

## 1: The Oxford Illustrated History of Prehistoric Europe - Google Books

*With nearly illustrations and full-color maps, this latest work from Oxford historian Fernandez-Armesto, editor of The Times Guide to the Peoples of Europe (Times Bks., ), is a fascinating companion volume to The Times Atlas of European History (HarperCollins, ).*

A mosaic showing Alexander the Great battling Darius III The Hellenic civilisation was a collection of city-states or poleis with different governments and cultures that achieved notable developments in government, philosophy, science, mathematics, politics, sports, theatre and music. Athens was a powerful Hellenic city-state and governed itself with an early form of direct democracy invented by Cleisthenes ; the citizens of Athens voted on legislation and executive bills themselves. Athens was the home of Socrates , [14] Plato , and the Platonic Academy. By the late 6th century BC, all the Greek city states in Asia Minor had been incorporated into the Persian Empire , while the latter had made territorial gains in the Balkans such as Macedon , Thrace , Paeonia , etc. In the course of the 5th century BC, some of the Greek city states attempted to overthrow Persian rule in the Ionian Revolt , which failed. This sparked the first Persian invasion of mainland Greece. At some point during the ensuing Greco-Persian Wars , namely during the Second Persian invasion of Greece , and precisely after the Battle of Thermopylae and the Battle of Artemisium , almost all of Greece to the north of the Isthmus of Corinth had been overrun by the Persians, [15] but the Greek city states reached a decisive victory at the Battle of Plataea. With the end of the Greco-Persian wars, the Persians were eventually decisively forced to withdraw from their territories in Europe. The Greco-Persian Wars and the victory of the Greek city states directly influenced the entire further course of European history and would set its further tone. The Peloponnesian Wars ensued, and the Peloponnesian League was victorious. Subsequently, discontent with Spartan hegemony led to the Corinthian War and the defeat of Sparta at the Battle of Leuctra. Hellenic infighting left Greek city states vulnerable, and Philip II of Macedon united the Greek city states under his control. The son of Philip II, known as Alexander the Great , invaded neighboring Persia , toppled and incorporated its domains, as well as invading Egypt and going as far off as India , increasing contact with people and cultures in these regions that marked the beginning of the Hellenistic period. After the death of Alexander, his empire split into multiple kingdoms ruled by his generals, the Diadochi. The Diadochi fought against each other only three major kingdoms remained: Ptolemaic Egypt , the Seleucid Empire and Macedonia kingdom. These kingdoms spread Greek culture to regions as far away as Bactria. First governed by kings , then as a senatorial republic the Roman Republic , Rome finally became an empire at the end of the 1st century BC, under Augustus and his authoritarian successors. The Roman Empire at its greatest extent in AD, under the emperor Trajan The Roman Empire had its centre in the Mediterranean, controlling all the countries on its shores; the northern border was marked by the Rhine and Danube rivers. In the 4th century, the emperors Diocletian and Constantine were able to slow down the process of decline by splitting the empire into a Western part with a capital in Rome and an Eastern part with the capital in Byzantium, or Constantinople now Istanbul. Whereas Diocletian severely persecuted Christianity, Constantine declared an official end to state-sponsored persecution of Christians in with the Edict of Milan , thus setting the stage for the Church to become the state church of the Roman Empire in about Decline of the Roman Empire[ edit ] Main articles: Gibbon said that the adoption of Christianity, meant belief in a better life after death, and therefore made people lazy and indifferent to the present. Bowersock has remarked, [17] "we have been obsessed with the fall: Some other notable dates are the Battle of Adrianople in , the death of Theodosius I in the last time the Roman Empire was politically unified , the crossing of the Rhine in by Germanic tribes after the withdrawal of the legions to defend Italy against Alaric I , the death of Stilicho in , followed by the disintegration of the western legions, the death of Justinian I , the last Roman Emperor who tried to reconquer the west, in , and the coming of Islam after Many scholars maintain that rather than a "fall", the changes can more accurately be described as a complex transformation. Late Antiquity and Migration Period[ edit ] Main articles: Late Antiquity and Migration Period A simplified map of migrations from the 2nd to the 5th century. When Emperor Constantine had reconquered Rome under the banner of the cross in , he soon afterwards

issued the Edict of Milan in preceded by the Edict of Serdica in , declaring the legality of Christianity in the Roman Empire. In addition, Constantine officially shifted the capital of the Roman Empire from Rome to the Greek town of Byzantium, which he renamed Nova Roma- it was later named Constantinople "City of Constantine". In Theodosius I , who had made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire, would be the last emperor to preside over a united Roman Empire. The empire was split into two halves: Migration Period , and in finally the Western part fell to the Heruli chieftain Odoacer. Over time, feudalism and manorialism arose, two interlocking institutions that provided for division of land and labor, as well as a broad if uneven hierarchy of law and protection. These localised hierarchies were based on the bond of common people to the land on which they worked, and to a lord, who would provide and administer both local law to settle disputes among the peasants, as well as protection from outside invaders. Unlike under Roman rule, with its standard laws and military across the empire and its great bureaucracy to administer them and collect taxes, each lord although having obligations to a higher lord was largely sovereign in his domain. Tithes or rents were paid to the lord, who in turn owed resources, and armed men in times of war, to his lord, perhaps a regional prince. However, the levels of hierarchy were varied over time and place. The western provinces soon were to be dominated by three great powers: These new powers of the west built upon the Roman traditions until they evolved into a synthesis of Roman and Germanic cultures. Although these powers covered large territories, they did not have the great resources and bureaucracy of the Roman empire to control regions and localities. The ongoing invasions and boundary disputes usually meant a more risky and varying life than that under the empire. This meant that in general more power and responsibilities were left to local lords. On the other hand, it also meant more freedom, particularly in more remote areas. In Italy, Theodoric the Great began the cultural romanization of the new world he had constructed. He made Ravenna a center of Romano-Greek culture of art and his court fostered a flowering of literature and philosophy in Latin. In the feudal system, new princes and kings arose, the most powerful of which was arguably the Frankish ruler Charlemagne. Outside his borders, new forces were gathering. For the duration of the 6th century, the Eastern Roman Empire was embroiled in a series of deadly conflicts, first with the Persian Sassanid Empire see Romanâ€™Persian Wars , followed by the onslaught of the arising Islamic Caliphate Rashidun and Umayyad. By , the provinces of Egypt , Palestine and Syria were lost to the Muslim forces , followed by Hispania and southern Italy in the 7th and 8th centuries see Muslim conquests. The Arab invasion from the east was stopped after the intervention of the Bulgarian Empire see Han Tervel. Middle Ages and Medieval demography The Middle Ages are commonly dated from the fall of the Western Roman Empire or by some scholars, before that in the 5th century to the beginning of the early modern period in the 16th century, marked by the rise of nation states , the division of Western Christianity in the Reformation , the rise of humanism in the Italian Renaissance , and the beginnings of European overseas expansion which allowed for the Columbian Exchange.

## 2: The Times Illustrated History of Europe by Felipe Fernández-Armesto

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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.

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