

# ***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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- *Introduction to Church History*
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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 (part 2)*



# *The Early Middle Ages*

- Even the Church was mired in in-fighting
  - 903 New Pope Leo V came to power
    - Considered corrupt, he gave special privileges to Church-friendly leaders (such as that they no longer should have to pay taxes, etc.)
    - Within two months, a cardinal priest
      - NOTE: That's a "hinge" (i.e.; "crucially important") priest within the Catholic hierarchy:
        - Laypeople
        - Deacon (ordained)
        - Priest
          - Pastor ("Parish Priest")
          - Monsignor ("My Lord...")
        - Vicar / Archpriest
        - Bishop
        - Archbishop
        - Cardinal Deacon
        - Cardinal Priest
        - Cardinal Bishop
        - Pope





# *The Early Middle Ages*

- Even the Church was mired in in-fighting
  - 903 New Pope Leo V came to power
    - Considered corrupt, he gave special privileges to Church-friendly leaders (such as that they no longer should have to pay taxes, etc.)
    - Within two months, a cardinal priest in Rome named Christopher forcibly deposed him and had him thrown into prison, declaring himself to be the *real* pope
      - The Catholic Church now considers Christopher to actually be an “antipope”



# The Early Middle Ages

- Even the Church was mired in in-fighting

903

New Pope Leo V came to power

904

New Pope Sergius III came to power by murdering both Leo and Christopher to solidify his power base

- He also re-exhumed Formosus' corpse and re-affirmed the condemnation of the former Pope by the Cadaver Synod of 897
- He also had several affairs, including one that produced a son who would later become known as Pope John XI
- He was also the first Pope to wear the official "Papal tiara" (AKA crown) aping secular kings with his coronation
  - As we said last week, this period of the Papacy has come to be known by historians as the *Saeculum Obscurum*—the "Dark Age"



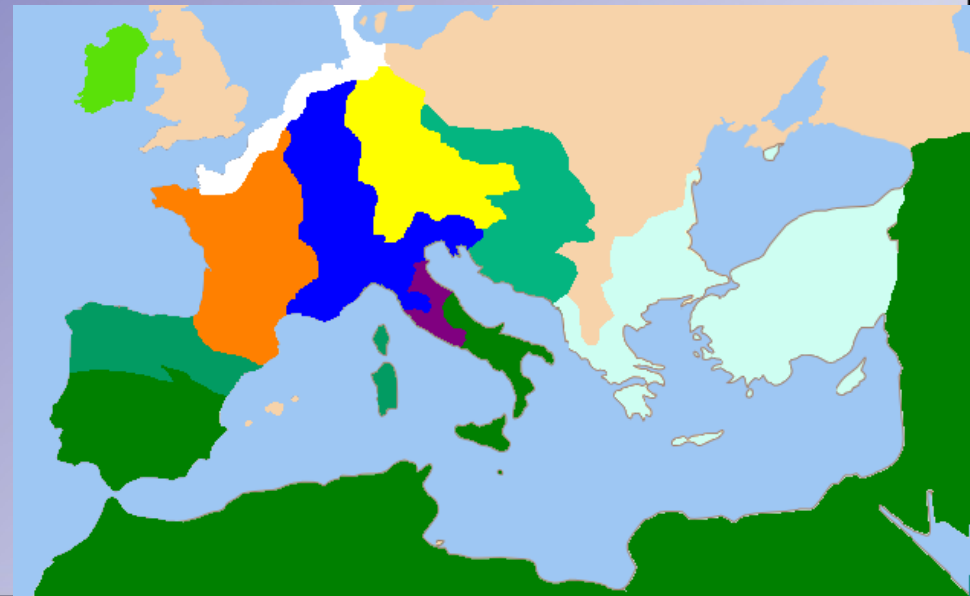
# ***The Early Middle Ages***

- In other world news...

909

- In North Africa, the Mahdi rose to power
- Imam Abu Muhammad Abdullah al-Mahdi Billah (AKA “the Mahdi”—مهدي, or “guided one”) led a revolt against the ruling Abbasid dynasty and established the Fatimid Caliphate (الفاطميون), since the Mahdi claimed the right to rule by being descended from Muhammad’s daughter, Fatimah)

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# *The Early Middle Ages*

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - The title, “Mahdi,” is roughly equivalent in Islam to the term “Messiah” in Judaism (or “Christ” in Christianity), and signifies a great leader who is to come in the future to conquer the Earth once and for all
  - In fact, in the *Hadīth* known as the *Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim*, verse 41:7023, Jesus is said to be coming back with the Mahdi to help him destroy the false Messiahs and unite mankind under the banner of Islam
  - In the *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*, 3:43:656, teacher Abu Hurairah said,

Allah's Apostle [Muhammad] said, “The Hour will not be established until the son of Maryam [Jesus] descends amongst you as a just ruler; he will break the cross, kill the swine, and abolish the Jizya tax. Wealth will be in abundance so that nobody will accept it.”





