

# **Charlemagne and the Origins of Christendom**

# Charlemagne and the Origins of Christendom

I. Western Europe during the Time of the Muslim Expansion

II. Political, Social, and Economic Relations in the Middle Ages

# I. Western Europe during the Time of the Muslim Expansion

## A. Decline and Isolation

### 1. Decline of Trade and Industry

- a. How would one conduct long-distance trade at this time?
- b. Vikings (“nomads of the sea”) as response

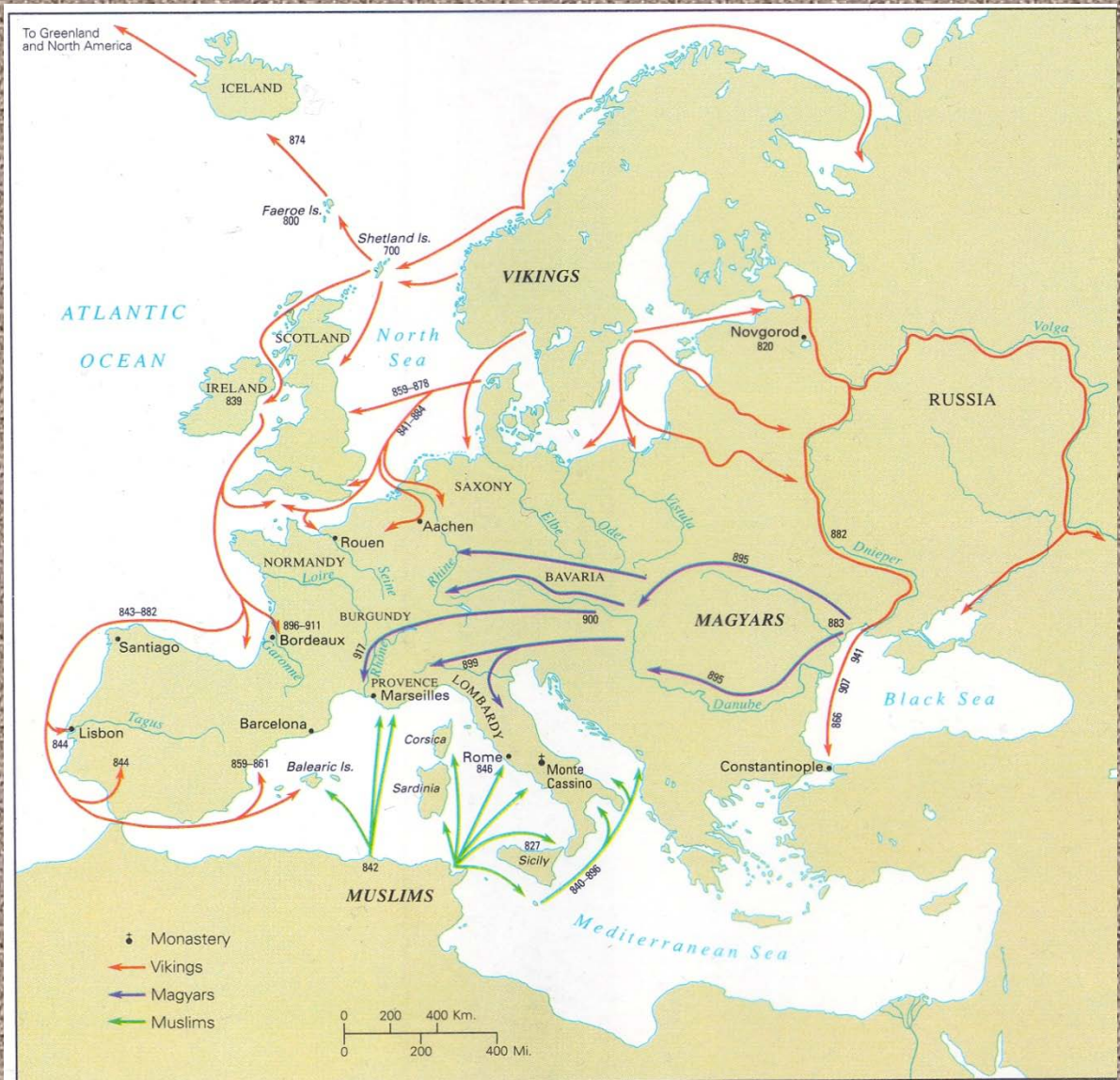
### 2. Decline of Culture and Learning

- a. Did Charles Martel save “Western civilization” at the Battle of Tours in 732?
- b. Baptistry at Poitiers

