

# ***Church History***



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



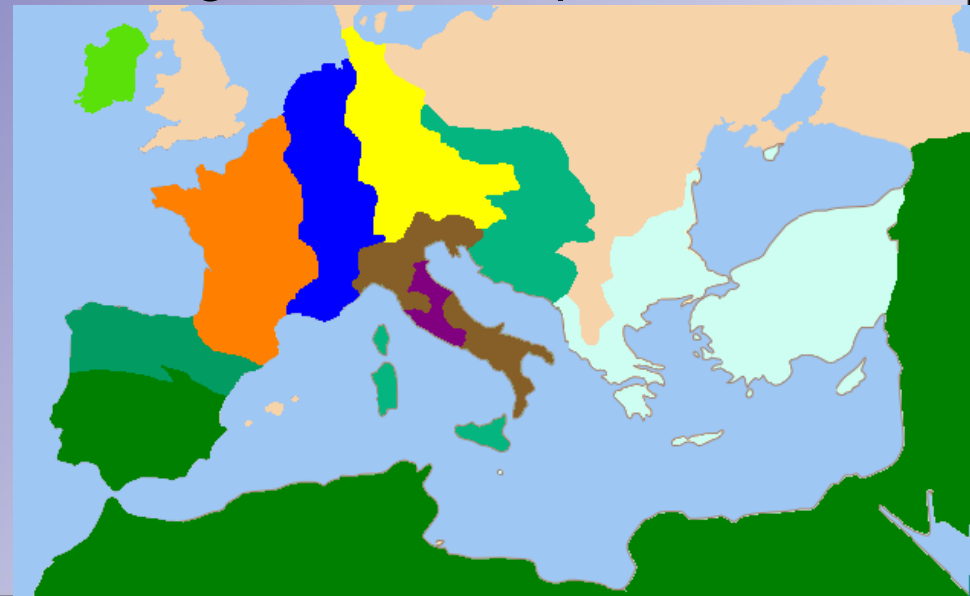
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- *The Early Middle Ages* AD 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> centuries
  - *The “Dark Ages” Overview*
  - *Flagrant Abuses of Authority: Zeno, Theodoric, and Clovis*
  - *Auctoritas Sacrata Pontificum: Gelasius*
  - *The Rise of the Monk: Benedict, Brendan, and Dennis*
  - *The Politics of Death: Justinian and Columba*
  - *Kingdoms of God*
  - *Streamlining the Church*
  - *European Empires: The Carolingians*
  - *European Empires: The Northmen*
  - *Centuries of In-Fighting*



# ***The Early Middle Ages***

- Success always breeds discontent
  - 817 Louis the Pious split his kingdom
    - After barely surviving an accident on his way back to his palace from a church service, Charlemagne's son, Louis, decided to set up the line of succession for his Empire
      - His eldest son, Lothar, received the seat of power of the Empire, calling it Lotharingia
      - His second son, Pepin, received the wealthy lands of Burgundy
      - His third son, Louis, received Bavaria
      - His nephew, Bernard, received Italy
      - ...and quickly rebelled against the Empire



# ***The Early Middle Ages***

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - Louis immediately brought the whole military might of the Empire to bear against Bernard, who then immediately surrendered
  - Louis condemned him to death for treason, then commuted his sentence to a mere public blinding ...from which Bernard died two days later, in utter agony



