

# WORLD HISTORY notes

## Middle Ages: Franks

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Day 1

- 476 Fall of Rome – 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, BUT the power of the “**Mayor of the Palace**” increased

### 714 – **CHARLES MARTEL**

- Battle of Tours

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

- approved by Pope Zacharias
  - “**Divine Legitimacy**”
- protects Papacy from Lombards
- established the “Papal States”

771 – **CHARLEMAGNE** becomes king

- will become 1<sup>st</sup> 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

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Problems with **Charlemagne** being crowned emperor:

- 1) Byzantine Emperor already had title of "Roman Emperor"
- 2) Where did Pope get authority to crown someone emperor
- 3) Power struggle between "Spiritual" power and "Temporal" power

**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**
- 6) **PERSONALITY**

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