuries, but the crowning of Charlemagne by the pope gave a new impetus to the development of this doctrine in the west. It was already a part of Frankish kingship for the king to supervise the bishops of his realm, since looking to the common weal involved both ensuring an orderly temporal governance as well as an orderly spiritual one. Charlemagne and his successors viewed this prerogative in quasi-episcopal terms. Thus he makes his famous statement: Alcuin, following earlier tradition, does not ascribe any sort of ordinary priesthood to Charles as a man, but rather implies a kind of priestly character to the office of the king. The king is a priest insofar as he had a concern and authority over the Church similar to what a bishop exercises in the spiritual realm. This phrase is noteworthy. This implies not only a sacral authority, but one that is in some sense greater, or at least more unique, than the one exercised by the ordinary episcopacy. This view of Charlemagne gave his reign a kind of millennial optimism, for the God-anointed emperor was both temporal lord and clarifier of divine law. This view of Charlemagne would later be applied to the office of the Holy Roman Emperor, and the concept of the sacramental nature of the office pushed even further. But this would not be done until the waning days of the Holy Roman Empire, in the late Middle Ages, when sacral monarchy had long since died out in practice. What was the enduring legacy of the Carolingians? For the first time, they established a strong authority among the

Germanic peoples. When the papacy gave divine sanction to this authority, Charles and his successors consciously played up the image of the Holy Roman Emperor as theocratic monarch, and thus the seeds of the doctrine of sacerdotal kingship were first formally expressed. Charlemagne as a person became a figure of legendary significance in European history. Otto I modeled his state on the Carolingian model, and the coronation of Charles by the pope would be exploited on both sides during the Investiture Controversy. The Song of Roland presents Charlemagne as an ancient and royal patriarch: Of fairest France there sits the king austere. White locks are his and silver is his beard, His body noble, his countenance severe: Footnotes 1 John J. Translated by Peter Munz, ed. Oxford, , 56 7 Ibid.

CHARLEMAGNES LEGACY HIGH MEDIEVAL FRANC (HIGH MEDIEVAL) pdf

France in the Middle Ages, The name of France is derived from a medieval tribe called the Franks. A 15 year old boy with the name of Clovis became leader of his small Frankish tribe in

It covers the time from the fall of the Roman Empire to the rise of the Ottoman Empire. This was a time of castles and peasants, guilds and monasteries, cathedrals and crusades. When people use the terms Medieval Times, Middle Ages, and Dark Ages they are generally referring to the same period of time. After the fall of the Roman Empire, a lot of the Roman culture and knowledge was lost. This included art, technology, engineering, and history. Historians know a lot about Europe during the Roman Empire because the Romans kept excellent records of all that happened. However, the time after the Romans is "dark" to historians because there was no central government recording events. This is why historians call this time the Dark Ages. Although the term Middle Ages covers the years between and throughout the world, this timeline is based on events specifically in Europe during that time. Go here to learn about the Islamic Empire during the Middle Ages. Rome had ruled much of Europe. Now much of the land would fall into confusion as local kings and rulers tried to grab power. This is the start of the Dark Ages or the Middle Ages. Clovis united most of the Frankish tribes that were part of Roman Province of Gaul. The Franks defeat the Muslims turning back Islam from Europe. Charlemagne united much of Western Europe and is considered the father of both the French and the German Monarchies. They would continue until He became King of England and changed the country forever. There would be several Crusades over the next years. This document gave the people some rights and said the king was not above the law. This horrible disease would kill around half of the people in Europe. This will signal the start of the Renaissance. This signals the end of the Eastern Roman Empire also known as Byzantium.

5: Overview of the Middle Ages (video) | Khan Academy

Medieval French People. Charles the Great of France, also known as Charlemagne, was one of the greatest rulers of Medieval France. France was then divided into regions referred to as counts and his dynasty included a great section of the central part of Europe.