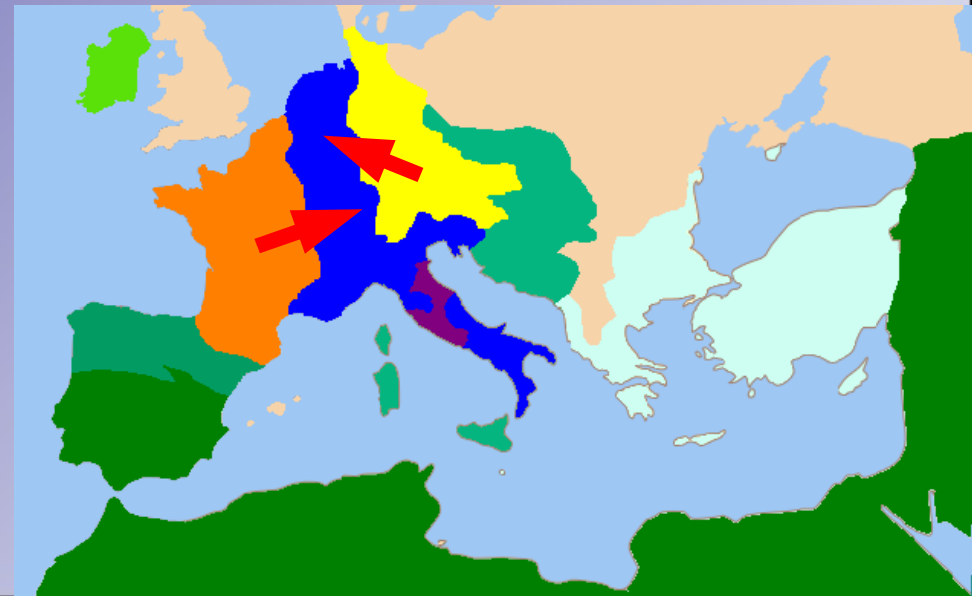
# *The Early Middle Ages*

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - Louis immediately brought the whole military might of the Empire to bear against Bernard, who then immediately surrendered
  - Louis condemned him to death for treason
  - Louis felt so bad about that (being a pious man) that he performed public penance before the Pope
- This is important for two reasons:
  - 1) It greatly reduced Louis and his authority in the eyes of the Empire's populace
  - 2) It created a precedent for later kings to do the same thing
    - This gave great power to the Pope, demonstrating his power over even the Emperor
    - This also gave license to the secular kings to do whatever they wanted, so long as they did penance later on



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      - So Bernard's Italy was then given to Lothar as part of his self-named kingdom of Lotharingia ...which led the other two brothers to begin a series of revolts



# *The Early Middle Ages*

- Success always breeds discontent

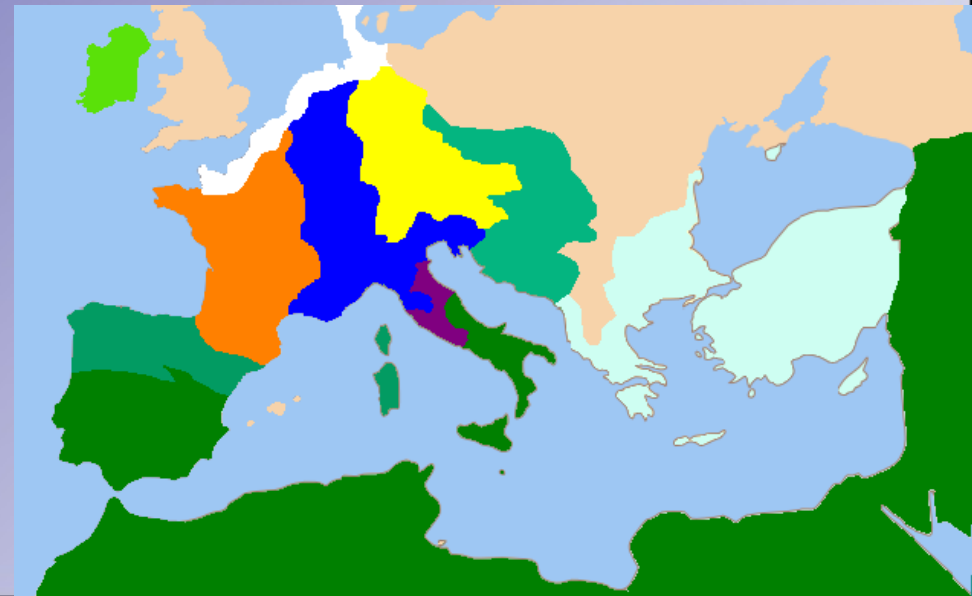
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840

Louis the Pious split his kingdom

Louis died, and Europe bled

- The Vikings began to attack Northern Europe less for booty and more for land, taking large chunks of what is now France and Germany
- The Muslims began to attack Italy and surrounding areas
  - In 844, they even sacked the city of Rome itself but they were pushed back out within two decades or so—though they remained a presence in southern Italy and Sicily



