

**UNIT 3: EMPIRES OF FAITH**  
**Medieval Europe Notes**

**I. Post-Roman Western Europe**

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ people began moving into Roman territory in the third century AD.
- By 500 AD the Western Roman Empire had fallen.
  - Germans and Romans intermarried and created a new society.
  - A number of new states ruled by German kings emerged.
  - The only German kingdom to last long was that of the \_\_\_\_\_, which eventually became France.
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ had become the supreme religion of the Roman Empire by the end of the fourth century.
- The bishop of Rome, called the \_\_\_\_\_, from the Latin word *papa*, “father,” claimed leadership of what became called the Roman Catholic Church.
  - Western Christians came to accept the pope as the Church’s leader, but they could not agree on the extent of the pope’s power.
  - Many popes were cunning and manipulative leaders who fought to increase the social, political, and economic power of the Church.
  - Eventually, the Roman Catholic Church became the most influential institution of the Middle Ages.
  - As the Church grew more powerful, a special Church court, called the \_\_\_\_\_, was set up to deal harshly with \_\_\_\_\_ – people who did not accept the teachings of the Church.
  - For Medieval Christians, using force to save souls was acceptable.
  - Venerating saints was also important to ordinary people.
  - Emphasis on the saints was tied to the use of \_\_\_\_\_, usually bones of saints or objects connected with the saints.
- C. \_\_\_\_\_ worked to spread Christianity throughout Europe.
- In the 6th c., St. Benedict founded an order of monks and wrote rules for their practice.
  - The monk’s dedication made them the new heroes of the Christian civilization.
  - They were also the social workers of the community, and monasteries became centers of learning.
  - Medieval Christians also believed that a pilgrimage to a holy shrine produced a spiritual benefit.

**II. The Eastern Roman Empire Survives**

- A. As Germanic tribes moved into the western part of the Roman Empire, the Eastern Roman Empire continued to exist. The capital of the Eastern Roman Empire was \_\_\_\_\_, the largest city in Europe during the Middle Ages.
- Until the 1100s, Constantinople was Europe’s chief center for trading between the \_\_\_\_\_ (the West) and \_\_\_\_\_ (the East.)
  - Europe prized Chinese silk, spices from SE Asia, spices, ivory and jewelry from India, wheat and furs from Russia, and honey and flax from the Balkans.
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ became emperor of the Eastern Roman Empire in 527.
- His most important contribution was his codification of Roman law in \_\_\_\_\_ which became the basis for much of the legal system of Europe.
  - Justinian rebuilt Constantinople in 532 after riots had destroyed much of the city.
  - Justinian also re-conquered much of the West but doing so seriously drained and weakened the Empire.
- C. In the 600s, \_\_\_\_\_, united by the new religion of \_\_\_\_\_, invaded the weakened Eastern Roman Empire and conquered Palestine, Egypt, and North Africa.

### **III. Charlemagne**

- A. By the 700s, \_\_\_\_\_ had reached Western Europe. Their invasion was turned back by the French leader Charles Martel at the Battle of \_\_\_\_\_ in 732.
- B. Martel's grandson \_\_\_\_\_ was curious, driven, and intelligent.
- He was a strong warrior and statesman, and a devout Christian who reigned in France from 768-814.
  - He expanded the Frankish kingdom into what became known as the \_\_\_\_\_ Empire, which covered much of western and central Europe.
  - In 800, the pope crowned Charlemagne as \_\_\_\_\_.
  - The coronation also symbolized the coming together of the Roman, Christian, and Germanic elements that forged European civilization.
  - Charlemagne's desire to promote learning led to what has been called the Carolingian Renaissance.
- C. The Carolingian Empire began to collapse soon after Charlemagne's death in 814.
- By 844, the empire had been divided into three kingdoms by Charlemagne's grandsons.

