



World History SOL 9

Western Europe during the Middle
Ages (500-1000 AD)



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- ★ The Roman Catholic Church grew in importance after Roman authority declined. It became a unifying force in western Europe.
 - ★ During the Middle Ages, the Pope anointed the Emperors, missionaries carried Christianity to the Germanic tribes & the Church served the social, political & religious needs of the people.



Foundations of early Medieval Society



- ★ Classical heritage of Rome
- ★ Christian beliefs
- ★ Customs of Germanic tribes





Influence of the Roman Catholic Church



- ★ Secular authority declined, while Church authority grew
- ★ Monasteries preserved Greco-Roman cultural achievements
- ★ Missionaries carried Christianity & Latin alphabet to Germanic tribes
- ★ Pope anointed Charlemagne Emperor in 800 AD
- ★ Parish priests served religious & social needs of the people



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- ★ The decline of the Roman influence in Western Europe left people with little protection against invasion, so they entered into feudal agreements with land-holding lords who promised them protection.
 - ★ Invasions shattered Roman protection over the Empire.



Middle Ages in Europe





Feudal Society during the Middle Ages



★ Fief

★ Vassals



★ Serfs

★ Feudal obligations





Manorial System during the Middle Ages

- ★ Rigid class structure
- ★ Self-sufficient manors





★ Frankish kings used military power to expand their territory.

★ The alliance between the Frankish kings & the Church re-established Roman culture (Christianity) in Western Europe.



Age of Charlemagne



- ★ Franks emerged as a force in Western Europe
- ★ Pope crowned the Emperor
- ★ Power of the Church was established in political life
- ★ Roman culture was reinterpreted
- ★ Most of Western Europe was included in the new empire.
- ★ Churches, roads, & schools were built to unite the empire



Invasions by Angles, Saxons, Magyars & Vikings disrupted the social, economic & political order of Europe.



Areas of Settlement



★ Angles & Saxons migrated from continental Europe to England



★ Magyars migrated from Central Asia to Hungary



★ Vikings migrated from Scandinavia to Russia



Influence of the Angles, Saxons, Magyars & Vikings



★ Manors with castles provided protection from invaders, reinforcing the feudal system



★ Invasions disrupted trade, towns declined & the feudal system was strengthened.

