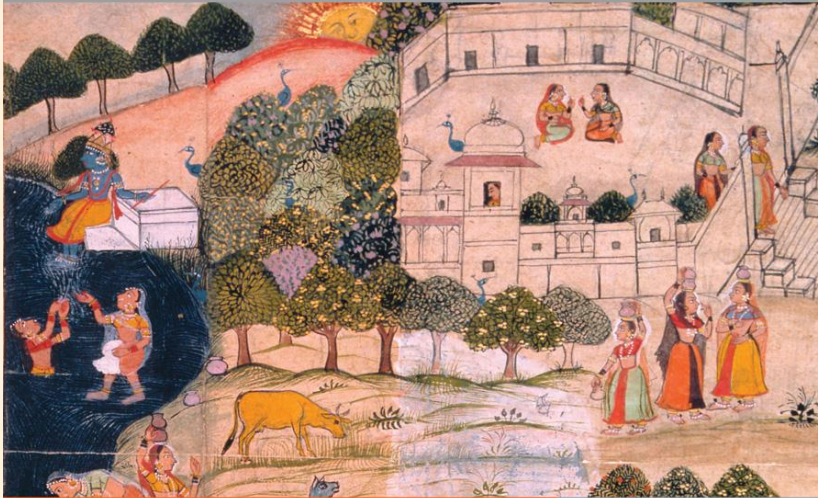


PHILIP J. ADLER / RANDALL L. POWELS

# WORLD CIVILIZATIONS



Seventh Edition

## Chapter 11

### The Roman Empire and the Rise of Christianity in the West, 31 B.C.E.–800 C.E.

<b>c. 6 B.C.E.–29 C.E.</b>	Life of Jesus of Nazareth
<b>284–305 C.E.</b>	Diocletian/Empire divided East and West
<b>313–337 C.E.</b>	Constantine/Christianity tolerated
<b>381 C.E.</b>	Theodosius makes Christianity official religion
<b>late 300s–400s C.E.</b>	Germanic invaders enter western empire
<b>527–565 C.E.</b>	Justinian I/Corpus Iuris
<b>c. 500–800</b>	“Dark Age”/Germanic kingdoms
<b>768–814</b>	Charlemagne/Carolingian Renaissance



# Roman Decline

- Rome's power to rule began to decline after Marcus Aurelius (161-180 CE)
- Germanic tribes invaded outer provinces
- Corrupt and incompetent reign of Commodus (180-193 CE)
- Military takes over central government: Barrack's Emperors
- Increasing de-urbanization
- Agriculture still dominated by large slave plantations
- Borders increasingly difficult to defend against nomadic migrants or invaders



# Restructuring the Empire

- Diocletian (284-305 CE)
  - Last of the Barracks Emperors
  - Divided empire into East and West with emperors in each – Tetrarchy
  - Enforced price controls to stop inflation
- Constantine the Great (313-337 CE)
  - More restrictions on personal freedoms
  - Moved government to Byzantium, built Constantinople as capital  
Constantine becomes city in the Christian world  
Greek language, culture predominates
  - West went into permanent decline and finally collapsed
    - Visigoths (410 CE)
    - Vandals (455 CE)
    - Germans from 476 CE





# Christianity

- Christianity developed as Roman Empire weakened
  - Jesus (6-29 CE) challenged authority; led to his execution
  - Christian cult spread slowly in Judea
  - Saul/Paul of Tarsus spreads it to gentiles elsewhere in the Roman Empire
  - Zealot Jews rebelled in Jewish War
    - Romans crushed it, dispersed Jews around empire (Second Diaspora, 67-71 CE)
    - Result: Jewish exile colonies as breeding grounds for Christianity around Mediterranean
- Appeal of Christianity
  - Universality (all eligible for salvation)
  - Hope and optimism (better life NOW, and in next)
  - Spirit of mutuality (obligation to aid fellow Christians)
  - Appeal to idealism (charity and unselfish devotion)



