

## Daily Lecture and Discussion Notes

### Chapter 9, Section 1



**Did You Know?** Although Christians generally rejected the ancient Egyptian practice of embalming, considering it to be a pagan custom that mutilated the corpse, Charlemagne's embalmed and well-dressed corpse was placed in a sitting position in his tomb at Aachen, in present-day Germany.

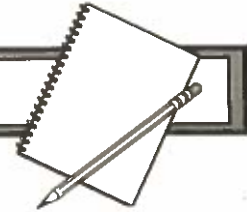
#### I. The New Germanic Kingdoms (pages 285–287)

- A. Germanic peoples began moving into Roman territory by the third century. The **Visigoths** occupied Spain and Italy until the **Ostrogoths** took control of Italy in the fifth century. By 500 the Western Roman Empire had become a number of states ruled by German kings. Although these kingdoms kept the Roman governmental structure, Germanic warriors dominated the native populations and eventually excluded Romans from holding power.
- B. The Germanic Angles and Saxons moved into Britain in the fifth century. Eventually these people became the **Anglo-Saxons**.
- C. The only German kingdom to last long was the Franks. Clovis, who converted to Christianity around 500, established the Frankish kingdom. Clovis had resisted the pleas of his wife to convert, but during a battle that was going badly he called on Jesus, promising to believe and be baptized if Jesus came to his aid. After his plea, the enemy fled and Clovis converted.
- D. His conversion won Clovis the support of the Roman Catholic Church, as the Christian church in Rome had become known. By 510 Clovis had established a Frankish kingdom from the **Pyrenees** to present-day western Germany. Following Frankish custom, after Clovis's death his sons divided the kingdom among themselves.
- E. Germans and Romans intermarried and created a new society in which German customs had an important role. The extended family was the center of German society. They worked the land together and protected each other in violent times.
- F. The German concept of the family affected crime and punishment, say for murder. In the Roman system, as in ours, most crimes are considered offenses against the state, not the person. Thus, a court hears evidence and makes a judgment. Germanic law, however, was personal. One person injuring another often led to a savage blood feud.
- G. A system using a fine called a **wergild** ("money for a man") developed to avoid bloodshed after crimes such as murder. The wrongdoer paid the injured party's family a set amount of money, which varied by social status.



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- H. The ordeal was one Germanic way of determining guilt. The practice was based on the belief that the gods would not let an innocent person be punished. If the accused was unharmed after a physical trial (ordeal), he or she was presumed innocent.

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#### Discussion Question

Why do you think the Frankish custom was for a kingdom to be divided among the king's sons after his death? (*This practice helped to avoid conflicts over who would rule. All the sons got a piece of the pie.*)

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## II. The Role of the Church (pages 287–288)

- A. Christianity had become the supreme religion of the Roman Empire by the end of the fourth century. By this time the church had developed a system of organization. Priests headed local communities called parishes. A group of parishes was headed by a bishop, whose area of authority was called a **bishopric**, or diocese. Bishoprics were joined under the direction of an archbishop.
- B. The bishop of Rome came to claim he was the leader of what was now called the Roman Catholic Church. The claim was based on the belief that Jesus gave Peter the keys to Heaven. Peter was considered the chief apostle and the first bishop of Rome. The bishops that succeeded him in Rome came to be called **popes**, from the Latin word *papa*, "father."
- C. Western Christians came to accept the pope as the Church's leader, but they could not agree on the extent of the pope's power. Pope **Gregory I** strengthened the power of the papacy. He was pope from 590 to 604. He took political control of Rome and its surrounding territories, later known as the Papal States. He extended papal authority over the Western Church and actively converted non-Christians through the monastic movement.
- D. A **monk** is a man who separates himself from worldly, everyday life to dedicate himself entirely to God. **Monasticism** is the practice of living the life of a monk. In the sixth century, **Saint Benedict** founded an order of monks and wrote rules for their practice.
- E. Benedict's rules divided the day into activities, emphasizing prayer and much physical labor to keep the monks busy. Idleness was "the enemy of the soul." Prayer was the proper "Work of God." Monks meditated and read privately. They prayed together seven times a day. All aspects of Benedictine life were communal.