Expansion during the Patriarchal Caliphate, â€" Expansion during the Umayyad Caliphate, â€" Religious beliefs in the Eastern Empire and Iran were in flux during the late sixth and early seventh centuries. Judaism was an active proselytising faith, and at least one Arab political leader converted to it. All these strands came together with the emergence of Islam in Arabia during the lifetime of Muhammad d. The defeat of Muslim forces at the Battle of Tours in led to the reconquest of southern France by the Franks, but the main reason for the halt of Islamic growth in Europe was the overthrow of the Umayyad Caliphate and its replacement by the Abbasid Caliphate. The Abbasids moved their capital to Baghdad and were more concerned with the Middle East than Europe, losing control of sections of the Muslim lands. Franks traded timber, furs, swords and slaves in return for silks and other fabrics, spices, and precious metals from the Arabs. Medieval economic history The migrations and invasions of the 4th and 5th centuries disrupted trade networks around the Mediterranean. African goods stopped being imported into Europe, first disappearing from the interior and by the 7th century found only in a few cities such as Rome or Naples. By the end of the 7th century, under the impact of the Muslim conquests, African products were no longer found in Western Europe. The replacement of goods from long-range trade with local products was a trend throughout the old Roman lands that happened in the Early Middle Ages. This was especially marked in the lands that did not lie on the Mediterranean, such as northern Gaul or Britain. Non-local goods appearing in the archaeological record are usually luxury goods. In the northern parts of Europe, not only were the trade networks local, but the goods carried were simple, with little pottery or other complex products. Around the Mediterranean, pottery remained prevalent and appears to have been traded over medium-range networks, not just produced locally. Gold continued to be minted until the end of the 7th century, when it was replaced by silver coins. The basic Frankish silver coin was the denarius or denier , while the Anglo-Saxon version was called a penny. From these areas, the denier or penny spread throughout Europe during the centuries from to Copper or bronze coins were not struck, nor were gold except in Southern Europe. No silver coins denominated in multiple units were minted. Christianity in the Middle Ages An 11th-century illustration of Gregory the Great dictating to a secretary Christianity was a major unifying factor between Eastern and Western Europe before the Arab conquests, but the conquest of North Africa sundered maritime connections between those areas. Increasingly the Byzantine Church differed in language, practices, and liturgy from the Western Church. Theological and political differences emerged, and by the early and middle 8th century issues such as iconoclasm , clerical marriage , and state control of the Church had widened to the extent that the cultural and religious differences were greater than the similarities. Many of the popes prior to were more concerned with Byzantine affairs and Eastern theological controversies. The register, or archived copies of the letters, of Pope Gregory the Great pope â€" survived, and of those more than letters, the vast majority were concerned with affairs in Italy or Constantinople. The only part of Western Europe where the papacy had influence was Britain, where Gregory had sent the Gregorian mission in to convert the Anglo-Saxons to Christianity. Under such monks as Columba d. The shape of European monasticism was determined by traditions and ideas that originated with the Desert Fathers of Egypt and Syria. Most European monasteries were of the type that focuses on community experience of the spiritual life, called cenobitism , which was pioneered by Pachomius d. Monastic ideals spread from Egypt to Western Europe in the 5th and 6th centuries through hagiographical literature such as the Life of Anthony. Many of the surviving manuscripts of the Latin classics were copied in monasteries in the Early Middle Ages. Francia and Carolingian Empire Map showing growth of Frankish power from to The Frankish kingdom in northern Gaul split into kingdoms called Austrasia , Neustria , and Burgundy during the 6th and 7th centuries, all of them

ruled by the Merovingian dynasty, who were descended from Clovis. The 7th century was a tumultuous period of wars between Austrasia and Neustria. Later members of his family inherited the office, acting as advisers and regents. One of his descendants, Charles Martel d. Smaller kingdoms in present-day Wales and Scotland were still under the control of the native Britons and Picts. There were perhaps as many as local kings in Ireland, of varying importance. A contemporary chronicle claims that Pippin sought, and gained, authority for this coup from Pope Stephen II pope â€" At the time of his death in , Pippin left his kingdom in the hands of his two sons, Charles r. Charles, more often known as Charles the Great or Charlemagne , embarked upon a programme of systematic expansion in that unified a large portion of Europe, eventually controlling modern-day France, northern Italy, and Saxony. In the wars that lasted beyond , he rewarded allies with war booty and command over parcels of land. The Frankish lands were rural in character, with only a few small cities. Most of the people were peasants settled on small farms. Little trade existed and much of that was with the British Isles and Scandinavia, in contrast to the older Roman Empire with its trading networks centred on the Mediterranean. Clergy and local bishops served as officials, as well as the imperial officials called missi dominici , who served as roving inspectors and troubleshooters. Literacy increased, as did development in the arts, architecture and jurisprudence, as well as liturgical and scriptural studies. The English monk Alcuin d. Charlemagne sponsored changes in church liturgy , imposing the Roman form of church service on his domains, as well as the Gregorian chant in liturgical music for the churches. An important activity for scholars during this period was the copying, correcting, and dissemination of basic works on religious and secular topics, with the aim of encouraging learning. New works on religious topics and schoolbooks were also produced. By the reign of Charlemagne, the language had so diverged from the classical that it was later called Medieval Latin. Holy Roman Empire and Viking Age Territorial divisions of the Carolingian Empire in , , and Charlemagne planned to continue the Frankish tradition of dividing his kingdom between all his heirs, but was unable to do so as only one son, Louis the Pious r. Just before Charlemagne died in , he crowned Louis as his successor. Eventually, Louis recognised his eldest son Lothair I d. Louis divided the rest of the empire between Lothair and Charles the Bald d. Lothair took East Francia , comprising both banks of the Rhine and eastwards, leaving Charles West Francia with the empire to the west of the Rhineland and the Alps. Louis the German d. The division was disputed. Pepin II of Aquitaine d. Louis the Pious died in , with the empire still in chaos. By the Treaty of Verdun , a kingdom between the Rhine and Rhone rivers was created for Lothair to go with his lands in Italy, and his imperial title was recognised. Louis the German was in control of Bavaria and the eastern lands in modern-day Germany. Charles the Bald received the western Frankish lands, comprising most of modern-day France. The Atlantic and northern shores were harassed by the Vikings , who also raided the British Isles and settled there as well as in Iceland. In , the Viking chieftain Rollo d.