### 3. Dissolution of Centralized Government



# Viking Activity 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> Centuries



## II. Political, Social, and Economic Relations in the Middle Ages

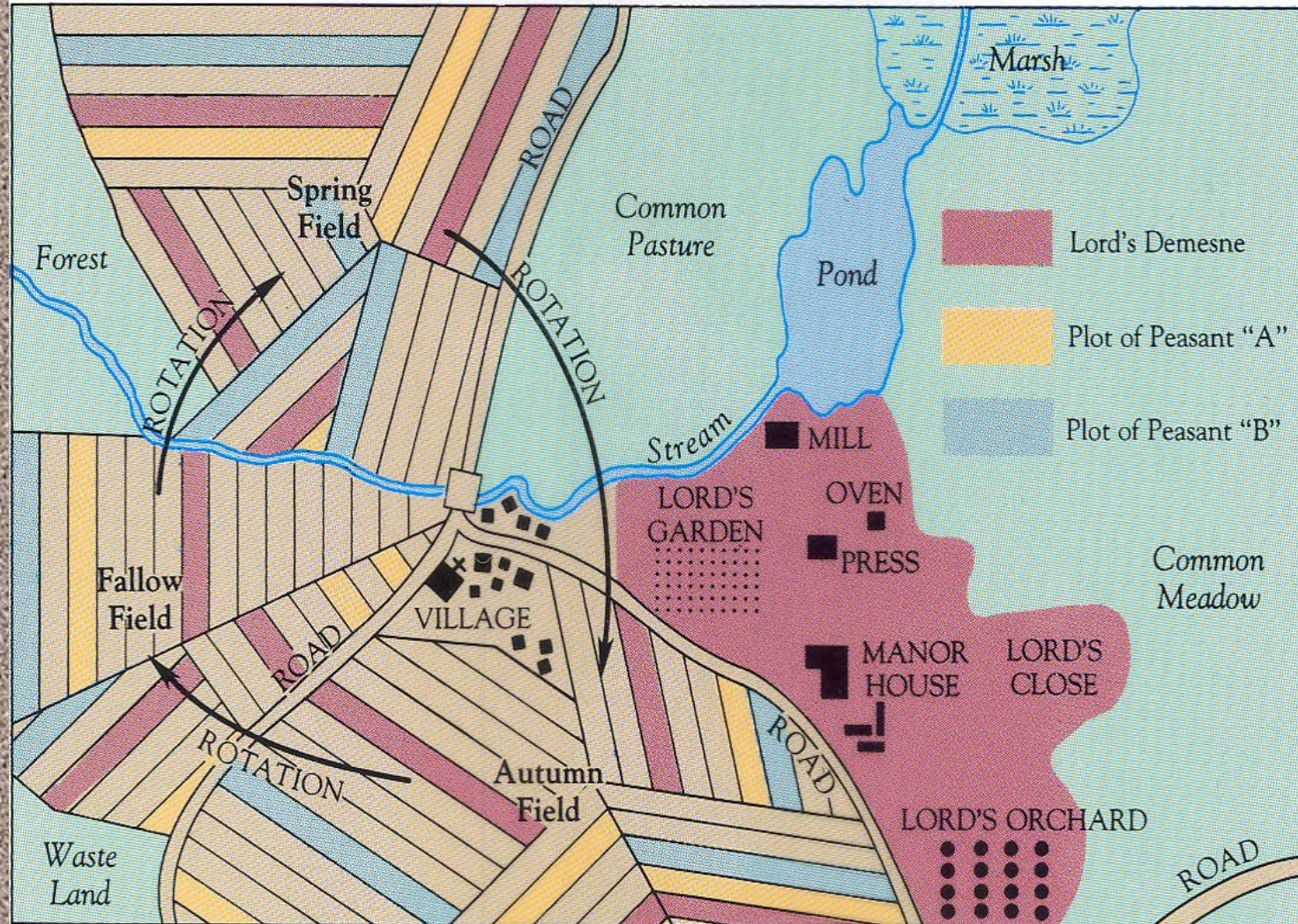
### A. Manorial Self-Sufficiency

#### 1. Estates: Division by Function

- a. 1st Estate: Those Who Pray (clergy)
- b. 2nd Estate: Those Who Fight (nobility)
- c. 3rd Estate: Those Who Work (peasants)



# Medieval Manor





## II. Political, Social, and Economic Relations in the Middle Ages

### B. Feudalism — A Stage in Every Nation's Development or Historiographic Ghost?

1. Standard Textbook View
2. Use of the Term by Researchers

## II. Political, Social, and Economic Relations in the Middle Ages

### B. Feudalism — A Stage in Every Nation's Development or Historiographic Ghost?

#### 3. Question about Its Origins

- a. Montesquieu (18th cent.) — German tribal *comitatus*
- b. George Waitz (1880s) — Roman clientage and patronage
- c. Heinrich Brunner (1890s) — fusion of *comitatus* and clientage
- d. Lynn White (1964) — importance of stirrup



## II. Political, Social, and Economic Relations in the Middle Ages

B. Feudalism — A Stage in Every Nation's Development or  
Historiographic Ghost?

4. Another Possibility — Muslim *iqtā'*

## II. Political, Social, and Economic Relations in the Middle Ages

### C. Charlemagne (768–814)

#### 1. Political Significance

- a. Crowned Roman Emperor in the West—“Holy Roman Empire”
- b. Impact on Western institutions?
- c. Lands divided among grandsons—Treaty of Verdun (843)



