

# **POST CLASSICAL WESTERN EUROPE FROM 476 TO 1453 C.E.**

**FROM PERIPHERAL REGION  
TO NASCENT GREAT POWER**



# EUROPE c. 526 – 600 C.E.

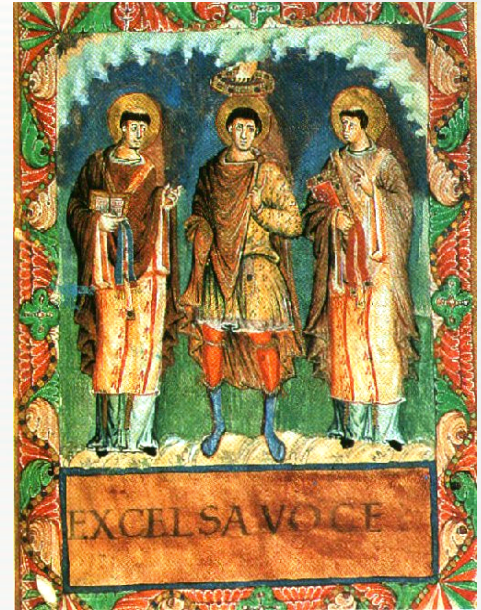


# **RISE OF THE FRANKS**

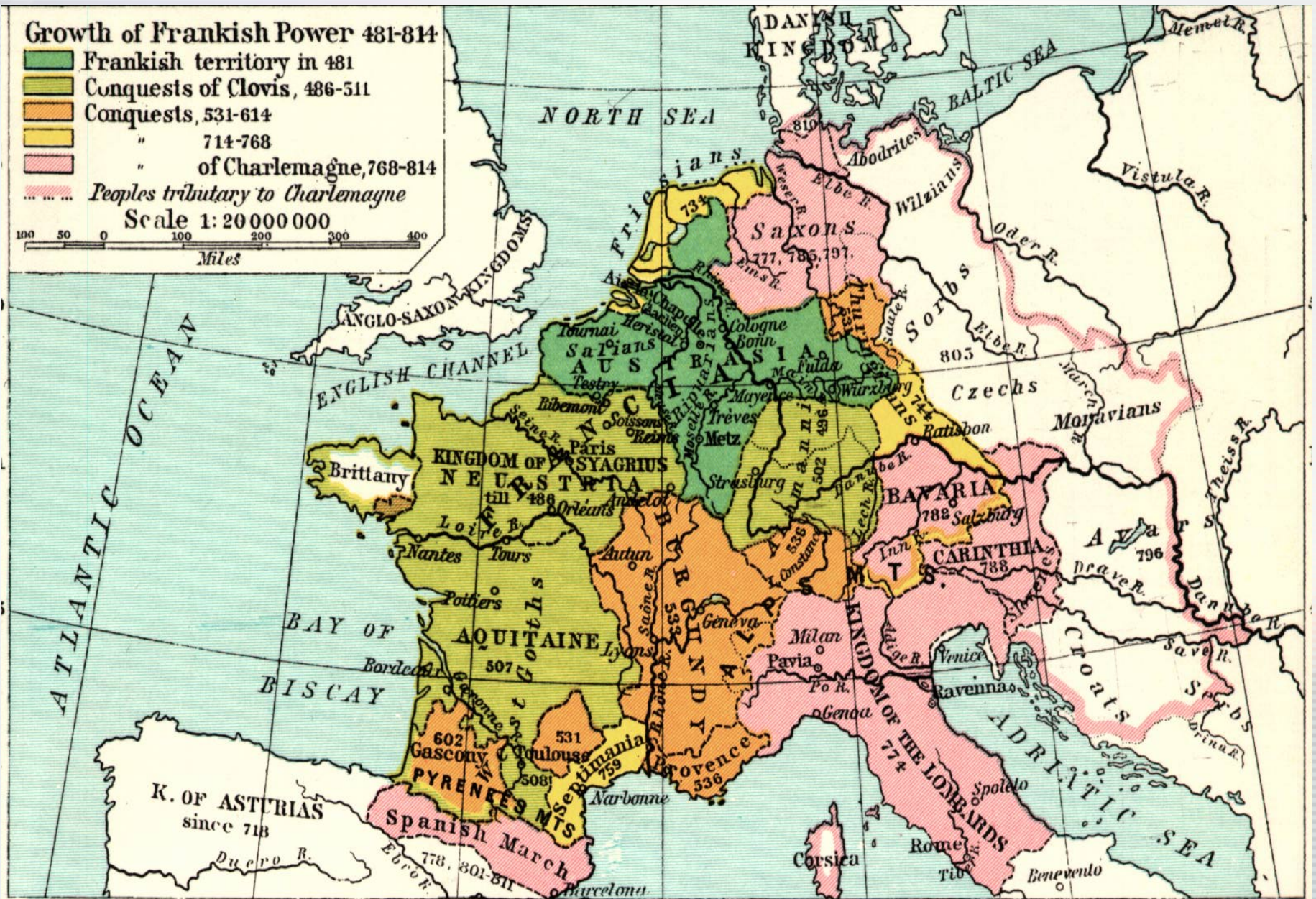
- **The Franks**
  - Settled in Belgium, Northern France, Western Germany
  - Developed group identity during the 3rd century C.E.
  - Politically inexperienced, little exposure to Roman society
- **Clovis**
  - A strong military and political leader
  - Eliminated last vestiges of Roman authority in Gaul
  - Launched military campaigns against other Germanic peoples
  - Built the most powerful and dynamic state in western Europe
- **Clovis's conversion**
  - Most Germans were Arian Christians
    - Converted to Arianism by St. Ulfias before migration
    - Hostile to Catholics but generally tolerant if taxes paid
- **The Franks converted to Roman Christianity**
  - “In Hoc Signet Vince” – in this sign conquer
  - Alliance with Catholics greatly strengthened the Franks

