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## **DARK AGES**

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3/23

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

#### **Dark Ages**

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

#### **Charlemagne**

- King of the Franks (a group of Germanic tribes in the 3rd century AD; some **Franks** raided Roman territory, while other **Frankish** tribes joined the Roman troops in what was called Gaul, AKA Modern-Day France).
- 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 (Ironic 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 realized that since a significant number of his subjects were Christian, he would vastly gain from this conversion → he would obtain a claim to **legitimacy** through becoming the first Christian, 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 who was chosen to become 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?

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### Aim: The Dark Ages?

#### **Who** is Clovis?

-King of the Merovingian empire and the first major Germanic king to be baptized

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

- 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

**Fiefs**- Small portion of land that lords granted to vassals.

#### Conditions for Vassals:

- Vassals would provide **military** service, typically about 40 days.
- Needed to provide **counsel** (advice) to the Lord
- Needed to pay financial **payments** to the Lord for special occasions like the knighting of the Lord's eldest son.

#### Conditions for Lords:

- 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 the lord unjustly reduced him into **servitude**.
  - If the lord has taken **counsel** against his life.
  - If the lord committed **adultery** with the vassal's wife.
  - If the lord wilfully **attacked** him with a drawn sword.
  - If the lord was **sufficiently** capable of protecting the vassal but did **not** protect the vassal.

#### The Song of Roland: Shame and Honor:

- Count Roland is fighting against a much larger Arab army.
- He refuses to call for Charlemagne's help until it becomes too late to avoid looking cowardly.
- Roland uses his anger toward the loss of his men to launch devastating attacks on the enemy, killing many of them.
  - Roland represents the conflict between cowardice and loss of troops.
- He gets praised for his fighting prowess, and it is said that to have value, a knight must be strong and savage.

#### Land Hunger by Raoul de Cambrai

Hunger for land drove people to take away some power from the king as the king could theoretically take all the land. However, inheritance becomes prominent and the king ends up messing up by giving land to be inherited to a worthy person and then having to pay back by giving other people's land and so on.<- SPARKNOTES SUMMARY

#### Summary:

- Lords granted vassals a small portion of their **land**.

- Vassals could control people, and things on land → Absolute obedience, respect, reverence.
- Extreme loyalty existed between vassals and lords
- It is interesting to note that a vassal could work for two lords → This can lead to conflict in a military crisis.

## 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

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**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 **veeर** of Roman culture, but **retained** inner barbarism. (Roman on surface, barbarian underneath)
  - 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.

## **Papal Primacy (Roman bishops should get more power)**

- 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.
- Leader is Rollo
- 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.
    - Saint Benedict declared several **hours** (4-5) of religious reading and prayer. Due to illiteracy, his plan could not fully happen.
    - 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.

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### **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, (this causes the 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.

3/30 & 3/31

**AIM: Scourge or Savior? View of the Vikings.**

| Viking Stereotypes  | Nuances   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● From obscure land in Northern Europe (Scandinavia).</li><li>● Gruesome, brutal, vicious.</li><li>● Utilized enormous ships for conquest.</li><li>● Warcries.</li><li>● Big guys, facial hair, fur, dirty.</li><li>● No respect for monasteries.</li><li>● Round helmets- they had the helmets with horns for religious ceremonies</li><li>● Barbarians.</li><li>● Paganism</li><li>● Vikings were the name for the men that went on summer voyages to seize gold and silver; Norse was the actual civilisation name; mostly men</li><li>● Destroyed Iceland and Greenland</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Have beautiful jewelry.</li><li>● Have trends that continuously change.</li><li>● Had farms, in which they raised cattle and sheep.</li><li>● Conflict existed in Viking societies.</li><li>● Viking longships are from Ireland.</li><li>● Ate vegetables (not only meat).</li><li>● Only wore helmets with horns, on special occasions (not battles).</li><li>● Discovered North America ("Vinland")</li><li>● Had stuff like combs, tweezers, and things to pull out earwax</li><li>● Merged politically with Britain and Ireland</li></ul> |



He's your buddy ;)

4/1

### AIM: What was the significance of the lay investiture crisis?

Lay- A person **outside** of the church hierarchy, whether the person be noble, peasant, or king; **unqualified**

Investiture- A ceremony where people receive **offices** of the Church.

