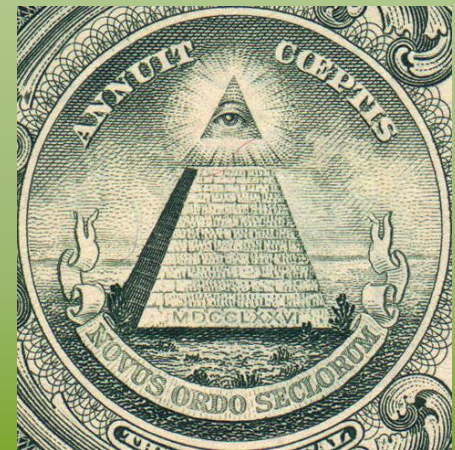




# Tracking the Ancient Mysteries from Egypt to the Founding of America

## Lecture 8: Charlemagne Europe and Islam

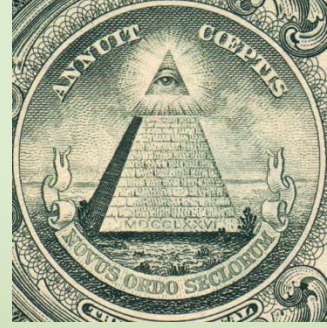


# Outline



- **Lectures 1 – 5:** Conceptual foundations, Egypt, Greece, The Temple Legend, Vanishing of the Mysteries
- **Lectures 6 – 10:** Early Christian Mysteries, Faith versus Knowledge, Charlemagne, Knights Templars, Cathars, Rosicrucians
- **Lectures 11 – 15:** Renaissance, Leonardo, Founding of America, Freemasonry, Mysteries for the Future

# The Stars Once Spoke to Man



The Stars once spoke to Man.  
It is World-destiny  
That they are silent now.  
To be aware of the silence  
Can become pain for earthly Man.

But in the deepening silence  
There grows and ripens  
What Man speaks to the Stars.  
To be aware of the speaking  
Can become strength for Spirit-Man.

Rudolf Steiner

# 3 Keys To Remember



1. One man's garbage is another man's gold
  - Christendom's heresy hunting drove out the Mystery remnants including the Aristotelians and the Platonists
  - Culture in Islamic world benefitted, prospered
  - Europe, after Rome, was considered home of Barbarians
2. Charlemagne travels to Iraq – comes home with teachers and keys to the holy sites
  - Pilgrimages result: Compostela, Rome, Jerusalem
  - Search for relics, the Holy Grail
3. Neo-platonism & Mysteries planted in Chartres

# Recap of Previous Lectures

- Fading of the Mysteries
  1. Loss of Initiation 'success'
  2. Loss of Ancestry
  3. Fear of [Spiritual] Death
- Rise of Intellectual
  1. I Know, Freedom
  2. I Can Be X, Egoism
  3. Equality – end of bloodline
- Descent to Earthly
  1. E-H Balance of Greece
  2. Oral becomes written
  3. Focus: this earthly life
- Rise of the New Mystery
  1. Golgotha
  2. Resurrection
  3. Whitsun
- New Initiation
  1. Saul to Paul is the first
  2. Inner Holy of the Holies
  3. Seven stages from WotFeet
- 11 + Paul Christianities
  1. Ease of spread via MysCtrs
  2. Multiple 'personalities', books
  3. Confusion, heresy hunting



# Recap of Last Lecture

- Vanishing mystery streams easily converted to Christianity or went underground
  - Seen as the anticipated completion & renewal
- This led to multiple Christianities based on knowledge
  - To justify their version, some resorted to text altering of books that became the Christian Bible (& the apocryphal)
  - The very stream that led the condemnation of the other streams as heretics were commonly altering texts
- Justinian wiped out remnants of the Mysteries
- Faith won out over Knowledge within Christendom
  - Roman Church (orthodox) used Faith & Roman army to oust other streams – millions died – Christian vs Christian
  - Priestly power (Abel stream) dominating Cain stream



# Legend of the Battle of Dark & Light



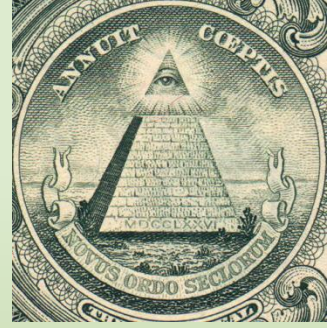
- The Spirits of Darkness wished to storm the Kingdom of Light. They came to its borders for the attack. They were, however, able to achieve nothing. Now they were to be punished by the Kingdom of Light. But in the Kingdom of Light there is only good. Thus the Demons of Darkness could only have been punished through good. Therefore the Spirits of the Kingdom of Light took a portion of their own kingdom and mingled it into the Kingdom of Darkness.
- Thereby a **leaven**, so to speak, came into the Kingdom of Darkness and a kind of vortex arose. Death became pulled into the vortex, whereby it consumed itself. It now carried within itself the seed of its own destruction. There then arose from the Kingdom of Light the Archetypal Man of the human race ***who must mingle with the Kingdom of Darkness and overcome it.***

