

## Early Middle Ages

<p>Cities Language Government Church</p>	<p>Vikings Feudalism Charlemange</p>
--	--

By the end of the fifth century:

Spain— <u>Visigoths</u>	Italy— <u>Ostrogoths</u>
Gaul— <u>Franks</u>	North Africa— <u>Vandals</u>
Britannia— <u>Angles, Saxons, Jutes,</u> <u>Picts &amp; Scots</u>	

### Cities:

- Everywhere civilization was under attack
- Constant war disrupted trade—deathblow to cities in much of Europe
- Towns declined with the end of the Roman Empire

People left towns for the countryside so they could grow food

Population of western Europe became overwhelmingly rural

### Language:

- Barbarians that invaded the Roman Empire could not read or write
- Priests were about the only ones trained to read & write
- As German speaking people joined the population Latin began to change

Different dialects developed w/ new words & phrases by region

By the 800's French, Spanish, & Italian were all separate languages

All called Romance—Roman based languages (evolved from Latin)

### Government:

- Germanic people did not think of themselves as citizens, but members of families
- Traveled in bands of warriors with leaders
- All lived together & the lord took care of them

### Church:

- Christianity brought to Britannia by Patrick of Ireland
- Frankish king named Clovis converts to Catholicism. Many Franks follow him
- Monasteries were created—communities in which groups of Christian men & women gave up all their private possessions & lived simply devoting their lives to worship & prayer.
- Live a life of: poverty, chastity, & obedience



## Church Continued:

- Women that followed this way of life were called nuns—lived in convents
- Men were called monks & lived in monasteries
- **BENEDICT:** Born in 480 in Italy  
Was a very righteous & disciplined man  
A group of monks asked him to be their abbot  
(head of the monastery)



## Church Continued:

He wrote a book describing the rules of monastic life:

1. Once a monk enters a monastery he should stay there for life
2. Daily life should be strictly scheduled—pray 8 times a day
3. 7 hours a day spent in manual labor
4. Eat 1 or 2 meals a day—no red meat

Benedict's rules were adopted by almost all monasteries & convents

Became known as Benedictine Rule

Monasteries & convents were the most educated communities in Europe

## Gregory I:

- Became pope in 590
- Made it a political office as well. Acting mayor of Rome.
- Had a vision of Christendom—a spiritual kingdom ruled by a pope

## Pepin:

- Was mayor of the palace over the Franks
- Wrote the Pope & asked for the pope's blessing in his attempt for the throne
- Pepin agreed to fight off the Lombards for the pope
- The pope agreed to give legitimacy to Pepin
- In 754 pope Stephen 2<sup>nd</sup> anointed Pepin's head w/ holy oil & declared him "king by the grace of God"
- After this it became common for kings to be anointed—gives spiritual authority
- Pepin did in 768 & left the Frankish kingdom to his Charles
- Charles was king of the Franks for 46 years
- Called him Charles the Great—in French his name became:

## Charlemagne

- He commanded his armies from the front
- He defeated the Lombards & took over northern Italy in 773
- Fought the Saxons of Germany & brought them to Christianity
- Baptism by the sword—convert or die
- Revived the idea of an empire
- Divided Francia into countries
- Each country was ruled by a landholder—count



## Charlemagne Continued:

- The king's wealth came from the things produced on his royal estates
- Began a palace school
- Ordered monasteries to open schools to train boys for the priesthood  
Monks would hand copy books  
Roman books had been written in capital letters with no spaces between the words. To save time, monks started writing in lower case letters & put spaces in between words to make the books easier to read.

## Time to be a Scribe!

We must prepare our hearts and bodies for Combat under holy obedience to the divine Commandments we are therefore going to Establish a school in which one may learn the service of the Lord.

## The Answer:

We must prepare our hearts and bodies for Combat under holy obedience to the divine Commandments we are therefore going to Establish a school in which one may learn the Service of the Lord.

## Charlemagne Continued:

- By the year 800, Charlemagne was the most powerful king in Europe
- On Christmas Day in St. Peter's cathedral in Rome, the Pope Leo 7<sup>th</sup> placed a jeweled crown on Charlemagne's head & declared him emperor.
- Charlemagne died in 814
- His son Louis was an ineffective ruler. He died in 840



- Louis had 3 sons
- They fought one another for the empire
- The civil war ended when the brothers signed the Treaty of Verdun:

Divided the empire into 3 kingdoms—one for each brother

Charles the Bald—France

Louis the German—Germany

Lothair—kept the title of emperor & ruled the land in between including Rome. His lands became the future battle grounds for kings of France & Germany