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817

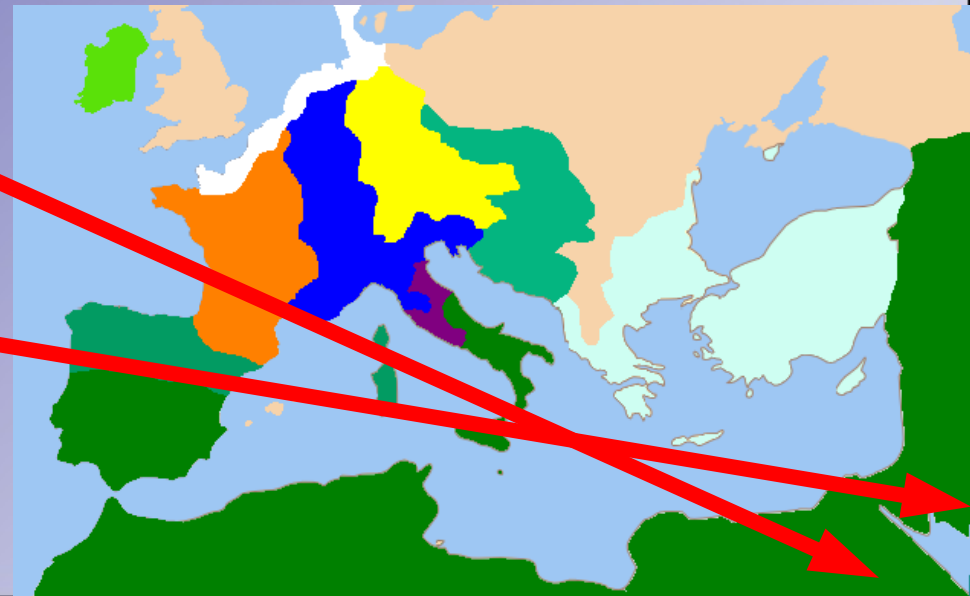
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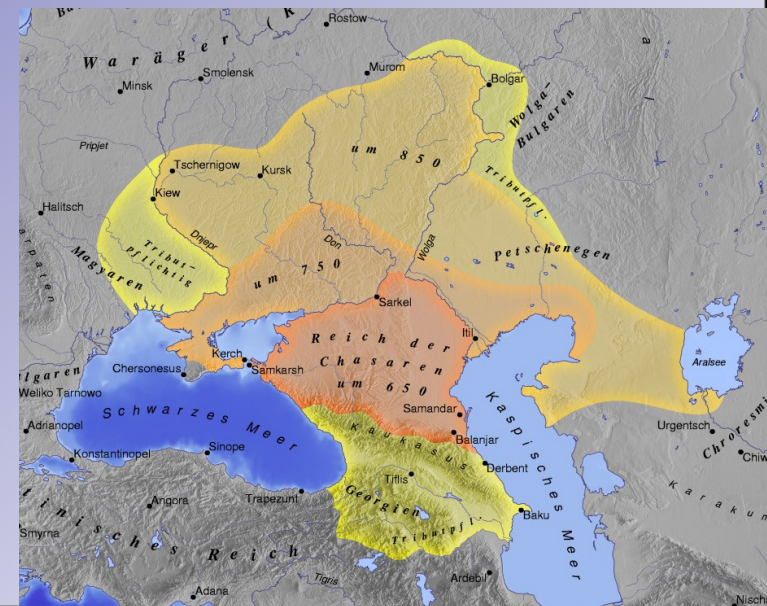
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- **NOTE:** During this time in history, the caliphs successfully destroyed the last remnants of Christianity in their areas—the Copts in Egypt, and the Eastern Church on the Arabian peninsula



# *The Early Middle Ages*

- Even the Church was mired in in-fighting
  - 860± Cyril and Methodius rose to prominence
    - Two brothers from Thessalonica, the monks became major missionaries to the East
      - In fact, Byzantine Emperor Michael III and Patriarch Photios asked them to lead a mission to the growing Khazar Khaganate (which afforded religious freedom to all within its borders) to convince them to suppress the expansion and acceptance of Judaism
        - As a result, the Jewish king of the Khazars declared Judaism the new state religion



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- Even the Church was mired in in-fighting
  - 860± Cyril and Methodius rose to prominence
    - Two brothers from Thessalonica, they became major missionaries to the East
    - But the brothers did manage to create a new alphabet for the Slavs in Eastern Europe
      - Called “Glagolitic” (after the Slavic word, “*glagolŭ*,” meaning “to speak”), the alphabet allowed the Bible to be translated into the Slavic language for the first time:
      - It also provided the basis for the modern “Cyrillic” alphabet, still used in Eastern Europe and Russia today:



Это Кевин что-то писал на Русском языке. Довольно удивительным, не правда ли?



