

CLAS 205 : Medieval Society Winter 2017

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Reading 1 : The Grandeur of Rome

Overview

Notes

Question

Reading 7 : The Raids of the Northmen

Overview

- In the 9th, 10th centuries, Arabs from the South, Northmen from Scandinavia and Magyars from the Eastern Steppe plagued the towns of Europe (England, France, Low Countries)

Notes

The Early Raids of the Northmen, 834 -859

- Northmen pillaged Nantes in 834, killing the bishop and clergy
- Northmen pillaged along the Garonne until Toulouse
- With 100 ships, the Northmen assailed Paris after being unopposed. Charles the Bald gave them 7000lbs of (coin, resources) for them to leave. They did, but pillaged all the way to the coast
- Danish pirates pillaged Nantes in 853-854 pillaged the city of Nantes, chateau of Blois before being routed at Orleans. Routed by the bishop of Orleans and Chartres
- Tried to pillage Poitiers in 855 but were defeated by Aquitanians
- Pillaged Orleans in 856
- Pillaged along the Rhone in 859, settling on the island of Camargue. Ravaged up until Valence. Travelled to Italy afterward

The Siege of Paris, 885

- Sigfred, leader of the Danes, assailed Paris with 700 ships in 885
- Count Odo led the defence of Paris
- After the first day of fighting, the town's tower was damaged and repaired
- There was a plague inside the city. Count Odo went to seek Charles, the Frankish Emperor for help
- Count Odo came back with Emperor Charles the Fat. Charles allowed the Northmen to have Sens and gave them 700lbs of silver.

Question

Did the cities meet the Viking raids with any type of resistance? Who led the resistance in Paris? What role did ordinary townspeople play in the defense of Paris? How did Emperor Charles the Fat choose to deal with the attackers?

- Certain cities did, but the reading seems to suggest they pillaged most towns unopposed.
- Count Odo was the leader of the Parisian resistance during the Siege
- Ordinary townspeople helped repair the tower that was consistently damaged by the Northmen
- Emperor Charles fought them, but also used bargaining, giving them coinage and land.

Reading 8 : The Magyar Raids

Overview

- The attacks of the Magyars/Hungarians were the last barbarian raids on Europe
- Passage written by Flodoard, a canon of Reims, France

Notes

- King Berengar led the Magyars to pillage the Italian city of Pavia in 924
- Only 200 souls remained. 44 churches and 2 bishops were killed
- The invaders were paid off with 8 measures of silver

- The Magyars then crossed the Alps, were routed by Rudolf II so they entered Gothia. A plague in Gothia killed many
- In 933, the Magyars divided into three with one attacking Italy and another attacking Henry's Germany. With help of Bavaria, Saxony, Henry cut almost 36000 down
- In 955, King Otto went to fight the Magyars and won. Via alliances with the Sarma-tians, Bohemians, Lotharingians, they were almost annihilated.

Question

How far-ranging were the Hungarian incursions and what impact did they have on towns? Why did towns act as magnets for the invaders? Did towns or townspeople have anything to do with their defeat?

- The incursions reached into France, Germany and Italy.
- Towns act as magnets because they were not as well defened as cities while also containing vast resources to support the local population.
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