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- F. An abbot (“father”) ruled each Benedictine monastery. Monks were to obey the will of the abbot. Monks took a vow of poverty. The monks’ dedication made them the new heroes of Christian civilization. They also were the social workers of the community, and monasteries became centers of learning.
- G. The monks worked to spread Christianity throughout Europe. English and Irish monks were especially enthusiastic **missionaries**—people sent out to carry a religious message.
- H. Women, called **nuns**, also began to withdraw from the world to dedicate themselves to God. Nuns lived in convents headed by **abbesses**. Many of them belonged to royal houses. The abbess Hilda founded a monastery in Whitby in 657, where she was responsible for giving learning an important role in the monastery. Five future bishops were educated under her direction.

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#### Discussion Question

What did Benedict mean when he said, “Idleness is the enemy of the soul”? (*Answers will vary. Accept relevant, thoughtful answers. One good answer is that idleness might allow the mind, heart, and desires to wander, making the person more vulnerable to temptation.*)

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### III. Charlemagne and the Carolingians (pages 289–290)

- A. In the 600s and 700s the Frankish kings lost their power to the chief officers of the king’s household, called **mayors of the palace**. One of these mayors, **Pepin**, assumed the kingship. His son became king after Pepin’s death in 768.
- B. Pepin’s son was Charles the Great, or **Charlemagne**, one of history’s greatest kings. Charlemagne was curious, driven, and intelligent. He was a strong warrior and statesman, and a devout Christian. Although illiterate, he strongly supported learning.
- C. He ruled from 768 to 814. He expanded the Frankish kingdom into what became known as the **Carolingian Empire**, which covered much of western and central Europe.
- D. Charlemagne’s household staff and counts (German nobles) administered the empire locally. To keep the counts in line, Charlemagne established the *missi dominici* (“messengers of the lord king”), two men sent to make sure the king’s wishes were followed.
- E. Charlemagne’s power and prestige grew. In 800 Charlemagne was crowned emperor of the Romans (see page 284). This testifies to the enduring nature of the idea of the Roman Empire. The coronation also symbolized the coming together of the Roman, Christian, and Germanic elements that forged European civilization. The spiritual leader of western Christendom had crowned a Germanic king Roman emperor.



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- F. Charlemagne's desire to promote learning led to what has been called the Carolingian Renaissance (rebirth). There was renewed interest in Latin culture and classical works—works of the Greeks and Romans.
- G. Monasteries played an important role in this revival of learning. Benedictine monks copied Christian and classical Latin manuscripts in *scriptoria*, or writing rooms. Most of the Roman works we have today exist because Carolingian monks copied them.

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#### Discussion Question

Compare and contrast Charlemagne's attempts to create European unity with those of European leaders today and the European Union. (*Answers will vary. Students should support their answers with examples. There are more contrasts than similarities. Probably the largest point of contrast is that unity now is more economic than in Charlemagne's day. Also, religious differences are respected or tolerated, and no European state sponsors missionaries. A similarity is the importance of knowledge, now more the exchange and sharing of information rather than classical or religious learning. Also, in Aachen, Germany, the Charlemagne Prize is awarded each year in May for contributions to European unity.*)

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**Did You Know?** Feudal relationships were like a pyramid, with the king at the top, the lords in the middle, each of whom served a lord of the next higher rank, and peasants at the bottom. A lady, or noblewoman, had few rights even though she often had extensive responsibilities running the household and estates.

#### I. The Invaders (pages 291–292)

- A. The Carolingian Empire began to fall apart soon after Charlemagne's death in 814. By 844 the empire had been divided into three kingdoms by Charlemagne's grandsons. Invasions also added to the disintegration.
- B. Muslims invaded southern France and the **Magyars** from western Asia settled on the plains of **Hungary** and invaded western Europe. The most far-reaching attacks were from the Norsemen (Northmen) of Scandinavia, also called the **Vikings**. The Germanic people's love of adventure and the spoils of war probably led them to invade areas of Europe. They sacked towns, destroyed churches, and defeated armies.
- C. The Vikings were superb warriors, sailors, and shipbuilders. Their famous ships were long and narrow with carved, arched prows. These dragon ships carried about 50 men. Their construction allowed sailing up shallow rivers to attack inland. By the mid-ninth century, Vikings began to settle areas of Europe. The Franks had a policy of settling and Christianizing the Vikings. In 911 a Frankish ruler gave a band of Vikings the land that became known as Normandy.