# *The Early Middle Ages*

- **Funky little teaching moment—**
  - The title, “Mahdi,” is roughly equivalent in Islam to the term “Messiah” in Judaism (or “Christ” in Christianity), and signifies a great leader who is to come in the future to conquer the Earth once and for all
  - **Multiple leaders have claimed to have been “the Mahdi” over the centuries**
    - Abdullah al-Mahdi Billah is at least the *fourth* one that I'm aware of, and other claimants to the title include 19<sup>th</sup> century leaders Alí Muḥammad Shírázī, known as the *Báb* (باب or “the Gate”)—founder of what would ultimately become the Bahá'í Faith—and the Sudanese leader named Muḥammad Aḥmad, who led a siege against the city of Khartoum, and the modern Mahdi named Riaz Ahmed Gohar Shahi, who claimed to have met with Jesus in His home in America, but who has not been seen publicly since 2001



# *The Early Middle Ages*

- In other world news...

909

911

In North Africa, the Mahdi rose to power

The Vikings got a foothold in Europe

- Louis the Pious, the son of Charlemagne, was succeeded in France by his son, Charles the Bald—who was succeeded by his own son, Louis the Stammerer... who was succeeded by his son, Charles the Simple

- The Viking, Hrólfr (AKA "Rollo"), was so much tougher than this pitiful line of in-bred monarchs that Charles the Simple was forced to give him Normandy as his own possession in France





# *The Early Middle Ages*

- In other world news...

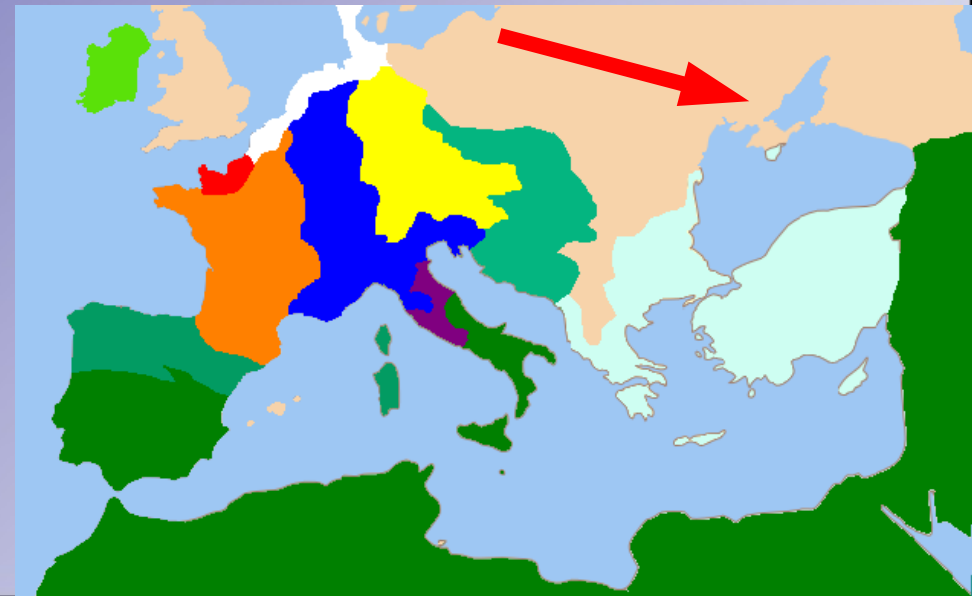
909

911

In North Africa, the Mahdi rose to power

The Vikings got a foothold in Europe

- At around the same time, the Viking Rus' tribe put pressure on the growing Khazar Khaganate (remember them?)
  - The Jewish-led Khaganate that had opened its doors to all religions—an openness that the Catholic Church had tried to send Cyril and Methodius as missionaries to suppress





# *The Early Middle Ages*

- In other world news...

