

Western Europe

- 5th cen – Political collapse of Rome
- The Franks
 - Kingdom = 1st “European” state
 - Origins:
 - 481 = northern Gaul
 - Clovis I
 - Merovingian Dynasty
 - Succeeds father Childeric I
 - Was cunning diplomat
 - Used religion for political gain
 - Close alliance with papacy
 - Expanded power & domain
 - @ death controls much of “France”
 - Clovis’s descendants extend domain
 - BUT: 3 factors = decay of dynasty
 - 1) kingdom = property of ruler; divide among sons
 - 2) Later Merovingians = incompetent
 - 3) Rise of influence of “Mayor of the Palace”
 - Frankish power rises in 8th Century
 - NOTE: Francia divided into 5 sub-kingdom
 - 714: Dagobert III rules Austrasia, Neustria & Burgundy
 - Mayor = Pippin of Herstal
 - » Heir = Charles Martel
 - » BUT wife picks grandson – Theudoald
 - Dagobert rejects Theudoald
 - » Ragenfrid named mayor
 - Dagobert dies; succeed by Chilperic II
 - Civil war erupts
 - Charles emerges
 - Transforms warfare
 - Creates “knights”
 - » Rewards with *benefices*

- Uses innovative tactics
- Ends internal opposition
 - » Defeats Chilperic at Battle of Soissons
 - » Goes to war = 718-732
 - » Reunites Francia; expands borders
 - » Rules as *de facto* king
- Most significant = subversion of Aquitaine
 - Ruler = Duke Odo the Great
 - Assaulted by *Saracens*
 - » Saracens = Umayyad Dynasty
 - » Odo defeats @ Toulouse
 - Abdul Rahman Al Ghafiqi invades
 - » Odo appeals to Charles
 - » Umayyads defeats Odo @ Bordeaux
 - » Pillage southern France
- Charles tricks Abdul Rahman
 - Uses phalanx & terrain
 - Abdul Rahman attacks thru forest
- Battle of Tours = world altering event
- Charles divides lands like king
 - Two sons
 - Pépin le Bref = Mayor of Neustria
 - Carloman = Mayor of Austrasia
 - Brothers appoint puppet to throne – Childeric III
 - Carloman retires to monastery
- Pépin inherits father's skills
 - Moves to legalize his power
 - Contacts Pope Zachary
 - Removes Childeric III
 - Elected king = Carolingian Dynasty
 - Expands authority
 - Pope Stephen II travels to Paris
 - Anoints Pépin = *Rex et Sacerdos*

- Grants title - *Patricius Romanorum*
- Pépin's 1st act = war on Lombards
 - Donates lands to Stephen = the "Papal States"
- Conquers all of Aquitaine
- Drives Umayyads back into Iberian Peninsula
- Upon death, Pépin splits domain
 - Two sons = co-rulers
 - Charles = Western lands
 - Carloman = Eastern lands
 - Carloman dies
- As king, Charles = "*magnus*" (aka Charlemagne)
 - Militarily = brilliant conqueror
 - 1st action vs. Lombards
 - » Hrodgaud rebels; but crushed
 - Saxon Wars
 - » NOTE: Saxonia divided
 - » Task = difficult
 - » Imposes draconian religious laws
 - » Worst = Bloody Trial of Verden
 - » 30 year struggle; 18 major battles
 - Vs. the Moors
 - » 778 crosses Pyrenees
 - » Siege of Zaragoza
 - » Moors caught up; near Roncevaux
 - » Attack baggage train
 - » NOTE: Einhard's *Song of Roland*
 - » Would create Spanish "*Mark*"
 - Vs. the Avars
 - » Creates Eastern Mark
 - Enjoys global fame
- High point = Christmas Day, 800AD
 - Pope Leo III gets into trouble
 - Sought Charlemagne's help; Leo restored

- Leo summons to Rome
- Crowns Charlemagne - *Imperator Romanorum*
 - NOTE: calls self - *Imperator Romanum gubernans Imperium*
- Greatest achievement = efficient imperial administration
 - Capital = Aix-la-Chapelle
 - Empire = vast
 - Divided into 350 divisions
 - Led by “*graf*” or *markgraf*
 - Aided by *Herzog*
 - Creates *Missi dominici*
 - Imposes Uniform standards
- Greatest gift = Carolingian Renaissance
 - Was great patron of learning
 - 1st period of educational revival since Rome fell
 - Scholarship
 - Opens *scriptorias*
 - Opens monastic schools
 - Writing standardized
 - Medieval Latin created
 - Art & Architecture
- End of the empire
 - Too vast; nobility too divisive
 - Succeeded by Louis I the Fair
 - Many problems
 - Biggest = had 3 sons Lothair, Louis the German & Charles the Bald
 - Civil wars erupt
 - 843 truce = Treaty of Verdun
 - Empire split – 3 kingdoms
 - Further subdivided ex. Lothair’s kingdom
 - Europe remains divided; two exceptions = Napoleon & Nazis