### Lay Investiture Crisis

- There was a Church vs. State **Conflict**- starting with the Cluny reforms
  - If someone grants a person a high position like bishop, the new bishop was **beholden** to that person, and as a result, that person could **control** the bishop.
- Excommunication- Banished and not allowed to receive sacrament; deprive of the **rights** of Church membership. Back then, this was the **equivalent** of being "thrown out of society"
- Maintains **consistency** of message
    - In Pope Gregory's declaration to get rid of simony, Pope Gregory excommunicates any bishop given the position by a layman and **not** the layman himself (a.k.a. did not want to get the king too infuriated)
      - King Henry IV **refuses** to accept this, and calls Gregory a motley of **vulgar** adjectives.
      - Pope Gregory ends up **excommunicating** King Henry 3 times.
        - King Henry ends up having the last laugh and **forces** Pope Gregory into exile.

Note that Pope Gregory originally issued the first edict in 1073 and then followed with a similar one in 1080. The text of the 1073 one was lost however, due to poor record keeping.

4/2

### AIM: What were the Crusades?

| Christian Perspective   | Muslim Perspective  |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Muslims were violent</li><li>● Were on a holy war- war was based on religion<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Needed to redeem the holy land</li><li>○ Needed to help the poor Christians of the East</li></ul></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Christians were violent</li><li>● Based their fight off Christian massacres and impunitiess</li><li>● Christians ignorant</li><li>● Franks did not apparently get mad if their wife cheated on them, provided the offense was</li></ul> |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Muslims were barbaric pagan infidels</li> <li>● Muslims did however, have courage, specially the Turks</li> <li>● Needed to conquer and gain better land as Jerusalem was a land of "Milk and Honey"</li> <li>● Religion was used as a reason for lords to build up militaries</li> </ul> | <p>not repeated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Christians don't keep promises</li> <li>● Christians don't want peace– King Richard failed to complete the peace– originally Christians would be allowed also to visit Jerusalem.</li> <li>● Christians rape</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

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**AIM: What do the Crusades mean today?**

**Need help here too!**

- **Bush is a BAD president**, as he used the word Crusades in such a manner that it implied rather derogatory and racist thoughts towards Muslims. (not to mention Iraq ;))
- The word "crusade" is a word of hostility
- Most of the crusades (all but the 1st) failed

4/14

**AIM: What do the Crusades mean today?**

TERMS:

**High Middle Ages**- the earlier period of the Middle Ages. From 1050-1300 composing the 11th to 14th century.

**Low Middle Ages**- later period of Middle Ages.

**Fallow**- part of land that is not fertilized, and doesn't yield crop; can be described as "tired, resting" land.

## TECHNOLOGY AND AGRICULTURAL ADVANCEMENTS

1. **Less** land for fallow and more than one crop. 2/3>1/2 \*magic
2. A **yoke** so that they could connect horses to a piece of wood. \*again magic
3. Iron plow instead of traditional Roman wooden one due to **heavier** soil, hence creating a need for heavier plows. \*MAGIC
4. **Reclaimed** forest and swamp land for agricultural use! MAGICKING

These advancements allowed people to have jobs outside agriculture such as **trade**.

## TRADE AND COMMERCE

- Italian ships **defeated** Muslim ships in naval battles
  - Opens up trade with the **East**
    - A merchant and trader class is **established**
      - Leads to unique social status position **outside** the traditional government allowing them to **challenge** feudalism.
      - **Less** control by kings
    - Trade with places as far as Constantinople, Antioch, and places in Russia begin.
      - West **gets** silk, sugar, dyes, etc.
        - Made merchants **rich**

#### OTHER INFORMATION

- Growth in Latin **Christendom** (the Western church)

#### The King's Mirror

- Merchants were encouraged to be polite, agreeable, convincing, clever, careful, alert, etc. when dealing with customers and fellow merchants.
- Merchants were expected to study law, and languages such as French and Latin, which would help facilitate trade with others; gaining lot of knowledge was encouraged.
- In this time period, there was more trade, more accumulation of wealth, more opportunities, more freedom, etc.
- This has modern implications

#### Guibert of Nogent Communal Rebellion

- Communes

#### Ordinances of the Guild Merchant of Southampton

Guild- Businessmen associations in the burgeoning towns in the High middle Ages.