909

In North Africa, the Mahdi rose to power

911

The Vikings got a foothold in Europe

- At around the same time, the Viking Rus' tribe put pressure on the growing Khazar Khaganate from the North, forcing the Turkic Magyar and Viking Varangian peoples to migrate westward into Eastern Europe

- NOTE: In 921, the Abbasid Caliph al-Muqtadir of Baghdad sent a delegation north to study and open trade with the Rus' and other tribes

- The notes made by Ahmad ibn Fadlān teach us a great deal about Viking life and culture



# ***The Early Middle Ages***

- **In other world news...**

909

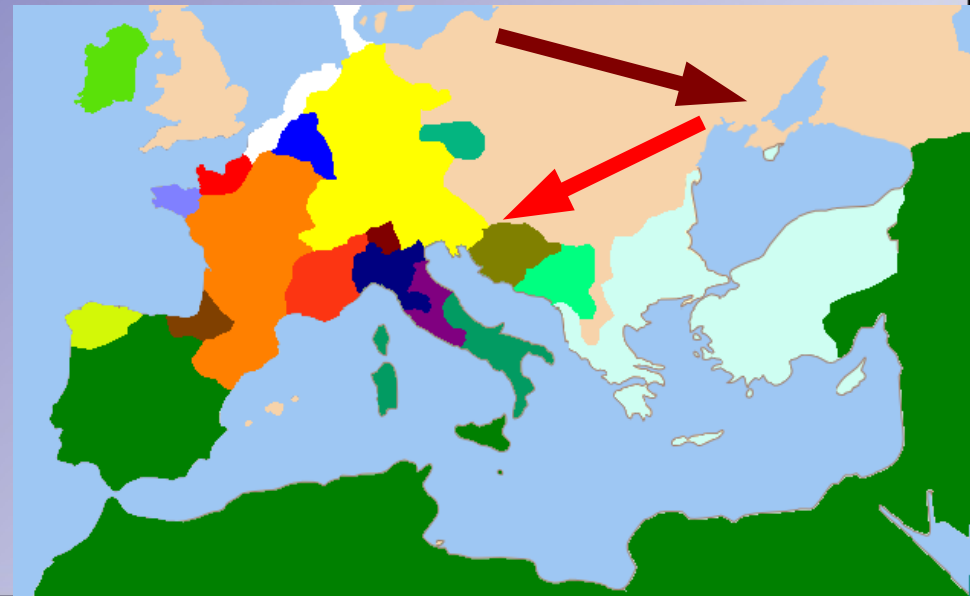
911

In North Africa, the Mahdi rose to power

- **The Vikings got a foothold in Europe**

- At around the same time, the Viking Rus' tribe put pressure on the growing Khazar Khaganate from the North, forcing the Turkic Magyar and Viking Varangian peoples to migrate westward into Eastern Europe

- **But realistically, by this time, Europe was already broken up into multiple petty kingdoms—the very concept of a “Roman Empire” was becoming a joke**



# *The Early Middle Ages*

- In other world news...

909

In North Africa, the Mahdi rose to power

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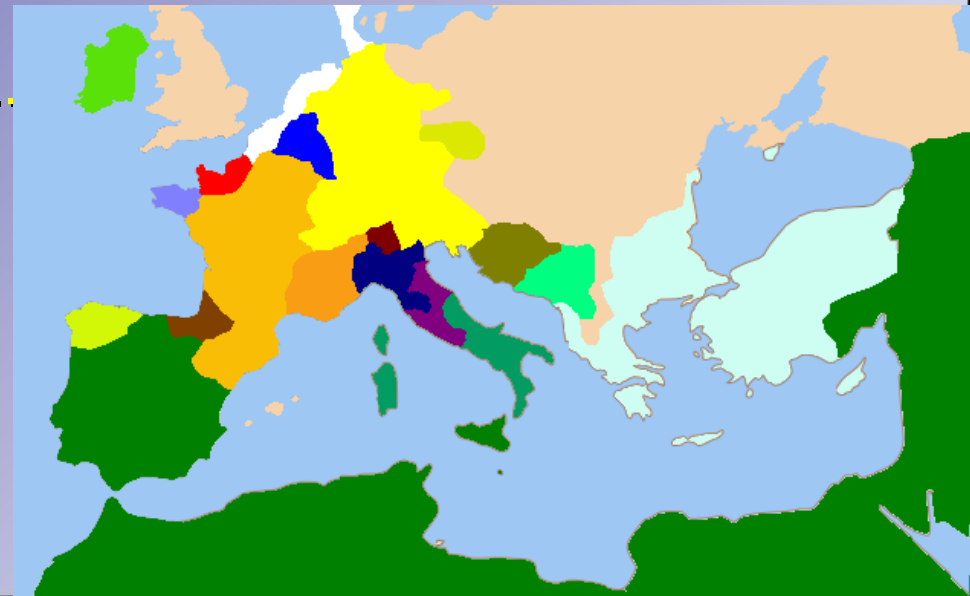
The Vikings got a foothold in Europe