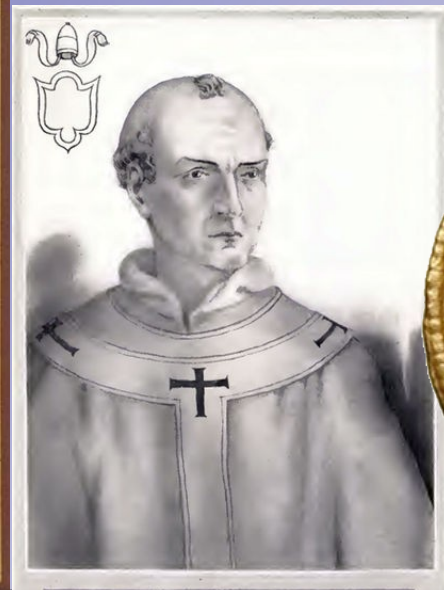
# *The Early Middle Ages*

- Even the Church was mired in in-fighting
  - 860± Cyril and Methodius rose to prominence
  - 869 Fourth Council of Constantinople was held
    - Patriarch Ignatius of Constantinople had politically opposed the uncle of the young Byzantine Emperor, Michael III
      - So, in retribution, Michael had deposed him as Patriarch and put layman Photios in his place
      - So, in retribution, Pope Nicholas exerted his authority and *reinstated* Ignatius (in name only)
      - So, in retribution, Photios exerted *his* authority and excommunicated the Pope



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- Even the Church was mired in in-fighting
  - 860± Cyril and Methodius rose to prominence
  - 869 Fourth Council of Constantinople was held
    - Patriarch Ignatius of Constantinople had politically opposed the uncle of the young Byzantine Emperor, Michael III
    - When Basil I murdered Michael and took the throne in 867, he really deposed Photios
    - So new Pope Adrian II held a Council in Constantinople, officially condemning Photios
      - They also forced all Christians to venerate images of Christ, Mary, the Bible, and the angels



# The Early Middle Ages

- Even the Church was mired in in-fighting
  - 860± Cyril and Methodius rose to prominence
  - 869 Fourth Council of Constantinople was held
  - 879 Fourth Council of Constantinople was held
    - Under new Pope John VIII, Rome continued to pressure Emperor Basil I, increasingly treating him like a Catholic puppet
      - So, when Ignatius died in 879, Basil held another Council in Constantinople, officially reinstating Photios as Patriarch
        - They also officially condemned the "*Filioque*" clause that Rome had added to the Creed



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    - Under new Pope John VIII, Rome continued to pressure Emperor Basil I, increasingly treating him like a Catholic puppet
      - Interestingly, Pope John VIII sent a letter to the Council, affirming the appointment of Photios and stating that Rome agreed and considered the “*Filioque*” clause to be a heresy that needed to be eradicated—but the letter was a total forgery



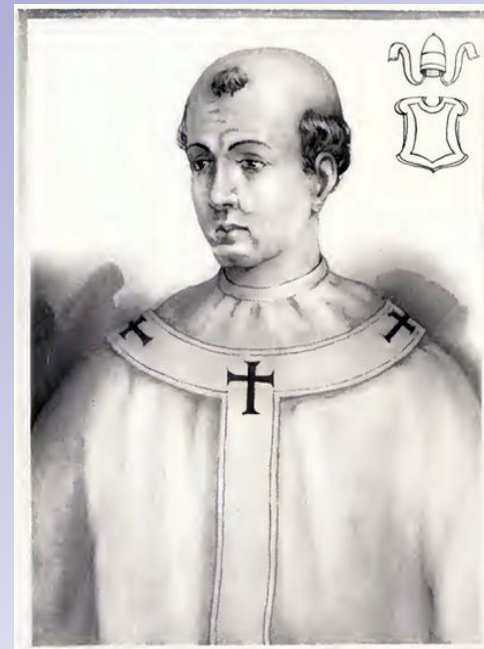
# *The Early Middle Ages*

- Even the Church was mired in in-fighting
  - 860± Cyril and Methodius rose to prominence
  - 869 Fourth Council of Constantinople was held
  - 879 Fourth Council of Constantinople was held
    - To this day, The Roman Catholic Church considers the Council of 869 to be the only “Fourth Council of Constantinople,” and condemns Photios
    - To this day, the Eastern Orthodox Church considers the Council of 879 to be the only “Fourth Council of Constantinople,” and reveres Photios as a saint



# ***The Early Middle Ages***

- Even the Church was mired in in-fighting  
897
  - The Cadaver Synod was held
  - New Pope Stephen VI was unpopular with the general populace—unlike his predecessor, Formosus (who had only been unpopular with the secular authorities)
  - (NOTE: Formosus had crowned the Italian Lambert of Spoleto Emperor, only to turn around the next year and crown the stronger Frankish Arnulf of Carinthia Emperor instead—who died soon after, leaving Italy again in the hands of the Spoleto dynasty)



