

Church History



Church History

- *Introduction to Church History*
- *The Ancient Church* AD 1st-3rd centuries
- *The Rise of Christendom* AD 4th-5th centuries
- *The Early Middle Ages* AD 6th-10th centuries
- *The Age of Crusades* AD 11th-13th centuries
- *The Renaissance* AD 14th-15th centuries
- *Conquest and Reformation* AD 16th century
- *The Age of Enlightenment* AD 17th-18th centuries
- *The Age of Revolution* AD 19th century
- *The Modern Age* AD 20th century
- *The Postmodern Age* AD 21st century



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- *The Early Middle Ages* AD 6th-10th centuries
 - *The “Dark Ages” Overview*
 - *Flagrant Abuses of Authority: Zeno, Theodoric, and Clovis*
 - *Auctoritas Sacrata Pontificum: Gelasius*
 - *The Rise of the Monk: Benedict, Brendan, and Dennis*
 - *The Politics of Death: Justinian and Columba*
 - *Kingdoms of God*
 - *Streamlining the Church*
 - *European Empires: The Carolingians (part four)*



The Early Middle Ages

- The Frankish Carolingians grew in power
 - 787 The Second Council of Nicaea is convened
 - It was convened by the new Patriarch, Tarasios and—in the only decent action of his reign—the Emperor Constantine VI
 - This council denounced the earlier iconoclasm and brought Rome and Constantinople back together again in relationship and consistent, orthodox worship
 - They also decided 22 other things, including—
 - 1) Churches should follow proper order in the administration of the sacraments
 - 2) All Christians should adopt the Roman way of prayer—*standing*, not *kneeling*
 - 3) Priests may no longer have any wives or mistresses living in their home with them, since this promotes *sexuality*... which is *bad*...



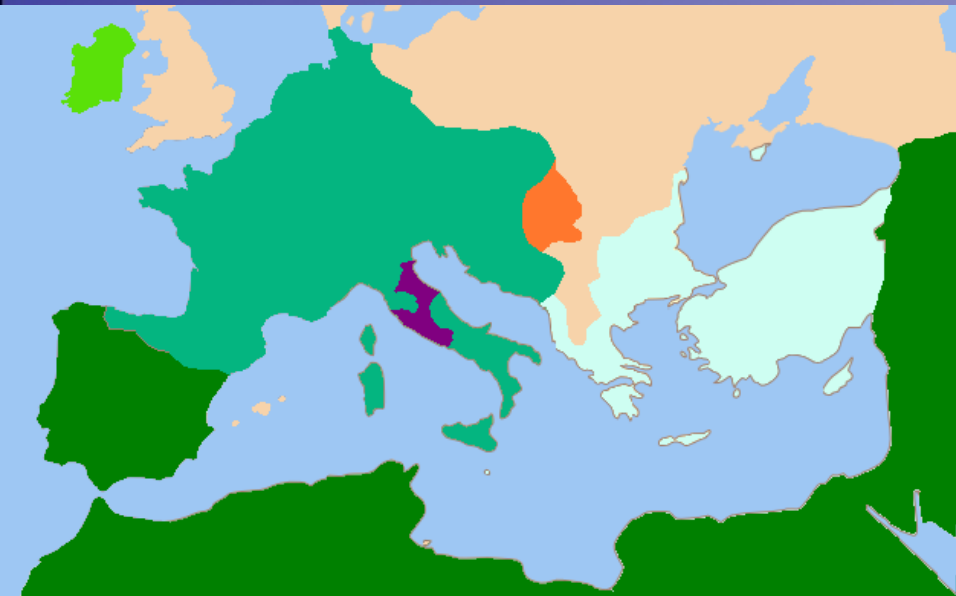
The Early Middle Ages

- The Frankish Carolingians grew in power
 - 787 The Second Council of Nicaea is convened
 - 788- Charlemagne's conquests continued
 - From 788 to 803, Charlemagne conquered (and “converted”) Bavaria, Hungary, and the various Slavic tribes, pushing them down into the territory of the weakening Byzantine Empire
 - In fact, it was from the Slavic Avars that the Carolingians had picked up arguably the most important military invention until the invention of gunpowder—the *stirrup*
 - The stirrup allowed better control of the horse for the mounted knight
 - Most importantly, it allowed the knight to control the horse without the direct use of his hands—affording the opportunity for things like mounted archers and devastating lance and shield charges
 - Within a century of discovering the stirrup, European warfare shifted from infantry-centered to cavalry-centered



