

History 270: The Early Middle Ages
University of Kentucky, Fall Term, 2000

Information

MWF 2-2:50, CB 204
Prof. Nathaniel L. Taylor
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OH: Tuesdays, 10-12; 2-4

Course Objective

This course offers a detailed survey of medieval European history and civilization, from the late Antique period to the turn of the Millennium. A companion course, History 271, surveys the High Middle Ages from the eleventh century through the fifteenth.

Books available for purchase at UK (Kennedy) Bookstore

Roger Collins, *Early Medieval Europe, 300-1000*, 2d ed. (Macmillan, 1991).
Peter Brown, *The World of Late Antiquity, AD 150-750* (Norton, 1989).
Richard Hodges and David Whitehouse, *Mohammed, Charlemagne & the Origins of Europe: Archaeology and the Pirenne Thesis* (Cornell, 1983).
Patrick Geary, *Readings in Medieval History, 1: Early Middle Ages* (Broadview, 1989).

Additional Texts

Additional primary texts in translation can be found in Paul Halsall's on-line *Internet Medieval Sourcebook* <<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/sbook.html>>. From time to time individual on-line texts will be *added* to the week's reading.

Requirements

There will be one mid-term hour exam on Monday, October 9, and the final exam on Wednesday, December 13. Exams will include short answer identifications and essay questions. There will also be one essay of eight pages in length, due mid-November (date and assignment to be set). While the course is taught as a lecture course, some interaction and attentiveness is expected on the part of the students, and participation can affect the final course grade. Students must be prepared to discuss readings, particularly primary sources, each week as part of the class hour.

Schedule of Meetings and Readings

I. Rome, her Heirs and Orphans

Wed., Aug 23: Introduction

Fri., Aug 25: Rome, 'Antiquity', and the 'Middle Ages'.

Reading: Toby Burrows, "Unmaking 'the Middle Ages'," *Journal of Medieval History* 7 (1981), 127-34 (handout).

Mon., Aug 28: The Roman Empire before 180: the Mediterranean World

Wed., Aug 30: Roman Society and Economy

Fri., Sep 1: Roman Religion and Culture

Reading: Brown, pp. 7-21
Collins, pp. xxiii-xxv, 1-8

Mon., Sep 4: **Labor Day (no class)**

Wed., Sep 6: The Crisis of the Third Century (180-284)

Fri., Sep 8: Diocletian and reform

Reading: Brown, pp. 22-45
Collins, pp. 8-15
Geary, no. 4 (*Passion of Saints Perpetua and Felicity*)

Mon., Sep 11: Constantine

Wed., Sep 13: Constantine, Christianity, and Constantinople

Fri., Sep 15: Christianity and the Empire

Reading: Brown, ch. 2 (pp. 49-112)
Collins, chs. 2-3, 5
Eusebius, *conversion of Constantine* (on-line)
Augustine, *Confessions* (selection to be set; on-line)

Mon., Sep 18: The Germanic peoples

Wed., Sep 20: The Migrations

Fri., Sep 22: The Migrations and the 'Fall of Rome'

Reading: Geary, nos. 5 (Tacitus, *Germania*) & 6 (Jordanes, *History of the Goths*)
Collins, chs. 4, 6
Brown, pp. 115-125

Mon., Sep 25: The 'Barbarian Kingdoms'

Wed., Sep 27: The Eastern Empire, 395-518

Fri., Sep 29: Emperor Justinian, 527-565

Reading: Collins, chs. 7, 8, 10
Geary, nos. 8-11 (the Franks)
Hodges & Whitehouse, chs. 1-2
Brown, 126-159.