# CHARLEMAGNE

- **The Carolingians**
  - Merovingian leaders lost control after Clovis's death
  - Carolingians asserted authority, the early 8th century
  - **Charles Martel**
    - Mayor of the Palace, chief official under Merovingian kings
    - Stops Muslim invasion of Europe, 732 at Battle of Tours
  - **Pepin becomes king, 751**
    - Pope appointed Pepin as King of the Franks
    - Invaded Italy to save Pope from the Lombards
    - Pope allows Franks to reign as King of Italy
    - Pepin grants the area in Italy around Rome to Pope
- **Charlemagne (reigned 768-814 C.E.)**
  - Charles Martel's grandson, founder of Carolingian empire
  - Control extended to northeast Spain, Bavaria, north Italy
  - Rulers of eastern Europe, southern Italy paid tribute
- **Administration**
  - Capital city at Aachen (in modern Germany)
  - Relied on aristocratic deputies, known as counts
  - Used *missi dominici* to oversee local authorities
- **Charlemagne as emperor**
  - Pope Leo III proclaimed Charlemagne emperor, 800
  - Coronation strained relations with Byzantine emperors



# THE RISE OF THE FRANKISH EMPIRE

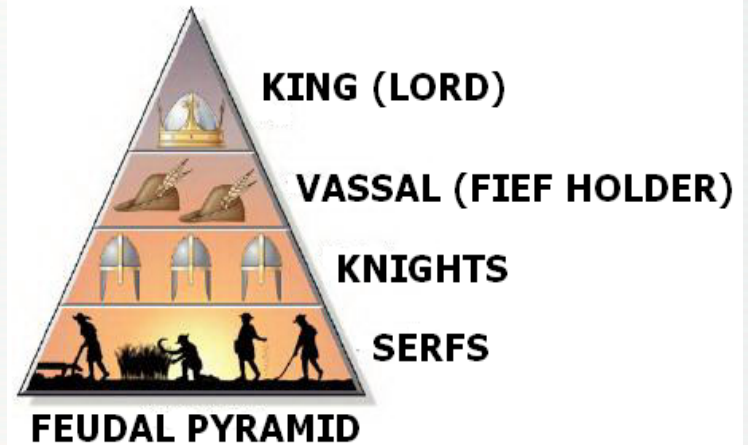


# EUROPE c. 1000 C.E.



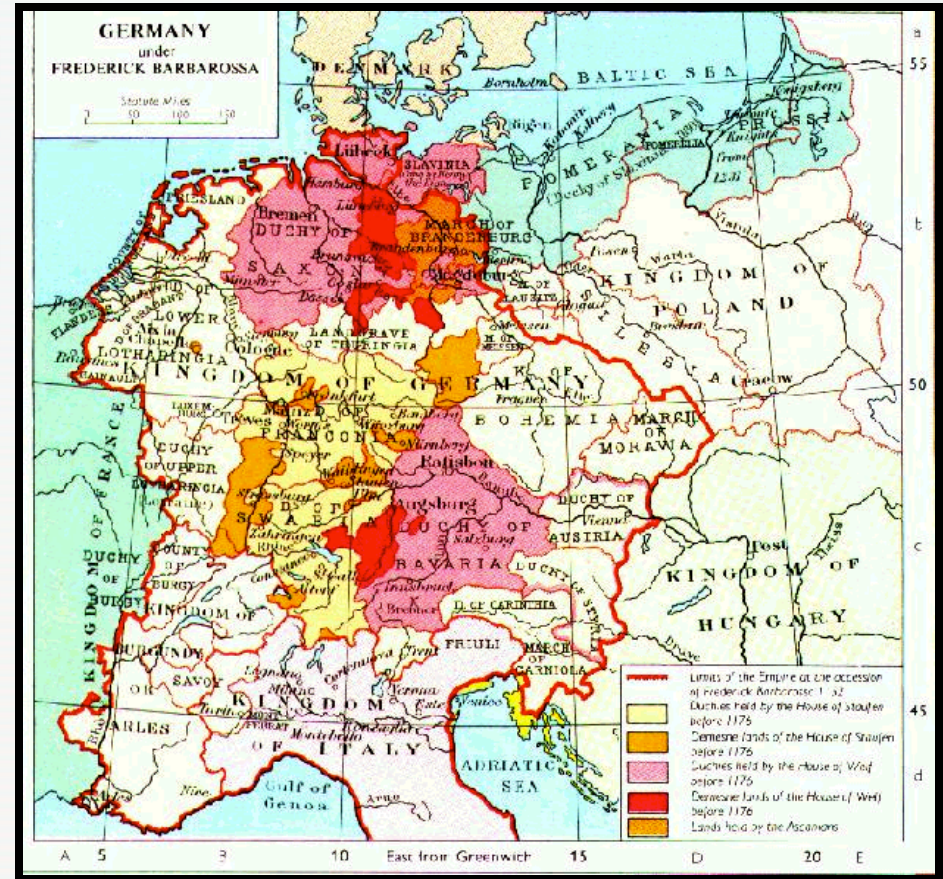
# FEUDAL SYSTEM

- **Lords and vassals**
  - **Lord owned land, needs soldiers**
    - Trades land for service
    - Grants of land called fiefs
      - Vassal provided defense
      - Received livelihood from land
      - Vassals provided military equipment
  - **Vassals owed lord:**
    - Loyalty, obedience, respect, counsel
    - Military service when called into service
  - **Lords often made smaller grant to others**
    - Called sub-division of fief
    - Lowest, service owning noble was a knight
  - **Church often made vassals of soldiers for defense**
    - Church could hold land as a vassal to a lord
    - Church often held land in own right
  - **Women could be vassals, own fiefs but not fight**
- **Feudal politics**
  - **Multi-layered network of lord-vassal relationships**
  - **Political stability depended on discipline, control**
  - **Lords, knights often had conflicting loyalties**