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 - **Charlemagne was also able to make some inroads into reconquering Spain from the Moors, though most of the cities changed hands back and forth quite a bit over the years**



The Early Middle Ages

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Actually, the Muslim conquest of Europe (i.e.; Spain) was becoming complicated by this point
 - As is often the case with empires, the Muslim Caliphate was beginning to have internal political problems
 - The Umayyad Dynasty came to power in 661 under Muawiyah I after a civil war ended with the assassination of the previous caliph in Kufa
 - Under the Umayyads, Islamic power spread violently and ruthlessly across three continents and shifted the political power base back to Mecca



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 - But by the mid 8th century, a *new* group was growing in political power within Islam—the Abbasids, back in Kufa
 - The Abbasids played against the Umayyads' ruthlessness against foreigners, offering political alliances and concessions to neighboring kingdoms
 - By 750, the Abbasids had won another civil war and *mostly* taken over, moving their power base a bit north to Baghdad and began attempts at actual *diplomacy* with other kingdoms



The Early Middle Ages

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 - Actually, the Muslim conquest of Europe (i.e.; Spain) was becoming complicated by this point
 - I say “*mostly* taken over” because there were still a few Umayyad caliphs who refused to comply—most notably, those of the Iberian peninsula
 - In 755, Abd al-Rahman I named himself the emir of the newly declared Umayyad Emirate of Córdoba
 - [NOTE: He even went so far as to declare that Córdoba was now the *true* center of the Islamic world]



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 - This made strange bedfellows of the Abbasid caliphs of northern Spain and Charlemagne—
 - *Neither* of them wanted a strong Umayyad presence in Córdoba



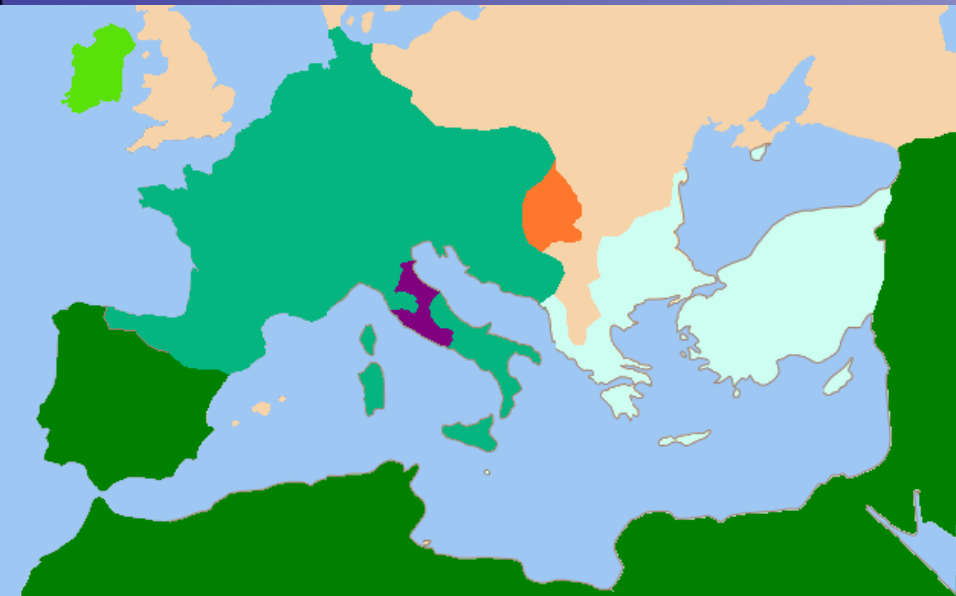
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 - After a generation of occupation of Spain, the Northern caliphs were beginning to see themselves more as Spanish monarchs than Muslim leaders
 - Charlemagne even made envoys to ally the Franks with the highest Abbasid caliph in Baghdad, Harun al-Rashid, not only against the Umayyads in Spain, but also against the Byzantines in Constantinople



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 - Charlemagne was also able to make some inroads into reconquering Spain from the Moors, though most of the cities changed hands back and forth quite a bit over the years
 - **Under Charlemagne, the Frankish kingdom was *exploding* in growth—in fact, in his entire, nearly 50-year reign as king, Charlemagne *never once* lost a battle**
 - And he sent large chunks of the booty won in these campaigns to the Popes in Rome for use in building up the Church



The Early Middle Ages

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - It's worth noting that in many ways, Charlemagne really was an awesome king who loved the Lord
 - He instituted monetary reform by replacing the gold standard with a more workable silver standard, and creating uniform coinage across the breadth of his kingdom



