

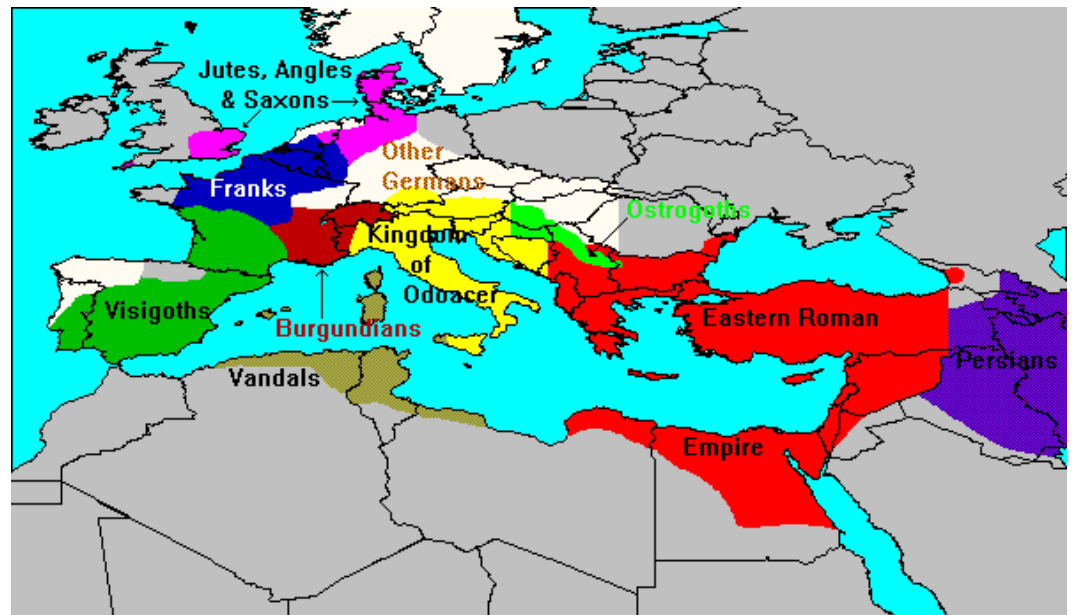
- Europe

-After the collapse of the Western Roman Empire (in AD 476), a new civilization in Europe formed: consisting of Germanic people, legacy of Romans, and Christian (Catholic) Church

-by 800, Europe became center of what we call Western civilization

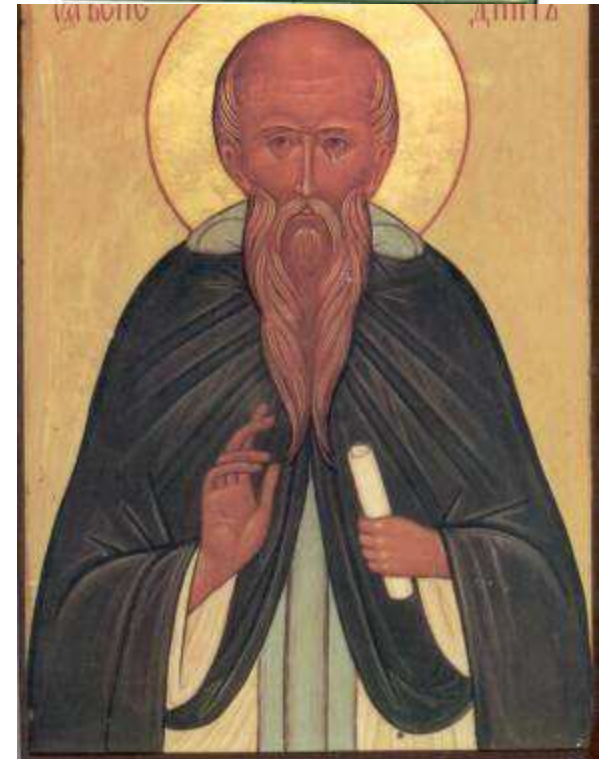
-500-1500: “Middle Ages”/ Medieval period

-500: Former Western Roman Empire states (at least some of them) were ruled by German kings



## The Catholic (Christian) Church

- By the end of 4th century Christianity was main religion in many parts of Europe
- Parishes (local Christian communities) were led by priests
- A group of parishes headed by a bishop
- One bishop (of Rome) claimed he was the leader of Catholic Church (becomes the “father” of the Church = “Pope”)
- Monks dedicated their lives to serving God) - (monasticism is living your life as a Monk))
- Pope, Cardinal, Arch Bishop, Bishop, Priest
- This became the blueprint for governing in Europe



- the Kingdom of Franks- long lasting Germanic kingdom established by Clovis (1st Germanic leader to convert to Christianity). He unified/conquered several Frankish kingdoms.
- 510 Clovis ruled modern day France (Clovis – and all of his subjects - convert to Christianity)
- His Kingdom was divided between 4 sons
- Their descendants became known as the “Do Nothing Kings” - The lands were “ruled” by “Mayors of the Palace” – one of whom was Charles Martel (“the Hammer”) who defeats Muslim invaders. His descendants end up being Kings of France.