936

Otto I became King of Germany

- One of the first things that he did was to stop the pagan Magyar advance into Europe, earning him the title “Defender of the Faith” from the Pope

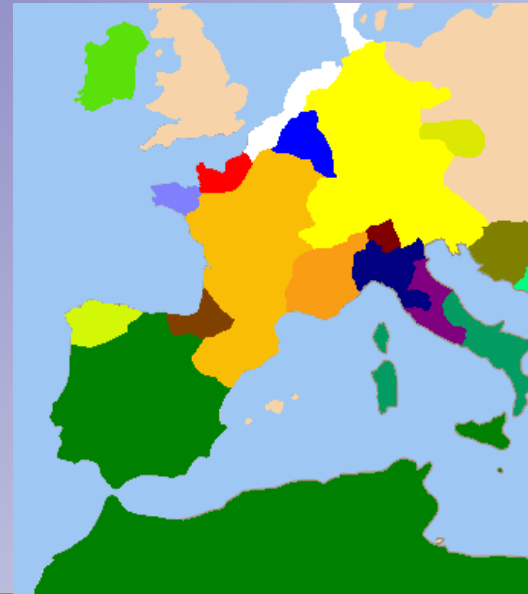
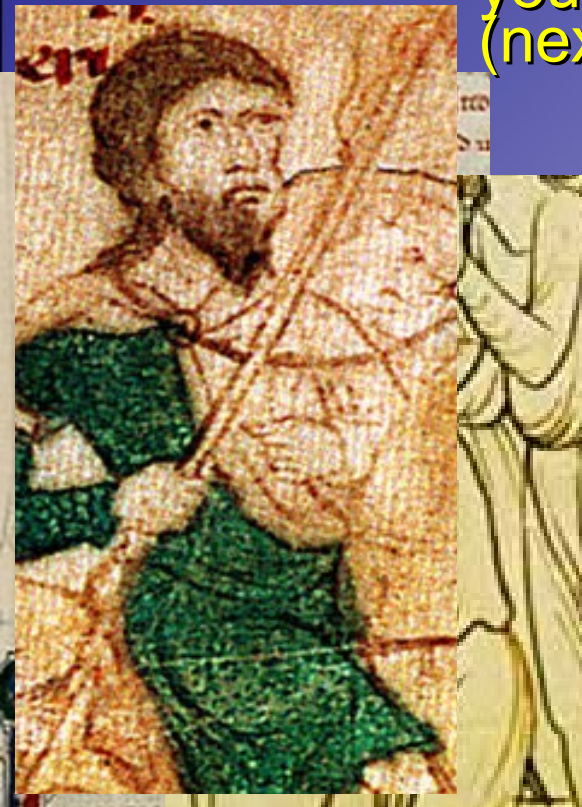
- But his younger brother, Heinrich, desired the throne himself, and led a revolt against Otto...  
...which he summarily lost, fleeing to France...  
...where Otto pursued him, taking over France...  
...and soon,  
Burgundy...  
...and Bohemia...





# ***The Early Middle Ages***

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - Once upon a time, King Berengar ruled Italy (and was technically the Emperor of the Roman Empire—but remember, that's kind of a joke by now)
  - He was deposed and murdered by a faction which included his own grandson, also named Berengar
  - So Lothair II, son of the powerful Duke of France, became the new King of Italy, and was married to the young and beautiful Princess Adelaide of Burgundy (next in line of the rulers of Italy) to cement the deal



