

I. The Dark Ages

-Lasted from 500-1500 and broken into 3 periods

1. Early Middle Ages
 - a. 500-1000
 - b. Period of backwardness (lacking in technology and advances)
 - c. Political decentralization- which is to spread power into local branches
 - d. Many areas were undeveloped
 - e. Economic struggles
2. High Middle Ages
 - a. 1000-1300
 - b. European revival
 - c. Nations became a lot stronger
 - d. Healthier economy
 - e. Knowledge and education improved
3. Late Middle Ages
 - a. 1300-1500
 - b. Period of social unrest
 - c. Constant warfare
 - d. Black plague
 - e. Renaissance

II. Germanic Kingdoms

- i 400-700 no cities and no written laws
- ii Small kingdoms spread throughout western Europe
- iii Local chiefs ruled and the Franks ruled Gaul
- iv Clovis became leader of the Franks
- v Converted to Christianity
- vi Built churches and monasteries for monks and nuns
- vii Benedictine Order: 520 followers live a life of poverty, charity and obedience
- viii Church dominated over secular (worldly) issues

III. Carolingian Dynasty

- a) Early 8th century
- b) Family rules Gaul from 751-987
- c) The Muslims were the first threat to the new dynasty
- d) Muslims wanted to control all of Western Europe and destroy Christianity
- e) Charles Martel met and defeated the Muslims at the Battle of Tours and sent them out of Europe
- f) This defeat was one of the most significant battles in world history
- g) Pepin the Short, also known as Pippin the Younger became king in 751
- h) Gave land to the Pope that became the Papal States
- i) Father of Charles the Great, AKA Charlemagne

IV Charlemagne

- i Charlemagne's rule was the peak of Frankish power
- ii Created the Frankish Empire and ruled for 46 years

- iii Added lands in Italy, North Spain, and North Germany
- iv Pope Leo III crowned him Holy Roman Emperor
 - v Used counts to govern provinces
- vi Missi Dominici: Imperial officers, took records and spread education
- vii Set up schools
- viii 814 Charlemagne dies
- ix Son Louis the Pious takes over
 - x Treaty of Verdun: Kingdom of the Franks divided into 3, one for each of Louis's sons
- xi Louis the German the land east of the Rhine River
- xii Lothar I received much of Italy as well as parts of several other countries
- xiii Charles the Bald received the remainder of modern France
- xiv The empire as now weak and chaotic
- xv Needed a new system of government, which gave birth to feudalism