Mon., Oct 2: Post-Roman Britain

Wed., Oct 4: Review

Fri., Oct 6: **Fall Break Day (no class)**

Reading: Collins, ch. 11.
Geary, nos. 14, 15 (Laws of King Ethelbert; Bede, *History*)

Mon., Oct 9: **MIDTERM EXAM**

II. Muhammad and Charlemagne

Wed., Oct 11: Muhammad and the rise of Islam

Fri., Oct 13: The Umayyad Caliphate

Reading: Collins, ch. 9
Brown, pp. 160-203
Hodges & Whitehouse, chs. 3-4
The Koran, selection (on-line)

Mon., Oct 16: Monasticism and Conversion in the West

Wed., Oct 18: Empire and Iconoclasm in the East

Fri., Oct 20: Lombards, the Papacy and the Franks

Reading: Collins, chs. 12, 13, 14
Geary, no. 13 (Gregory the Great, life of St. Benedict)

Mon., Oct 23: The rise of Charlemagne

Wed., Oct 25: The Carolingian Empire

Fri., Oct 27: Carolingian institutions

Reading: Collins, chs. 15, 16

Geary, no. 19 (Einhard, *Life of Charlemagne*)

Hodges & Whitehouse, ch. 5

Mon., Oct 30: The Carolingian Economy: manorial life

Wed., Nov 1: The Carolingian Economy: long-distance trade

Fri., Nov 3: The Carolingian Renaissance

Reading: Geary, no. 20 (Carolingian Capitularies)

Hodges & Whitehouse, ch. 6

III. Post-Carolingian Europe

Mon., Nov 6: The Carolingian Renaissance, cont'd.

Wed., Nov 8: The Breakup of the Carolingian Empire

Fri., Nov 10: The Age of Invasions

Reading: Collins, chs. 18, 19

Geary, no. 21—first charter (foundation charter of Cluny)

Mon., Nov 13: The Vikings

Wed., Nov 15: France and the Beginnings of Feudalism

Fri., Nov 17: The 'Feudal Revolution'

Reading: Collins, ch. 19

Geary, nos. 23, 24 (vassalage: Fulbert of Chartres; Hugh of Lusignan)

Mon., Nov 20: The Anglo-Saxon kingdom

Wed., Nov 22; Fri., Nov 24: **Thanksgiving Holiday**

Reading: Geary, no. 16 (King Alfred)

Collins, pp. 378-385

Mon., Nov 27: Anglo-Saxon kingdom, cont'd.

Wed., Nov 29: The Spanish march and reconquest

Fri., Dec 1: The new Empire: the rise of Germany

Reading: Collins, chs. 17, 20

Chronicle of Alfonso III (on-line or handout)

Mon., Dec 4: Tenth-century Culture

Wed., Dec 6: The First Millennium

Fri., Dec 8: Summary: from Augustus to Otto the Great

Reading: Collins, ch. 20

Geary, nos. 25 (Liutprand of Cremona); 22 (Miracles of Sainte Foi)

Review your notes

Wed., Dec 13 at 1:00 PM: **FINAL EXAM**

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Essay assignment

This project is open-ended: you are invited to delve into a particular early medieval primary source and analyze some part of it.

The essay should not summarize a text, or simply report 'facts' based on a text, but should ask and answer a coherent question about medieval society based on that text. Whatever the thesis question, be sure to ground the essay in close textual analysis, quoting or citing specific passages using a consistent citation format. Avoid generalizations; if you seek and use additional sources (which is acceptable but certainly not necessary for a good essay), be sure to cite them properly, and maintain the essay's primary focus on use of the primary text for support of your thesis.

The first phase is to select a general theme (**Monks?** Missionaries? Popes? Kingship? **Charlemagne's** military success? Early medieval trade? Medieval **Sin & Sex?** etc.) but more importantly, to select a primary source text (or two or three for comparative purposes) with which to work. The choice of topic area can be governed by interest in a particular source text, or vice versa: if anything in Geary has got you interested in looking further, consult me about related texts.

Accompanying this sheet is a list of many important early medieval primary texts available in English translations—a list which goes far beyond the sampling found in Geary's reader. The most important first step is to do what the little voices told Saint Augustine: pick one up and read it! If you are interested in any specific sources but can't get them, let me know and I'll lend you a copy or help you locate it. Several that aren't in Young Library can be found in Lexington, either at the Lexington Theological Seminary library or at the Public Library; they can also be requested from Vanderbilt and other schools via Interlibrary Loan with a two-day turnaround.