# *The Early Middle Ages*

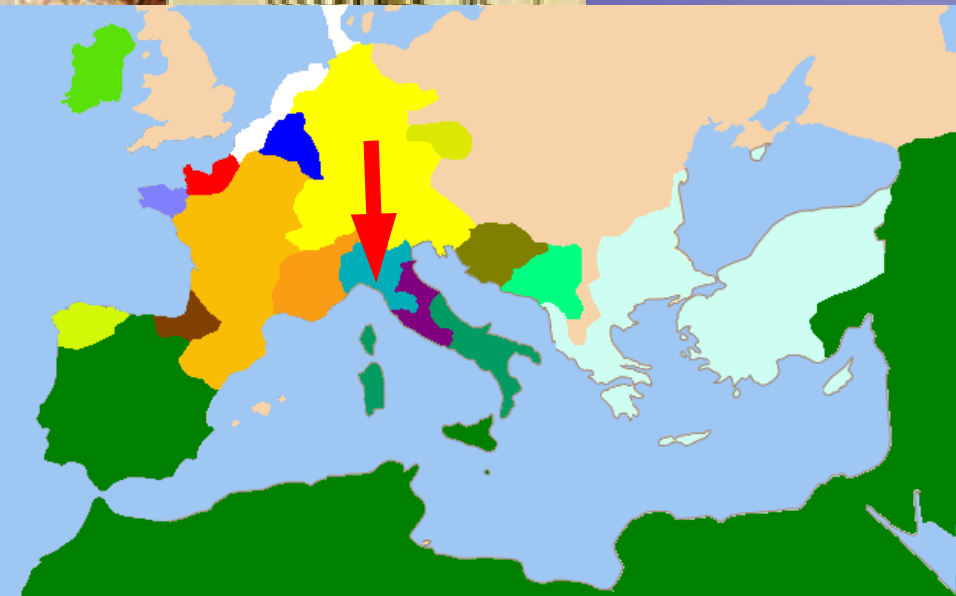
- Funky little teaching moment—
  - But that's when Berengar II rose up and poisoned Lothair, taking the crown for himself
  - He demanded that Adelaide marry *him* (she was the cute, twenty-year-old daughter of the King of Burgundy and the widow of the former King of Italy—all of which made her a hot commodity in Medieval Europe)
  - But she refused, so he locked her in a keep at Lake Garda, in Italy, until she relented
  - But she was able to get word out to someone to come save her from her loveless marriage to Berengar...  
...King Otto...





# ***The Early Middle Ages***

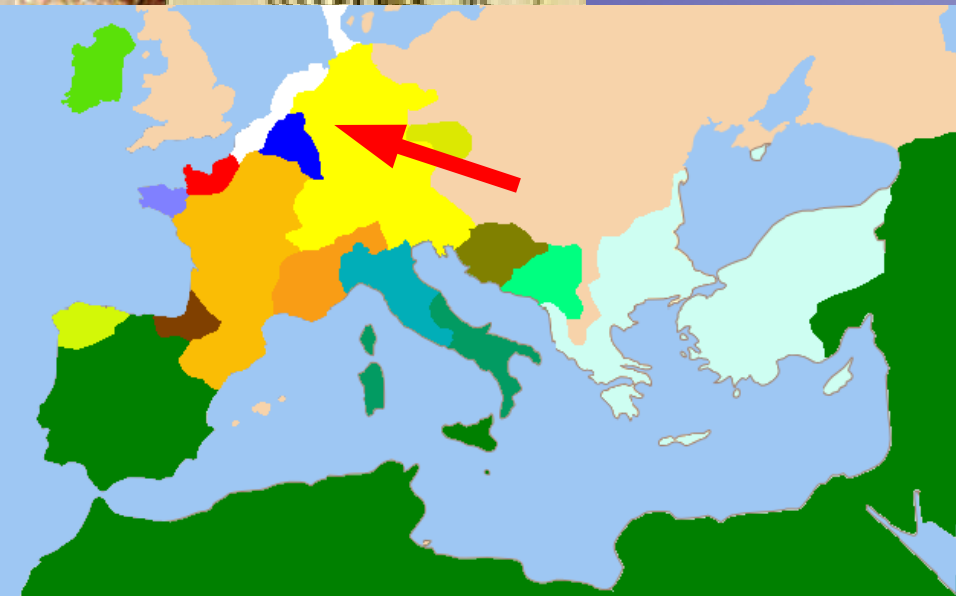
- **Funky little teaching moment—**
  - But that's when Berengar II rose up and poisoned Lothair, taking the crown for himself
  - **Dashing down to Italy, Otto and his son, Liudolf, came and rescued her**
  - Even though he couldn't completely conquer Italy, he was nonetheless able to marry Princess Adelaide and to force Berengar to become a vassal king of Germany