6: Medieval France

Charlemagne was a frankish king in which the franks were a germanic tribe but integrated into the gallo-roman populace in modern day France. They were the first tribe to convert into roman catholicism thus regarded as the eldest sister of the church.

The Dark Ages , comprising about the first half of the Middle Ages , would last over years. But there was a bright spot. A few centuries into the Dark Ages, the Franks , one of the barbaric tribes that carved up the West, gave us a leader who reconstructed much of what was lost. Charlemagne was the greatest king of the Middle Ages. It is true that the Middle Ages, as the name implies, is often seen as the underappreciated middle child of Western history. For about a thousand years, a continent was obsessed with heaven, survival, and little else. In a time of pervasive darkness, a lone star shone powerfully enough to light Western Europe like no time since Rome. Charlemagne, known only as Charles for most of his life it was Karl in his native German; Charles is just the Anglicized version of our history books , was born to Pepin the Short , the King of the Franks, and his wife, Big Foot Bertha, in Charles and Carloman careened toward such a relationship when, in , Carloman unexpectedly died. In modern America, someone of that height would find himself taller than 98 percent of the population. Back that height with the Frankish army, and few in his kingdom dared oppose him. His hallmark was his efficient management. He had a curious mind and an aggressive spirit. He was a born leader. He managed all he could. Rather than hide behind walls and a moat, he made himself accessible to everyone. If one wanted an audience with him to help settle a matter, one went to his palace and rang a bell. He came out and judiciously listened. His driving desire was a large and accomplished kingdom. He went on over 50 war campaigns in 45 years he reigned from to From modern France, his forces spread out south across the Pyrenees to fight Muslims , east into modern Germany to conquer Bavarians and Saxons , and southeast into modern Italy to conquer the Lombards. By the height of his empire in the early ninth century, he controlled Western Europe from the English Channel to the edge of the Balkan Peninsula, from Rome to the North Sea. He reunited much of the Western Roman Empire that had collapsed three centuries earlier, and he even added some northern European territories that Rome never controlled. Wherever he conquered, he infused his other priorities. Foremost here is his Roman Catholicism. He forced thousands to convert. Those who refused were executed. His conquest of the Lombards, enemies of the papacy, had reaffirmed a Frankish defense of the Holy See that dated back to Pepin the Short. Leo seized the opportunity. The prepared clergy in attendance boomed: He became Charlemagne, Emperor of the Romans. He worked to build a centralized, progressive state. He was Napoleon a thousand years early; he managed his empire as closely as someone in the ninth century could. He felt as if he were the father of his country, and in a practice rarely seen during the Dark Ages, he felt it was his responsibility to care for his people. He wanted a safe, beautiful, and, most remarkably, an intellectual empire. Capitalizing on an upward trend in feudalism , Charlemagne gave counts and dukes throughout his empire some autonomy, though they ultimately answered to him. When not at war, he made visits throughout the empire, some unannounced. However, since he could not cover much ground, he also sent out royal inspectors to ensure no plots were afoot. He enacted laws and dictated new ordinances and sent royal judges out to hear cases. He held an annual convention of clergy and nobility to hear their thoughts and give them instructions. The sum of this policy produced the most efficient and safest western European state since Rome. But efficient and safe did not make a great empire. Charlemagne knew his history, and he knew the wonders achieved by the Greco-Roman world. He tried to mirror them. He promoted architectural achievements. The product was Carolingian architecture. He commissioned beautiful abbeys and churches, including the medieval wonder that was his octagonal chapel at his palace in Aachen. To help trade and travel, he built enormous bridges that hurdled rivers, and he ordered a canal that connected the Danube and the Main. By the mid-ninth century, the Carolingians had commissioned 27 new cathedrals, monasteries, and royal residences. Perhaps his most passionate policy was that of cultural and intellectual advancement.