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#### Discussion Question

What did the Vikings do long before 1492? (*Evidence in Canada shows that Vikings were the first Europeans to sail to the Americas. It was not the Spanish and Christopher Columbus. The Vikings did not colonize where they landed, however.*)

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#### II. The Development of Feudalism (pages 292–294)

- A. Invaders posed a threat to the safety of the people, especially in the absence of a strong central government. People began to turn to local landed aristocrats or nobles to protect them. This change led to the new political, social system called **feudalism**. It arose between 800 and 900 and thrived for four hundred years. Similar systems were found in Japan and among the Aztec.
- B. At the heart of this system was the idea of vassalage. It came from Germanic society, where warriors swore an oath to their leader. By the eighth century a man who served a lord militarily was known as a **vassal**.





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- C. The Frankish army initially was made up of foot soldiers in mail (armor made of metal links or plates) armed with swords and horsemen who threw spears. In the eighth century, larger horses and the stirrup were introduced. Horsemen now wore mail and used long lances as battering rams. For the next five hundred years, heavily armored cavalry called **knights** dominated warfare. They had great prestige and formed the backbone of the European aristocracy.
- D. In the Early Middle Ages (500–1000), **wealth** was based on owning land. There was little trade. When nobles wanted men to fight for them, the nobles granted the vassal a piece of land that supported the vassal and his family. The relationship between lord and vassal was made official by a public act of homage of vassal to the lord. Loyalty to one's lord was feudalism's chief virtue.
- E. By the ninth century the land the lord granted to a vassal was known as a **fief**. Vassals had political authority in their fiefs. The number of separate powerful lords and vassals increased; many different people were now responsible for keeping order.
- F. Feudalism became complicated. Kings had vassals who themselves had vassals. Feudalism came to be characterized by a set of unwritten rules known as the **feudal contract**. These rules determined the relationship between lord and vassal. The major obligation of a vassal was military service, about 40 days a year.
- G. Vassals also were summoned to advise the lord and had financial obligations to the lord on such occasions as the marriage of the lord's eldest daughter, knighting of his eldest son, or ransoming the lord. The lord had responsibilities to the vassal. He supported the vassal with a land grant and protected him militarily and in court.
- H. The growing number of castles made visible the growth of the nobility in the High Middle Ages (1000 to 1300). They were permanent residences and fortresses. Castles had two parts, the *motte*—a natural or artificially created hill—and the *bailey*—an open space. The castle's central building, the *keep*, was built on the motte. All were encircled by large, stone walls. The keep included a great hall where the lord held court and received visitors, and people ate and even slept. As lords got wealthier, the castles became more complex and ornate.

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#### Discussion Question

What changes made it possible for heavily armored knights to use lances as they did? *(The larger horses could carry the weight of armored horsemen and stirrups kept the knights on their horses when they fought with large lances and used them as battering rams.)*

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### III. The Nobility of the Middle Ages and Aristocratic Women (pages 295–296)

- A. In the Middle Ages, nobles dominated European society. The main concern of many was warfare. The nobles were kings, dukes, counts, barons, and even bishops and archbishops. They formed a wealthy aristocracy, or nobility, with political, economic and social power. The institution of knighthood united lords and knights in the aristocracy. Trained as warriors but with no adult responsibilities, young knights began to hold **tournaments** in the twelfth century. These were contests for knights to show their skills. The joust became the main attraction.
- B. In the eleventh and twelfth centuries, under the influence of the Church, an ideal of civilized behavior among the nobility evolved. It was called **chivalry**. Knights were to defend the Church and defenseless people, treat captives as honored guests, and fight for glory and not material rewards.
- C. Women could legally hold property, but most women still remained under the control of men—first their fathers, then their husbands. The lady of the castle commonly had to manage the often large household, the estate, and the financial accounts.
- D. Feudalism saw many strong women who advised, and sometimes dominated, their husbands. One of the most famous was **Eleanor of Aquitaine**. An heiress to the duchy of Aquitaine in southwestern France, at 15 she married King Louis VII of France. The unhappy marriage was annulled, and only eight weeks later Eleanor married the duke who became Henry II of England. They also had a stormy relationship. Eleanor spent most of her time in Aquitaine, where she created a brilliant court. Two of her eight children became kings of England.