If you are at a loss, e-mail me, and/or come see me, and we'll brainstorm about texts you may be interested in.

The first step is to identify a likely source text (or two); the second step is to read enough into it/them to formulate a thesis question and begin to outline an essay you can write based on textual analysis. To help the process along, I would like to institute a **preliminary deadline**:

By **Friday, November 3**, I would like to see a one-page proposal consisting of two paragraphs: the first paragraph should state the text(s) on which you are working and the problem or thesis you would like to address. The second paragraph will illustrate the project by analyzing a single passage from the text relating to your question. The proposal should include a careful footnote citing the primary text you are using. Failure to hand in a proposal on time will result loss of half a letter grade (5 points) on the final paper.

As a second phase, I am willing to analyze drafts or outlines that build on the initial proposal, though I cannot promise to read any draft submitted later than one week before the paper's due date.

The essay must be eight pages, typed, double-spaced; it is **due in final form on Friday, December 1**, at the beginning of lecture (2:00). Late essays will be penalized one full letter grade (or ten points) for each day late.

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Topic Ideas: Orientation Questions

Don't take these ideas as templates in a vacuum. Start by reviewing the list of texts—or, better yet, by going to Young library, jotting down call numbers of likely possibilities, and **looking** at them on the shelf (some of them might only be at the LCC library!). Don't check them all out or pull them off the shelf, because others will have a limited selection when they come by later.

Possible starts:

What do any of the late Roman histories reveal about the decline of Rome? Are pessimistic statements of decline present? If not, why not? What is the perspective of the chronicler, or of the intended audience? What is the attitude towards the rulers? Towards Rome's enemies? Why does Procopius write what he writes in the *Secret History*?

Examine a saint's life or two. What does it reveal about daily life in the time/place of the saint? Look for illustrations and anecdotes about the saint's early life, childhood, family, positions or careers, etc. What seems specific to that time and place, and what is more universal? Or: what are the important elements of the saint's life that makes the life 'holy': miracles? suffering (martyrdom)? importance in the church hierarchy (work as a missionary, bishop, abbess, etc.)?

Examine one of the historical texts for missionary and conversion activity (I.I.D.). What authorities (religious and secular) are involved in missionary work? How is the politics of expansion reflected in these texts?

Handbooks of Penance: examine the sins and system of repentance in the Handbooks. What is the hierarchy of values implied there? Contrast it with modern ideas of sin and crime.

Relic theft: In Einhard's story of relic theft, where is the sense of guilt in the theft? Where is the sense of the holy or miraculous?

Early medieval chronicles: take one of the Germanic chronicles (in section III) and analyze it. What is the point of view of the author? What are the 'Roman' elements of the chronicle and/or the society being described (if there are any)? What are the important issues for the author and the audience? You may want to compare and contrast two texts, for example one from the Franks and one from Visigothic Spain.

Laws: what is the value system implied in these laws? How are they enforced? What is your impression of the quality of life in that society, based on the laws? What things are in the laws that surprise you? What things are surprising by their absence?

Charlemagne: contrast the picture of Charlemagne in the *Two Lives*, or in one of the lives and the *Annals*; or contrast Charlemagne's son Louis the Pious (in the Astronomer's biography). In Nithard, what is the cause of civil war? What is Nithard's perspective and role? Is it an optimistic or pessimistic history? For the non-narrative documents (capitularies and the like), look at two or more documents closely. What is their purpose? What do they suggest about the use of written document in government generally at that time?

For the Carolingian cultural documents: What do the poems, or letters, of Carolingian intellectuals show about the cultural tastes of their time? Focus on one or two documents.

What does Liutprand say the kings or rulers in Italy in his day? What about the Greeks? Why might he be so bitter? Focus on a few passages from any of his texts.

How do Hrotsvitha's plays differ from other early medieval stories of saints? Use one for contrast.

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Primary Sources in English Translation

I. LATE ROMAN EMPIRE

Ammianus Marcellinus, *The Later Roman Empire (A.D. 354-378)*, trans. W. Hamilton (Penguin). The most important narrative source for the later fourth century, including the battle of Adrianople.