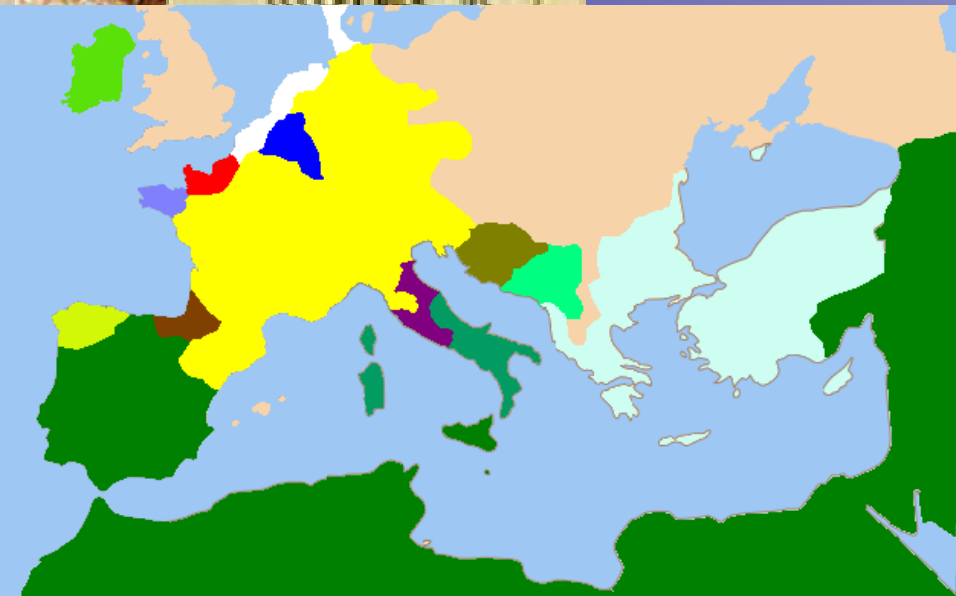
# *The Early Middle Ages*

- **Funky little teaching moment—**
  - But that's when Berengar II rose up and poisoned Lothair, taking the crown for himself
  - Dashing down to Italy, Otto and his son, Liudolf, came and rescued her
  - That didn't make Liudolf happy, since he'd planned on becoming King of Italy, so he tried to make use of the Magyars to rise up in rebellion against his father, Otto
    - That rebellion ended badly, and Liudolf died of fever
    - But Berengar used that as an opportunity to grow his kingdom, and he attacked the Papal States...



# *The Early Middle Ages*

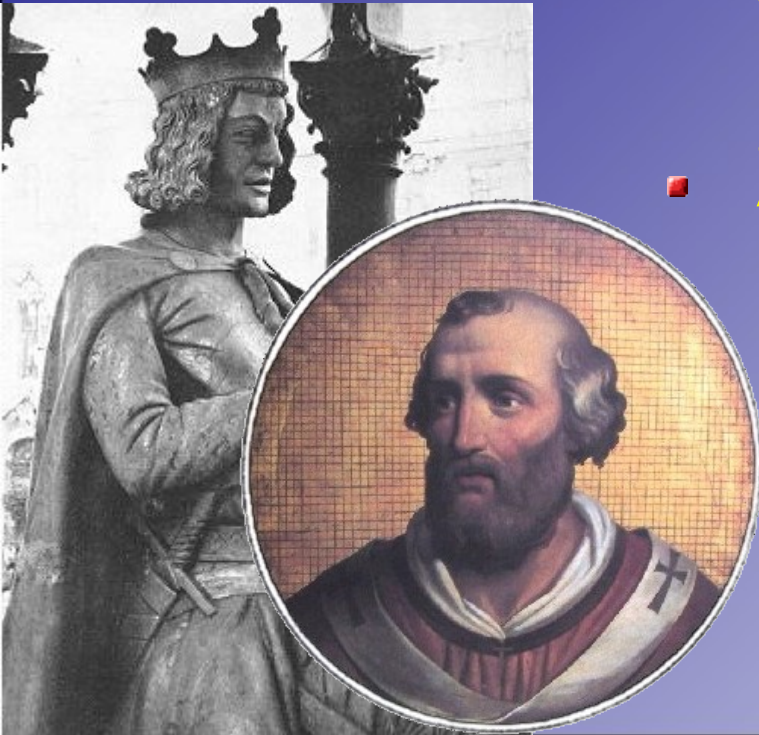
- Funky little teaching moment—
  - Otto led his troops back into Italy and defended the Papal States, taking Northern Italy for himself
  - Pope John XII then crowned him Emperor of a new, “*Holy Roman Empire*” (though that name didn’t really come into common use until 1157 and Frederick I) —but *German* kings now ruled the Empire for the next thousand years...





