

The European Middle Ages

800 – 1200 A.D.

SSWH7: The student will analyze European medieval society with regard to culture, politics, society, and economics

- A. Explain the manorial system and feudalism; include the status of peasants and feudal monarchies, to include Charlemagne.
- B. Describe the political impact of Christianity, to include Pope Gregory VII and King Henry IV.
- C. Explain the role of the church in medieval society.
- D. Describe how increasing trade led to the growth of towns and cities.

Background Information

This is where we left off when we
finished with Rome . . .

The New Germanic Kingdoms

■ Ostrogoths in Italy

- Kept structure of the imperial Roman government
- Ostrogoths ruled by own officials and laws
- Native Italians ruled by Roman officials and laws

■ Visigoths in Spain

- Roman and German population began to fuse into one

■ Britain

- Roman influence not as strong
- Angles and Saxons divided area into many kingdoms

The Kingdom of the Franks



- Clovis
 - 500 CE Clovis becomes a Christian
 - Creates the Frankish empire
 - Close association with the Roman Catholic Church gives him more power
- 510 controlled area from Pyrenees Mountains to the area past the Rhine River
- Divided into three kingdoms after his death (one for each son)

Germanic Society

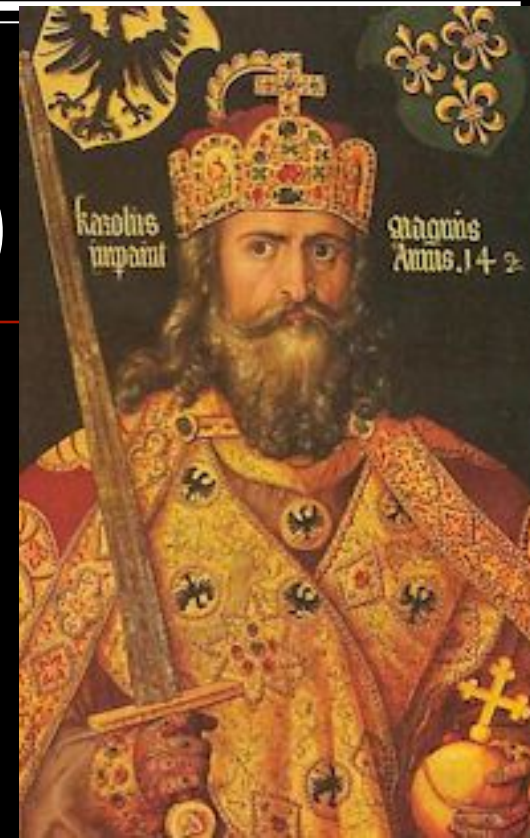
- Based around extended family system
 - Land passed down from generation to generation
- Roman law said crime was against the state
- Germanic law said crime was against the family
 - Violent feuds

Ok, now the important stuff

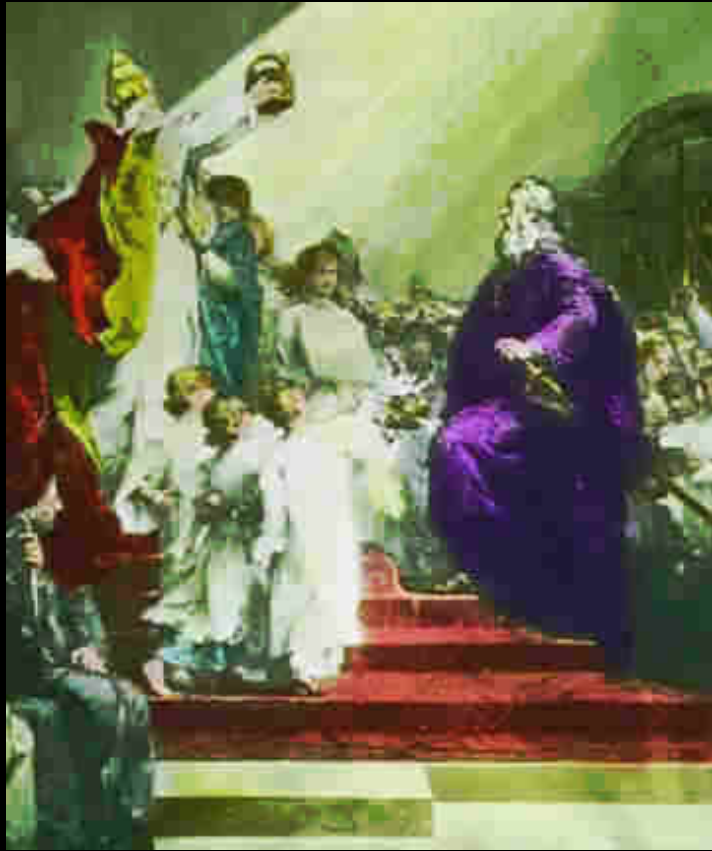
Charlemagne, Feudalism, the
Roman Catholic Church, and the
Holy Roman Empire