# TWO FEUDAL STATES

## FRANCE

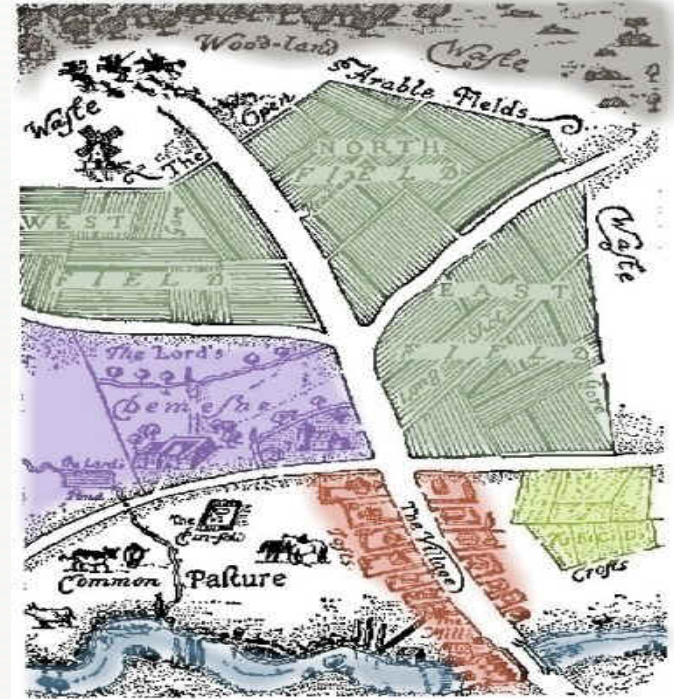


## HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE



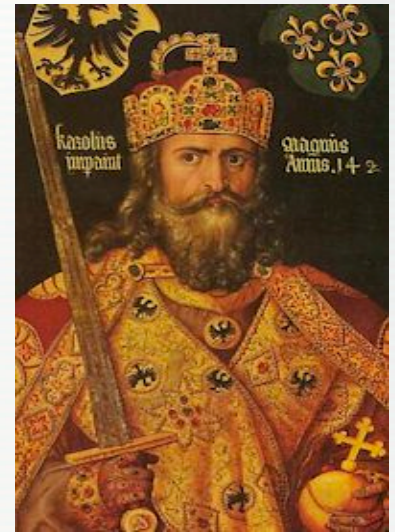
# MANORALISM: ECONOMIC FEUDALISM

- **Serfdom**
  - **Difference between peasants, serfs**
    - Peasants were free, owned their own land
    - Serfs not free, could not own land
    - Serfs, peasants lived similar lives
  - **Serfs as an intermediate category**
    - Began under Romans
    - Diocletian bound people to occupations
    - Serfdom arose during invasions, marauders
  - **Slaves, peasants frequently intermarried**
  - **Free peasants became serfs for protection**
- **Serfs' obligations**
  - Labor service and rents in kind
  - Could not move without permission
  - Serfs had right to work on land, pass job to heirs
  - Serfs often drafted as foot soldiers in feudal armies
- **Manors**
  - Principal form of agricultural organization
  - Manor was a large estate controlled by lord
  - Many lords could execute serfs for serious misconduct
  - Manors were largely self-sufficient communities
    - Trade: luxuries, manufactured products, finished goods
    - Serfs had to work lord's land first, before their own plots



# CONVERSION TO CHRISTIANITY

- **The Franks and the Church**
  - Franks viewed as protectors of the papacy
  - Charlemagne worked to spread Christianity
    - Reconquered parts of Spain from Muslims
    - Charlemagne forced Saxons to convert
    - Built churches, schools, monasteries
- **The spread of Christianity**
  - Popes took an active roll in sending out missionaries
  - Pagan ways did not disappear immediately
    - Scandinavia, Baltic lands were last to convert
    - Pagan rituals often blended into Christianity
    - Cities, towns largely Christian but countryside weakly so
  - By 1000 C.E., western Europe was Roman Christianity
    - Irish, Mozarabic rites of Christianity accepted by Pope
    - Arian Christianity eliminated by Franks