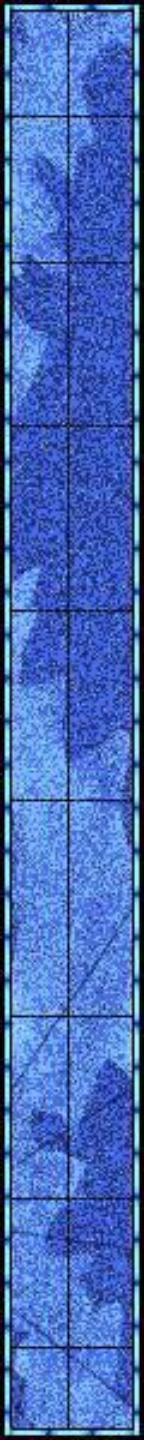


# Christianity's Spread and Official Adoption

- Christian groups sprang up in major towns
- Constantine's Edict of Milan (313 CE) ended persecutions of Christians
  - Believed Christian God assisted him on the battlefield
  - Political expediency? (5-10% of the Empire Christianized)
  - Baptized on his deathbed
- Except for Julian(361-63) , all Roman emperors were Christian from Constantine onward in 337 CE
- Christianity became official religion of the empire from 381 CE, under Emperor Theodosius
- Recognition both helped and hindered the new religion
  - Positive: Enjoyed favored status with secular government behind it
  - Negative: Forever linked with state and forever bore imprint of Roman Empire







# Early Church Organization and Doctrine

- Bishops, elected as heads of diocese
  - Appoint priests
- Canon law governs church administration, courts
- Petrine Succession – Bishop of Rome claimed primacy as direct successor of Peter
- Council of Nicaea (325 CE) defined questions of theology and church administration
  - Sponsored by Constantine who enforced its decisions
- Early Fathers of the Church





# The Byzantine Empire

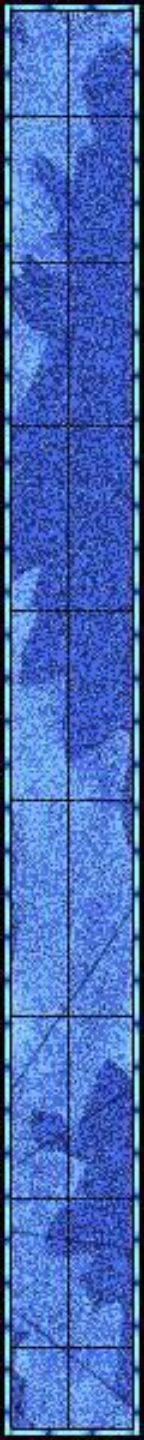
- Surviving eastern half of the Roman Empire
  - Western half had become expendable
- Emperor assumed power to appoint patriarchs and remove
  - Caesaro-Papism
- Emperor Justinian (527-565 CE)
  - Hagia Sophia church
  - Attempted to regain western half