### **IV. Vikings**

- A. Soon after, a new wave of invasions into Europe were led by \_\_\_\_\_ from Norway and Sweden in Scandinavia.
- The Vikings were superb warriors, sailors, and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - To stem the tide of invasions, the Franks had a policy of settling and Christianizing the Vikings.
  - In 911, a Frankish ruler gave a band of Vikings from Norway, known as Norsemen, a territory in northern France that became known as \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. The Germanic \_\_\_\_\_ had moved into Britain in the fifth century.
- King Alfred the Great united the various Angle and Saxon kingdoms in the 800s.
  - For almost three hundred years, Anglo-Saxon kings ruled the southern area of the island of Britain which was eventually called \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. In 1066, an army commanded by \_\_\_\_\_, a French-speaking descendent of Norse Vikings, led a massive invasion of England.
- William of Normandy, sometimes called William the Conqueror, defeated the Anglo-Saxon king of England at the Battle of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - William divided the conquered English territory among his Norman knights. They swore loyalty to him as the king of England.
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ Normans and the \_\_\_\_\_ Anglo-Saxon gradually merged into modern early English culture.

### **V. Feudal Society**

- A. Due the lack of security caused by the constant stream of invaders, Europeans began to turn to powerful local aristocrats or nobles to protect them. This led to the new political and social system called \_\_\_\_\_.
- Feudalism came to be characterized by a set of unwritten rules known as the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - The feudal contract was between a \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. In the Early Middle Ages (500-1000), wealth was based on owning \_\_\_\_\_. A lord offered his vassal military protection and supported him economically with a gift of land known as a \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. The major obligation of a vassal to the lord was \_\_\_\_\_, about 40 days a year. Loyalty to one's lord was feudalism's chief virtue.

D. Feudalism became complicated. Kings had vassals who themselves were vassals.

E. A feudal hierarchy emerged:

- a. kings
- b. dukes and earls
- c. counts and barons
- d. merchants and artisans (bourgeoisie)
- e. serfs and peasants

F. In the 1200s, powerful English leaders formed a representative government body known as \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. Parliament was composed of all of England's nobles and bishops as well as two knights from each county and two wealthy elites from each major town.
- b. Nobles and church lords formed the \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. Knights and townspeople formed the \_\_\_\_\_.

G. The main concern of nobles was warfare as they battled one another for land, power, and security.

H. Peasants and serfs worked the lords' landed agricultural estates called \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. By 800, probably 60% of western Europeans were serfs.
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ were not slaves. They were free but not legally allowed to move.
- c. Up to one-half of a manor's lands typically belonged to the lord.
- d. Serfs paid rent by giving a share of what they raised for themselves.
- e. They also paid to use the lord's pastures and fishing ponds,
- f. and paid for services like having their grain milled into flour.
- g. The serfs were also obligated to \_\_\_\_\_ to the village church.

I. The European population doubled between 1000-1300.

- a. Increased political stability, climate changes, and technological advances including water and wind power and the increased use of iron to make tools led to greater food production.
- b. The shift from a two-field to a three-field system of crop rotation also greatly crop yields.

J. Medieval cities were comparatively small.

- a. By 1100, townspeople had laws guaranteeing their freedom and some towns had the right to govern themselves.
- b. The merchants and artisans of these cities later came to be called *burghers* or \_\_\_\_\_, from the German word *burg*, which means "a walled enclosure."
- c. Medieval towns were surrounded by stone walls, which were expensive.
- d. Space inside was tightly filled.
- e. The cities and towns were dirty and smelled of human and animal waste. Blood from slaughtered animals and chemicals from activities such as tanning went into the rivers.
- f. Fire was a great danger because houses were made of wood and straw.

## VI. Warfare

A. In the 700s, the invention of the stirrup transformed warfare.

B. For the next 500 years, heavily armored cavalry called \_\_\_\_\_ dominated warfare.

C. \_\_\_\_\_ became the residences and fortresses of the nobles during the High Middle Ages (1000-1300).

- a. Women could legally hold property, but most women still remained under the control of men.

- b. However, the lady of the castle commonly had to manage the often-large household, the estate, and the financial accounts granting them a fair amount of practical power.

D. Under the influence of the Church, an ideal of civilized behavior called \_\_\_\_\_ based on honor, courage, and Christian ethics evolved among the nobility.

