

EUROPEAN KINGDOMS & THE BYZANTINE EMPIRE

900 CE – 1453 CE

ENGLAND

- During the Dark Ages (about 500 – 900 CE) England was invaded and occupied by the Angle and Saxon tribes from northern Europe.
- In 1066, William of Normandy (remember, the area of France given to Viking invaders?) invaded England. He defeated King Harold at the **Battle of Hastings**.
- William was crowned king of England; he parceled out land to his knights and made all the nobles swear an oath of loyalty to him



KING WILLIAM I

- The Normandy invaders spoke French, but after the invasion of Anglo-Saxon England, the two cultures gradually merged into a new English culture
- The Normans adopted many English offices, including the office of sheriff
- William conducted a census, called the Domesday Book – a list of all the families in England

HENRY II OF ENGLAND

- Henry II increased the power of the king in England
 - He increased the number of criminal cases tried in his own king's court
 - He forced property cases to be heard in his courts
 - As a result of cases going through courts he controlled, a new system of common law developed; common law means laws that apply or are used throughout the entire kingdom
- Henry tried to take control of the church in England but was unsuccessful
 - Henry attempted to try & punish priests in his royal court
 - Thomas a Becket, a priest, fought the king over trying priests in court and was murdered in the cathedral; Henry had to withdraw his attempts after the public was outraged over Becket's murder

MAGNA CARTA

After Henry II increased the power of the king the nobles began to resent the king's power.

During King John's reign in the 13th century, the nobles rebelled and forced the king to sign the Magna Carta, a document of rights.

The Magna Carta was a feudal document that recognized the relationship between the king and his vassals and the mutual rights and obligations of both parties.



PARLIAMENT

- During the reign of Edward I, the English Parliament emerged (legislature)
 - Parliament was composed of two knights from every county, two people from every town, and all of the nobles and bishops throughout England
 - Parliament eventually split into two houses:
 - House of Lords, made up of Nobles & Bishops
 - House of Commons, made up of knights and townspeople
- Parliament granted taxes and passed laws
 - Parliament was the model used for the American Congress four hundred years later

FRANCE

- In 987, after the death of the last Carolingian king, the west Frankish nobles chose Hugh Capet as the new king, establishing the **Capetian dynasty** of French kings
- The kings ruled over Paris, but the nobles ran the rest of the country
- King **Philip II Augustus** (1180-1223) waged war against the rulers of England, who ruled some northern French territories; he was able to expand the reach of the monarchy and his income
- After Philip II, French kings continued to add lands to France
- By 1300, France was the largest and best-governed monarchical state, because the kings took advantage of a large royal bureaucracy to help rule the country
- Philip IV created a French parliament made up of representatives of the three **estates** – the clergy, the nobles, and the townspeople and peasants; their first meeting was held in 1302

HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE

In the 10th century, the duke of Saxons became the king of the eastern Frankish kingdom, which came to be known as Germany.

The most well-known German king was Otto I. In return for protecting the pope, he was crowned emperor of the Romans in 962.

The German kings struggled with ruling both Germany and Italy.



FREDERICK I & II

- Kings Frederick I & II of Germany tried to create a new kind of empire, ruling both Italy and Germany
- Frederick I tried to get most of his empire's revenue from Italy, which he called a "holy empire" (eventually it came to be known as the Holy Roman Empire)
- Frederick I was opposed in his attempts to conquer northern Italy, he lost to an alliance of northern cities
- Frederick II attempted to establish a strong, centralized government in Italy, but was opposed by the northern cities and the Pope, he eventually lost the war

CONFLICT IN HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE

- The struggle between popes and emperors had negative consequences for the Holy Roman Empire
 - German emperors left Germany in the hands of powerful nobles while trying to conquer Italy
 - These nobles took advantage of the emperor's absence to create their own independent kingdoms
 - The German emperors had almost no real power in Italy, making the monarchy very weak
 - Neither Germany nor Italy created a national monarchy in the Middle Ages
 - Italy & Germany consisted of many small, independent states

CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE

- Slavic peoples were originally unified, but divided into three major groups: western, southern, and eastern Slavs
 - Western Slavs formed the Polish and Bohemian kingdoms
 - Included the Czechs in Bohemia; Poland, Bohemia, and Hungary all converted to Catholicism
 - Southern and Eastern Slavs developed the Byzantine empire (more on them later!)
 - Eastern Slavs included the people of Moravia; Southern Slavs included the Croats, Serbs, and Bulgarians

RUSSIA

Eastern Slavic people settled in the territory of the present-day Ukraine and Russia

Vikings invaded and eventually came to dominate the native peoples

The native people called the Vikings Rus, which eventually became Russia



One Viking leader, Oleg settled in Kiev at the beginning of the 10th century and created a Rus state known as the principality of Kiev

RUSSIA

- Oleg's successors extended their control over the Eastern Slavs and expanded Kiev until it included the territory between the Baltic and Black Seas, and the Danube and Volga Rivers
- The growth of Kiev attracted missionaries from the Byzantine empire
 - When Vladimir of Kiev converted to Eastern Orthodox Christianity, it became the religion of the state
- Kiev Rus prospered and reached its high point in the first half of the 11th century
- In the 13th century, the Mongols conquered Russia and required Russian princes to pay tribute to them
 - Alexander Nevsky, prince of Novgorod defeated the Germans and was rewarded with the title of Grand Prince by the Khan; his descendants eventually became rulers of all of Russia

EASTERN ROMAN EMPIRE

- The Eastern Roman Empire remained mostly intact following the fall of Rome and the invasions of the Germans
- When Justinian became emperor of Eastern Roman Empire in 527, he was determined to strengthen the empire
- By 552 he achieved his goals; his empire included Italy, parts of Spain, North Africa, Asia Minor, Palestine, and Syria

EASTERN ROMAN EMPIRE UNDER JUSTINIAN



TRANSITION TO BYZANTINE EMPIRE

- Justinian's expansion of the empire resulted in many serious problems:
 - Too much territory to protect from far away Constantinople
 - An empty treasury
 - A decline in population after the plague
 - Threats from outside invasion on the frontier of the empire
 - The rise of Islam and the spread of the Arab empire

TRANSITION TO BYZANTINE EMPIRE

- The empire lost Syria and Palenstine when they were defeated by Islamic forces in 636
- In 679, the Bulgars defeated the empire's forces and took over the lower Danube Valley, creating Bulgaria
- By the 8th century, the Eastern Roman Empire was much smaller, consisting only of the eastern Balkans and Asia minor
 - At this point, Historians called it the Byzantine Empire; a civilization with a unique character that lasted until 1453

BYZANTINE EMPIRE



The Byzantine Empire went from a major to a minor power in the century and a half portrayed on this map. After the Turkish defeat at Manzikert in 1071, the Byzantines maintained effective control of only a small fringe of Anatolia. In the Balkans, the new Serbian, Bulgarian, and Hungarian states grew to become powerful, even though the Byzantines claimed control over the region.

CHARACTERISTICS

- The Byzantine Empire was both a Greek and Christian state
 - Greek was official language
 - Christianity was religion of the empire
 - Emperor was portrayed as chosen by God, led sacred ceremonies
 - Emperor appointed the head of the church, known as the **patriarch**, the emperor controlled both the church AND the state

CONSTANTINOPLE

Emperor Justinian rebuilt Constantinople after riots in 532 destroyed much of the city

Justinian's influence over the architecture lasted over 1000 years; he built a large palace complex, hundreds of churches, an arena, and many public works projects

Constantinople was the largest city in Europe during the Middle Ages



Constantinople was Europe's greatest trading center until the 12th century; it was the center for the exchange of products between the West and East

HAGIA SOPHIA

One of Justinian's greatest accomplishments was the Hagia Sophia, a church completed in 537 (now a mosque in modern-day Istanbul)

The church is one of Europe's largest and is covered by an enormous dome



MACEDONIAN EMPERORS

- The Macedonian emperors ruled the Byzantine Empire from 867 to 1081
 - They extended the empire to include Bulgaria and the Balkans
 - Expanded trade with Western Europe, especially by selling silks and metalworks
 - Expanded the powers of the emperors
 - Constantinople flourished because of the increased prosperity
- By the 10th and 11th century, conflict between military and aristocratic families created disorder
 - Struggles for power caused political and social disorder