Eutropius (4th cent.). *The Breviarium, Dedicated to Lord Valens, Gothicus Maximus and Perpetual Emperor*, trans. H. W. Bird (Liverpool, 1993). Another late 4th-c. chronicle.

Vegetius: Epitome of Military Science, tr. N. P. Milner (Liverpool, 1993). The basic military handbook of late Rome.

Zosimus: Historia Nova: The Decline of Rome, tr. J. J. Buchanan and H. T. Davis (San Antonio, 1967).

The Fifth-Century Chroniclers: Prosper, Hydatius, and the Gallic Chronicler of 452, tr. Stephen Muhlberger (Leeds, 1990).

Procopius, *The Secret History*, trans. G. A. Williamson (Penguin). Sixth-century Constantinople. A racy, biased account of the vices of Justinian and Theodora.

II. THE CHURCH

A. Clergy

'Liber Pontificalis': official biographies of the popes. Translated in three volumes as (1) *The Book of Pontiffs (Liber pontificalis): The Ancient Biographies of the First Ninety Roman Bishops to AD 715* (Liverpool, 1989); (2) *The Lives of the Eighth-Century Popes (Liber pontificalis): The Ancient Biographies of Nine Popes from A.D. 715 to A.D. 817* (Liverpool, 1992); and (3) *The Lives of the Ninth-Century Popes (Liber pontificalis): The Ancient Biographies of Ten Popes from A.D. 817-891* (Liverpool, 1995). Pick a life, or compare and contrast any two. (Young also has an earlier translation of the lives through Gregory the Great [604], published in 1916).

B. Theology

(Saint) Augustine, *City of God*, trans. Henry Bettenson, ed. D. Knowles (Penguin). Many other translations and abridgements, including one on reserve.

(Saint) Augustine, *Confessions*, trans. Henry Chadwick (Oxford, 1991); other editions available; including one on reserve.

C. Saints, Missionaries, etc.

Medieval Hagiography: An Anthology, ed. T. Head (New York, 2000), not (yet) at UK?

Adomnán of Iona, *Life of St. Columba*, trans. R. Sharpe (Penguin, 1995). Legendary biography of the founder of the Irish church.

Athanasius, 'Life of Saint Anthony', in *Early Christian Biographies* (Washington, 1952); also in separate ed. by Gregg, on reserve for my History 512 class.

Gregory the Great, 'Life of Saint Benedict' (in *Early Christian Lives*, trans. Carolinne White [which UK doesn't have]; also in Geary's reader).

Lives of the Saints, trans. J. F. Webb (Penguin, 1965). Contains *The Voyage of St. Brendan*; Bede, *Life of Cuthbert*; Eddius Stephanus, *Life of Wilfrid*.

Sulpicius Severus, 'Life of Saint Martin of Tours', in *Early Christian Lives*; also in *The Western Fathers: Being the Lives of SS. Martin of Tours, Ambrose, Augustine of Hippo, Honoratus of Arles, and Germanus of Auxerre*, trans. F. R. Hoare (New York, 1954).

Sainted Women of the Dark Ages, ed. Jo Ann McNamara et al. (Duke, 1990). Contains many women's biographies from early France (all abbesses and queens).

Medieval Saints: A Reader, ed. E. Mary-Ann Stouck (Broadview, 1999). A miscellany.

D. Miscellaneous: church manners, mores, customs

Monks, Bishops, and Pagans. Ed. Edward Peters (Penn., 1975); or *The Anglo-Saxon Missionaries in Germany*, ed. C. H. Tabot (London, 1954); or *Christianity and Paganism, 350-750: The Conversion of Western Europe*, ed. J. N. Hillgarth (Penn., 1986). All contain documents (biographies, letters, etc.), from the missionary period.

The Letters of Saint Boniface, tr. Ephraim Emerton (Columbia, 1940). Selected letters of the missionary bishop; show religious and political issues in early 8th century.

B. McGinn, *Visions of the End: Apocalyptic Traditions in the Middle Ages* (Columbia, 1979). Apocalyptic texts, common in religious thought around the Millennium.