# *The Early Middle Ages*

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    - NOTE: Otto’s relationship with Pope John XII wasn’t really a very good one, however
      - John ruled Rome as a secular prince: gambling, partying, raping female pilgrims to the Holy Land, and maiming and/or excommunicating anyone who dared to oppose him
      - And, according to one contemporary historian,
        - “he had fornicated with the widow of Rainier, with Stephana his father’s concubine, with the widow Anna, and with his own niece, and he made the sacred palace into a whorehouse”
        - In fact, he died while having sex with another man’s wife—either from a stroke, or at the hands of the husband, who’d just walked in on them





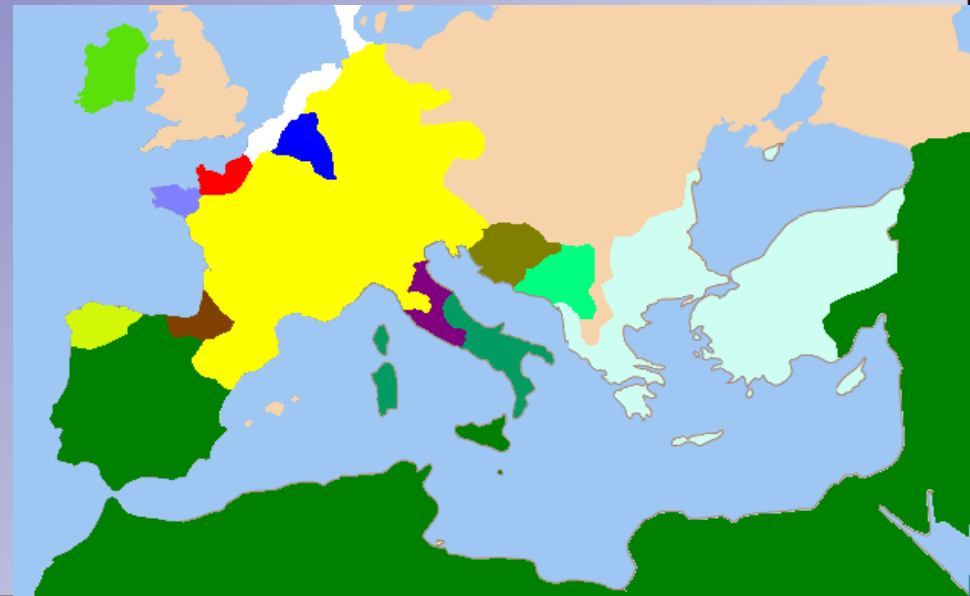
# *The Early Middle Ages*

- In other world news...

962

Otto I became Holy Roman Emperor

- He quickly became very involved in the Church
  - Seeing himself as the Defender of the Faith, he gave lands and money to the Church—especially those of secular rivals
  - He also began taking on a “divine right” as king, claiming the authority to ordain and invest clergy with their emblems of office in ceremonies where they swore fealty to God and to the Emperor
    - (Of course, he also filled the clergy with friends, relatives, and supporters, making them “counts” and allowing them to levy their own taxes)



# *The Early Middle Ages*

- Back to Church news...

950±

Cluny reforms began to catch on

- Under its abbot, Odo, the monastery at Cluny (in Central France) began a series of reforms regarding both the monks of a monastery and its place within the feudal structure

- Because a monastery required land, that required patronage of the local lord

- That gave the lord power over the monastery, and that led to the abbots having to make deals and do commerce with the local lords

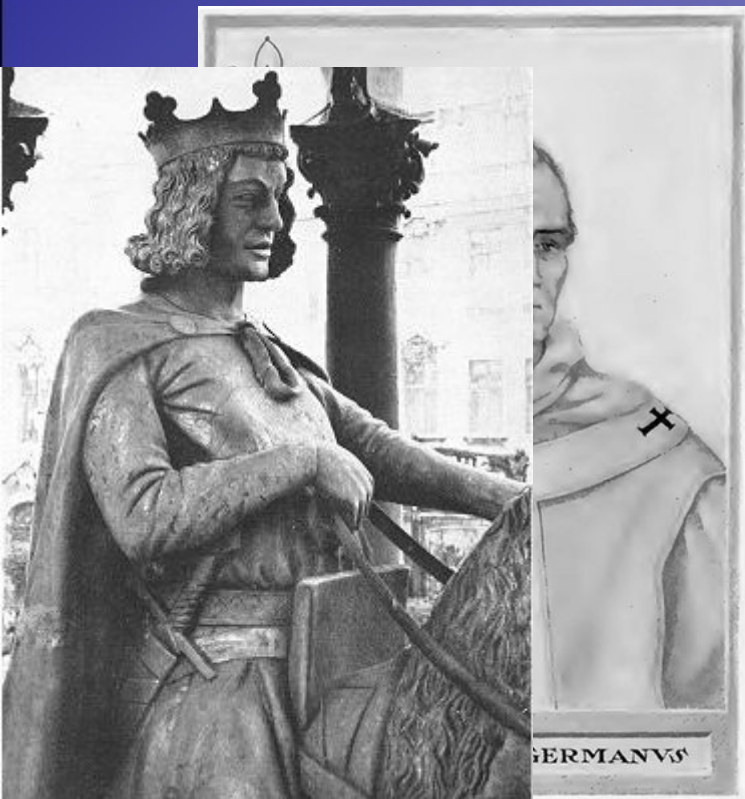
- And that led to all sorts of abuses within the monastic system