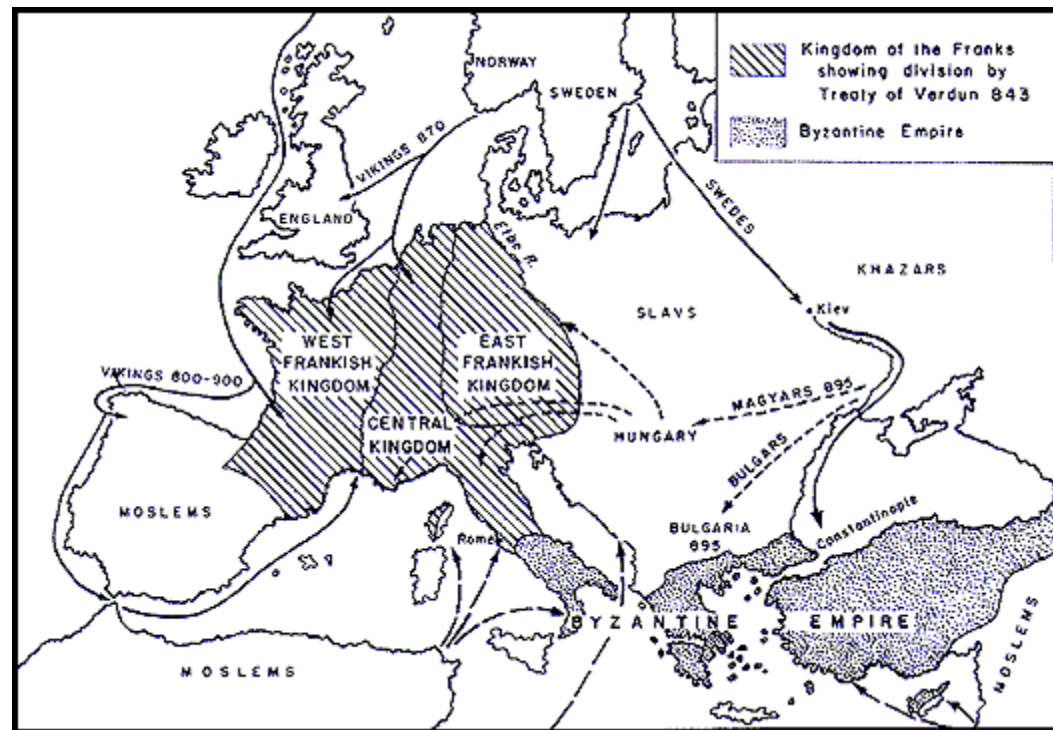


# Charles the Great (Charlemagne) 768-814 (descendant of Charles Martel)

- He was a Christian and was unable to read/write.
- He expanded Frankish land and it was named Carolingian Empire
- 800- He was crowned “Emperor of Romans” by Pope (His title is “Holy Roman Emperor”)
- He pushes reforms (including reading and writing: Alcuin) – built schools



- After his death, he gave his empire to his son (a poor leader). His son then divides the Empire between his 3 sons: Charles the Bald got the West (France), Louis the German got the East (Germany) and Lothair got the land in between.
- They fought and the Empire weakened. Set the stage for Viking invasions



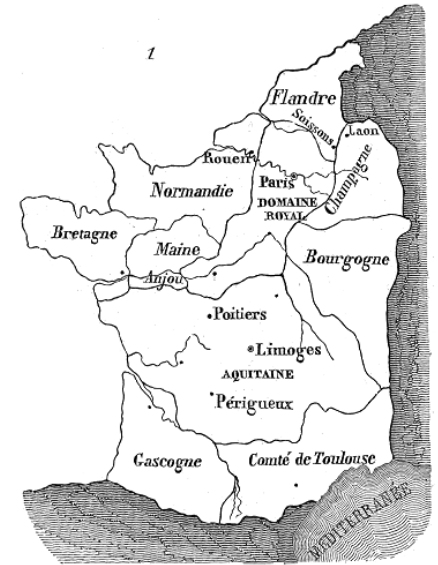
# England

- In 1066 The Normans invade England under William the Conqueror: take control of the country (of Angles and Saxons)
- The kings became more powerful than the lords liked – but the king needed the lords to pay taxes, so there was a push to limit the king's power- Magna Carta – 1215 \*listed the rights of the people versus the power of the king (first document limiting the king's power)



## France and Russia

- After Carolingians- Hugh Capet begins the Capetian dynasty of French kings
- French Kings gain power
- Russia = Rus = Vikings became the rulers of Russia



## Decline of the Catholic Church

- The Catholic Church had become a political power during the Middle Ages. It begins to face many problems:
- 1) Many Church leaders were not religious (they were political leaders)
- 2) France was becoming more powerful and wanted a French Pope.  
1305-1377: French Popes move the capital to Avignon, France  
This period known as the “Babylonian Captivity”
- 3) 1377, Pope dies, 1378: riots in Rome to name an Italian Pope and one is chosen. Then a French Pope is chosen (2 Popes)  
To solve the problem, a 3<sup>rd</sup> Pope is chosen (French Pope steps down), but still 2 Popes = “The Great Schism”
- 4) Indulgences (ways to ‘buy’ your way out of hell).
- 5) Black Death – Catholic Church does little to help the people (see #1)
- \*\*Many start questioning the legitimacy of the Catholic Church