**476 after the Fall of Rome there was no centralized government…beginning of “**DARK AGES**”**

* **Barbarians (groups now allied to their groups)**
	+ **decrease in stability, trade, literacy, technology, art**

**TWO “things” brought stability to Western Europe after Rome’s fall:**

1) CHRISTIANITY

 **312 – Constantine**

 **313 – Edict of Milan**

 **380 – Theodosius**

**Christianity helped increased/improve stability, morality, education**

2) FRANKS

**481 Clovis**

* **”**Battlefield Conversions**”**

**Franks developed a new relationship with the Christian Church and became the “**Protectors of Christianity**”**

**Gradually Frankish kings lost power**

* **concerned with the “benefits” of power**
* **“in-fighting”**

**“**Major Domo**” began to take more and more control**

* **“overseer of the Royal Estates”**
* **Gradually did jobs kings were supposed to be doing**

714 CHARLES MARTEL

* **basically ruled Franks**
* Battle of Tours
	+ **Stopped advance of Islam into western Europe**
		- **Irony**
			* **due to economic needs, he confiscated Church lands, sold “bishoprics” to his generals, quartered troops in monasteries, beheading a protesting monk**

752 – PEPIN THE SHORT **becomes king – deposes Childeric III**

* **approved by Pope Zacharias**
	+ **“**Divine Legitimacy**”**
* **Pope Stephen II asked Pepin for help against Lombards**
	+ **Pepin defeated Lombards and gave their territory to Pope Stephen II**
		- **Known as the “Donation of Pepin” gave “**Papal States**” to papacy**

771 – CHARLEMAGNE **becomes king**

* **will become 1st leader since fall of Rome to unite western Europe**
* **799 Pope Leo III asked Charlemagne for protection**
	+ **12/25/800 Pope Leo III crowns Charlemagne**
		- EMPEROR of Holy Roman Empire

 **-strengthened rule**

**Problems with** Charlemagne **being crowned emperor:**

1. **Byzantine Emperor already considered emperor over “West”**
	1. **Increasing desire for independence of papacy from East**
		1. **Byzantine Emperors historically controlled the papacy**
	2. **By Pope Leo’s coronation of Charlemagne, he shows his political power in the “West”**
2. **Power struggles develop between “Spiritual” power (pope) and “Temporal” power (kings) in Western Europe**

Charlemagne’s **accomplishments:**

**1)divided empire into “**COUNTIES**”**

**2)appointed a** COUNT **and a member of the** CLERGY **in each County**

**3)used** MISSI DOMINICI

**4)used influence of the** CHURCH

* **”**Iron Charles**”**

**5)stressed** EDUCATION

**814 –** Charlemagne **died – Frankish Empire declined**