- Religious orders were bought and sold (an act called “simony”—why?)

- Local lords decided who got to be monks and abbots (taking a cue from Emperor Otto)

- Abbots began keeping concubines brought in from the local townsfolk which led to monasteries ultimately becoming “safe brothels”

- (this was even legitimized by Pope Clement II in 1046)





# *The Early Middle Ages*

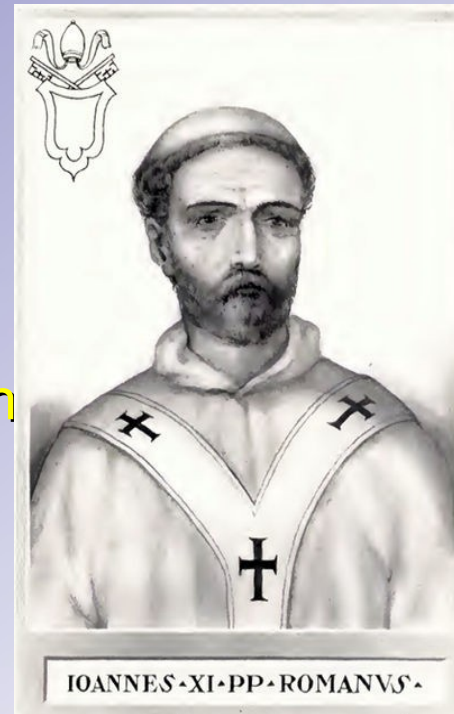
- Back to Church news...

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- Because a monastery required land, that required patronage of the local lord
- So Odo petitioned Rome, and Pope John XI (the illegitimate son of Pope Sergius III) authorized reforms that swept through Europe

- Monasteries would now report directly to the Pope, and not to the local lord
- Local lords could no longer either reward or hinder the monasteries—nor could they invest clergy or bribe them
- Concubinage was frowned upon (but not officially condemned)
- There was a call back to the austere beginnings of the Benedictine movement—an intense self-sacrifice





# *The Early Middle Ages*

- **Back to Church news...**

950±  
963

Cluny reforms began to catch on

**Dunstan became Archbishop of Canterbury**

- Dunstan was the son of a nobleman in Wessex who was desperately in love with a local girl, but his uncle, Ælfheah, the Bishop of Winchester, wanted him to become a monk instead
  - When he tumors began to grow all over his body, he saw that as a sign from God that the relationship was evil, and broke it off
  - In fact, later, as an abbot, when he found the young king of England, Eadwig, cavorting with a young girl, he had the youth forcibly dragged out of her room and made him publicly denounce her as a “strumpet” to the populace
    - Once that girl became the queen, that made Dunstan's political situation... awkward...



# The Early Middle Ages

- Back to Church news...

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**Dunstan became Archbishop of Canterbury**

- Dunstan was the son of a nobleman in Wessex who was desperately in love with a local girl, but his uncle, Ælfheah, the Bishop of Winchester, wanted him to become a monk instead
- Dunstan's whole purpose as a monk, abbot, and later Archbishop of Canterbury was to press toward self-sacrifice and self-abasement as an act of worship**
  - He built a cell 5-foot by 2½-foot to live and work in, specifically *because it was* so uncomfortable
  - He denounced simony because it was born from greed, and greed from the desire for comfort, and that desire was itself a sin
    - (NOTE: in the process, he also denounced the nepotism that promoted friends and relatives to high and important offices)
  - He was also thus one of the first major Church leaders to demand absolute celibacy on the part of clergy, since sex and sexual desire were by their nature sinful