Central authority broke down

All over Europe bands of attackers were invading & causing chaos. Those who came from the north were called Vikings


## Vikings

- Even before Charlemagne's death there were reports of raids from the north.
- The raiders were known by several names: Northman, Norsemen, & Vikings
- They came from Scandinavia (Norway, Sweden, Denmark)
- Had almost no contact w/ Rome
- Pagan—worshipped warlike gods
- Nicknames: Erik Bloodaxe & Thorfinn Skullsplitter
- Raids were very quick: beach their ships & leave before troops were alerted



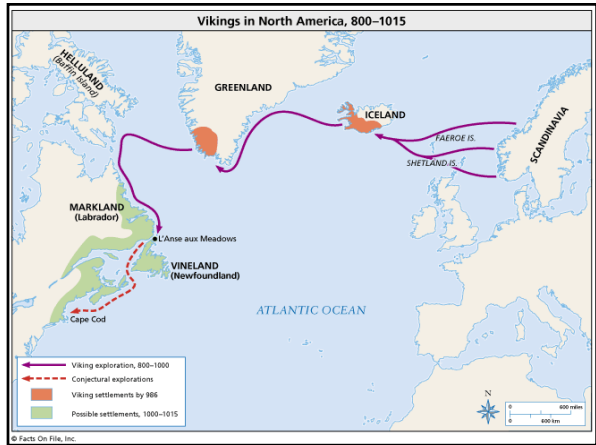
### Warship:

- Was a technological marvel of the age
- Could hold 300 warriors who took turns rowing 72 oars
- Prow of each ship swept upward & was carved w/ the head of a sea monster
- It could sail in 3 feet of water
- Could sail up rivers & creeks & attack villages



### Impact:

- Built a prosperous settlement on the Island of Iceland
- In 982, Eric the Red sailed west from Iceland into uncharted waters
  - He came upon an icy island—named it Greenland
  - Started a settlement—eventually abandoned it
- Eric the Red's son Leif Ericson sailed from Greenland to another unexplored island
  - In 1000 he probably reached the Canadian island known as Newfoundland
  - There is no question that Ericson reached the America's before Columbus

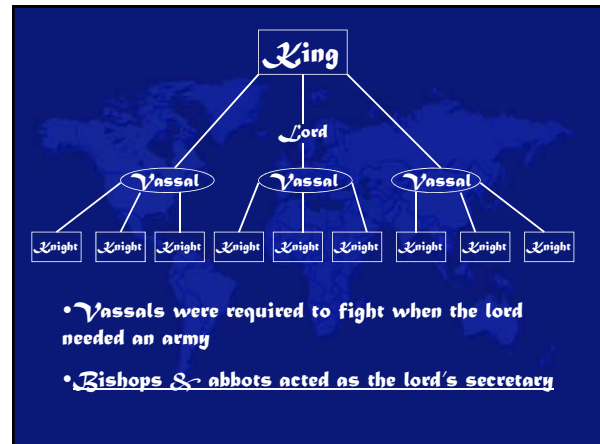
- Around the year 1000 the Vikings terror stopped:
  - Europeans figured out how to respond to raids
  - They adopted Christianity
  - They were very successful in their own settlements—didn't need anything

## Time for the Movie: The Vikings

### Feudalism:

- Summer 911—Rollo (Viking) & Charles (French) meet
  - Charles gives Rollo a piece of French territory
  - Normandy (Northmen's land)
  - Swore the 2 groups would never fight again

- People still worried about local protection
- System of feudalism is developed:
  - political & military system based on the holding of land
- Lords & Vassals –
  - vassals swore to defend the lord
  - Lord would give the vassal a piece of land—fief
  - Fiefs were divided into smaller estates
  - Vassal would keep the best plot of land & put warriors & knights in charge of the rest of the estates



- Most people were neither lords nor vassals
  - NOBLES—those who fought
  - CHURCH—those who prayed
  - PEASANTS—those who worked

- Basic economic unit was the manor
  - small estate from which the lord's family gained its livelihood
  - 1/3 of the land was the grain growing
  - 1/2 was a pasture for oxen
  - Rest was forest
  - Manors were self sufficient—produced everything they needed to survive

- Most peasants were serfs
  - They were not free, but they weren't slaves either
  - Were not sold or traded, could never leave the manor
  - "bound to the land"
  - Owed the lord the following duties:
    - ✓ 2–3 days labor every week (plow/plant/harvest)
    - ✓ 1 out of every 10 pigs
    - ✓ Gifts for the lord's family at Christmas & Easter (eggs & chickens)
    - ✓ Pay a tax when you get married