

Chapter 16: Early Medieval Europe Student Notes

The Byzantine Empire

1. Where was the Byzantine empire located in relation to the silk road network? How did this location affect the Byzantine empire?
2. Describe the government of Justinian I, including its major goals and administration.
3. Describe the relationship between the Byzantine emperor and the Christian leaders.
4. What event effectively limited Justinian's power?
5. Where did the eastern church send missionaries? How did these missionaries change the lives of their converts (besides the obvious religious changes)?

Western Europe

The Franks & the Carolingian Dynasty

6. What did Charles 'the Hammer' Martel do?
7. The pope declared Charlemagne 'Emperor of the Romans.' What did Charlemagne do to earn this title, and why did it present problems for both the church and the Carolingian dynasty?
8. Why did the Frankish empire fail to last?

Medieval Christianity

9. What does monasticism mean? Who started it? Who spread it to women?
10. How were monasteries a force for order in medieval Europe?

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Medieval European Feudalism

Describe the feudal system, and each of the three following groups:

11. kings

12. nobles

13. knights

14. peasants

Changes in the Church

15. How did Christianity and paganism affect each other?

16. What was the Great Schism and what led to it?

Vikings

17. Why did the Vikings begin to spread?

18. Why were the Vikings so effective, and what were the effects on Europe?