Medieval Handbooks of Penance (Libri poenitentiales), ed. J. T. McNeill and H. M. Gamer (Columbia, 1938). Laws of sin and penance from the early medieval churches.

Einhard, 'History of the translation of the martyrs Marcellinus & Peter'. In *Charlemagne's Courtier: The Complete Einhard*. Ed. Paul Dutton (Broadview, 1998); also in *Carolingian Civilization: a Reader*, ed. Paul Dutton (Broadview, 1993). The best medieval account of **relic theft**.

III. GERMANIC KINGDOMS

A. Anglo-Saxons

Beowulf, tr. Howell D. Chickering, Jr. (Anchor, 1977). Greatest poetic epic of Germanic heroism; with pagan and Christian elements. Many translations available.

Bede, *Ecclesiastical History of the English People, with Bede's letter to Egbert and Cuthbert's letter on the death of Bede* (Penguin, 1990). Accounts of the Christianization of England and other events in that period (before 730).

Other works of Bede: *Bede: On the Tabernacle*, tr. A. G. Holder (Liverpool, 1994); *Bede: On the Temple*, tr. J. O'Reilly (Liverpool, 1995); *Bede: A Biblical Miscellany*, tr. W. T. Foley and A. G. Holder (Liverpool, 1999); and *Bede: The Reckoning of Time*, tr. F. Wallis (Liverpool, 1999). Bede's writings on various subjects. 'Time' is an interesting view of how early medieval people understood and measured it.

Alcuin, *The Bishops, Kings, and Saints of York*, ed. P. Godman (Oxford, 1982). A history of his home city by Charlemagne's leading intellectual.

English Historical Documents, ed. Whitelock, vol. 1. Has many different translated documents, including laws, chronicles, etc.

B. Visigothic / Muslim Spain

Isidore of Seville. *Isidore of Seville's History of Kings of the Goths, Vandals, and Suevi*, tr. Guido Donini and Gordon B. Ford. Leiden, 1966.

Conquerors and Chroniclers of Early Medieval Spain. Trans. K. B. Wolf (Liverpool, 1990, 1999). Four chronicles of Visigothic Spain, its overthrow by the Muslims, and

the beginnings of the new Christian kingdoms in the 8th century. Includes one of Isidore's texts (see above).

Lives of the Visigothic Fathers, tr. A. T. Fear (Liverpool, 1997). Religious biographies, but all set in early Spain.

Christians and Moors in Spain, ed. C. Smith, 3 vols. (Warminster, 1988-92): vol. 1, 711-1150; vol. 3, Arabic Sources (711-1501). A miscellany of early Spanish texts.

C. Gothic Italy

Cassiodorus. *The Variae of Magnus Aurelius Cassiodorus ... being Documents of the Kingdom of the Ostrogoths in Italy*, tr. S. J. B. Barnish (Liverpool, 1992). Cassiodorus was a Roman under Theodoric; a Christian but a traditionally-educated Roman.

D. Vandals

Victor of Vita, *History of the Vandal Persecution*, tr. J. Moorhead (Liverpool, 1992).

E. Franks

Gregory of Tours, *History of the Franks*, trans. L. Thorpe (Penguin, 1974); other eds. available. Filled with detail on all sorts of subjects.

From Roman to Merovingian Gaul: A Reader, ed. Alexander C. Murray (Broadview, 2000). Miscellaneous texts & excerpts.

Liber historiae Francorum, trans. B. S. Bachrach (Kansas, 1973). A short chronicle of the later Merovingians.

Late Merovingian France: History and Hagiography, 640-720, tr. P. Fouracre and R. A. Gerberding (Manchester, 1996): not at UK?

F. Lombards

Paul the Deacon, *History of the Longobards*, trans. W. D. Foulke (Philadelphia, 1907).

G. Laws

The Lombard Laws, trans. K. F. Drew (Penn., 1973).

The Burgundian Code, trans. K. F. Drew (Penn., 1949).

The laws of the Salian Franks, trans. K. F. Drew (Penn., 1991).