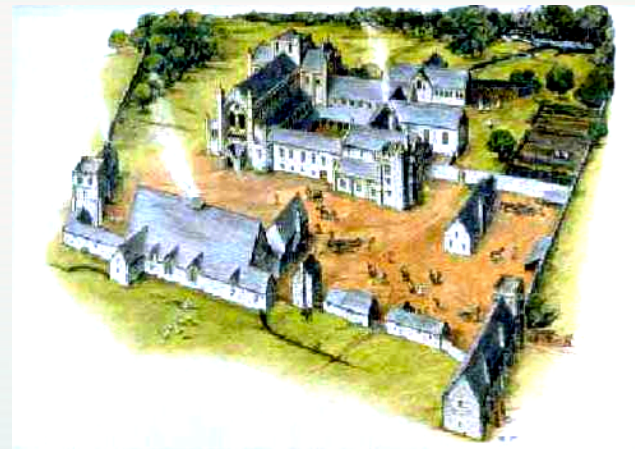
# THE PAPACY

- **Pope Gregory I (590-604 C.E.)**
  - Organized defense of Rome against Lombards' menace
  - Reasserted papal primacy over other bishops
  - Strongly emphasized the sacrament of penance
- **The conversion of England**
  - Gregory's missionary campaigns in western Europe
  - First converted English kings
  - By 800 C.E., England securely in the Roman church
- **Rise of Church as a Temporal Power**
  - Popes claimed that the spiritual powers were superior to temporal
    - Italy lacked any great power; city-states constantly quarreled
    - German emperors at war with nobles; French kings too weak
    - Pope played one side off another, acquired lands in Italy
  - Many European bishops acquired lands, became part of feudalism
    - In Germany, owned 10% of the best lands
    - In Spain, Baltic spiritual military orders led wars on pagans
- **Papal Powers**
  - Spiritual head of all Christians including aristocrats, royalty
    - Weapons included excommunication, interdict, canon law
    - Economically received tithe, freedom from taxation, owned great economic wealth
    - Popes became head of reform movements
      - Abolished simony, insisted on celibacy of priests, reformed monasteries
      - Established College of Cardinals to elect popes not kings, mobs
  - Popes Gregory VIII and Innocent III defied, deposed kings
  - Popes launched crusades against Muslims, heretic Christians, some Italians



# MONASTICISM

- **Origin**
  - Christians practiced asceticism in deserts of Egypt, 2nd and 3rd century
  - Monastic lifestyle became popular when Christianity became legal
- **Monastic rules**
  - **St. Benedict (480-547 C.E.)** provided a set of regulations
  - **Virtues of Benedictine monks: poverty, chastity, and obedience**
  - **Western monastic rites differed from Eastern rites**
    - Western rites emphasized work, prayer, service to the poor
    - Eastern rites were relatively isolated, dedicated to prayer but not outside contacts
  - **St. Scholastica (482-543 C.E.)**
    - St. Benedict's sister, a nun
    - Adapted the *Rule*, and provided guidance for religious life of women
- **The roles of monasteries**
  - **Became dominant feature in social and cultural life of western Europe**
  - **Accumulated large landholdings but spread knowledge**
    - Wealthy patrons donated land to monks for monasteries
    - Taught peasants, serfs techniques of farming
    - Cleared forested lands, planted them
    - Organized much of rural labor for agriculture
  - **Provided a variety of social services**
    - Inns and shelters for travelers and refugees
    - Orphanages, medical centers
    - Schools, libraries and scriptoria
  - **Monks served needs of rural population**