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#### Discussion Question

Why in the male-dominated society of feudal Europe did noble women often have to manage the households, estates, and financial accounts of their families? (*The lords were often away at court or at war.*)

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**Did You Know?** Eleanor of Aquitaine helped turn the court of Poitiers, frequented by the most famous troubadours of her time, into a center of poetry. She was a patron of the two dominant poetic movements of the time: the courtly love tradition and the historical “legends of Brittany.”

- I. **England in the High Middle Ages** (pages 297–299)
  - A. Since King Alfred the Great had united various Anglo-Saxon kingdoms in the late ninth century, Anglo-Saxon kings had ruled England.
  - B. In 1066 an army commanded by **William of Normandy** defeated King Harold of England at the **Battle of Hastings**. William was crowned king of England. He gave fiefs to Norman knights and all rulers had to swear loyalty to him as the ruler of England. The French-speaking Normans and the Anglo-Saxon nobility gradually merged into a new English culture. William took the first census in western Europe since Roman times, known as the Domesday Book. He also developed the system of taxation and royal courts earlier Anglo-Saxon kings had begun.
  - C. Henry II, who ruled from 1154 to 1189, enlarged the power of the English monarchy. He expanded the royal courts’ powers to cover more criminal and property cases. Because royal courts were all over the land, a body of **common law**—law common to the whole kingdom—began to replace varying local codes.
  - D. Henry claimed he had the right to punish the clergy in royal courts. **Thomas à Becket**, archbishop of Canterbury, disagreed. The angry king expressed his desire to be rid of Becket. Four knights took the challenge and killed the archbishop in the cathedral. An outraged public caused Henry to back off his struggle with the Church.
  - E. Resenting the monarchy’s expanding power, many nobles rebelled against King John. In 1215 at Runnymede, John was forced to agree to a document of rights called the **Magna Carta**, or Great Charter. The Magna Carta recognized the longstanding feudal idea of mutual rights and obligations between lord and vassal.
  - F. In the thirteenth century during the reign of **Edward I**, the English Parliament emerged. Parliament was an important step in developing a representative government. Under Edward I it granted taxes and passed laws. It was composed of two knights from each county, two people from each town, and all of England’s nobles and bishops. Later, nobles and church lords formed the House of Lords, and knights and townspeople formed the House of Commons. These two houses still make up the British Parliament.





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#### Discussion Question

What later political movements did the Magna Carta affect? (*The Magna Carta was used against the idea that a monarch's power was absolute. Therefore, it affected all movements that tried to restrict the power of the king, including the American democratic movement for independence from Britain.*)

### II. The French Kingdom (page 299)

- A. The west Frankish lands formed the core of the eventual kingdom of France. After the death of the last Carolingian king in 987, the west Frankish nobles chose Hugh Capet as king, establishing the Capetians dynasty of French kings. The Capetians had little power. Their domain included only the area around **Paris**. Many of the French dukes were more powerful than the Capetian kings.
- B. The French monarchy's power grew under King **Philip II Augustus**, who ruled from 1180 to 1223. Through making war Philip took back the French territories of Normandy, Maine, Anjou, and Aquitaine from the English. He thereby greatly increased the income and power of the French monarchy.
- C. Capetian rulers after Philip continued to add lands to the royal domain. Philip IV, also known as Philip the Fair, greatly expanded the royal bureaucracy. He also began the first French parliament, the Estates-General, by meeting with representatives of the three **estates** (classes): clergy (first estate), nobles (second estate), and townspeople (third estate).

#### Discussion Question

What group is now sometimes called the Fourth Estate? (*The group is journalists. Have students discuss how journalists gained so much power in the modern world that they were honored with their own class. One relevant consideration is the importance of information in the modern world; another concerns the power journalists wield.*)

### III. The Holy Roman Empire (page 300)

- A. In the tenth century powerful Saxon dukes became kings of the eastern Frankish kingdom. The best-known was **Otto I**, who was crowned emperor of the Romans by the pope in return for protecting him.