Charlemagne (768-814)

- Frankish kingdoms had lost power during the late 7th & early 8th centuries
- Pepin the Short – took kingship of Frankish states away from mayors
- 768 – Pepin's son Charlemagne takes over
 - A.k.a. = Charles the Great
 - A.k.a. = Carolus magnus in Latin
 - A.k.a. is so important that the histories of France and Germany claim him as one of their great leaders
- Expanded Frankish kingdom and created the Carolingian Empire



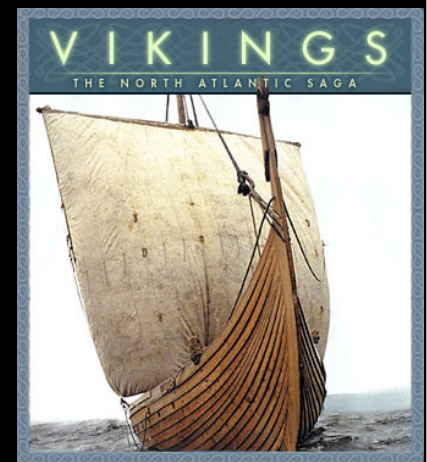
Charlemagne (768 – 814)

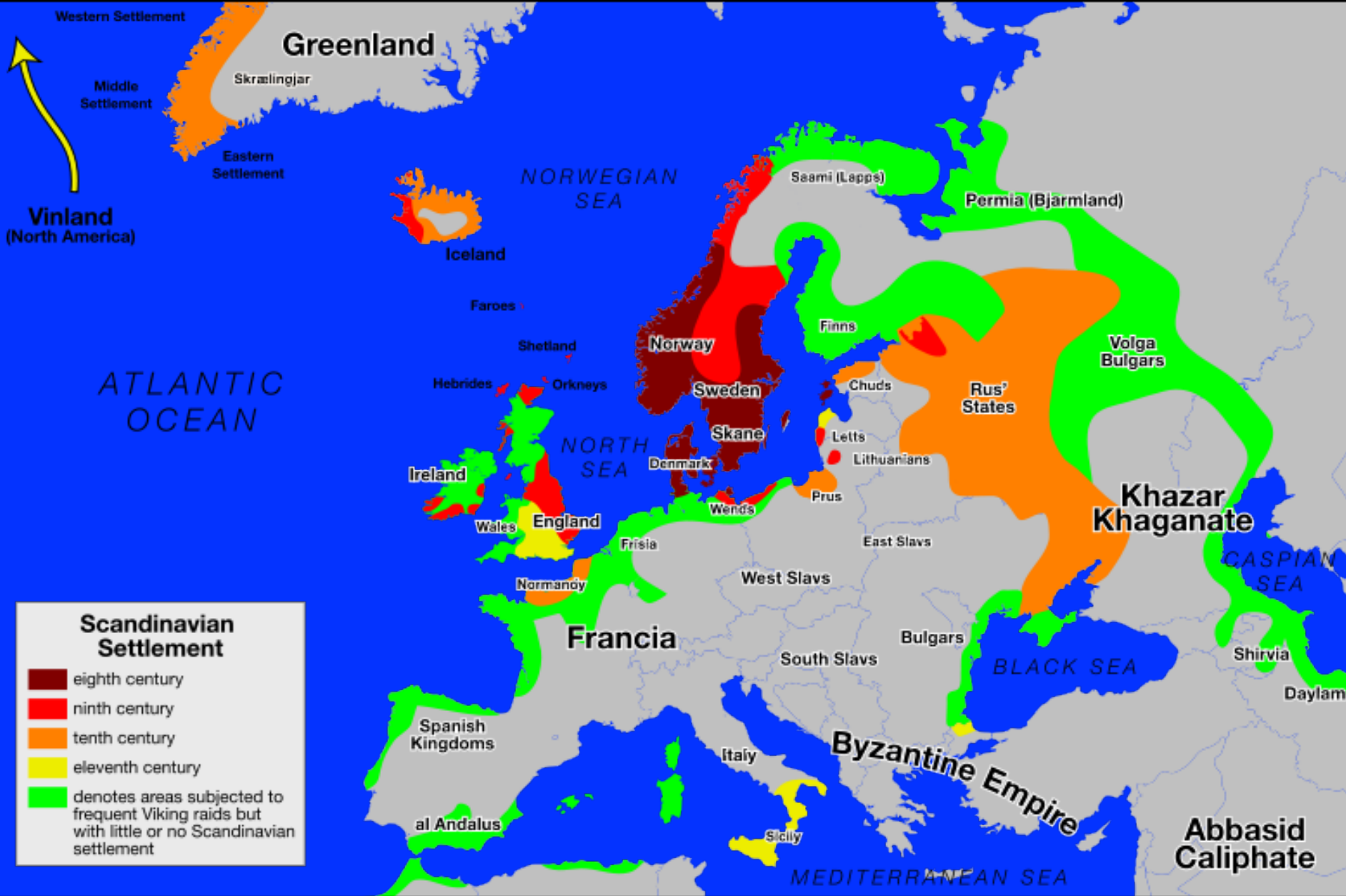


- Great military leader
- Christmas Day 800 given title of Emperor of all Romans by Pope Leo III
 - Brought together Roman, Christian, and Germanic civilizations
- Intellectual Renewal
 - Need for intellectual leaders of the church and government
 - Carolingian Era – study of classical Greek and Latin
 - Monks copied classical text (@ 90 % of what we have today)

Invasions of the Middle Ages

- Carolingian Empire went down after Charlemagne's death in 814
- Islamic Empire
 - Spain and Southern Europe
- Magyars (western Asia)
- Norsemen (Vikings)
 - Great warriors
 - Great ship builders (long ships)
 - Leif Erikson—first real European settler in Americas?
 - Converted to Christianity





Feudalism



- Lack of central leadership or protection for the people
 - Carolingian empire dissolves
 - Invasions by Muslims, Magyars, and Vikings
- Feudalism
 - New political and military system
 - Landed Lords provided protection
- Vassals – knights who swore an oath to serve their lord
 - foundation of the feudal system





Feudalism

- Nobles give land to vassals in return for military service
- Changes in the military
 - Originally foot soldiers dressed in coats of mail
 - Introduction of larger horses and the stirrup
 - Now heavily armed knights on horseback
- Knights become heart of European aristocracy



Feudalism

- Being a vassal was expensive, required land
- Fief – piece of land that was given by a lord to a vassal
- Subinfeudation – vassals giving fiefs to other vassals
- Feudalism spread throughout Europe (also found in Japan and Mexico)

Nobility



- Lords = kings, dukes, counts, barons, bishops, and archbishops
- Created an aristocracy with political, economic, and social power
- Lords were “men of war”
- Catholic Church – “Peace of God” and “Truce of God” evolved into idea of chivalry
 - Chivalry – code of ethics for knights