# The Byzantine Empire

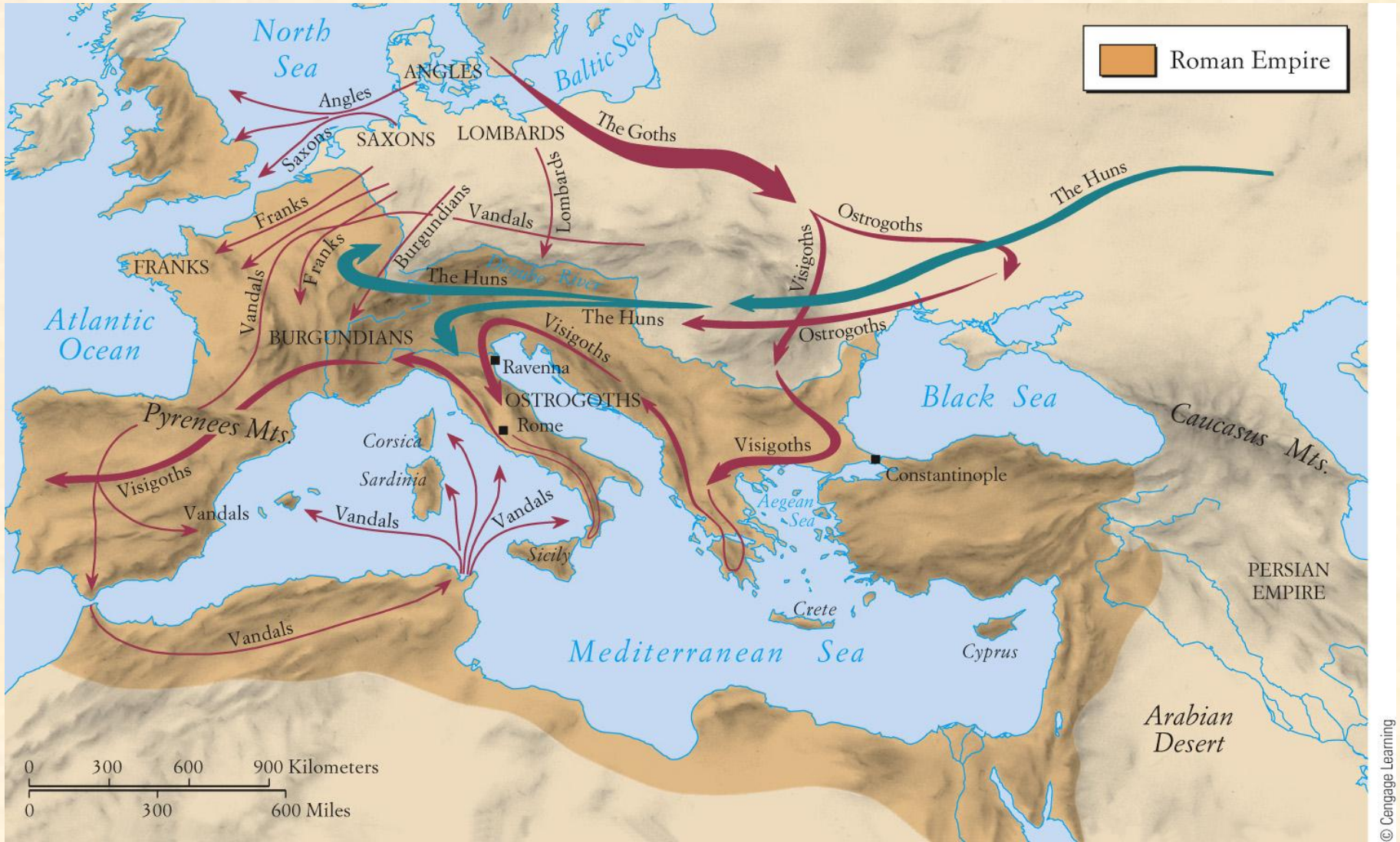
- Empire lost territories during next two centuries
  - Conflicts with Persians
  - Attacks by Avars, Muslims and Slavs
  - Invention of Greek Fire
- Christianization of eastern Europe and Russia
- Christianity was permanently divided into West and East 1054
  - Eastern Orthodox and Catholic
- Corpus juris – 6<sup>th</sup> c. CE distillation of Roman law and practice compiled at Justinian's command
  - Later become basis of law in Western Europe





# Germanic Invaders

- Huns (440s CE) push Germanic peoples into western provinces of the Roman Empire
- War chiefs form new kingdoms
  - Franks (France, 5<sup>th</sup> c. CE)
  - Saxons (N. Germany and Holland)
  - Angles and Saxons (to England, 5<sup>th</sup> c. CE)
  - Vandals (From N. Africa to Rome, 455 CE)
  - West Goths (Visigoths, Gaul then Spain)
  - East Goths (Ostrogoths to Italy, after the Huns, then driven out by the Lombards)
- Western half of empire in ruins by 500s