Charlemagne wanted to renew the dying Latin culture that had given way to barbarian Europe. The fruits of this labor became the Carolingian Renaissance. Latin itself had already eroded into vernacular tongues, but Charlemagne, with unity in mind, wanted to resuscitate the dying language. This would allow him to communicate with the furthest reaches of his domain, and it would help more people understand the language of the Catholic Church. Carolingian scholars copied classic Latin texts. Meanwhile, seeing value in intelligent government officials, he promoted educational reform. He was a bright man, familiar with the ancient thinkers. There were no jesters at his royal dinners; instead, his court listened to someone reading from the promoted text of the day. He spoke his native German, learned Latin, and also dabbled in Greek. He attracted top scholars to his palace and commissioned them to write a curriculum and texts. As a result, some Europeans received a standardized education not seen in centuries. Charlemagne then had a new crop of literate, learned government officials for his empire. Warfare was ubiquitous in the Dark Ages. European literacy levels, which were at their lowest in a thousand years, never again returned to such a nadir. Medieval nobility perpetuated their new skill and permanently became a literate class. Never was trade more viable he worked to shift the continent to a single silver currency , transportation safer, or the government so fair. The inspectors sent out by Charlemagne ensured that justice was applied fairly, a liberal move for the theretofore mistreated peasantry. There was no branch of government he did not control. With only one surviving son, Louis the Pious , Charlemagne felt comfortable leaving his empire to him and even made Louis co-emperor in Charlemagne, in essence, passed the buck on the Salic Law that later doomed his empire. Louis had three surviving sonsâ€" Lothair , Louis , and Charles â€"each of whom inherited a third of the empire and promptly engaged in a civil war when the pious Louis died in Three years later, the Treaty of Verdun officially split into three what their grandfather had worked so hard to make one. Did his legacy die with him? Some of it, surely. The late ninth and tenth centuries were nearly as dark as the sixth and seventh. Carolingian scholars produced relatively few original works. Scientifically, there was little advancement. Instead, the leading thinkers of the time merely copied manuscripts, cobbled together encyclopedias, and organized curricula on existing subjects. The lands he went on to control had been considered, at worst, barbaric wilderness, and at best, a satellite of Constantinople. The breakaway from the East was not just political. Western art forever broke away from Byzantine influence. Right up until the Protestant Reformation of the sixteenth century, the lands he conquered remained staunchly Catholic, as did the lands conquered by those lands, like Iberia during the Reconquista. Lands conquered by those lands, like South and Central America, remain Catholic. Charlemagne is a big reason why. Charlemagne was the strongest man on the continent of Europe, becoming so not only through conquest but by barking orders to all corners of his empire. His accomplishments showed what an effective administrator could do and autocrats emulated him, though none rivaled his empire until Napoleon a millennium later. He also had an effect on European political geography. Salic Law not only divvied up his land, but it also split up his titles: He was a far-sighted philosopher who thought about the legacy of his rule and the destiny of his empire. An exceptional leader during unexceptional times, Charlemagne is the 21st most influential figure in Western history. Moreover, think of how personal the term is. Remember, medieval people thought they were the modern world. Stay tuned into Under their leaders of the sixth, seventh, and eighth centuries, they steadily build a kingdom in northwest Europe in what was the old Roman province of Gaul. The Franks eventually evolved into, and lent their name to, the country of France. His faction of Franks, called the Salian Franks , had just consolidated rule over the other Frankish subgroups. The united Franks continued this precedent set by their founder. No other medieval civilization adopted such a system, opting instead for primogeniture â€"the eldest son or closest male heir inherits everything. Catholicism had drifted away from the Greek-speaking east of the empire, which, rather than follow a Roman pontiff so far away, rallied around the local emperor and patriarch of Constantinople.

7: Medieval Friends: Chansons De Geste Ltd. - www.enganchecubano.com - www.enganchecubano.com

Tags Charlemagne â€¢ Christianity in the Middle Ages â€¢ High Middle Ages â€¢ Islam in the Middle Ages â€¢ Medieval France â€¢ Medieval Friends â€¢ Medieval Literature â€¢ Poetry in the Middle Ages Post navigation.