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- B.** As leaders of a new Roman Empire, the German kings tried to rule both German and Italian lands. Frederick I considered Italy the center of a “holy empire,” hence the name Holy Roman Empire. An alliance of northern Italian cities and the pope defeated Frederick’s army in 1176. They were afraid he wanted to rule all of Italy. Frederick II was also unsuccessful in establishing rule over a strong, centralized Italian state.
- C.** The struggle between popes and emperors had profound effects on the Holy Roman Empire. With the emperor gone to war, the German nobles created many independent states. The German monarch could not maintain a strong monarchy. Unlike England and France, neither Italy nor Germany created a national monarchy in the Middle Ages. They both consisted of small states and did not unify until the nineteenth century.

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#### Discussion Question

The French philosopher Voltaire observed ironically that the Holy Roman Empire was not holy, Roman, or an empire. What do you think he meant? *(He meant that its origin and actions were not holy; it was not Roman because eastern Frankish Saxons headed it; and it was not an empire because the “emperors” never were able to conquer Italy and other former parts of the Roman Empire, as they wished. They did not have the power or lands associated with empire.)*

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#### IV. Central and Eastern Europe and The Development of Russia (pages 300–301)

- A.** The Slavic peoples of central Europe gradually divided into three groups: western, southern, and eastern **Slavs**. Western Slavs formed the Polish and Bohemian kingdoms. German monks had converted the **Czechs** in Bohemia and the Slavs in Poland to Christianity. Non-Slavic **Hungary** was also converted. The Poles, Czechs, and **Hungarians** accepted western Christianity—the Roman Catholic Church.
- B.** The southern and eastern Slavs took a different route. Beginning in 863 two Byzantine missionary brothers, Cyril and Methodius, converted the eastern Slavs to Eastern Orthodox Christianity. The southern Slavs included the Croats, Serbs, and Bulgarians. The Croats accepted the Roman Catholic Church, but the other two groups accepted Eastern Orthodoxy. Accepting Eastern Orthodoxy meant that those people’s cultural life was linked to the Byzantine state.
- C.** Eastern Slavs had also settled in present-day Ukraine and Russia. They encountered Swedish Vikings, who came for plunder and trade. The Vikings came to dominate the native peoples, who called the Viking rulers the Rus. The name Russia is derived from this term.



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- D.** The Viking leader Oleg created the Rus principality of Kiev in the tenth century. Successors expanded Kiev until it included territory between the Baltic and Black Seas and the Danube and Volga Rivers. Through intermarriage the Vikings were assimilated into the Slavic population.
- E.** The growth of Kiev attracted Byzantine missionaries. The Rus ruler Vladimir accepted Eastern Orthodox Christianity for himself and his people in 988. It became the state religion. Civil wars and invasions brought an end to the first Russian state of Kiev in 1169.
- F.** In the thirteenth century, Mongols conquered Russia. They occupied Russia and required Russian princes to pay them tribute. One powerful prince, **Alexander Nevsky**, defeated an invading German army in 1242. The khan, leader of the western Mongols, rewarded Nevsky with the title of grand-prince. His descendents became princes of Moscow and then leaders of all Russia.

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#### Discussion Question

Should religions and churches send missionaries to areas with different faiths, or is doing so a violation of those the missionaries are there to convert? *(Answers will vary. Accept relevant, thoughtful answers. One relevant consideration is that people do not have to accept what the missionaries teach; another is that missionaries can be part of eradicating an indigenous culture.)*

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**Did You Know?** In the Middle Ages churches generally took a very long time to construct, but Hagia Sophia was built in the amazingly short period of five years, 10 months, and four days.

#### I. The Reign of Justinian (pages 303–304)

- A. In the fifth century, as Germanic tribes moved into the western part of the Roman Empire, the Eastern Roman Empire continued to exist.
- B. Justinian became emperor of the Eastern Roman Empire in 527. He wanted to restore the full Roman Empire. By 552 he almost had, but only three years after his death in 565, the Lombards had conquered much of Italy. Other areas were soon lost.
- C. Justinian's most important contribution was his codification of Roman law in *The Body of Civil Law*. It was the basis of imperial law until the Eastern Roman Empire ended in 1453. It also became the basis for much of the legal system of Europe.