# EUROPE, C. EARLY 13<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY



# REVIVAL OF TOWNS AND TRADE

- **Urbanization**
  - **Peasants, serfs, tradesmen flocked to cities and towns**
    - Towns allowed serfs to acquire freedom if they stayed 1 year, 1 day
    - Local nobles allowed towns charters, rights for direct taxes
    - Towns ruled by urban elite usually from guilds, wealthy
  - **Textile production**
    - Northern Italian cities and Flanders became centers of wool textiles
    - Trade in wool products fueled economic development of Europe
- **Mediterranean trade**
  - **Trading City-States**
    - Venice, Genoa were the most prominent but others such as Pisa, Amalfi
    - Wealth based on sea-power, luxury trade
  - **Italians established colonies in Mediterranean, Black Sea**
    - Conquered, settled cities, built factories and trade centers
    - Established trading alliances, signed treaties with many including Muslims
- **The Hanseatic League**
  - **Hansa - association of trading cities, controlled trade of N. Europe**
    - German trading city-states made alliance; established factories in North, Baltic Seas
    - Concluded treaties with many states; admitted key foreign cities to alliance
    - So powerful could resist kingdoms, made war on opponents
    - Trade is fish, grains, iron, cloth
  - **Major European rivers, entrepots linked Hansa to the Mediterranean**
- **Improved business techniques**
  - **Bankers issued letters of credit to merchants**
  - **Commercial partnerships for limiting risks of commercial investment**

# EUROPEAN CITIES

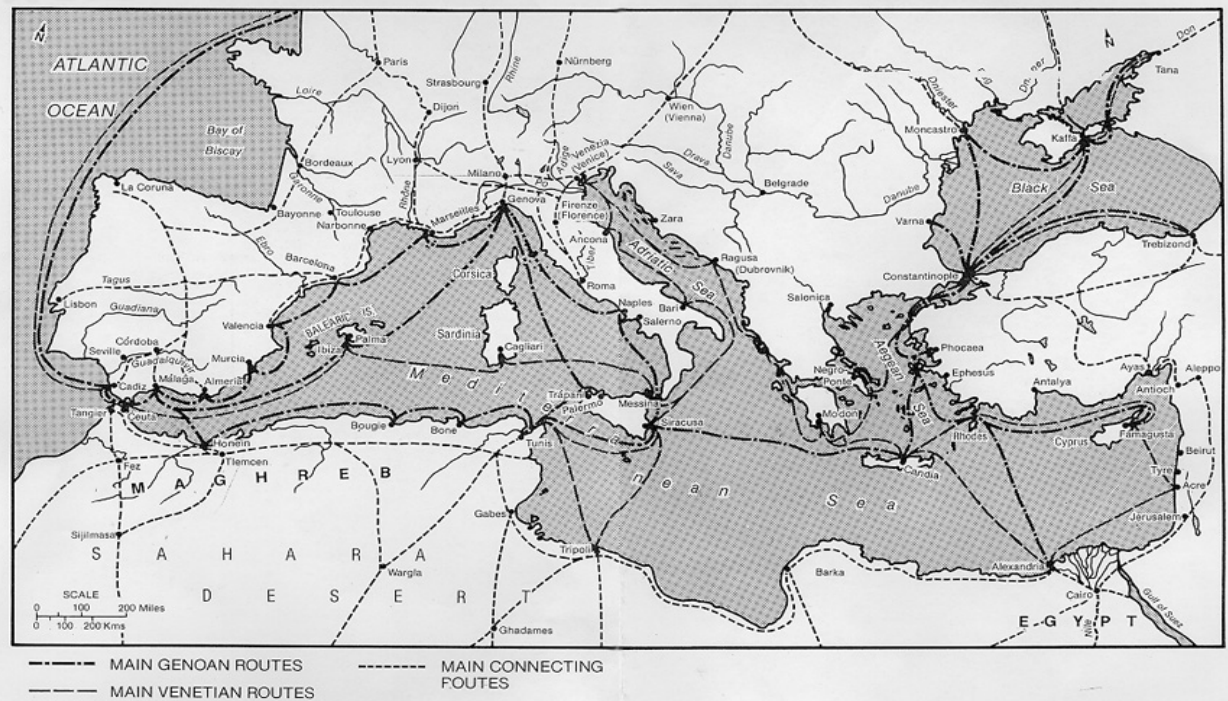
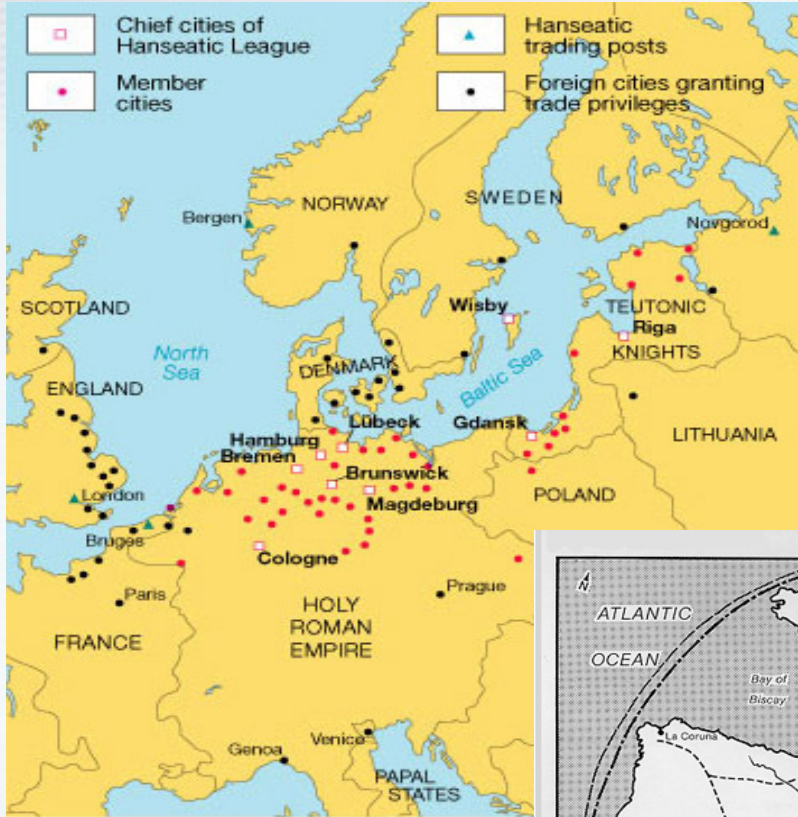


