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## DARK AGES

### Index

[Charlemagne](#) [Clovis](#) [Roman Empire](#) [Split and Divide](#) [Feudalism](#) [Society and its Organisation](#) [Weber](#) [Papal Primacy](#) [Normandy](#) [Heroes in the Middle Ages](#) [Links](#)

3/23

**AIM:** WAS CHARLEMAGNE A GREAT LEADER?

### Dark Ages

- In writing, spaces and the use of lower-case letters were **not** common as people wrote how they spoke. It's annoying to say something really slow.

### Charlemagne

- King of the Franks
- Crowned by Pope Leo the 3rd
- The crowning was important as it showed the mixture of culture. A Germanic king was crowned in West ROME (Irony as Germanic tribes invaded the Roman Empire).
- Charlemagne appealed to all citizens and involved them in multiple activities, such as Great Baths.
- During Charlemagne's time period, liberal arts, elegant manners, astronomy, etc. were focused on.
- Charlemagne → Revival of Rome

### How was Charlemagne described?

- Large in size and strong, dignified, tall but not too tall, long nose
- Liked to be pleased (eating, drinking and getting drunk)
- Wore the national Frank dress and jewels; commoner's clothing
- Humble, dominant, confident
- Excellent health; excelled in outdoor activities
- Moderate in eating and drinking

### How does Charlemagne compare to an ideal leader today?

- He was described by Einhard as relaxed
- Charlemagne did not stress
- Einhard stressed physical **appearance**, nowadays we stress political **action**

### How did Charlemagne improve his empire?

- He unified the clashing Germanic and Roman elements and realised that since a significant # of his subjects were Christian, that he would vastly gain from this conversion; he would obtain a claim to **legitimacy** through becoming the first Germanic emperor.

### How was Charlemagne educated?

- He learned Latin and Greek
- He was very eloquent
- He learned from deacons (a minister ranking below a priest) and the king
- Was unable to learn to write
- This may show that education was highly valued as the people that taught it to him were very high up in terms of power and ranking

### How did Charlemagne blend Roman, Germanic, and Christian traditions?

- He was a German that became emperor of Rome by a Pope. He spread Christianity through the effective, but brutal, options of conversion or **death**.

POSSIBLE SHORT ANSWER: Do you feel that Rome was reborn with Charlemagne?

3/24

### Aim: The Dark Ages?

#### Clovis's conversion was important

- Gave **spiritual allegiance** of the country
- France became a **Christian** nation
- United his people

Post-Rome France was an ugly place to live

- Clovis kept a lot of land for himself
- Civil wars and feuds were very **common**
- Political problems often **escalated** to militarily levels
- Noncombatants suffered **frequently**

The common thread of society was Christianity.

Clovis's conversion was politically savvy

- The way into people's hearts is through their soul
- Converting brought power, allies, and further legitimacy
- He still mass murdered and conquered in gory fashion, but now with a purpose: holy wars.

The ordeals were tests to prove innocence

- Ordeals are **traces** of barbaric past and practices
  - An example would be to put someone's hand in boiling water, if it healed normally they were innocent, if not they weren't
  - Another example was to throw someone in a river; if they floated they were **guilty**, if they sank they were innocent.

Clovis was important for uniting the barbarians of France into the Franks with the Roman allies. He was a **stabilizing** force.

### Roman Empire Split and Divide

The Roman East and the Roman West viewed each other in **different** ways.

- The East were seen as unclear fighters who used **trickery**
- The West were viewed as hostile, **brutish**, and undiplomatic
  - Divisions between the East and West included that the West believed Jesus to be no **lesser** than God Himself, the West believed in **iconoclasm**, the East allowed **marriage** for parish priests, and the West spoke **Latin** while the East spoke **Greek**.
- The split between East and West put the West at a severe disadvantage as they had no resources; prior to that the East could prop up the West.

3/25

Aim: Fiefs, fighting, feudalism, oh my!

- Societies were loosely based around tribal **kingships**.
- Lacked **developed** economies; An organized system was needed to replace the weak government (Euro-feudalism)
- Political chaos & invasions- invaded by Muslims, Visigoths, Magyars, and Vikings.

### Feudalism

- Lords offered protection in exchange for **labor**.
- In feudalism, there was a strict social hierarchy.
- Vassals- Workers; swore obedience and loyalty to their lords (owners of land) through contracts.
- Feudalism **existed** in Japan prior.