Territorial evolution of France and Crown lands of France From the Middle Ages onward, French rulers believed their kingdoms had natural borders: This was used as a pretext for an aggressive policy and repeated invasions. The lands that composed the Kingdom of France showed great geographical diversity; the northern and central parts enjoyed a temperate climate while the southern part was closer to the Mediterranean climate. While there were great differences between the northern and southern parts of the kingdom there were equally important differences depending on the distance of mountains: France had important rivers that were used as waterways: These rivers were settled earlier than the rest and important cities were founded on their banks but they were separated by large forests, marsh, and other rough terrains. The Romans referred to the smallest of these groups as pagi and the widest ones as civitates. These religious provinces would survive until the French revolution. The notion of res publica inherited from the Roman province of Gaul was not fully maintained by the Frankish kingdom and the Carolingian Empire , and by the early years of the Direct Capetians , the French kingdom was more or less a fiction. The "domaine royal" of the Capetians was limited to the regions around Paris , Bourges and Sens. In principle, the lords of these lands owed homage to the French king for their possession, but in reality the king in Paris had little control over these lands, and this was to be confounded by the uniting of Normandy, Aquitaine and England under the Plantagenet dynasty in the 12th century. The territorial conquests of Philip Augustus of France , at the time of his birth and at the time of his death The weather in France and Europe in the Middle Ages was significantly milder than during the periods preceding or following it. Historians refer to this as the " Medieval Warm Period ", lasting from about the 10th century to about the 14th century. Part of the French population growth in this period see below is directly linked to this temperate weather and its effect on crops and livestock. Medieval demography and Demographics of France At the end of the Middle Ages, France was the most populous region[clarification needed] in Europeâ€"having overtaken Spain and Italy by It would be the midth century before the population recovered to mid-fourteenth century levels. Languages and literacy[edit] Main articles: History of French , Old French , and Occitan language In the Middle Ages in France, Medieval Latin was the primary medium of scholarly exchange and the liturgical language of the medieval Roman Catholic Church ; it was also the language of science, literature, law, and administration. The vast majority of the population however spoke a variety of vernacular languages derived from vulgar Latin , the common spoken language of the western Roman empire. The medieval Italian poet Dante , in his Latin De vulgari eloquentia , classified the Romance languages into three groups by their respective words for "yes": From the time period of Clovis I on, the Franks extended their rule over northern Gaul. The Middle Ages also saw the influence of other linguistic groups on the dialects of France: From the 4th to 7th centuries, Brythonic -speaking peoples from Cornwall , Devon , and Wales travelled across the English Channel , both for reasons of trade and of flight from the Anglo-Saxon invasions of England. They established themselves in Armorica. Their language became Breton in more recent centuries. Attested since the time of Julius Caesar , a non-Celtic people who spoke a Basque -related language inhabited the Novempopulania Aquitania Tertia in southwestern France, while the language gradually lost ground to the expanding Romance during a period spanning most of the Early Middle Ages. This Proto-Basque influenced the emerging Latin-based language spoken in the area between the Garonne and the Pyrenees , eventually resulting in the dialect of Occitan called Gascon. Scandinavian Vikings invaded France from the 9th century onwards and established themselves mostly in what would come to be called Normandy. They also contributed many words to French related to sailing and farming. Around this time period, many words from the Arabic language entered French, mainly indirectly through Medieval Latin , Italian and Spanish. While education and literacy had been important components of aristocratic service in the

Carolingian period, [8] by the eleventh century and continuing to the 13th century, the lay secular public in Franceâ€"both nobles and peasantsâ€"was largely illiterate , [9] except for at least to the end of the 12th century members of the great courts and, in the south, smaller noble families. In many cases such as with Poitiers cities were seats of both episcopal and administrative power. From the 10th to the 11th centuries, the urban development of the country expanded particularly on the northern coasts: In the late 11th century, " communes ", governing assemblies, began to develop in towns. Paris was the largest city in the realm, and indeed one of the largest cities in Europe, with an estimated population of , or more at the end of the century. In addition to these, there also existed zones with an extended urban network of medium to small cities, as in the south and the Mediterranean coast from Toulouse to Marseille , including Narbonne and Montpellier and in the north Beauvais , Laon , Amiens , Arras , Bruges , etc. You can help by adding to it. May Further information: French nobility and knight In the Carolingian period, the "aristocracy" nobilis in the Latin documents was by no means a legally defined category. From the late 9th to the late 10th century, the nature of the noble class changed significantly. First off, the aristocracy increasingly focused on establishing strong regional bases of landholdings, [32] on taking hereditary control of the counties and duchies, [33] and eventually on erecting these into veritable independent principalities [34] and privatizing various privileges and rights of the state. By , the area north of the Loire was dominated by six or seven of these virtually independent states. Secondly, from the 9th century on, military ability was increasingly seen as conferring special status, and professional soldiers or milites, generally in the entourage of sworn lords, began to establish themselves in the ranks of the aristocracy acquiring local lands, building private castles, seizing elements of justice , thereby transforming into the military noble class historians refer to as " knights ". Vassal and Fief The Merovingians and Carolingians maintained relations of power with their aristocracy through the use of clientele systems and the granting of honores and benefices, including land, a practice which grew out of Late Antiquity. This practice would develop into the system of vassalage and feudalism in the Middle Ages. Originally, vassalage did not imply the giving or receiving of landholdings which were granted only as a reward for loyalty , but by the eighth century the giving of a landholding was becoming standard. By the 11th century, the bonds of vassalage and the granting of fiefs had spread throughout much of French society, but it was in no ways universal in France: The 11th century in France saw what has been called by historians a "feudal revolution" or "mutation" and a "fragmentation of powers" Bloch that was unlike the development of feudalism in England or Italy or Germany in the same period or later: In response to this, the idea of a " liege lord " was developed where the obligations to one lord are regarded as superior in the 12th century. By there were nine peers: Archbishop of Reims who had the distinction of anointing and crowning the king.