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#### Discussion Question

Why is having a consistent, basic body of law important to a civilization? (*Answers will vary. Accept relevant, thoughtful answers. One good answer is that such a body of law provides a basis for the stability and peace necessary for a culture and civilization to flourish.*)

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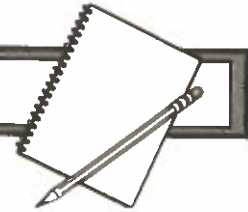
#### II. From Eastern Roman Empire to Byzantine Empire (pages 304–305)

- A. Justinian's conquests left the Eastern Roman Empire in serious trouble: too much territory far from Constantinople to protect, an empty treasury, a population decline due to plague, and renewed threats along its frontiers. The most serious challenge was Islam, which created a powerful new unified Arab force that invaded the Eastern Roman Empire.
- B. The empire lost Syria and Palestine after a defeat at Yarmuk in 636. In the north Bulgars defeated the empire's forces and created a kingdom in the lower Danube Valley.
- C. By the beginning of the eighth century, the much-reduced Eastern Roman Empire consisted only of the eastern Balkans and Asia Minor. Historians call this smaller Eastern Roman empire the Byzantine Empire. It was its own distinctive civilization and lasted until 1453.



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- D. The Byzantine Empire was both Christian and Greek. Greek became the empire's official language, but the empire was built on the Eastern Orthodox Church. A great deal of artistic talent went into church building, church ceremonies, and church decoration to honor this Christian faith.
- E. The emperor's power was absolute because he was seen as chosen by God and crowned in sacred ceremonies. He exercised political control over the Eastern Orthodox Church because he appointed the head of the Church, called the **patriarch**. Byzantines believed that God had commanded their state to preserve the true Christian faith.

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#### Discussion Question

What is the origin of the name *Byzantine* in Byzantine Empire? (The word means an inhabitant of Byzantium, which was the name of the ancient Greek colony that became Constantinople.)

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### III. Life in Constantinople (page 305)

- A. Justinian rebuilt Constantinople in 532 after riots had destroyed much of the city. Constantinople was the largest city in Europe during the Middle Ages, with a population estimated in the hundreds of thousands.
- B. Up to the twelfth century Constantinople was Europe's chief center for trading goods between West and East. Europe prized Chinese silk, spices from Southeast Asia, spices, ivory and jewelry from India, wheat and furs from Russia, and honey and flax from the Balkans.
- C. Justinian smuggled in silkworms from China. Silk cloth became the city's most lucrative product.
- D. Constantinople's appearance in the Middle Ages is due largely to Justinian's sixth-century rebuilding program. He built an immense palace, hundreds of churches, a Hippodrome, and extensive public works, including immense underground reservoirs for the city's water supply.
- E. His greatest building was the Hagia Sophia—Church of the Holy Wisdom—completed in 537. An enormous dome crowns four large piers. The dome seems to float in space. Forty-two windows ring the base, which creates an incredible play of light in the church. The light symbolizes the presence of God in the world.





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#### Discussion Question

Consider your state capital or Washington D.C. What building or buildings dominate the city? What are the effects of the architecture, or what does the architecture symbolize? (*Answers will vary. Accept relevant, thoughtful answers. Students should be specific with their examples and reasons.*)

#### IV. New Heights and New Problems (pages 305–306)

- A.** The Byzantine Empire expanded under a new dynasty of emperors, the **Macedonians**. They ruled from 867 to 1081. They expanded the empire to include Bulgaria, Cyprus, Crete, and Syria.
- B.** The Macedonians helped the economy by expanding trade with the West, especially of silks and metalworks. Constantinople continued to prosper.
- C.** Incompetent successors to the Macedonian dynasty undid most of its gains. Internal struggles for power by military leaders and aristocratic families led to the late eleventh-century political and social disorder in the empire.
- D.** The Byzantine Empire was also troubled by a growing split between the Eastern Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church. The Eastern Church would not accept the pope as the head of the Christian faith. In 1054 Pope Leo IX and Patriarch Michael Cerularius excommunicated each other. This created a **schism**, or separation, between these two branches of Christianity. The schism has not completely healed even today.
- E.** The empire was threatened from abroad as well. The **Seljuk Turks**, who moved into Asia Minor, were the greatest threat. Asia Minor was the empire's chief source of food and workers. In 1071 a Turkish army defeated Byzantine forces at Manzikert. Emperor Alexius I turned to Europe for help.

