

**Bhavesh Shah, Ibnul Jahan, Tim Wang, and Jonathan Wong**

## **DARK AGES**

### **Index**

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

### **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

#### **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 was elected 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?

#### 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 include that the West believed Jesus to be no lesser than God Himself, the West believed in iconoclasm, the East allowed marriage for 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.

### **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 (thus, Euro-feudalism)
- Political chaos & invasions- invaded by Muslims, Visigoths, Magyars, and Vikings.

### **Feudalism**

- Lords offer 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.
- Thus, 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 of sufficiently able

MORE STUFF WILL BE ADDED FROM THE WORKSHEET-JONATHAN!!!

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.
    - 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 -->

//Jonathan - I'll create these pages later. Swift Comment, Javascript Comment

-- 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

#Jonathan - I'll create these pages later. Ruby Comment

### **PDF version**

**Web Version- available mirrors will be just USA, Jonathan Wong or Bhavesh Shah**

### **Audio Version**

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