# MEDIEVAL TRADE ROUTES





# TRADING CITIES



# SOCIAL CHANGES

- **The three estates**
  - "Those who pray" – clergy, spiritual estate
    - Ruling hierarchy: Popes, bishops, abbots
    - Common clergy: Monks, priests
  - "Those who fight" - feudal nobles, military estate
    - Royalty who ran a state
    - Land owning lords such as dukes, counts, princes
    - Lowest nobility with no land were knights
  - "Those who work" - mostly peasants and serfs
    - Peasants and Serfs
    - Those who lived in Towns (Burg = Burghers)
      - Not an estate in most countries
      - Grew to become middle class
- **Guilds**
  - Established standards of quality for manufactured goods
  - Determined prices and regulated entry of new workers
  - Ran free cities as urban aristocracy
- **Independent cities**
  - Expansion of cities did not fit into feudal framework
  - Urban populations were increasingly able to resist feudal nobles
- **Chivalry**
  - Code of ethics and behavior for feudal nobles
  - Church directed chivalry toward Christian faith, piety
- **Rise of Estates General, Parliaments, and Assemblies**
  - Kings had to govern with the consent of the nobles, clergy
  - Could not tax without their approval for which demanded rights
  - Eventually most rulers granted nobles, clergy rights to assemble, to debate
  - Also granted right to free peasants, citizens of towns who formed the "commons"
  - Many assemblies limited rights of rulers, became permanent bodies