8: Middle Ages, A History of the European

Charlemagne united the majority of Western Europe during the early Middle Ages for the first time since the Roman Empire, earning him the title Father of Europe. Also known as Charles the Great, Charlemagne became the first Holy Roman Emperor and founded the Carolingian Empire.

By this term, historians generally mean to denote the history of Western Europe from the end of the Roman Empire in the west until the Italian Renaissance: So in its origins, the concept of the Middle Ages frames the period negatively as a time of cultural backwardness, a period in which the accomplishments of classical civilization were eclipsed by ignorance and superstition. This was the view of fifteenth-century elites. Indeed, I will argue to you over the next hour or so that the millennium from to was pivotal in the development of Western Civilization. Moreover, the Middle Ages created institutions and practices that are still vital and important in our world. Europe changed dramatically from to The most important watershed comes roughly at the millennium. During this period Roman and Germanic cultures combined with Christianity to form a new, European civilization. It was a period of cultural efflorescence, the period that gave rise to Gothic architecture, courtly love, and the first universities. The Early Middle Ages Traditional narratives of the origins of the Middle Ages used to begin with images of barbarians suddenly sweeping into western Europe and destroying the Roman Empire. These depictions tended to be pleasingly dramatic but disturbingly simplistic and exaggerated. The Middle Ages, in these old-fashioned histories, began as soon as the barbarians killed Rome. Historians over the twentieth century, however, have abandoned this simple narrative. Rome and its culture did not disappear overnight, and it took centuries really for various Germanic peoples to migrate into Europe and change it. These differences are ultimately key in the story of Western Civilization: Why did Western Europe in the modern era come to dominate many parts of the world, with colonies throughout the globe? To begin to answer this question, one needs to look at the different path of development that Western Europe took from c. The Germanic peoples made Europe different. Their migration into the western provinces of the old Roman Empire began a gradual transformation â€" a slow blending of Roman civilization, Germanic culture, and Christianity. This whale-bone box from c. Here on the left you see the princess Beadohild being tricked by the magical metal-worker Weyland the Smith into bearing his son â€" the hero Widia. The strange letters or characters inscribed around the edges are runes, an alphabet used by the Germanic peoples. Another major difference between older narratives of the origins of the Middle Ages and current ones is the characterization of the Germanic peoples and how they entered Europe. These people were warriors and their migration into the late Roman world did cause upheaval. But their arrival was gradual, not sudden, and it was not originally hostile and violent. At first, Roman leaders sanctioned the settlement of these new peoples within the empire: Most often violence occurred when the Roman state reneged on agreements and payments promised to these newcomers. So the entry of these new peoples was disruptive and at points violent, but it was not a sudden catastrophic invasion. It was more like a long and difficult period of immigration and adjustment for both cultures. Difficult as it was, the process prompted creativity: But first, who were the Germanic peoples? They came originally from northern Scandinavia, but settled in the Baltic and Ukraine, and in the lands we think of today as Germany. In the late fourth century, however, a fierce nomadic tribe invading Europe from the East â€" the HUNS â€" triggered waves of migration westward and southward. Although they spoke different languages and had different cultural traditions, they shared many broad similarities. Their economic systems were based on farming, herding, iron-working, gift exchange, and pillaging. Thier social systems were also alike, organized by kin groups and tribes. How did these peoples change Western Europe? In the long run, the most important were the Frankish and Anglo-Saxon kingdoms. Germanic kings viewed their territories as their own private property: The Roman Empire had been organized around cities that were economic, cultural, and political centers. But the Germanic peoples had no traditions of urban life and when they entered the Empire they tended to view cities just as good sources of loot and booty. Urban life declined in the early Middle Ages,