# Spread of Christianity 400-700



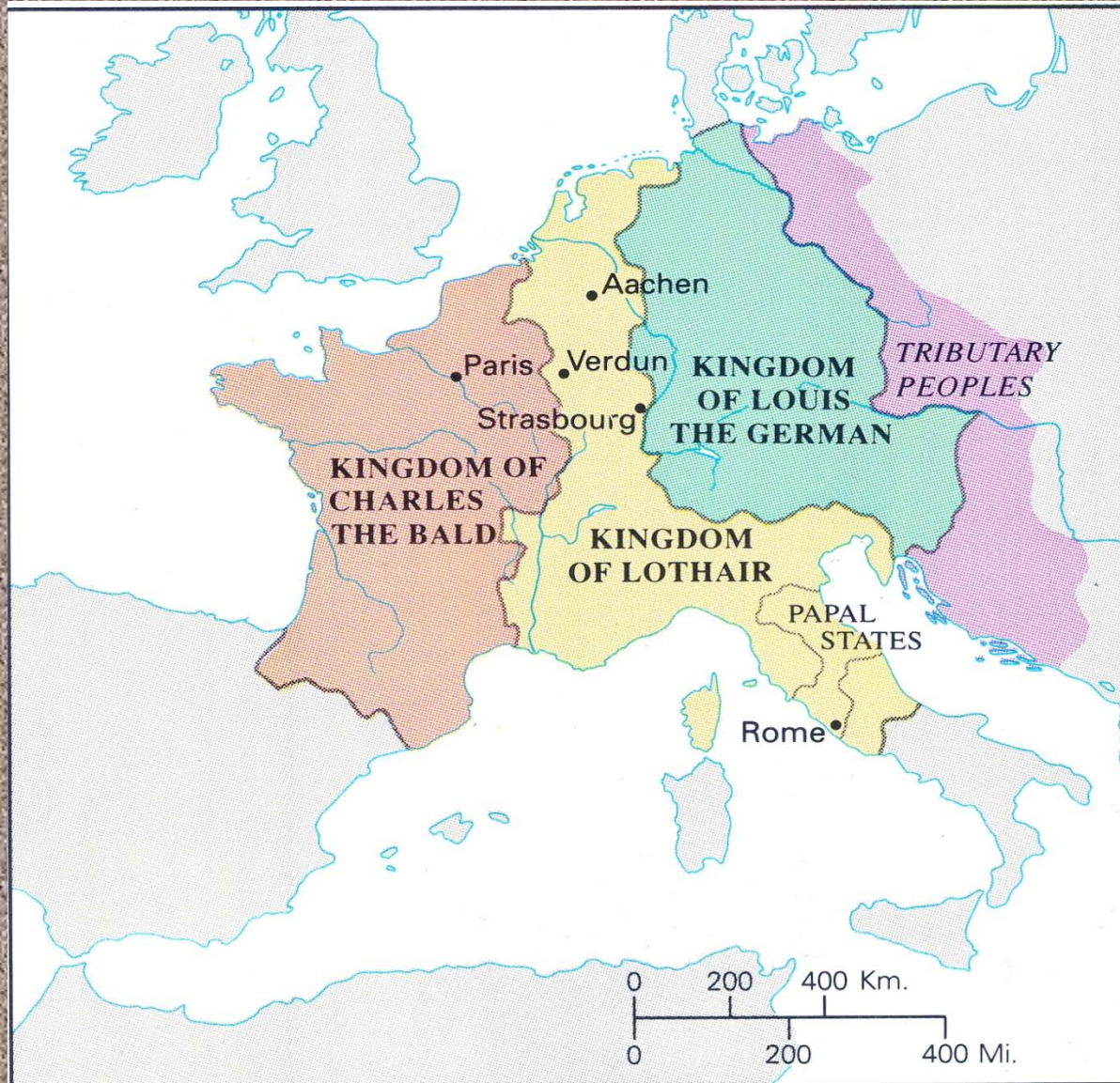


# Carolingian Empire





# Division of the Carolingian Empire, 843



## II. Political, Social, and Economic Relations in the Middle Ages

### C. Charlemagne (768–814)

#### 2. Education and the Revival of Learning

- a. Alcuin of York (735–804)
- b. Trivium (represents argument)
  - Grammar
  - Rhetoric—“the open fist”
  - Logic—“the shut fist”



## II. Political, Social, and Economic Relations in the Middle Ages

### C. Charlemagne (768–814)

#### 2. Education and the Revival of Learning

##### c. Quadrivium (represents mathematics)

Arithmetic—numbers in themselves

Geometry—numbers having taken form

Astronomy—numbers in motion

Music—numbers in relationship to each other

## II. Political, Social, and Economic Relations in the Middle Ages

### C. Charlemagne (768–814)

#### 3. Carolingian Renaissance (Aachen [Aix-la-Chapelle])

- a. Miniscule—Preservation of Ancient Latin Texts
- b. Einhard—*The Life of Charlemagne*



## II. Political, Social, and Economic Relations in the Middle Ages

D. The End of the Millennium? The Year 1000.