### Fiefs

- Vassals would provide **military** service, typically about 40 days.
  - Needed to provide **counsel** to the Lord

- Needed to pay financial **payments** to the Lord for special occasions like the knighting of the Lord's eldest son.
- Lords granted vassals a small portion of their **land**.
  - Lords were expected to **defend** their vassal in a court of law and/or **protect** him if sufficiently able.
- Vassals could leave this partnership if they
  - SOMEONE PLEASE INSERT THE FIVE REASONS WHY THEY COULD LEAVE THE FEUDAL CONTRACT

### How Society Was Organized



### Things To Notice About Social Hierarchy:

- Merchants were **not** included in both the Japanese and European social hierarchy systems, as trading was not a central focus in this time period
  - This led to a direct increase in the value of land as Europe's main focus and way of stimulating the economy would be through **agriculture**.
  - Strengthens feudalism system

## **IBNUL, JONATHAN, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO WORK ON THE FIVE SECTIONS ON THE WORKSHEET FROM THE 25TH!!!**

3/26

**Aim:** Why was the Catholic Church a major institution in the early middle ages?

### **Eugene Weber-UCLA Article**

- The collapse of the Roman Empire in the fifth century brought about **change**. The absence of a major power created a **power vacuum** that led to Germanic and Muslim invasions
  - → This **inevitably** caused warfare, destruction, and loss to the economy.
  - → Governments were no longer able to protect their people anymore.
  - → This inevitably leads to an increase in conversions to Christianity; people had **given up** on the "Earth" world, and Christianity was the only route out of their suffering, promising a happier **eternal** life.
- German in Rome was crowned Emperor of the West (King Charles), on Christmas day, 800 C.E. This merges and forms a **new** Germanic-Roman element that would persist in the Carolingian empire.
- **Dark Ages-** Period spanning 3 hundred years; Historians coin this term, partly because of the lack of knowledge about this period, and partly because of the pure bloodshed.
- As Christianity became more widespread and more were converted, barbarians gained a thin **veneer** of Roman culture, but **retained** inner barbarism.
- The Church became **increasingly** barbarized as bishops became more **corrupt**; accusations, slave-owning, and drunkenness became more common.
- Churches suffered increasingly due to these corrupt practices
  - In order to **merge** barbaric and Roman elements successfully, the Church has to create Saints, a combination of witch-doctor and miracle worker.
  - These patrons saints became **increasingly** prominent and were the few **obstacles** that could block people from looting, sacking, violating the church's sanctuary, or taking the Church's land.
- There was corruption within monasteries, though they were usually a haven for the citizens.
- Saint Benedict declared several **hours** (4-5) of religious reading and prayer. Due to illiteracy, his plan could not fully happen.

### **Papal Primacy**

- Introduced by Rome as a result of Germanic kings gaining influence.
  - Claimed that they were higher and had **more power** as Peter had said that upon this rock (rock is in Rome) he would lay the foundations of the Church.
    - Results in greater **influence** for Roman bishops.

### Normandy

- The Vikings inflicted incredible **damage** to churches, villages, and communities, and sacked, burned, and looted.
- The Frankish king grew despaired, eventually **offering** the Vikings some land in France that would later be called Normandy, and his daughter's hand.
  - Leads to the **settling** of the Vikings.
    - Leads to eventual **conversion** to Christianity.

### Benedictine Monasteries

- Established by the Saint Benedict
  - Monks **lived** in chastity, poverty, and were required to do several hours of prayer and manual labor.
    - Monks seldom ate meat unless in times of sickness. Many monks were illiterate.
    - As time goes on, chastity and manual labor become **less** important.
  - Prior to Saint Benedict, monks did **not** do much as they were the sons of the wealthy nobility.
  - Saint Benedict's model would be **adopted** for years to come.

3/27

### **AIM: What does it mean to be a leader in the Middle Ages?**

#### Leaders had to be/have:

- **militaristic**, merciless, capable of massacring, people that were not Christians were fair game
- prideful, causes deaths of **thousands** of Roland's men; reckless
- virtue, the type of society **determines** the definition of hero
- honesty
- Greek **arete**
- devotion to **task**
- masculine-identified
- Responsible
  - Led to rewards

■ Land prestige **awarded**— a sign of power, status, and basis of economy.

- Kings can give land to whoever they want
  - land should really **go** to peoples' sons
    - Idea of inheritance **developed**
  - King does not do as much now.

### **Links:**

<!--Jonathan - I'll create these pages later. HTML Comment -->

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-- Jonathan - I'll create these pages later. Lua Comment, Applescript Comment

/\*Jonathan - I'll create these pages later. CSS Comment \*/

:"Jonathan - I'll create these pages later. TI-BASIC Comment

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### **PDF version**

**Web Version- available [mirrors](#) will be just NYC, Jonathan Wong or Bhavesh Shah**

### **Audio Version**

### **TI-nspire Calc. Version**