

a

Byzantine Empire -

The Byzantine Empire was born when the western half of Rome fell and Constantine moved the capital to the eastern half. Unlike Rome, they pioneered a new type of Christianity, calling themselves Orthodox and blocking the spread of Islam to Europe.

1

Fall of the Roman Empire in the Western Mediterranean -

The Roman Empire fell because of their political corruption, the rise of Christianity, and the barbarian attacks near the edge of their empire. The culmination of these left the Eastern half a choice—detach from the West and keep their riches or fall like the rest of them.

2

Charles Martel -

Nicknamed “Charles the Hammer,” Martel defeated the Muslims in the battle of Tours in 732, although his victory had more to do with Arab exhaustion and an overextended invasion force than Carolingian strength. This kept the Muslims contained the Spain and helped to protect Europe from Islamic influence.

3

Charlemagne -

Nicknamed “Charles the Great,” Charlemagne created a substantial empire in France and Germany. Many believed it would be the rebirth of the Roman Empire in the west. He worked to restore the religious society in the west, but his newly-formed empire did not last long.

(b)

Justinian -

Justinian became the Roman Emperor after Byzantine borders were relatively secure, and his main goal was to reclaim the territory that was once Western Rome. He was extremely autocratic and took direct control of most of the empire. He completely rebuilt Constantinople, and completely reworked the existing Roman law codes.

(c)

Abbasid Calphate -

The Abbasid Calphate came after the Umayyads, and despite being smaller made some monumental changes to the Arab world. They restricted the status of women even more so than before, and expanded their trading network to the Mediterranean area.

(d)

Viking Raids -

The Vikings had established their position in the North and began to raid Europe with its weakened governments and borders. These repeated attacks kept Europe in the Dark Ages by preventing them from regrowing.

(e)

Umayyad Caliphate -

The Umayyad Caliphate was the first Arab caliphate and was the unifying force between the Bedouin tribes. It was originally polytheistic and prayed to the idols, but switched to Islam once Mecca was made a pilgrimage destination and Muhammad converted most of the Meccan people.

4

Founding of Islam -

On this day in history, Muhammad was spoken to by the Angel Gabriel and began to receive what would be known as the Revelations. He won over a small population in Mecca, then was drove out to Mecca by the Umayyads. After signing a treaty with the Quray'sh, he went back to Mecca to finish his preaching and win over the Arabs, marking Islam as the main religion of the Middle East.

f

Ibn Battuta's Journey -

Ibn Battuta was a Muslim scholar and explorer who went to study other cultures and documented what he saw. Near the end of his life, he wrote a book called The Travels, which was intended to highlight the difference between the cultures he discovered and traditional Arab culture.

5

Fall of Constantinople -

When the Ottomans invaded the Byzantine Empire, Commander Mehmed II led an army to the capital and conducted a 53 day siege there. This eventually led to an Ottoman victory after which the Ottoman capital was moved to Constantinople.

g

Conversion of Russia to Christianity -

When Russia was beginning to form, Vladimir had to choose a central religion to unify his people. He chose Orthodox Christianity because of its lack of reliance to the Pope.

h

First Crusade -

The First Crusade was the first of a number of crusades attempting to recapture the Holy Land. It was called for by Pope Urban, and the main reason everybody signed up is because fighting in the Crusade absolved you of all sins.

6

Schism between East and West -

The final straw between Orthodox and Catholic Christianity, the Schism took place when both Popes excommunicated each other from the church. Doing this allowed a third pope to rise.

7

Fall of Baghdad -

Mongol forces overtook Baghdad, the Abbasid Caliphate, because of their resistance to Mongol influence. Hulagu Khan, the general of the invading forces, was instructed to overthrow Baghdad if the Caliphate did not submit to the Mongols and pay tribute.

8

Fall of Acre -

The Fall of Acre signified the last connection between the Crusaders and Jerusalem being broken. The Mamluks gained control of Acre, and the Crusaders never manage to recapture the Holy Land.

i

Fourth Crusade -

Called by Pope Innocent III, the Fourth Crusade was the last substantial attempt at recapturing the Holy Land. It failed miserably, and financial troubles led the crusades to sack Constantinople instead.

j

Black Death -

The Black Death was one of the most devastating pandemics in human history. Bacteria carried by rats spread the Black Death to Europe from China, killing approximately 100 million people.

9

Beginnings of the Holy Roman Empires -

Pope Leo III crowned Charlemagne the emperor of Rome, reviving the title of the Western Roman Empire in Europe. The term "Holy" in its name wasn't used until the 13th century, but the fact that the current emperor had been gifted supreme power from the ancient emperors was very important.

10

French Feudal Monarchy -

Development of the French Monarchy took centuries, but eventually the feudal lords grew to have enough power to act like a king. It got to the point where they could begin to tax churches, which led to conflict.

11

British Feudal Monarchy / William the Conqueror -

When William the Conqueror became king of England, he established a new type of Feudal system. He took all of the territory away from the Saxon lords and gave it to the people who helped him conquer England. But, they did not own the land, merely worked on it in exchange for services.

12

Magna Carta -

The Magna Carta is a charter of rights agreed to be King John, ruler of England. It promised the protection of church rights, access to swift justice, and limitation on Feudal payments to the crown. This was governed by a council of 25 people.