- a. Knights were to be brave, loyal, merciful, humble, and courteous. Above all, they were to be good Christians and defenders of the Christian faith.

## VII. The Crusades

A. By the beginning of the 700s, the Eastern Roman Empire consisted only of parts of \_\_\_\_\_ and Italy and \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. Historians call this reduced empire the \_\_\_\_\_.  
b. Byzantium had its own distinctive civilization, unique from the Roman Empire, and lasted until 1453.  
c. As the Roman Empire fell into chaos, Byzantines believed that God had commanded their state to preserve the true Christian faith.  
d. The Byzantine Empire was \_\_\_\_\_ and Greek.

B. Eventually, tensions between the Eastern Orthodox Church, led by the \_\_\_\_\_ in Constantinople, and the Roman Catholic Church, led by the pope in Rome, caused a permanent \_\_\_\_\_, or separation, between these two branches of Christianity.

C. In 863 two Byzantine missionary brothers, \_\_\_\_\_ and Methodius, spread Eastern Orthodox Christianity to the territory that is today \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. This meant that those people's cultural life was linked to the \_\_\_\_\_ state.

D. The most serious threat to the Byzantine Empire was from Muslim \_\_\_\_\_ who had wrested away Byzantine control of Asia Minor.

- a. In 1071, the Byzantine Emperor Alexius I turned to Pope Urban II in Rome for help in fighting Muslim Turkish threat.  
b. The response was far greater than expected.  
c. A \_\_\_\_\_ would offer a chance to unite Christendom and bolster the Roman Catholic papacy.  
d. Warriors from Western Europe, especially France, answered the call in droves. They swore not only to free the conquered portions of the Byzantine Empire but to conquer \_\_\_\_\_. A wave of fanatical Christian fury swept over the East.

E. The First Crusade

- a. An army of several thousand cavalry and 10,000 infantry reached \_\_\_\_\_ in 1099.  
b. They took the city and \_\_\_\_\_ of inhabitants – Muslims, Jews, and even Christians.  
c. The victors formed four Latin kingdoms, surrounded by Muslims.  
d. These kingdoms depended on supplies from Europe coming through \_\_\_\_\_ cities.

F. The Second Crusade

- a. When one of the Latin kingdoms fell, a Second Crusade was organized.  
b. It completely failed.

G. The Third Crusade

- a. In 1187, Jerusalem fell to Islamic forces under \_\_\_\_\_.

- b. Three Christian rulers agreed to lead a Third Crusade: Frederick Barbarossa of Germany, Richard the Lionhearted of England, and Philip II Augustus of France.
- c. The Crusade was not successful. When Frederick drowned in a river, Philip went home. Richard negotiated a peace settlement agreement with Saladin.

#### H. The Fourth Crusade

- a. About six years after Saladin's death in 1193, Pope Innocent III started a Fourth Crusade.
- b. The Venetian leaders of the Fourth Crusade, however, used this situation to weaken their largest commercial competitor, the Byzantine Empire.
- c. The crusaders never reached the Holy Land.
- d. Instead, they sacked \_\_\_\_\_ in 1204.
- e. A Byzantine army recaptured the city in 1261, but the Byzantine Empire was never again a great power.

#### I. The Children's Crusades

#### J. Consequences

- a. The Crusades had little long-term consequences in the East except to lead to centuries of mistrust between Christians and Muslims.
- b. Some Italian cities prospered economically eventually building the wealth which paid for the \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. The first widespread European attacks on \_\_\_\_\_ began during the Crusades.
- d. They helped to breakdown feudalism by providing an outlet for reduce the fighting of quarrelsome and contentious knights.
- e. European monarchs were able to consolidate their control much more easily now that the warrior class had been reduced in number.
- f. Crusaders returned to Europe with many ideas from the Islamic world, which was more technologically and culturally advanced at the time.
- g. These borrowed ideas and technologies were crucial to the European \_\_\_\_\_ which led to European contact with the Americas in the late fifteenth century.

