

FRANKISH EMPIRE

450 TO 845 A.D.

BAPTISM OF CLOVIS TO TREATY OF VERDUN

CHARACTERS – FRANKISH EMPIRE

<u>Clovis</u>	466–511	Founder of the Frankish Kingdom. Converted to Christianity by his wife Clotilda.
<u>Clotildad.</u>	545	Christian wife of Clovis; converted him to Christianity, and built a church.
<u>Fredegonde</u>	d. 597	Murderous queen consort of Chilperic, a Merovingian King. Quarreled for 40 years with Brunhilda, sister of his former wife.
<u>Brunhilda</u>	603-639	Queen who ruled as regent for her sons and grandsons. Feuded with Fredegonde.
<u>Dagobert I</u>	603-639	Last of the strong, Merovingian kings. Later Merovingians were "do-nothing" kings.

CAROLINGIANS

<u>Charles Martel</u>	686–741	Frankish 'Mayor of the Palace who defeated the Moors at the <i>Battle of Tours</i> .
<u>Pepin the Short</u>	714–768	King of the Franks. Son of Charles Martel. Father of Charlemagne.
<u>Charlemagne</u>	742–814	First Holy Roman Emperor. Unified most of Western Europe into a Frankish Empire.
<u>Roland</u>	d. 778	Nephew of Charlemagne and legendary hero of his wars. Died at Roncesvalles.
<u>Wittekind</u>	d. 780	Leader of Saxon resistance to Charlemagne. Convert after years of struggle..
<u>Alcuin</u>	735–804	Famous teacher of the Middle ages. Founded schools in York, under Charlemagne.

LATER CAROLINGIANS

<u>Louis the Pious</u>	778–840	Son of Charlemagne and king of Franks. On his death his three sons divided the kingdom between them.
<u>Louis the German</u>	804–876	Grandson of Charlemagne, ruler of East Franconia.
<u>Charles the Bald</u>	823–877	Grandson of Charlemagne, ruler of West Franks. Dealt with Norse pirates in Paris.
<u>Charles the Fat</u>	832–888	Briefly reunited the East and West Kingdoms of Charlemagne.
<u>Arnulf of Carinthia</u>	850–899	Deposed uncle, Charles the Fat. Repelled Vikings invaders at <i>Battle of Leuven</i> .

EARLY FRENCH SAINTS

<u>St. Denis</u>	d. 250	Saint martyred in Roman Gaul by druid priests for converting Celts to Christianity.
<u>Martin of Tours</u>	317–397	Roman soldier who gave up his military career to follow Christ. Bishop of Tours
<u>St. Irenaeus</u>	~ 190	Early Christian theologian, bishop of Lyons, recognized as a Father of the Church.
<u>Gregory of Tours</u>	538–594	Bishop of Tours, historian of the early Merovingians and Martin of Tours.
<u>Genevieve</u>	420-502	Peasant girl of France whose prayers diverted the Huns from attacking Paris.
<u>Remigius</u>	437-533	Bishop of Reims who befriended, helped convert, and baptized Clovis.