The Early Middle Ages

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 - It's worth noting that in many ways, Charlemagne really was an awesome king who loved the Lord
 - He instituted monetary reform
 - He instituted political reform by having his dukes and counts take a conscious role in improving the lives of their serfs
 - At this point in feudal history, the barons were actively accountable to their counts, the counts were accountable to their dukes, and the dukes were accountable to Charlemagne himself
 - Each level of government was responsible for making sure that the level below it was handling their rule fairly and effectively
 - For the first time in centuries, corruption was being actively rooted out and prosecuted at every level of government, and the everyday life of the peasant improved dramatically



The Early Middle Ages

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 - It's worth noting that in many ways, Charlemagne really was an awesome king who loved the Lord
 - He instituted monetary reform
 - He instituted political reform
 - He instituted educational reform by encouraging the building of schools and training of teachers
 - In fact, not only did he import the greatest of scholars from across Europe to advise his court in matters of law, political theory, science, etc. but he also made sure that his own children and grandchildren were educated to the fullest extent of the scholars' ability
 - [Remember: up until now, learning such as this had been relegated to the work of scholars, and even literacy was frowned upon by the Church, since it made people think on their own—to use modern vernacular, it was all “geek” stuff]



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 - In his later years, even Charlemagne himself tried to learn to read and write, practising every night in bed before he went to sleep
 - In particular, it was his fervent hope to someday be able to actually read the very words of Scripture for himself



The Early Middle Ages

- Funky little teaching moment²—
 - In fact, Charlemagne was the king who brought the Irish monks' *miniscule* script into common usage throughout Europe
 - If you'll remember, the classical way of writing was the use of *majuscule* script (i.e.; all capital letters)—



Uox clamans in deserta
to panna uiam dñi rec
tas facies emittens
Fuit iohannis in deserto.
habens exprobandum
baptismum paenitentiae
In remissionem peccatorum



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 - But Charlemagne found that difficult to read, and when he found out about the *miniscule* script, he ordered that *that* be used instead—



quante si quantu maria paludes q;
p̄munt . quantū q; t̄re s̄ci uasta re-
gio distendit̄ cogitatione subtrahē-
ris uix angustissima habitandi ho-
minib; relinquet̄ area. In hoc q̄ mi-
nimo puncti quodā puncto circū



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 - But Charlemagne found that difficult to read, and when he found out about the *miniscule* script, he ordered that *that* be used instead—but using a *combination* of upper-case and lower-case letters to differentiate words more clearly—



*Juuenis doctus ad bella
Maxima populis p̄dicans
Colligit fugens cū tantum*

- Let's all say, "Thank you, Charlemagne..."



The Early Middle Ages

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 - He instituted monetary reform
 - He instituted political reform
 - He instituted educational reform
 - He instituted religious reform by encouraging the standardization of music performed in worship
 - Taking to heart the push for "Catholicism" in the Church, he wrote it into law that all churches must follow the *Roman* form of chants and liturgy within their services, so that every Christian everywhere worships God the exact same way, working with Pope Leo III to standardize things throughout Europe



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 - 788- Charlemagne's conquests continued
 - 800 Charlemagne was crowned *Emperor*
 - Not everyone liked how chummy Charlemagne was getting with Pope Leo III
 - In 799, the family of his predecessor, Pope Hadrian, ambushed Leo one night and tried to rip out his tongue and blind him so that he would be unfit for office, then accused him of adultery and perjury
 - Charlemagne took the Pope in and protected him, then travelled to Rome himself in order to judge and exile his accusers



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(yes, *knelt*—since he'd never actually recognized the Second Council of Nicaea as valid, what with them not inviting any *Frankish* bishops to join in the deliberations)



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- On Christmas Day, as Charlemagne knelt to pray in St. Peter's Basilica, Pope Leo anointed him as the new Emperor of the Romans
 - [NOTE: Until his dying day, Charlemagne swore that *he had no idea* that Leo was going to do that—in fact, that if he *had* known, he *never* would have come to St. Peter's that day]
 - The Pope argued that when Odoacer had deposed Romulus Augustus back in 476, he hadn't really abolished the Western Empire, but rather just forced it to shrink into the Eastern one
 - Now that there was finally a strong enough Christian leader available, the Western Empire can and should re-establish itself

