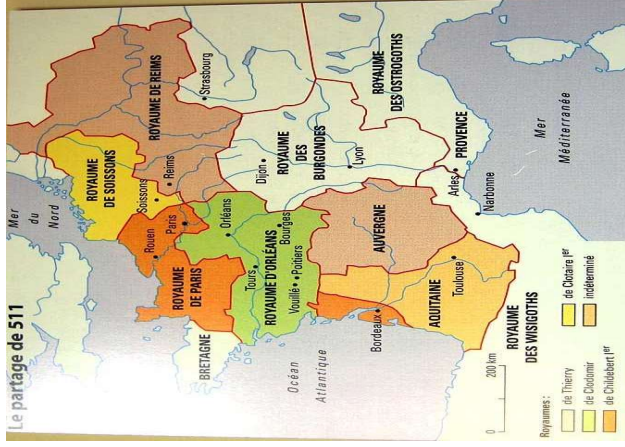


Government Structures of Europe – The Franks



Europe – Consolidation of Kingdoms

- Clovis divided his empire amongst his sons upon his death in 511
 - These heirs fought with each other **over territory**
 - Clovis' heirs spent so much time fighting, instead of governing they were called the "Do-Nothing" kings
 - **Destabilized** the empire
 - Most governing was left to officials, called ***mayors of the palace***
 - Basically ruled the kingdoms



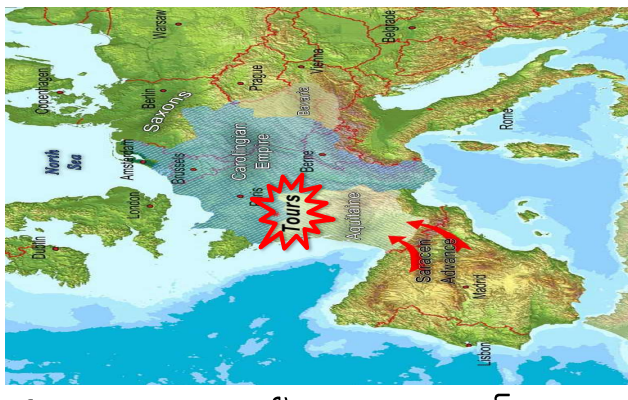
Europe – Consolidation of Kingdoms

- In 481, King Clovis was a member of the Merovingian family, which belonged to a **Germanic** group called the **Franks**
 - He conquered parts of France, Germany and the Low Countries
- Clovis found that he could not rule this large area without the **support** of the **Christian Church**
 - He **converted to Christianity** in 496
 - His Merovingian heirs would rule until 751



Europe – Consolidation of Kingdoms

- One mayor of the palace was able to make his position **hereditary**
 - Charles Martel was one of the heirs to this title
 - Charles Martel was an able official, but not a king
 - In 732, he gained the favor of the Christian Church by stopping the Muslim advance into Europe, at the **Battle of Tours**
 - He also gained the favor of Frankish nobles
- He also supported the conversion of other Northern Europeans to Christianity

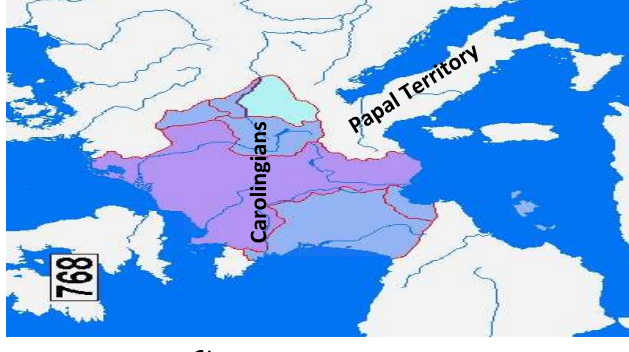


Europe – Consolidation of Kingdoms



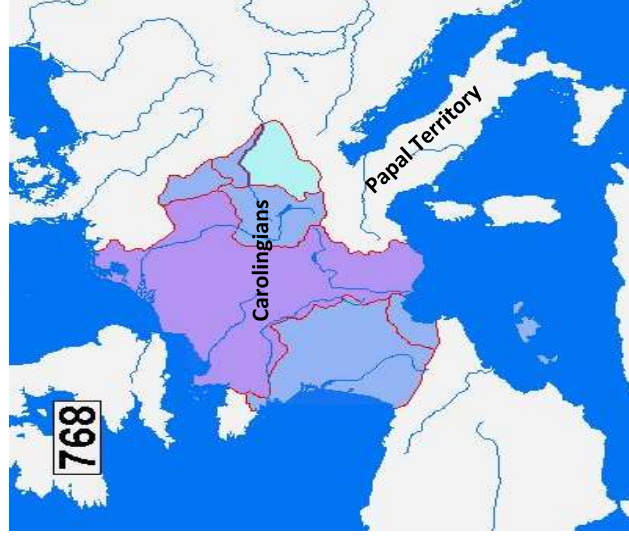
- The Merovingian kings continued to **rule ineffectively**
 - Church **feared** further **advancement** into Europe, by the **Muslims**
- Charles Martel's son, and mayor of the palace, Pepin III (the Short), had a strong **alliance** with the **Church**, and the **Pope**
 - Eventually, becomes the **Frankish King** with **Papal**, or the Pope's, **approval**
 - Start of the **Carolingian Dynasty**

Europe – Consolidation of Kingdoms



- During Pepin's reign, the Lombards, began to **threaten Frankish and Papal territory**
 - The Pope appealed to the Byzantines for help but they were fighting off their own invaders
 - Pepin appealed to Pepin, and gave his **blessing** to **Pepin's kingdom**, and his eventual heirs
 - Pepin would drive out the Lombards, and **split their territory** between the Franks and the Pope

Europe – Consolidation of Kingdoms



- New Church lands became the **Papal States**
- Due to Church support, Pepin and his heirs (**Carolingians**), would **gain power in Europe**
- An alliance with the Franks, meant the Pope had **less reliance on Byzantine protection**

Europe – Consolidation of Kingdoms

- Pepin would die in 768 and his son, Charlemagne, would **become king**
- Charlemagne was able to **expand his Frankish Empire by conquering other Germanic kings**
- Due to **alliance with the Church**, Charlemagne also **pushed/forced Christianity** on his new subjects



Europe – Consolidation of Kingdoms

- After a local uprising, the **Pope flees Rome**
- **Charlemagne** marched on Rome and **defeated the Pope's enemies**
- Pope would crown **Charlemagne** as **Holy Roman Emperor** in 800
 - A Christian successor to Roman Emperors
- Charlemagne was **wary of the Pope's intentions**
 - He believed that if the Pope had authority to give power, he could take it away



Europe – Consolidation of Kingdoms

- Upon **Charlemagne's death** in 814, the Frankish Empire begins to experience **decline**
 - His son was an ineffective ruler
 - His grandsons would fight for power and territory
- Eventually, the **Treaty of Verdun** would formally divide the Empire into three (3) kingdoms
 - Later to become France and the Holy Roman Empire, and then Germany