# Germanic Customs and Society

- Medieval European society a blend of Roman and Germanic Culture
- Germanic culture:
  - Highly personalized concept of government
  - Only gradually adopted settled lifestyle
- Conversion to Christianity
  - Germans originally worshiped sky deities (Wotan, Thor)
  - Many Germanic peoples converted to Christianity: 450-700
  - Nordic peoples centuries later
  - Missionaries appealed first to rulers
  - Took decades or even centuries to trickle down to common people

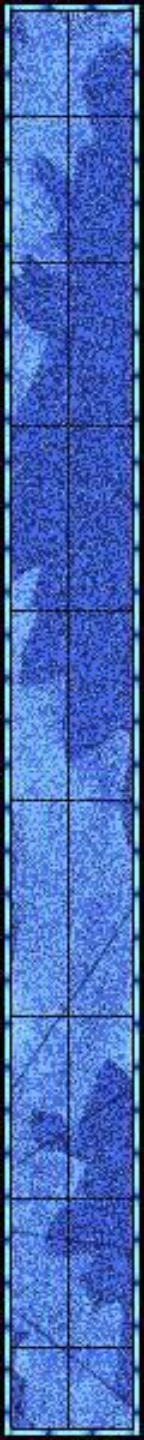
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Bibliothèque Municipale, Laon, France/Brigeman Art Library





# The Foundations of the Medieval Manor

- Beginnings of Feudalism
  - New self-sufficient, self-governing manors (estates)
  - Local owners of manors took over basic government during invasions
  - Increasingly, population was in manorial villages controlled by local landlords
- The Dark Age
  - Refers to lack of documentation
  - Clergy were only group semi-literate
  - Bishops and abbots had secular and military duties as king's vassals
  - However changed, the Church was only imperial institution to survive German invasions
  - Church also operated charitable and medical institutions
  - Church supplied all of education in early medieval Europe



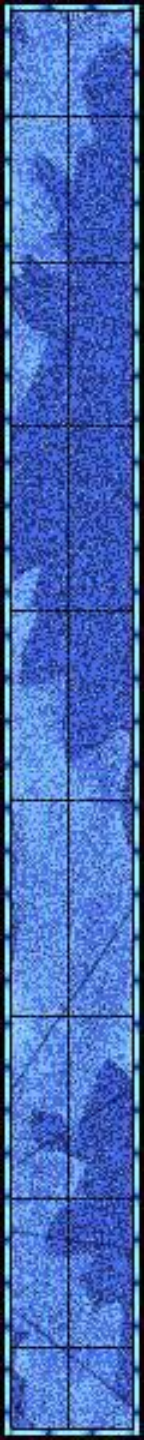
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	Frankish kingdom: 768
	Territories gained by Charlemagne

Atlantic Ocean

Division of empire by Treaty of Verdun: 843





# Charlemagne and the Carolingian Empire

- Charlemagne was greatest of Germanic kings
  - King of the Franks (768-800 CE)
  - Controlled largest area since western empire fell
  - Tried to revive Roman order
    - Coronation by Leo III, 800 CE
  - Crowned Roman Emperor (800 CE)
    - Reward for combating pagan Germanic peoples
- Carolingian Renaissance
  - Missi dominici created by Charlemagne: officials reported on nobles
  - Tried to encourage learning and piety
  - Established palace school
- Disintegration of Carolingian Empire
  - Succeeded by son Louis who then divides empire among his 3 sons
  - War between brothers until Treaty of Verdun (843)
  - King of Germany becomes the Holy Roman Emperor



Louvre, Paris, France/Peter Willi/The Bridgeman Art Library



# Invasions and Feudalism

- New invasions
  - Vikings, or Norsemen (from 790 CE)
  - Magyars (late 800s CE)
  - Muslims (from late 600s, early 700s CE)
- Development of Feudalism
  - Government authority more fragmented
  - Local strongmen and their mercenaries (knights) controlled increasingly large areas
  - Invasions stimulated appearance of professional military and feudal military system





*Silk was virtually unknown in eighth-century Europe*

*Elephants were unknown to the Franks*