

# The Rise of the Carolingians



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- Pepin of Heristal (d. 714) and the “mayors of the palace”
- Charles “the Hammer” Martel (c. 688–741)
  - The second founder (after Clovis) of the Frankish state
  - The battle of Tours (733/734)
  - Developed alliances with English Benedictines in central Germany

# The Rise of the Carolingians

- Pepin the Short (c. 715–768)
  - Coronation
  - Integration of the Frankish monarchy into the papal-Benedictine orbit
- The reign of Charlemagne (742–814, r. 768–814)
  - United the Frankish Kingdom through armed expeditions
    - Italy, Germany, and central Europe
    - Forcing conversion to Christianity

# The Rise of the Carolingians

- The reign of Charlemagne (742–814, r. 768–814)
  - Counts and local administration
    - The *comites* (followers)
    - Administration of justice
    - Raising armies
    - Courts, tolls, and taxation
    - New coinage system
  - New capital city at Aachen



Map 7.3 The Empire of Charlemagne in 814

# The Rise of the Carolingians

- Christianity and kingship
  - Leading a unified Christian society
  - Kingship regarded as a divine office created by God to protect the Church
  - Religious reforms
    - Appointed and deposed bishops
    - Changed liturgy of Frankish Church
    - Reformed rules of worship
    - Prohibited pagan observances
    - The peasant tithe

# The Rise of the Carolingians

- Christianity and kingship
  - Spiritual responsibilities of kingship—the protector of the papacy
- The Carolingian renaissance
  - The patron of poetry and learning
  - The court as an intellectual center
  - Classical learning

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- The Carolingian renaissance
  - Alcuin of York (c. 735–804)
    - Correcting and copying texts
    - Carolingian miniscule
- Charlemagne and the revival of the western Roman Empire
  - Charlemagne's coronation (Christmas Day, 800)

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# The Rise of the Carolingians

- The collapse of the Carolingian empire
  - Louis the Pious (d. 843)—the empire disintegrates
  - Charles the Bald, Louis the German, and Lothair
  - Civil wars

# The Rise of the Carolingians

- The Vikings
  - Established trading settlements in the North Sea, the Baltic, and Russia
  - In the 790s, Vikings began to attack coastal ports of northern Europe
    - Initially the desire was for profit alone
    - Large organized armies invade in mid-ninth century
    - Viking settlements in Iceland, Greenland, and Newfoundland

# The Rise of the Carolingians

- The Vikings

- Ruled principalities in Scotland, Ireland, Normandy, and Russia
- The battle of Hastings (1066)
- The Vikings were not the only source of disorder
  - Civil wars
  - Muslim and Hungarian attacks
  - Local political rivalries
- Viking invasions helped tighten the cultural and political links that kept Europe together



Map 7.4 Patterns of Viking Activity and Settlement, c. 800–1100

# The Rise of the Carolingians

- The legacy of the Carolingians
  - The European political entity
  - England becomes unified
    - Alfred the Great (871–899)
    - Reorganized the army, codified laws
    - Cultural regeneration patterned on the Carolingian example

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# The Rise of the Carolingians

- The legacy of the Carolingians
  - The Saxon kings of Germany
    - The Carolingian example
    - Royal power based on conquest rather than trade and administration
    - Otto I defeats Hungarians using Charlemagne's lance (955)
    - Strengthening control of the church



Charlemagne's Image of Authority