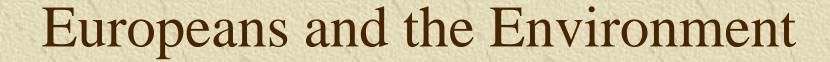


The First Medieval Synthesis

European Civilization in the Early Middle Ages, 750 - 1000





- ** Sparsely populated, heavily forested landscape, de-emphasis of cities
- ***** Farming
 - Less than 10 percent of land cultivated
 - Low crop yields
- **Climate**
 - Improving weather after 700
 - Constant threat of natural disaster



- * Carolingian dynasty were Frankish nobles with origins in the 7th c
- By 751, when the Merovingians were deposed, Pepin had the power to be named King of the Franks
- * His father, Charles Martel, had re-introduced heavy cavalry & horse-drawn supplies to warfare
- * Franks were falling back into tribal customs
- ★ Saxons of Northern Europe were at best nominally Christians

The World of the Carolingians

- Charlemagne from Carolus
 Magnus, or Charles the Great (742 814)
- Physically impressive; est. 6'3" tall
- Described as fair-haired, tall, "bullnecked"
- Favored fairly simple dress (not overtly royal)
- At first joint ruler with brother Carloman (starting 768); after Carloman's death (771), Charlemagne ruled alone
- Biography written by Einhard (c. 775-840): Vita Karoli Magni



Governing Charlemagne's Empire

- ***** Governing the Empire
 - Income from royal estates
 - Counts as administrators
 - Missi Dominici
 - 'Counts' as administrators
 - Vassalage system
 - Help from the Church
- * Charlemagne as Emperor
 - ◆ Pope Leo III (795 816)
 - Charlemagne crowned emperor in 800



The Carolingian Renaissance

- * The so-called Carolingian Renaissance was short-lived.
- * Art and learning were encouraged and the great king nearly restored order to Europe.
- Unfortunately his successors were less capable and outside invasions destroyed his empire's unity.





The Carolingian Intellectual Revival

- * Scriptoria
- ***** Carolingian Miniscule
- * Carolingian Renaissance
 - Alcuin of Northumbria



Monks as Copyists



The Carolingian Renaissance



The Supposed Sword of Charlemagne





St. Gall Gospel
Back Cover

The Carolingian Renaissance

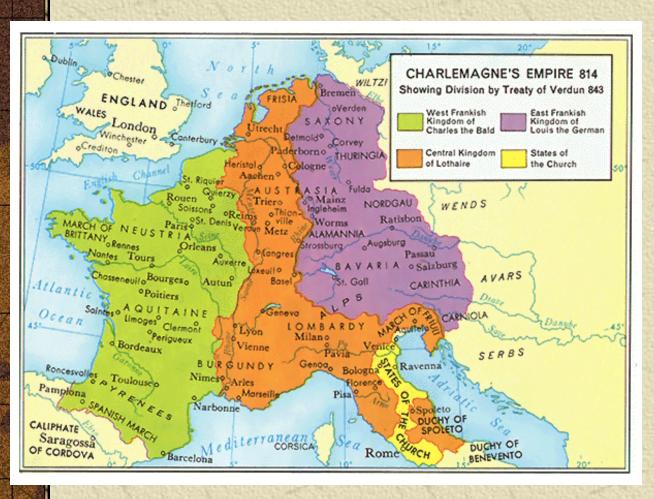
* An important development in Carolingian scriptoria was the invention of a new kind of writing — Carolingian miniscule — which used both upper and lower case letters.



The Carolingian Empire



End of the Carolingian Renaissance



- * Charlemagne's death left the empire in weaker hands.
- ** By the treaty of Verdun, the Frankish Empire was divided among his grandsons.

End of the Carolingian

Renaissance

- Outsiders also threatened the empire.
- From the North came the Vikings.
- From the East came the Magyars
- From the South came the Moslems