Medieval Russian Laws, tr. George Vernadsky (Columbia, 1947).

The laws of the earliest English kings, ed. F.L. Attenborough (New York, 1963).

See also the *Medieval Handbooks of Penance*, above (II.D.)

IV. CAROLINGIAN AGE

A. History & Biography

Einhard, 'Life of Charlemagne' in *Two Lives of Charlemagne*, trans. L. Thorpe (Penguin, 1969); also in *Carolingian Civilization: A Reader*. Ed. Paul Dutton. (Broadview, 1993).

Notker the Stammerer, 'Life of Charlemagne', also in *Two Lives of Charlemagne*.

Nithard, 'Histories' (account of the civil war between Charlemagne's grandsons), in *Carolingian Chronicles*, trans. Bernhard Walter Scholz (Ann Arbor, 1970); also in *Carolingian Civilization: A Reader*. Ed. Paul Dutton. (Broadview, 1993).

Royal Frankish Annals, trans. B. W. Scholz in *Carolingian Chronicles* (Ann Arbor, 1970). See also *The Annals of St.-Bertin*, trans. J. Nelson (Manchester, 1991), and *The*

Annals of Fulda, tr. T. Reuter (Manchester, 1992): all short but revealing 'official' chronicles of events in the Carolingian period, during Charlemagne's lifetime and after. Contrast early and later entries, etc.

The Reign of Charlemagne: Documents on Carolingian Government and Administration, ed. H. R. Loyn and J. Percival (London, 1975). Contains many of Charlemagne's administrative documents, or capitularies, and other texts.

The Astronomer, *Son of Charlemagne: A Contemporary Life of Louis the Pious*, trans. A. Cabaniss (Syracuse, 1961).

Charlemagne's Cousins, trans. A. Cabaniss (Syracuse, 1967). Collateral relatives of the royal family: saints & administrators.

B. Carolingian culture

Peter Godman, ed., *Poetry of the Carolingian Renaissance* (Oklahoma, 1985).

Alcuin of York, c. A.D. 732 to 804: His Life and Letters, ed. Stephen Allott (York, 1974).

Lupus of Ferrières, *The Letters of Lupus of Ferrières*, tr. G. W. Regenos (The Hague, 1966).

Adalard, "Customs of Corbie," trans. C. W. Jones, in E. Horn and W. Born, *The Plan of Saint Gall*, 3 vols. (Berkeley, 1979), in vol. 3. (this great set is in the Architecture library, special collections. Abbot Adalard of Corbie was a monastic reformer under Charlemagne; the text is a monastic rule reflecting Carolingian thought).

Other texts are found in *Carolingian Civilization: A Reader*. Ed. Paul Dutton. (Broadview, 1993).

V. TENTH CENTURY

Liudprand of Cremona, 'Tit-for-tat', 'Embassy to Constantinople', and 'Chronicle of Otto's Reign', all in *Embassy to Constantinople and other Writings (=Works)*, trans. F. A. Wright (1930).

Hrotsvitha (Hrotsvit) of Gandersheim, *Plays or Dramas*, several editions available.

The fibrist of al-Nadim: A Tenth-Century Survey of Muslim Culture, trans. Bayard Dodge, 2 vols. (Columbia, 1970). Tenth-century Muslim culture. See also in the Spain section.

Ibn Fadlan, "Ibn Fadlan's Account of the Rus with Some Commentary and Some Allusions to Beowulf," ed. H. M. Smyser, in *Medieval and Linguistic Studies in Honour of Francis Peabody Magoun* (New York, 1965), 92-119.