Timeline—Frankish Empire

AD Year	Event
MEROVINGIAN KINGS	
448	<u>Merovech</u> succeeds Clodio as king of the Salian Franks.
451	Romans, Visigoths, and Franks under Merovech, defeat Attila the Hun at the <u>Battle of Chalons</u> .
465	<u>Clovis</u> I, grandson of Merovech, succeeds as leader of the Salian Franks.
486	Clovis defeats Syagrius, the last Roman appointed ruler of Gaul at the <u>Battle of Soissons</u> .
492	Clovis marries <u>Clotilda</u> , a Catholic princess of Burgundy.
496	Clovis baptized in Christmas day in 496 in the Abbey of Rheims by St. Remigus.
507	Clovis defeats a Visigoth army and conquers Aquitaine at the <i>Battle of Vouille</i> .
511	Frankish kingdom divided among sons of Clovis. Capitals at Soissons, Paris, Orleans, Rheims.
558	Chlothar I becomes sole ruler of Franks. Kingdom later divided into four regions: Burgundy, Neustria, Austrasia, Aquitaine.
575	<u>Brunhilda</u> ruled Austrasia after Sigebert I. Feuded with Fredogunda of Nuestria.
613	Chlothar II (Fredogunda son) rules Franks after executing Sibeber II and Brunhilda.
632	<u>Dagobert I</u> becomes king of Franks by treachery. Later Merovingian are "do-nothing" kings.
MAYORS OF THE PALACE	
680-714	<u>Pepin II (of Herstal)</u> served as "Mayor of Palace" of Austrasia, then for entire kingdom.
718-723	<u>Charles Martel</u> , son of Pepin Herstal, fought to claim 'Mayor of Palace' from his step-brother.
731	Martel leads army against Odo, Duke of Aquitaine, who had made a truce with the Moors..
732	<i>Battle of Tours</i> : Franks and Burgundians defeat invading Moors of the Umayyad Caliphate.
741	Frankish realms divided between Pepin the Short and Carloman. Pepin sole ruler after 747.
CAROLINGIAN KINGS	
751	<u>Pepin the Short</u> crowned king of the Franks, first Carolingian ruler of the Franks.
751	Lombards conquer 'Exarchate of Ravenna' in central Italy. Rome under rule of pagan Lombards.
756	Donation of Pepin : Pepin forces the Lombards to surrender conquests in central Italy to Pope. Legal basis for Papal States .
771	<u>Charlemagne</u> , son of Pepin, becomes ruler of the Franks.
774	Charlemagne surrounds Pavia, exiles Desiderous, and is crowned king of the Lombards.
778	<i>Battle of Roncevaus Pass</i> : Charlemagne leads Franks over the Pyrennes. Basis for 'Song of Roland'.

- 782 [Alcuin](#) becomes Master of the Palace School in Aachen. Begins educational and church reforms.
- 785 Saxon leader [Wittekind](#) is baptized and swears fealty to Charlemagne.
- 789 Charlemagne issues laws that guide reforms throughout the Frankish kingdom.
- 780-840 **Carolingian Renaissance:** increased activity in art, literature, law, architecture, liturgy, and religion throughout Frankish realms.
- 795 Charlemagne creates 'Spanish March' as buffer between Franks and Spanish Moors.
- 800 On Christmas, 800, Charlemagne is crowned 'King of the Romans' by Pope Leo III.
- 814 Charlemagne dies and his only legitimate son, [Louis the Pious](#), inherits the Empire.
- 840 Death of Louis the Pious. Lothair I, [Louis the German](#), and [Charles the Bald](#) fight over dominions.
- 843 **Treaty of Verdun:** Sons of Louis the Pious divide the Empire into three Parts.

Recommended Reading—Frankish Empire

Book Title	Selected Chapters (# chapters)
CORE READING ASSIGNMENTS	
Guerber - The Story of Old France	France Long Ago to The Strassburg Oath (24)
Marshall - A History of France	Gauls Defeat Romans to Louis the Stammerer (15)
SUPPLEMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS	
Macgregor - The Story of France	The Druids to Louis the Good-Natured (9)
Lansing - Barbarian and Noble	Clovis, King of the Franks to The School of the Palace (4)
Marshall - The Story of Europe	Rise of the Franks to Treaty of Verdun (3)
Morris - Historical Tales: French	The Huns at Orleans to The Crowning of Charlemagne (6)
EASY READING SELECTIONS	
Finnemore - France: Peeps at History	Gauls and the Franks to Merovings and Carolings (2)
Haaren - Famous Men of the Middle Ages	Clovis to Charlemagne (3)
Evans - Old Time Tales	Clovis Becomes a Christian to The Death of Roland (6)
Dalkeith - Stories from French History	<i>entire book</i>