### VIII. The Late Middle Ages

A. \_\_\_\_\_ was the universal language of medieval civilization.

- a. In the 12th century, new literature was being written in the \_\_\_\_\_ – the everyday language of particular regions, such as Spanish or English.

B. In the 11th and 12th centuries, an explosion of building in medieval Europe, especially of churches, took place.

- a. Initially, these cathedrals were in the \_\_\_\_\_ style, built in the basilica shape favored in the late Roman Empire.
- b. Two innovations made it possible.
- c. One innovation was replacing the barrel vault with ribbed vaults and pointed arches.
- d. The other innovation was the \_\_\_\_\_ – a heavy, arched, stone support on the outside of the building.

C. In the 14th century, the \_\_\_\_\_ struck Europe.

- a. Italian merchants brought it from the Black Sea and rats infested with fleas carrying a deadly bacterium spread it quickly along trade routes.

- b. Between 1347-1351, it ravaged most of Europe. About 38 million people died in four years, roughly \_\_\_\_\_ of the European population.

- c. Many people believed the plague was a punishment sent by God for their sins or was caused by the devil.

D. In the 1300s, England and France began the \_\_\_\_\_ War.

- The war became a turning point in the history of warfare because peasant foot soldiers won the chief battles of this war.
- The English \_\_\_\_\_ decimated French knights at the Battle of Agincourt in 1415 where 1500 French nobles died on the battlefield.
- \_\_\_\_\_, a French peasant woman, stepped in to aid France and the timid ruler of southern France, Charles.
- She believed her favorite saints commanded her to free France.
- She inspired the French to eventual victory but the Hundred Years' War left France exhausted.
- The Hundred Years' War also strained England's economy.

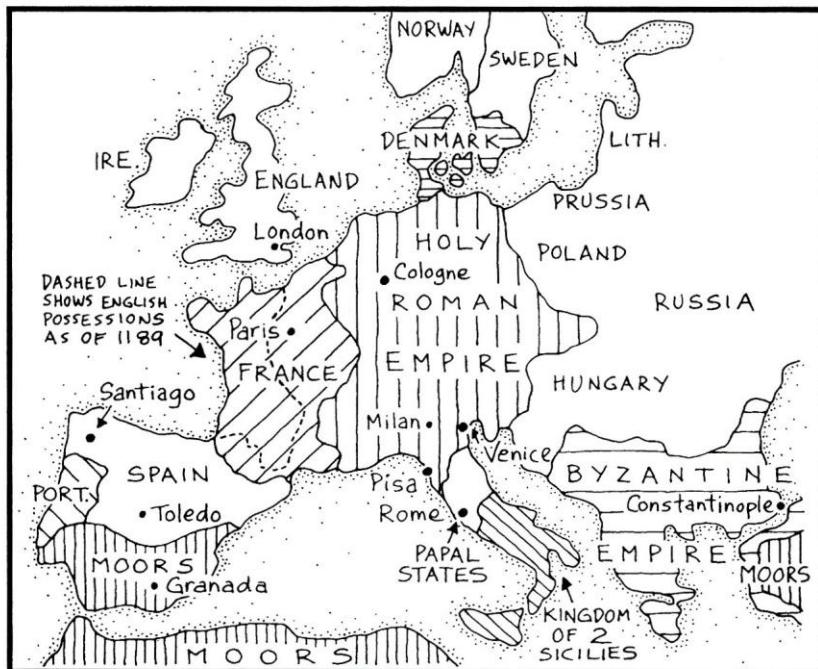
E. England faced more turmoil when a civil war known as the \_\_\_\_\_ broke out.