HISTORY 270. THE EARLY MIDDLE AGES

TIMELINE I: LATER ROMAN EMPIRE TO CAROLINGIAN ACCESSION

- 283 Accession of Diocletian: Division of Roman Empire, Institution of Tetrarchy
- 312 Battle of Milvian Bridge: Accession of Constantine
- 321 Founding of Constantinople
- 375 Goths cross Danube into Empire: first Germanic tribe to do so (driven by Huns).
- 378 Battle of Hadrianopolis: Goths defeat Emperor Valens
- 406 Invasions over the Rhine (Franks, Alemans, Vandals)
- 409 Vandals invade Spain
- 410 Visigoths sack Rome
- 418 Foundation of Visigothic Kingdom of Toulouse (later Spain)
- 429 Vandals reach North Africa
- 449-50 Saxons invade Britain
- 451 Aetius, Roman *Magister militum*, defeats Attila & Huns at Battle of Chalons
- 453 Death of Attila
- 455 Vandals sack Rome
- 476 Odoacer, (but a Herulian warlord) deposes last Emperor in West
- 481-511 Career of Clovis, King of the Franks
- 488 Ostrogoths enter Italy
- 493-526 Career of Theodoric, King of the Ostrogoths
- 533-4 Byzantine reconquest of North Africa
- 534 Merovingian Franks conquer Burgundian kingdom
- 535-556 Byzantine reconquest of Italy (Belisarius & Narses): defeat of Ostrogoths
- 554 Battle of Casilinum: Byzantines defeat Frankish army in Italy
- 568 Lombards enter Italy: foundation of Lombard Kingdom in Italy
- 586 Gundovald's War and Siege of Convenae: typical civil war among Merovingians
- 622 Muhammad's *hejira*: beginning of Islam
- 711 Muslim Invasion of Spain: destruction of Visigothic Kingdom
- 732 Battle of Tours (or Poitiers): Franks defeat Muslims
- 751 Accession of Pippin, father of Charlemagne, as King of the Franks

HISTORY 270. THE EARLY MIDDLE AGES

TIMELINE 2: CAROLINGIAN EMPIRE; AGE OF INVASIONS; MILLENNIUM

- 732 Battle of Tours (or Poitiers): Franks (under Charles Martel) defeat Muslims
- 768 Charlemagne becomes King of the Franks. Almost annual campaigns as king
- 778 Rearguard ambush at Roncesvalles in the Pyrenees: kernel of Roland legend
- 793 First account of Viking raids, at Lindisfarne, in England
- 800 Charlemagne crowned Emperor in Rome
- 814 Death of Charlemagne
- 843 Treaty of Verdun: empire divided after dynastic civil war
- c. 860 Rurik, a Viking chieftain, settles to rule Novgorod in Russia
- 865-896 Viking 'Great Army': thirty-year muster plundering England & Continent
- 881 'Great Army' occupies Charlemagne's palace at Aachen
- 885 Viking siege of Paris: bought off by Frankish king, plundered elsewhere
- 875-896 King Alfred of Wessex builds and wields a fleet to defend against the Vikings
- c. 900 Muslim raiding base established at Fraxinetum (southern France)
- 898-955 Magyar raids into Germany and farther westward
- 911 French king treats with Viking leader, Hrolf, to settle province of Normandy
- 955 Otto the Great annihilates Magyar army at the Battle of the Lechfeld
- 958 Death of Gorm the Old; Christianization of new royal dynasty in Denmark
- 962 Otto the Great reunites Italian and German portions of Carolingian Empire
- 987 Accession of King Hugh Capet, founder of a new dynasty (Capetians) in France
- 989 Council of Charroux: first canons of the 'Peace of God'
- 991 Battle of Maldon, in second great phase of Viking raids
- 987-1040 Career of Fulk Nerra, stone-castle-building count of Anjou
- 1000 Naval battle of Svolder: Danes & Swedes defeat Olaf Tryggvason of Norway
- 1014-1016 Danes annex England under King Swein Forkbeard and son Cnut the Great
- 1027 Council of Elne (Roussillon): first canons of the 'Truce of God'
- ca. 1027 Adalbero, bishop of Laon, describes 'three orders': those who fight, pray, & toil
- 1028-1035 Cnut the Great rules united northern empire of Norway, Denmark, & England
- 1047 William establishes himself as Duke of Normandy at battle of Val-ès-Dunes
- 1066 Norwegian and Norman invasions of England: battles of Stamford Bridge (September 25) & Hastings (October 14)
- 1087 *Domesday Book* (survey of English domains) written