and with it commerce. These agricultural laborers, usually called peasants or serfs, were dependent upon these lords or property owners for access to land and tools. This dependence and the services that formed and perpetuated it, came later on to be very much hated as a form of unjust servitude. During Late Antiquity, the spread of Christianity was largely â€" like Roman imperial organization â€" an urban phenomenon. The leaders of the local church â€" the bishops â€" resided and had their churches in the cities of the late Roman world. This is, of course, how Rome became the center of Western Christianity: But there were Christian ascetics who fled the cities to live a life totally dedicated to prayer: In the east, the monastic life was pursued alone in the desert. In the west, a communal type of monastic life was developed by Saint Benedict of Nursia c. He wrote a rule or guide for monastic life â€" called the Benedictine Rule â€" that was used by monastic communities throughout Western Europe during the Middle Ages and is still used by monastic communities today. With the ruralization of European life in the early Middle Ages, monasteries â€" most all of them located outside of cities, some in very isolated places â€" became extremely important Christian institutions. Because monks had to be literate to read the Bible, monasteries became centers of learning â€" manuscripts were preserved and copied here, and some monasteries had schools. Monasteries also became centers of missionary activities: About this time, a new dynasty â€" the Carolingians â€" came to rule the Frankish Kingdom. This close relationship between the Christian Church and European rulers is a key characteristic of political life in the Middle Ages. Indeed, Charlemagne took his role as protector of the Christian Church very seriously. Understanding that the lack of education in his realm threatened the very performance of the sacraments deemed crucial to salvation, Charlemagne undertook a revival of learning. He gathered scholars at his court, sponsored the foundation of schools, and endowed monasteries to copy and distributed manuscripts. This new script was called Carolingian Minuscule: Contrast this page of Carolingian Minuscule with this earlier document from the sixth century. Monasteries during the Carolingian Renaissance produced thousands of manuscripts in this new, more legible script. Most were religious texts: But Carolingian monks also copied Roman texts: Latin grammars, Roman law codes, and works of Classical literature. Indeed, because the ancients wrote on papyrus a paper-like material that deteriorates easily instead of the more durable parchment animal skin used in medieval Europe, most of the earliest copies of the great masterpieces of classical literature that we have today were made by Carolingian monks. Thus, we have Charlemagne to thank for much of our knowledge of the classical past! And, indeed, as we have just seen, his Carolingian Renaissance did preserve much classical learning. Charlemagne even had ruins from the imperial palace at Ravenna transported to Aachen and incorporated into his residence. The columns and pediment that frame the emperor are drawn from Roman architecture. The scepter or staff he holds in his left hand is copied from Roman imperial symbolism. The Germanic basis of medieval kingship is also evident in the image: Charles is wearing the attire of a Frankish warrior â€" a cloak fastened by a broach -- and those round things next to him on his throne are not throw pillows but shields! This image of early medieval kingship nicely sums up the cultural accomplishment of the early Middle Ages: In contrast to this balanced image of kingship, the reality of Carolingian governance owed more to Germanic customs than to Roman or Christian ideals. Like a Germanic chieftain, Charlemagne rewarded his most loyal warriors with grants of land. These grants of land came to be known as fiefs. In return for a fief, the follower, called a vassal, owed his ruler loyalty and service. The service required was first and foremost military â€" the vassal had to provide a certain period of military service usually the late spring and early summer months to his lord every year. Service also included advice and counsel, and the conduct of judicial proceedings. Charlemagne used these feudal ties to govern: They also took some of the lands and created their own vassals who, in turn, owed them loyalty and service. The invasions of the seafaring Vikings lasted the longest, reached the farthest, and caused the most significant changes in Western Europe. They were also the most feared. Viking warriors had a reputation for cruelty: The swiftness and unpredictability of Viking attacks, however, is what had the most important political impact in Western Europe. Kings, even the mighty Carolingians, were not able to offer their people adequate protection: Real power during this age of invasions devolved to the lowest ranks of the feudal hierarchy: First, the entry of

the Germanic peoples into Europe began the gradual amalgamation of Christianity, Roman traditions, and Germanic culture into a new, medieval civilization. We can first see this new European civilization in the reign of Charlemagne The Central Middle Ages Around the year then, Europe was politically fragmented and its very rudimentary manorial economy was decimated. With the end of the invasions, however, we begin to see signs not only of recovery but of new kinds of growth in Western Europe. The first sign is demographic that is, population expansion: This growth in human capital would continue until the opening decades of the fourteenth century and corresponded with an extended period of warmer, milder climate in Western Europe. Population growth immediately triggered other changes, first in agriculture. The need to feed more people led to land clearance: And population pressure also prompted innovations in agriculture. Europeans invented new heavier plows so that they could cultivate the heavier and more fertile soils of river valleys as opposed to the lighter soil of the hillsides where agriculture was concentrated in the early Middle Ages. They experimented with new crops â€" such as beans and oats â€" and new patterns of crop rotation that left less acreage fallow.