- Guilds Were Beneficial to its Members:
  - Guilds tried to eliminate competition.
  - Provided for the social needs of their members.
- Guilds Such as the One at Southampton Received Special Privileges Such As:
  - They were allowed to purchase and sell the same items in Southampton. If others (exempting traders) were caught in this action, their items would be brought and forfeited to the king of Southampton.

- Guild members were given many privileges such as social needs being accounted for, benefits from the king, etc. However, in addition to this, guild members could also be punished (punishments include being fired from their job, fines, etc.).
- Essentially **ran** the town. King did **not** have as much power.

## SOME RANDOM DATE

- There are **not** many written records of ordinary people.
  - Most records were about and **glorified** the aristocracy.
  - We thus learn about ordinary people **indirectly** through tales
    - We acknowledge that there may be some **bias** and untruth in there. ex: Griselda suddenly knowing how to be a court woman.
    - An example is the Canterbury Tales
      - Through this we learn that the poor were obviously in poverty, but were humble.
      - They had to work.

4/17

## AIM: Was there an Intellectual Revolution during the Middle Ages?

| Perception of Scholars Now  | Perception of Scholars in Middle Ages  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scholars have a general definition in modern-day society; scholars are viewed as people who study a topic and then spread their knowledge to others, for example.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scholars had many responsibilities that they had to attain to.</li> <li>● Scholars had to be clean, focused, and fervent, when regarding their jobs. In addition, scholars had religious duties to fulfill.</li> <li>● Scholars were generally asked the same question repeatedly (such as, "Are you a scholar?").</li> <li>● Scholars were generally men.</li> <li>● Scholars were extremely strict and practical.</li> <li>● Scholars mainly learned through discussion.</li> <li>● Discussion and philosophy are supposed to <b>evoke</b> questioning, but the routine set answers that</li> </ul> |

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | they had to say every morning suggests <b>otherwise</b> . |
|--|---|

- Universities first appeared in Italy, Great Britain, and France.
- Universities later appeared in Spain, Portugal, Germany,
- Spread of universities started moving to the North and West.
- Maps document/ emphasize where exactly universities appear in the world; charts keep track of exact dates universities appeared in an organized manner.

### **Natural Laws, As Perceived by Medieval Scholars**

#### **Peter Abelard, Teacher at the University of Paris**

##### **Abelard and Hugo of St. Victor on Truth and Reason**

- When Abelard says, "it was impossible to believe what was not understood," the word *understood* signifies something already known, or a portion of everyday knowledge.
- Hugo of St. Victor had a religious standpoint, and used religion to account for everything, thus leading him to disagreeing with the statement.

##### **St. Thomas Aquinas on Reason for Matters of Faith**

Aquinas found it hard to prove the existence of God through scientific means. He found it easier to prove through philosophy, theology, the study of divine revelation, and logic. He went on and has 5 substantial points of which are included we cannot create ourselves, thus there must have been something @ the beginning, we strive for perfection, but we cannot achieve it, thus there is a body of perfection known as God, etc.

4/20

#### **AIM: Philosophers/ Alchemists**

- The name given to alchemists was philosopher
  - Medieval alchemists were after the philosopher's stone.
- Jones believes that we generally view the Middle Ages in a **derogatory** manner, and thus see them as backwards in terms of scientific accomplishment.
  - This notion and stereotype is false.
    - Roger Bacon was far **ahead** of his time. He discovered light has the whole rainbow spectrum within it, how to make and use a

telescope during the Middle Ages and was far ahead of his time.  
This was way **before** Newton and Galileo.