Pope / Church

Monarch

Nobles

Knights

Vassals

Merchants

Farmers

Craftsmen

Peasants

Serfs



Women in the Middle Ages



■ Aristocratic Women

- Mostly under control of fathers or husbands
- Could be willed property (rare)
- Often had to manage the household while men were away at war

■ Peasant Women

- Poor and powerless
- Confined to household work

Organization of the Christian Church

- Pope (Latin word papa or father)
 - Head of Roman Catholic Church
 - 1st Pope was Peter
- Cardinals = Bishops of Rome, Jerusalem, Alexandria, and Antioch
- Archbishops
 - Controlled all the bishoprics of a Roman province
- Bishops
 - Bishopric (diocese) – authority over city and its surrounding area
- Gregory I – strengthened power of the pope in the late 6th century

Monks

- Monk
 - lived a life cut off from human society to find a closer relationship with God
- Monastic communities developed around Europe, attracted by the simple religious life
- Saint Benedict (480 – 543) set rules for monastic living (Benedictine)
 - Gave rules for daily activities
 - Work and prayer major emphasis
 - Abbots controlled monasteries



Importance of Monasteries



- Provided schools
- Allowed travelers to stay
- Cared for the sick
- Copied Latin works (preserved ancient works)
- Converted pagans to Christianity

The
Pope

The leader of the Roman Catholic church, elected by the cardinals for life.

Cardinals

The cardinals are the elected "government" of the RC church. They elect the Pope from among their number.

Archbishop Archbishop

Rule over a large area called an archdiocese responsible for making sure that the bishops follow the church "rules"

Bishop Bishop Bishop

The Bishop is responsible for a **diocese**. The **diocese** is the main administrative unit of the church. The bishop supervises all the activities of his church, visits all religious institutions at regular intervals and is responsible for teaching the Christian faith in his diocese. Bishops also have a responsibility to arrange works of charity in their areas and to speak up for the poor. Each diocese is divided into a number of **parishes** each of which is run by a priest who has the same responsibilities in the parish as the bishop has in the diocese.

Priest Priest Priest

The Church's Authority during the Middle Ages

- Pope was the spiritual leader of Western Europe (Emperors or kings were the secular)
- Church structure much like Feudal structure
- Religion unified the different people in the different classes
- Church Law (canon law)
 - Guided the rich and poor in regards to marriage and religious practices
 - The sacraments (every Christian needed to follow)
 - Excommunication = denied salvation by being kicked out of the church

7 Sacraments of Catholic Church

- ~~Baptism (gateway to sacraments; usually around 6 months old)~~
- Reconciliation (confession sins to priest, prayers in forgiveness; 6-7 years old)
- Eucharist (participation in communion, believe Christ is actually present in eucharist; 6-7 years old)
- Confirmation (adulthood in church's eyes, reaffirming baptism; 15 years old)
- Marriage (becoming man and wife for life; ages vary)
- Holy Orders (act of becoming priest, nun, monk, etc.; cannot take holy orders and marriage vows; basically marriage to Jesus Christ; ages vary)
- Anointing of the sick (taking last rites, strengthening of bond with Christ; at death)

Otto I creates the Holy Roman Empire

- 936 Otto the Great crowned king of medieval Germany
- Consolidated power and helped the pope
- Pope crowned him emperor in 962
 - Proved church had higher power over kings
- Otto's attempt to recreate Charlemagne's empire led to the Holy Roman Empire
 - Church worried that Emperors had too much power over the church

Emperors vs Popes

- Lay investiture = kings & nobles appoint church officials
- 1075 – Pope Gregory VII banned lay investiture
- 1077 – Emperor Henry IV tells Gregory VII to step down from the papacy, Gregory excommunicated Henry
- 1190 – Holy Roman Empire falls apart

Commercial Revolution

Increased Trade

More workers
needed

Serfs move to towns,
workers paid for labor

More cash,
banking, and
lending services
available

More \$ available for
creating businesses

Merchant's wealth
and power expand

Merchants' taxes
increase the
king's power
and wealth