SCHISM

- The Eastern Orthodox Church and the Catholic Church in the west were in conflict
 - The Pope claimed he was the head of BOTH churches
 - In 1054 Pope Leo IX excommunicated Michael Cerularius, the head of the Byzantine Church (Cerularius excommunicated Leo IX from the church, too!)
 - This created a **schism**, or separation between the two branches of Christianity that still exists today
- The Byzantine Empire also faced invasion from the Arab Turks
 - In 1071, the Turkish army defeated the Byzantine forces at Manzikert
 - The Emperor asked Europe for help against the Turks, which led to a series of military expeditions in the Middle East and Byzantine Empire

CRUSADES

From the 11th to the 13th centuries, European Christians carried out a series of military expeditions to the Holy Land, to attempt to take it from the Muslims who controlled it. These expeditions were known as the Crusades.



The Crusades began when the Byzantine Emperor Alexius I asked for help fighting the Seljuk Turks.

Pope Urban II rallied the warrior of Europe for the liberation of Jerusalem from the infidels – unbelievers, the Muslims.

CRUSADES

- Pope Urban II promised the knights who went to war that all their sins would be forgiven, because God willed that Jerusalem be rescued from the Muslims.
- Knights from all over Europe joined the Crusades. Many were motivated by religious fervor, but others were went for the adventure or the promise of fighting. Others saw a chance for business opportunities – gaining trading connections with the Middle East. Some knights hoped for an opportunity to gain territory, riches, or a new title.

CRUSADES



EARLY CRUSADES

- **First Crusade:** The First Crusade began as three separate bands of soldiers (most French) made their way to the East. This army took Antioch in 1098, then proceeded down the Palestinian coast toward Jerusalem. They arrived in 1099. They took the Holy City then massacred the inhabitants.
- The Crusaders had other conquests, then organized four crusader states. Because they were surrounded by Muslims, these states required aid from European cities for supplies.
- By the 1140s, the Muslims began to strike back; after the defeat of one of the crusader kingdoms, leaders in Europe began a call for a second crusade. This **Second Crusade** was a total failure, and in 1187 Jerusalem fell to Muslim forces led by **Saladin.**

THIRD CRUSADE

- After Jerusalem fell to Saladin, three European leaders agreed to a **Third Crusade**: Emperor Frederick of Germany, Richard I of England, and Philip II of France.
- The Third Crusade did not go well; Frederick drowned, and the English and French could not move inland after capturing some coastal cities.
- After Philip II went home, Richard negotiated a settlement with Saladin that allowed Christian pilgrims access to Jerusalem.

LATER CRUSADES

- After Saladin's death in 1193, Pope Innocent II initiated the Fourth Crusade.
 - On their way to the east, the army became involved in a fight over succession to the Byzantine throne
 - Venetian leaders wanted to weaken their biggest trade competitor, the Byzantine Empire.
 - The crusaders went to Constantinople instead of Jerusalem and arrived in 1204
 - They sacked the city and its surrounding lands (and part of Asia Minor)
 - This reduced the size of the Byzantine empire, which stayed this size until they were conquered in 1453

CHILDREN'S CRUSADE

- In 1212, Nicholas of Cologne announced that God had inspired him to lead a “children’s crusade”.
 - Thousands of young people joined him and made their way to Italy, where the Pope told them to go home
 - At the same time, twenty thousand French children headed to Marseille to join the crusade; they found ships to the Holy Land, but the shipowners took them to Northern Africa and sold them into slavery instead

LEGACY OF CRUSADES

- Italy benefitted from the Crusades, as their port cities gained great wealth through trade
- The beginnings of Jewish attacks began during this period, as European Christians wanted to also remove non-Christians from Europe.
- The Crusades helped break down feudalism. As kings levied taxes and raised armies, the nobles joining the Crusades sold their lands and freed their serfs. As nobles lost power, the kings were able create stronger central governments. This paved the way for the development of nation-states like Portugal, Spain, England, and France, which became the strongest powers in Europe by the 1400s.