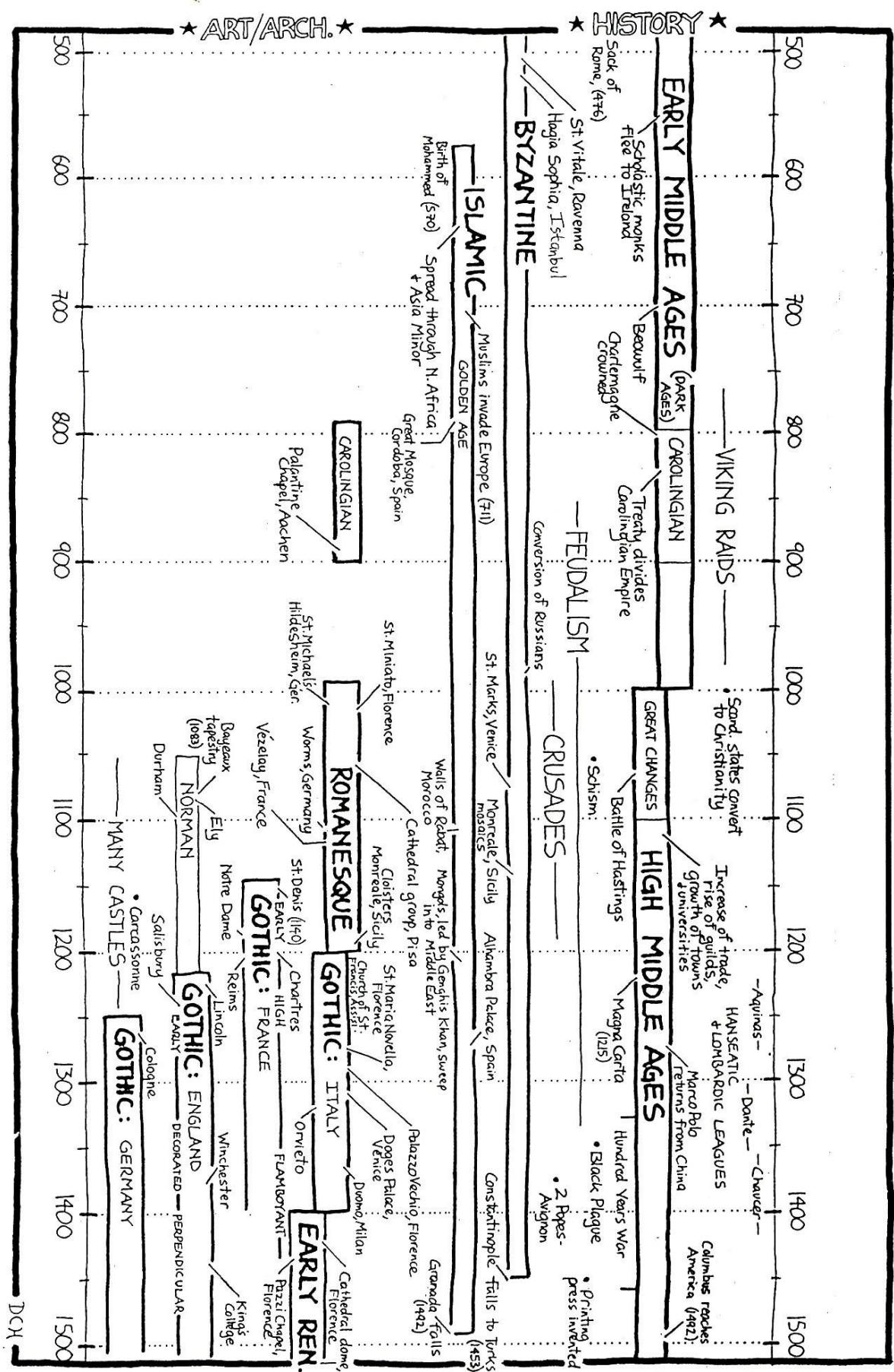
- Noble factions fought for control of the monarchy until 1485, when \_\_\_\_\_ established a new dynasty as Henry VII.

F. \_\_\_\_\_ had conquered much of Spain by 725.

- During the Middle Ages, several Christian rulers had tried to win back Spain.
- Two of the strongest kingdoms were Aragon and Castile.
- When \_\_\_\_\_ married \_\_\_\_\_ in 1469, it was a big step towards unifying power in Spain.
- 1492: all \_\_\_\_\_ were expelled from Spain, the \_\_\_\_\_ were driven out, and \_\_\_\_\_ sailed to the New World.

## Europe in 1200





Timeline of the Middle Ages