**Group 1:  Video:** [**The Dark Ages: Europe after the Fall of Rome**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6i4eetM_No)**: Assess the extent to which the Early Middle Ages, so-called "Dark Ages," were dark.**

[**The Dark Ages: Europe after the Fall of Rome**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6i4eetM_No)

The Dark Ages describe a time period after Rome's fall in 476. There are a number of Dark Age characteristics. One feature was the absence of concepts and procedures that existed during this moment. Latin literature and other cultural developments were lacking during the Dark Ages. A religious fight was another feature of this moment. Orthodox Christians and Catholics looked very differently at this period of time.

Orthodox Christians thought it was a corrupt era, and the Catholic Church was dismissed in many respects. However, Catholics did not see stuff the same way. They thought that it was an age of production. Orthodox Christians and Catholics looked very differently at this period of time. Orthodox Christians thought it was a corrupt era, and the Catholic Church was dismissed in many respects. However, Catholics did not see stuff the same way. They thought that it was an age of production. The Muslim conquests also knew this period.

Some of the Catholic-Muslim problems can be traced back to this period of time. While religious war has occurred, the Dark Ages are seen as an age of faith. People have sought divine authority in some manner. Finally, during this moment, the feudal system created. This evolved primarily because during this period of time there was no powerful central power. With its castles and walled cities, the feudal system supplied the barbarians with protection from invasion.

Charles Martel was under a burden from the Moorish assault. He influenced his compatriots to exchange for swords their plowshares (a plow's primary cutting blade). The issue became apparent when the strategy of Charles Martel to find a well-made military was restricted to peasants who were only able to battle between "spring planting and fall harvest." “He traveled north where he met a group of enemies, discovering the courageousness within his resources.” He studied Alexander the Great's tactics and various Roman Empire, commanders. Martel and his military used these tactics to use spears and shields. The Christian army ultimately murdered Abdul al-Rahman ([Christopher Cassel](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1951718/?ref_=tt_ov_dr), 2007).

Charles Martel has conquered many, but Scandinavian Vikings have raided them. These raiders were like pirates, in search of territory to attack they sailed the ocean. North Umbria was invaded by the great heathen army, but this time they wanted territory as well. King Alford the Great built fortresses because he didn't attack fortresses because he knew the Vikings. Castle owners would unleash the village knights to terrorize them and force them to acknowledge the castle owner's lordship. The Catholic Church has set boundaries on when and where the knights might be attacking. Crusades started because of these assaults. A rebirth occurred through these crusades. There has been introduced to Europe infrastructure, education, medical data and philosophy ([Christopher Cassel](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1951718/?ref_=tt_ov_dr), 2007).

**Work Cited**

# [Christopher Cassel](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1951718/?ref_=tt_ov_dr). [*The Dark Ages: Europe after the Fall of Rome*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6i4eetM_No)*.* USA, 2007. Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6i4eetM_No>

# eNotes Editorial: *“What are the characteristics of the Dark Ages*?" , 18 Sep. 2015.

**Group 2:  Trace the development of the Holy Roman Empire during the Middle Ages.  To what degree was it successful in spreading Christianity throughout Europe? (Wallech, pp. 294-303).**

**The Holy Roman Empire**

The Holy Roman Empire's development can be traced back to the Middle Ages. The spread of Christianity was not very active throughout the initial Middle Ages. Moreover, barbarians abandoned religion until the Charles sovereignty of the Roman Kingdom. The empire have taken long steps towards developing a Christian footing. It was not until "a series of events started by the Carolingians and Charles Martel that significantly extended Carolingian authority" (Wallech et al., 298).

Finally, the concept of trip came about with ideas of Christianity being kept to a standard. The Holy Land was the most famous trip location, but the jeopardies of roaming in the Middle Ages is limited as individuals to trip in their appreciated fields. "The first Holy Roman Emperor, Charlemagne (Charles), under his rule, consolidated a big part of Europe, encouraged learning, and established innovative administrative ideas" (Wallech et al., 299).

The idea of the Christian Empire, which took shape following the conversion of Constantine the Great and the reconciliation between Christianity and the Roman Empire, was far more effective in the minds of the barbarian peoples of the West. Not only did the Christian church become a government church, including in its liturgical prayers for the empire and the emperor, but it also brought the Roman empire into the context of Christian eschatology (the doctrine of last things) as the last of the world's monarchies whose end would mark the beginning of God's kingdom (Wallech et al., 299).

Although it is true that Charlemagne constructed the Holy Roman Empire; within his historical time, his dignity played off political supremacy. By this age, a fresh faith has been filled or started by Christianity to fill individuals with Christians. "Differences in how Latin or Greek Churches perceived the world established an equal barrier between the Holy Roman Empire” (Wallech et al., 302). Holy Roman's town was named the City of God, allowing the Roman Catholic churchmen to live apart from their antique past. The Early Middle Ages, in conclusion, began the perception of Christianity but did not yet entirely spread the faith all over the Realm. Through Christian iconography and through the liturgy, the perspective of the church of the empire as a vehicle of the will of God became common for the Christianization of the globe.

**Work cited**

Steven Wallech, Touraj Daryaee, Craig Hendricks, Anne Lynne Negus, Peter P. Wan, Gordon Morris Bakken. *World History: A Concise Thematic Analysis.* Calfornia: Wiley, 2012-2013.

**Group 4: Document 14-2: Read and answer the questions at the end of the document. (Ward & Gainty, source 14-2).**

**Question #1: According to Fulcher, what was the political situation in Europe and the Middle East prior to the call to go on the crusade?**

**Answer:** Before the crusades, Fulcher described Europe in the Middle East as a vicious country of destruction. There was not much order or respect for supremacy, there were many fights and civil disturbance in particular. The document says that the Christian faith was being ruined and dissected as a religion during this moment in Europe. Every person was obliging sinful wrongs from civilian to legislators and not respecting each other. Government or Politics was fundamentally in a state of ruin because everywhere there was pandemonium. It's seen as individuals who lived without moralities and went absolutely stupid. It was as if individuals were losing their faith and beginning to act like complete beasts. A few examples of the persons who ruined the political situation were King Philip (In France) and Emperor Henry (In Germany) (Ward and Ganty et al., 252).

**Question #2: How does Pope Urban II describe the Muslims? Why does he ask Christians to go to the holy land?**

**Answer:** The Muslims are defined as evil on the basis of the text. He claims they're the devil's evil and employees. It's said they're pretty gross and lewd. Pope Urban II defines Muslims as "a race that is so wicked, immoral, imprisoned by demons." He sent to the Holy Land the Christians to "exterminate the Muslims" and bring back the Holy Church. The reason the Pope wishes the Christians to go to the Holy Land is to get their payback and "settle" the debt they owe (Ward and Ganty et al., 252).

**Question #3: What benefits would Crusaders get from going on crusade, according to Urban?**

**Answer:** According to the Pope, when Crusaders die while marching on land, passing by sea, or fighting the pagans, they would yield by getting remission of their sins. God would definitely reward them. In brief, when they pass away, anyone who goes on this trip will have their sins forgiven.

**Question #4: Based on what Urban says, how might the Crusades have benefited European Society?**

**Answer:** The crusades may have benefited the European community by bonding individuals through religion and purging their civilizations of all those who have committed wrongdoings. Pope makes them think they can secure their religion from being conquered and protect their realm. They would be benefited from development and progress after it has been accomplished, which would not have been achievable with the encounters going on and the historical anarchy.

**Work cited**

Ward, Walter D., and Denis Gainty. *Sources of World Societies*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martins, 2012.