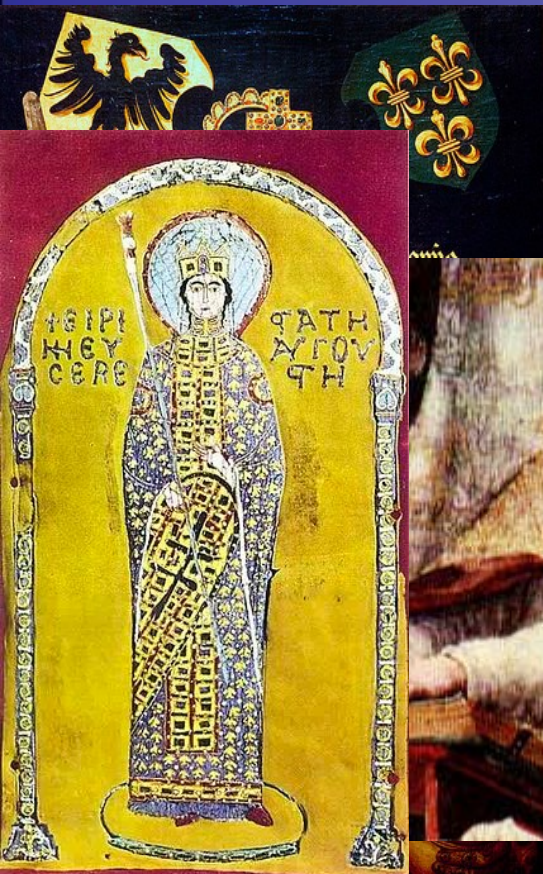


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- **Politically and historically, this was huge**
 - Not only did this suddenly give Charlemagne an immense amount of political clout in Europe, but it also upped the beleaguered Pope's credibility, too—apparently, *he* had the authority to decide when the Roman Empire could start up again, *and* crown the *Emperor*
 - On top of that, the Pope declared that, since the only person sitting on an imperial throne at the time was a *woman*, then there *was* no Emperor *at all* any more, and Constantine VI deserved a *legitimate* successor
 - Irene didn't take that well, and sharp political divisions continued to grow



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 - For instance, in defiance of the Second Council of Nicaea, Charlemagne had—like all Franks—remained an iconoclast [Remember, he didn't even recognize the *authority* of the Council that denounced the earlier iconoclasm]



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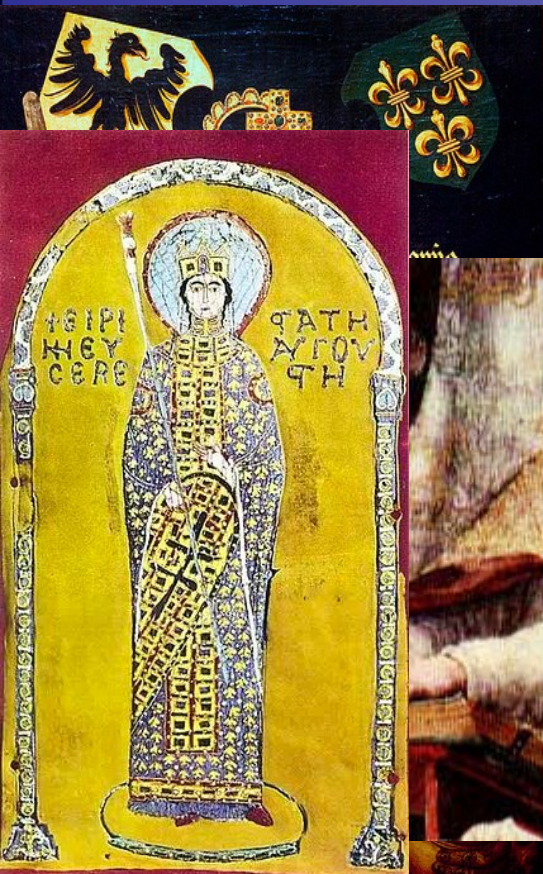
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 - Thus, Pope Leo (though he had technically signed off on the Council) bowed to the Emperor's wishes and was officially... *ambivalent* about iconoclasm
 - Irene protested, but there wasn't much that she could do about any of it



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813 Charlemagne crowned his son, Louis

- He named Louis (who was known as Louis the Pious because he was a deeply religious ruler) not only King of the Franks, but also co-Emperor of the Romans

- A few months later, Charlemagne died from complications of a respiratory infection at the age of 72, having fundamentally changed his world

- There's an open, ongoing debate as to whether or not Charlemagne was a *good* man or a *bad* man, but he was definitely a *great* man

- For the first time in centuries, Europe was almost entirely united, and in a relative state of peace...
...which wouldn't last long...