- Gold was seen as the **epitome** of perfection
  - Gold was **not** mutable and could not change. Thus it was something to **strive** for. Alchemists believed that everything in nature was striving to become gold and they were just **accelerating** the process.
  - Gold would give eternal life
- **Transmutation-** The changing of a lesser metal into other types of metals.
  - Alchemists tried to pursue the elixir of life.
    - They wanted to **restore** mankind to their position before the fall (before the eviction of Adam and Eve out of paradise)
    - This would make mankind **immortal**.
- Medieval doctors saw illnesses and disease as not having enough health.
  - Galen's theory of the humors included four humors– Black bile, phlegm, yellow bile, and blood.
  - A typical medical examination would involve the taking of pulse, the letting of **blood** if there was signs of a fever, a uroscopy, etc.
    - The doctor would actually feel and taste the urine.
- Medieval medicine comprised of outdoor medicine from plants and herbs.
  - Monasteries served as **hubs** that helped care for the sick.
- Medieval map was a **mappa!** IT was not a MAP! It served as history, and explanation of **religion**; mariners had perfectly good **accurate** maps of their own.
- Medieval architects improved on their design of structures in the time period.
  - Changes from pure Romanesque structure to a **Gothic** structure which allows for bigger windows and thus a brighter room and congregation.
  - Light, thinner, and can have walls of glass as they have flying buttresses.
    - Canterbury Cathedral
- **THEY KNEW THE WORLD WAS ROUND.**
  - Church persecution of Columbus was an entire **myth** fantasized by the writer Washington Irving when he was writing an “objective” biography of Columbus.

- The Church **encouraged** experimentation.
- The Church were the only ones literate at that time– they were the driving **force** behind science.

4/21

**AIM:** What was the nature of medieval politics?

- The Anglo-Saxon king Edward the Confessor **dies** without a successor.
  - Leads to a power **struggle**- the Anglo-Saxon assembly nominates Harold
    - 4 kings brawl it out with the main two being Harold and William
    - Harald, king of the Norwegian Vikings launches the **first** attack
      - Harold has to travel all the way from the South of England to the North in a journey of **185** miles in **4** days.
        - Has a bloody and **violent** battle @ Stamford Bridge
      - William the Conqueror launches a **surprise** attack
        - Harold has to **travel** all the way back to the South, greatly **lessened** in number.
          - William the Conqueror decisively **defeats** Harold at the battle of Hastings, killing Harold.
            - Huge political and cultural implications- most of the English ruling class is **gone** due to these two disastrous battles.
            - Language of the ruling and business class is now **French** and there is a transition from Old English to Middle English. There is Norman **domination**.
            - Parleying is kept (the meeting between the king and people with vested commercial interests)
              - Foundation for modern England
            - Institutes **tighter** control by the king, something that would increase with his successors.
              - This culminated with King **John** after the failed crusades, and war.
                - Unfair taxation led to rebellion by the

**aristocracy** and the official recognition of **Magna Carta** (800th birthday this year)!

- The stuff on Hastings is all **documented** on the Bayeux Tapestry
  - Note that the last scene is **lost**
  - This is not a tapestry, it is a 230 ft long embroidered cloth

4/22

### **FUN FUN FUN AIM: How does Hollywood portray the Middle Ages?**

The name of the Rose 1986 "They believed in God, but traded with the Devil"

Religion is emphasized. Has a very somber and ominous atmosphere. Shows chaos and unpredictability of the Medieval Times.

A Knight's Tale, 2001 "He will rock you"

Sounds like a football game with the wave, the "he will rock you" chant, and the random dancing. Cheerful and bright.

Monty Python, 1974

This is actually very historically accurate. Based off mythical King Arthur, the Black Knight fiercely defends his territory against the King. The people show respect. Reverence for the king is very emphasized ;) HINT HINT. (This is sarcasm if you didn't get it.) Also, don't forget the horse!

4/23

### **Aim: How was the Black Death Viewed by People at the Time?**

#### Who To Blame?

Armies: Moved frequently, lived in squalid conditions, lived in areas that contained plague. 1346 Mongols came in with their Khanate golden hordes after conquering China which is reputed to have had the plague in (1313?) They lobbed bodies inflicted with the plague at enemies and attack Italy and Constantinople.

Lords Visiting Their Various Manors: Lived in rural areas, where animals can spread bubonic plague.

Merchants: Encounter others when trading → Spread of plague.

Pilgrims: Pilgrims also constantly traveled on pilgrimages which could have spared the bubonic plague (for example, Mansa Musa made a pilgrimage to Mecca from Great Zimbabwe).

Population Density:

- High population, thus dirty conditions, and poverty was typical in cities that had plague. However, it is important to notice that cities outside of major trade routes were also infected with the plague, showing that population density may not necessarily correlate with the plague.

**Links:**

[PDF version](#)

**If you have a question and don't want to use FB to discuss it, visit Jonathan's IRC  
Medieval music**

**Magna Carta Song:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XTWQzF1027I>