# *The Early Middle Ages*

- Even the Church was mired in in-fighting  
897 The Cadaver Synod was held
  - New Pope Stephen VI was unpopular with the general populace—unlike his predecessor, Formosus (who had only been unpopular with the secular authorities)
  - So to bolster his popularity, Stephen decided to publicly vilify his predecessor
    - He had Formosus' nine-month-old corpse exhumed, dressed in Papal robes, and placed on a mock throne
    - A deacon spoke for Formosus as Stephen accused him of several trumped-up (and false) charges
      - Formosus was condemned, and all of his Papal actions were overturned
      - Formosus' corpse was stripped, his fingers were chopped off, and the body was burned, then tossed into a mass grave with foreigners
      - Then the body was exhumed *again*, weighted down, and thrown into the Tiber



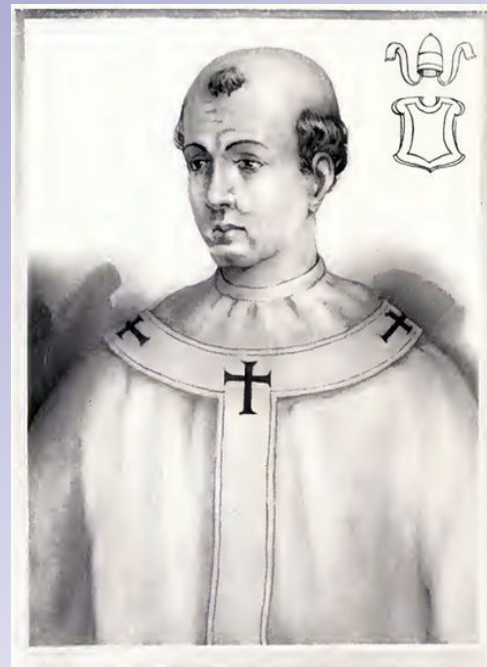
# ***The Early Middle Ages***

- **Even the Church was mired in in-fighting**
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    - New Pope Stephen VI was unpopular with the general populace—unlike his predecessor, Formosus (who had only been unpopular with the secular authorities)
    - So to bolster his popularity, Stephen decided to publicly vilify his predecessor
    - **The public outcry was enormous**
      - Some people even claimed that Formosus' body rose from the Tiber and began working miracles
      - Stephen was thrown into prison—where he was strangled



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    - So to bolster his popularity, Stephen decided to publicly vilify his predecessor
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    - **New Pope Theodorus II annulled the Synod**
      - He had Formosus' body pulled from the river, re-dressed in Papal robes, and then re-buried in St. Peter's



# *The Early Middle Ages*

- Even the Church was mired in in-fighting

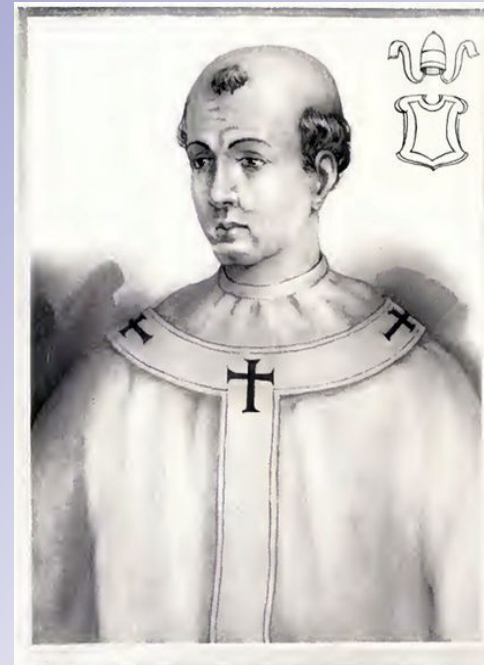
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The Cadaver Synod was held

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New synods confirmed Theodorus' decision

- New Pope John IX held two synods—one in Rome and one in Ravenna
  - The synod in Rome re-affirmed what Theodorus had done, and re-affirmed Formosus and his work as Pope, including reinstating all of the ordinations which he had performed
  - The synod in Ravenna ordered all of the records and documentation from the Cadaver Synod to be burned, and condemned any future trials of corpses



# ***The Early Middle Ages***

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New synods confirmed Theodorus' decision

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**New synod nullified Theodorus' decision**

- **New Pope Sergius III came to power**

- After murdering his two immediate predecessors (Pope Leo V and the Antipope Christopher)

Sergius officially re-affirmed the Cadaver Synod and again condemned Formosus

- Legend says that he re-exhumed the corpse, re-tried Formosus, and then beheaded him



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  - 898 New synods confirmed Theodorus' decision
  - 904 **New synod nullified Theodorus' decision**
    - New Pope Sergius III came to power
    - This period of the Papacy has come to be known by historians as the *Saeculum Obscurum* —the “Dark Age”