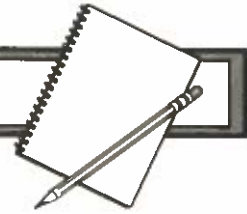
#### Discussion Question

Why was silk so highly prized? (*Answers will vary. Accept relevant, thoughtful answers. Some good considerations are that silk came from the East, which was exciting and exotic to the European imagination, silk has a wonderful texture, and owning and wearing silk signified status.*)



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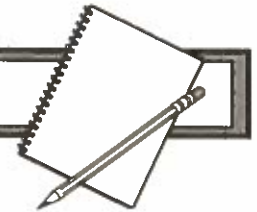
#### V. The Crusades (pages 306–308)

- A. From the eleventh to the thirteenth centuries, European Christians went on a series of military campaigns to regain the Holy Land from the Muslims, regarded as **infidels** (nonbelievers). These expeditions are known as the **Crusades**. They started when Pope Urban II agreed to Alexius I's request. Among other reasons the pope wanted to provide papal leadership for a great cause. At the Council of Clement in 1095, Pope Urban II urged Christians to take up arms in a holy war.
- B. Warriors from western Europe, especially France, joined up. Some were moved by the cause; others were moved by adventure, the prospect of fighting, and an opportunity to gain territory, riches, or even a title.
- C. The First Crusade had an army of several thousand cavalry and ten thousand infantry. The crusaders went down the Palestinian coast and reached Jerusalem in 1099. They took the city and massacred thousand of inhabitants.
- D. The victors formed four Latin crusader states, which were surrounded by Muslims. These kingdoms depended on supplies from Europe coming through Italian cities. Genoa, Pisa, and especially Venice grew rich and powerful.
- E. In the 1120s the Muslims began to strike back. When one of the Latin states fell, the monastic leader **Saint Bernard of Clairvaux** attained the help of King Louis VII of France and Emperor Conrad III of Germany in a Second Crusade. It failed entirely.
- F. In 1187 Jerusalem fell to the Muslims under **Saladin**. Three Christian rulers then agreed to lead a Third Crusade: Emperor Frederick Barbarossa of Germany; Richard I (Richard the Lionhearted) of England; and Philip II Augustus of France. The Crusade was not successful. Frederick drowned while swimming, Philip went home, and Richard negotiated an agreement with Saladin allowing Christian pilgrims access to Jerusalem.
- G. After Saladin's death in 1193, **Pope Innocent III** started a Fourth Crusade. The Venetian leaders of the Fourth Crusade, however, saw an opportunity to neutralize their largest commercial competitor, the Byzantine Empire. The crusaders sacked Constantinople in 1204.
- H. A Byzantine army recaptured the city in 1261, but the empire was never again a great Mediterranean power. The shrunken empire continued for another 190 years until the Ottoman Turks conquered it in 1453.
- I. As a final gasp of the Crusades, there were two "children's crusades." In 1212 a German youth named Nicholas of Cologne brought thousands of children to the pope, saying that God had inspired him to lead the children to the Holy Land. The pope sent them home. At about the same time, a group of twenty thousand French children sailed for the Holy Land. Two ships went down at sea, and the remainder of the children was sold into slavery on reaching North Africa.



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- J. Historians disagree on the effects of the Crusades. Certainly they benefited some Italian cities economically, but the states probably would have grown economically anyway. One unhappy effect was that the first widespread European attacks on the Jews began during the Crusades because as the “murderers of Christ” Jews were as much infidels as Muslims. The massacre of Jews became an aspect of medieval European life.

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#### Discussion Question

What does calling the Jews the “murderers of Christ” mean? (*Anti-Semites have always made this claim based on the fact that Jewish powers were instrumental in having Christ arrested by the Romans and, more importantly, when given the chance to set the condemned Christ free, the Jewish crowd set the thief Barabbas free instead.*)

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