Unit V: The Middle Ages and the Formation of Western Europe
(500-1500)
Chapter 13&14
13.1 Charlemagne Unites Germanic Kingdoms

Many Germanic kingdoms that succeeded the Roman Empire are reunited under Charlemagne’s empire.
Connector

After analyzing the map, answer the following question in your own words –

- Discuss two concepts that the map communicates or teaches us
Roots of the Middle Ages
500-1500

❖ A New society emerges. It has roots in:

1. Classical heritage of Rome
2. The beliefs of the Roman Catholic Church
3. The customs of various Germanic tribes

❖ This period has a shift from localized to centralized power.
❖ What examples of localized and centralized power do you have today?
Invasions of Western Europe

Effects of Constant Invasions and Warfare

1. Disruption of Trade
   - Invasions from land and sea – business collapses

2. Downfall of cities
   - Cities abandoned – fall of Rome

3. Population shifts
   - Nobles leave urban areas for rural, cities left without strong leadership

4. Decline of Learning
   - Germans could not write. Who is literate?

5. Loss of a Common Language
   - Germans can’t speak Latin. (French, Spanish evolve from Latin (Romans)
Germanic Kingdoms Emerge

- **Clovis Rules the Franks**
  - **Who?** Franks (Germanic people) hold power in Roman province of **Gaul**
    - Gaul is modern day France/Switz.
  - Converts to Christianity in 496
  - Unites Franks into one kingdom with Church’s help (**Cash**) by 511
  
  **Q. How is Clovis similar to Constantine?**
  - **A.** Both appealed to Christian God in battle. They both convert their people to Christians
Germans Adopt Christianity

✧ How the Church Spread

✧ **Missionaries** travel to convert Germanic and Celtic groups
Germans Adopt Christianity

- Monasteries, Convents, and Manuscripts
  
  Church builds **monasteries**—where **monks** live to study and serve God
  
  Italian monk, Benedict, writes the rules for life in monastaries
  
  His sister Scholastica adapts rules for **nuns** living in convents
  
  **Legacy:** Monks establish schools, preserve learning through libraries
Germans Adopt Christianity

- Papal Power Expands Under **Gregory I**
  - In 590, **Gregory I** becomes pope
  - Under Gregory, Church becomes **secular**—involved in politics. Why?
    - **Money** helps to create **power**
  - Uses Church money to
    - raise armies,
    - care for poor
    - negotiate treaties
  - Establishes a Christendom—churchly kingdom fanning out from Rome
An Empire Evolves

Europe’s Kingdoms

- The Franks control the largest and strongest of Europe’s many kingdoms
- By 511, Frankish rule extends over what is now France
Charles (Hammer) Martel Emerges

- Most powerful official in kingdom is major domo—mayor of the palace
- King is a figurehead
- In 719, major domo Charles Martel becomes more powerful than king in the Frankish Empire
- Defeats Muslims from Spain at Tours in 732; becomes a Christian hero
- Son, Pepin, begins Carolingian Dynasty—family that ruled 751–987
Charlemagne Becomes Emperor

- From Pepin to Charlemagne

- Pepin dies in 768, leaves kingdom to two sons; in 771 one son dies

- Second son, Charlemagne (Charles the Great), rules kingdom
Charlemagne Becomes Emperor (Charles the Great)

Charlemagne Extends Frankish Rule

- Charlemagne’s armies reunite western Europe, spread Christianity

Q. Why did the Pope crown Charlemagne?

A. In 800, Charlemagne travels to Rome to protect Pope Leo III from mobs

- Pope crowns Charlemagne emperor; gives him title, “Roman Emperor”

- Germanic power, Church, heritage of Roman Empire now joined together
Charlemagne’s Empire, 768–843

- Frankish Kingdom before Charlemagne, 768
- Areas conquered by Charlemagne, 814
- Papal States
- Division by Treaty of Verdun, 843

Geography Skillbuilder: Interpreting Maps
1. Region By 814, what was the extent of Charlemagne’s empire (north to south, east to west)?
2. Region Based on the map, why did the Treaty of Verdun signal the decline of Charlemagne’s empire?
Charlemagne’s Legacy

Charlemagne Leads a Revival

1. **Reunites Western Europe** for the first time since the Roman Empire
   - Limits power of nobles, **counts** governed land justly – **watched closely**.

2. **Spread Christianity**
   - Become Christian or die

3. **Encouraged Education**
   - Provided schooling for all children, educated himself
Charlemagne's Heirs

- Charlemagne dies in 814; his son, Louis the Pious, religious, but rules poorly
- Louis’s three grandsons fight for control of empire
  - Lothair, Charles the Bald, Louis the German
- In 843 they divide empire into three kingdoms; sign Treaty of Verdun

Q. What’s the result?
A. Carolingian kings lost power and central authority broke down. Lack of strong leaders leads to **feudalism**
Discussion Questions

1. Where was Charlemagne’s Palace? What is the city called and what was the city’s old name?

2. Why was Charlemagne’s cathedral/palace octagonal?

3. What does the septor in his right hand and the orb in his left hand communicate?
Charlemagne’s Palace