# GENDER ROLES IN MEDIEVAL EUROPE

- **Feminine Roles of the Day**
  - **The Virgin Mary was the ideal**
    - Mother to children
    - Supports husband quietly, diligently
    - A patriarchal society but strong feminine roles
  - **Public Role**
    - Very limited as it was a “male’s world”
      - Women could own property in own right
      - Feudalism did not prohibit women from fighting but often they named a champion
    - Female rulers were not unknown
      - Generally seen as regents for son, grandson
      - If widowed, lost rights if remarried or when male came of age
      - Frequently seen in Spain, Scandinavia, England, Italy
      - Laws would not permit women to rule in France, Germany, Eastern Europe
  - **Private Role**
    - ALWAYS differentiate between aristocracy, poor
    - **Aristocratic Women**
      - Women were the womb to breed the heir; marriage politics taken very seriously
      - Roles public and private limited by convention and wealth to social roles and little else
    - **Poor women**
      - Equally a man’s world but women had to work next to males for family to survive
      - Most women married due to pregnancy, married early in life, died young
  - **Middle Class (Urban) women**
    - Towns and cities offered fresh opportunities for women
    - Women worked in a wide range of occupations
    - Most guilds admitted women, and women also had their own guilds
  - **The Church Women**
    - As nuns women acquired social equality with men by renouncing sexuality
    - Abbesses, nuns could run monasteries, were educated, had great influence
- **Women of the Day**
  - **Eleanor, Countess Aquitaine, Duchess of Normandy, Queen of England**
    - Most celebrated woman of her day
    - Inherited richest lands in Europe; married King of England
    - Supported troubadours, promoted good manners, refinement, arts, and romantic love
  - **Blessed Hildegard von Bingen**
    - Leading mystic, intellectual, advisors to bishops, popes
    - Revolutionized techniques in music



# THE CHURCH AND LEARNING

- **Cathedral schools**
  - Bishops, archbishops in France, Italy organized schools
  - Cathedral schools concentrated on liberal arts
  - Some offered instruction in law, medicine, and theology
- **Universities**
  - Large cathedral schools developed into universities
  - Most students trained for church, bureaucratic jobs
  - Most students were from middle classes and not nobility
  - Student guilds and faculty guilds
  - Chief degree was theology
- **The influence of Aristotle**
  - Increased contacts led to rediscovery of Aristotle
  - Obtained works from Byzantines, Muslims
- **Scholasticism: St. Thomas Aquinas**
  - **Scholasticism**
    - System learning applied to Christianity
    - Intellectual and rational
  - **St. Thomas Aquinas**
    - Dominican scholar
    - Famous scholastic theologian
    - Wrote Summa Theologica
  - **Sought to harmonize**
    - Greek rationality
    - Aristotelian learning
    - Christianity



# THE CRUSADES

- **The Turks**
  - Arrived in Middle East in early 11<sup>th</sup> century; defeated Abbassids and Byzantines
  - Seized much of Byzantine holdings in Anatolia, Muslim Holy Land
- **Pope Urban II**
  - Byzantines asked West for help; Pope called for knights to seize Holy Land, 1095
  - Peter the Hermit traveled in Europe and organized a ragtag army
  - The campaign was a disaster for the crusaders
- **The first crusade**
  - French, Normans organized a respectable military expedition, 1096
  - Jerusalem fell to the crusaders, 1099
  - Muslims recaptured Jerusalem, 1187
- **Later crusades**
  - By the mid-13<sup>th</sup> century, launched five major crusades which all failed
  - 4<sup>th</sup> crusade (1202-1204) conquered Constantinople, made Schism final
- **Consequences of the crusades**
  - Facilitated exchange of goods between Muslims, Europe
    - Demands for silk, cotton textiles, and spices increased; spread sugar, citrus plants
    - Italian merchants sought opportunities for direct trade in Asian markets
  - European borrowed heavily from Muslim intellectual knowledge
    - Reacquired Aristotle, lost Greek classics
    - Borrowed Muslim science, mathematics, technology, paper skills
    - Borrowed Muslim architectural techniques
    - Helped produce a 12<sup>th</sup> century European intellectual Renaissance

# MAP OF THE CRUSADES