9: Bachrach, Charlemagne's Early Campaigns () (Albright) » De Re Militari

It was a precedent which showed that if Charlemagne, the greatest ruler of the Middle Ages, needed the pope for his crown, then surely all other kings did as well. This coronation went a long way toward the papacy controlling monarchs for rest of the Middle Ages.

The Middle Ages Date: They were the German barbarians, or Teutonic tribes, who swept across the Rhine and the Danube into the empire. There they accepted Christianity. The union of barbarian vigor and religious spirit carried Europe to the threshold of modern times. That span from the ancient era to the modern is called the Middle Ages. The change from ancient ways to medieval customs came so gradually, however, that it is difficult to tell exactly when the Middle Ages began. Other historians give the year , when Alaric, king of the Visigoths, sacked Rome. Still others say about AD or even later. It is equally hard to determine exactly when the Middle Ages ended, for decisive events leading to the modern age took place at different times. Historians say variously that the Middle Ages ended with the fall of Constantinople, in ; with the discovery of America, in ; or with the beginning of the Reformation, in From to , the Carolingian House of the Franks brought stability and progress to northern Europe. A large portion of the West enjoyed military and political security as well as religious unity. This accomplishment was not to last, however. The Frankish empire did not endure, partly because it lacked the strong economic bases that has supported the Romans. By the ninth century, Muslim conquests and commercial activity successfully competed with the Franks; inland trade declined sharply and urban life almost disappeared in the north. In addition, the empire had no strong administrative machinery to compensate for the weak rulers who followed the dominating leadership of the emperor Charlemagne; the empire disintegrated amid civil wars and invasions. The impressive achievements of the Carolingians towards building a unifying governmental system were not able to counteract the decentralization of political, military, and economic activity in most of western Europe. A system of government sometimes referred to as feudalism attempted to provide stability and to serve as an effective political substitute for a powerful, effective central government. Economic life centered on a concern for subsistence and security, which could only be provided by the acceptance of local and rural customs and practices designed to ensure the necessities of life through resisting change and fostering self-sufficiency. The church continued its efforts to convert and standardize the belief of its members, and in so doing attempted to provide spiritual security in a troubled and insecure world. The kingdom of the Franks was not only the most enduring of the Germanic states established in the West, but it became, with the active support of the church, the center of the new Europe that attempted to assume the place of the western Roman Empire. Late in the fourth century the Franks began a slow movement south and west across the Rhine into Gaul. By they occupied the northern part of Gaul as far as the old Roman city of Paris; in that year Clovis I of the Merovingian House became ruler of one of the small Frankish kingdoms. By the time of his death in , Clovis had united the Franks into a single kingdom that stretched south to the Pyrenees. Clovis achieved his aims by the crafty manipulation of marriage alliances, treachery, assassination, and the use of religion. Clovis first allied himself with other kings of the small Frankish states to dispose of Syagrius, the last Roman general in Gaul. He then turned against his own allies and subdued them. According to the sixth century Gallo-Roman bishop and historian Gregory of Tours, whose History of the Franks is the most detailed account of any of the early Germanic peoples, Clovis was converted to Christianity in as a result of a battle against the Alemanni, a pagan Germanic tribe whose name became the French word for Germany, Allemagne. On the verge of being defeated, Clovis called on the Christian god for help: I will believe in you and be baptized in your name. I have called on my gods, but I have found from experience that they are far from my aid The Macmillan Company, , p. He became the only mainstream Christian ruler in the West, for the other Germanic tribes were either pagan or Arian Christians. The conversion of the Franks to Christianity is considered a decisive event in European history. Ultimately it led to an alliance of the Franks and the papacy, and immediately it assured

Clovis the loyalty of the Gallo-Roman bishops, the leaders of the native Christian population of Gaul. This was a political advantage not open to the Arian Visigothic and Burgundian kings. With the help of the native population of Gaul, Clovis was able to expand his control in the name of Christian orthodoxy. The Visigothic king was killed, and his people abandoned most of their Gallic territory. Clovis died four years later at the age of forty-five; his conquests formed the core of what would eventually become the French nation.

CHARLEMAGNES LEGACY HIGH MEDIEVAL FRANC (HIGH MEDIEVAL) pdf

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