# Cast of Characters

- Charles Martel
- Pepin
- Charlemagne
- Irene
- Several Popes
- To the victors goes the right to fashion its history



# What's the Situation?



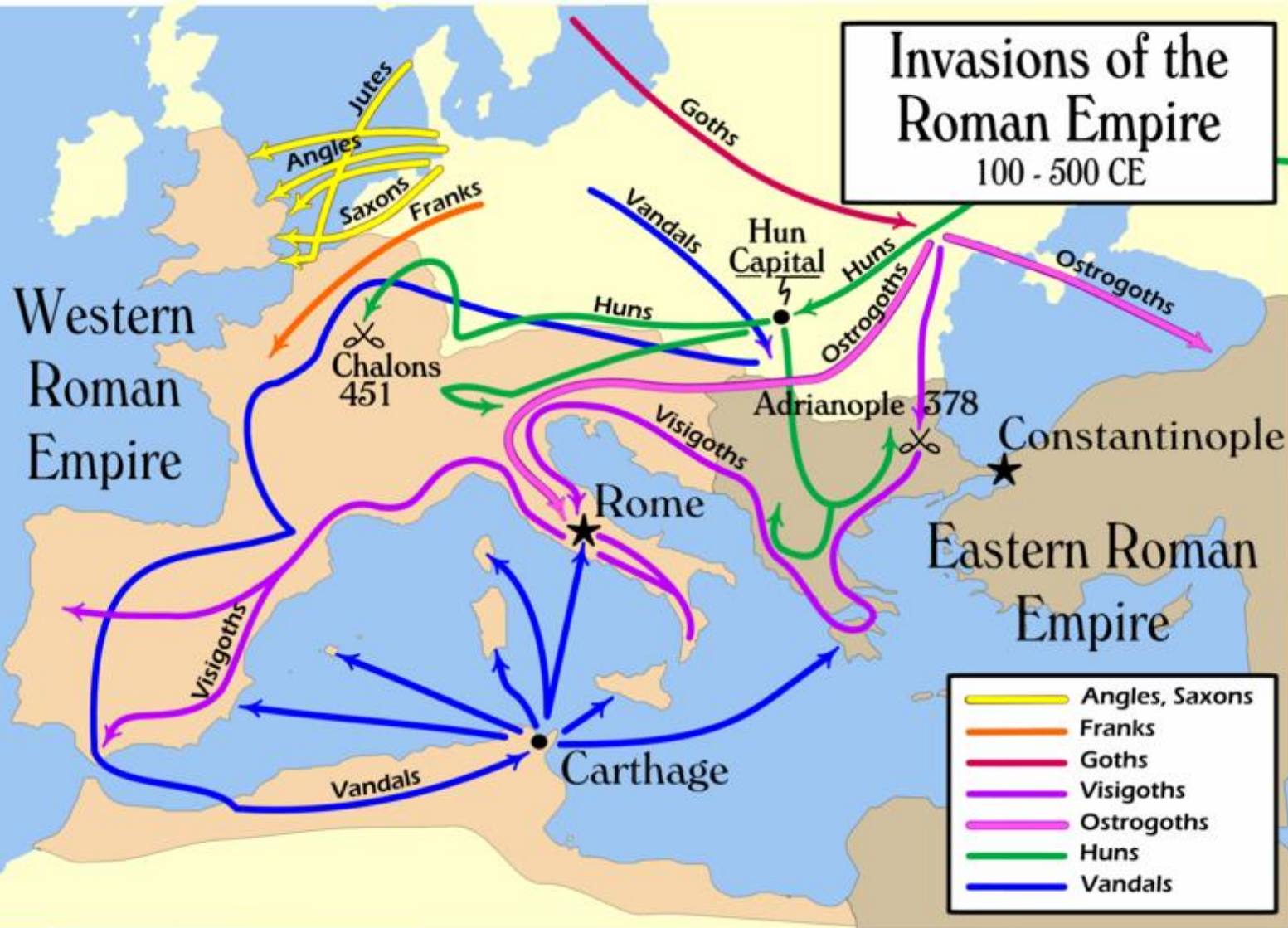
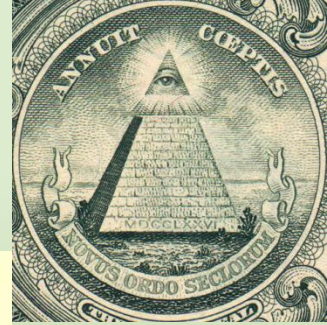
## Movement of Peoples & Faiths

- Germanic tribes on the move
  - Rome stormed by barbarians (Goths and Vandals)
- Constant war in Italy and most of Europe
- Saracens (Muslim) controlled the Mediterranean Sea

## Theology

- Whose See was Right? Rome or Constantinople?
  - Leads to faith in the Infallibility of the Pope
- 8<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Council: Human is only body & soul
- Rise of the ***Holy*** Roman Empire

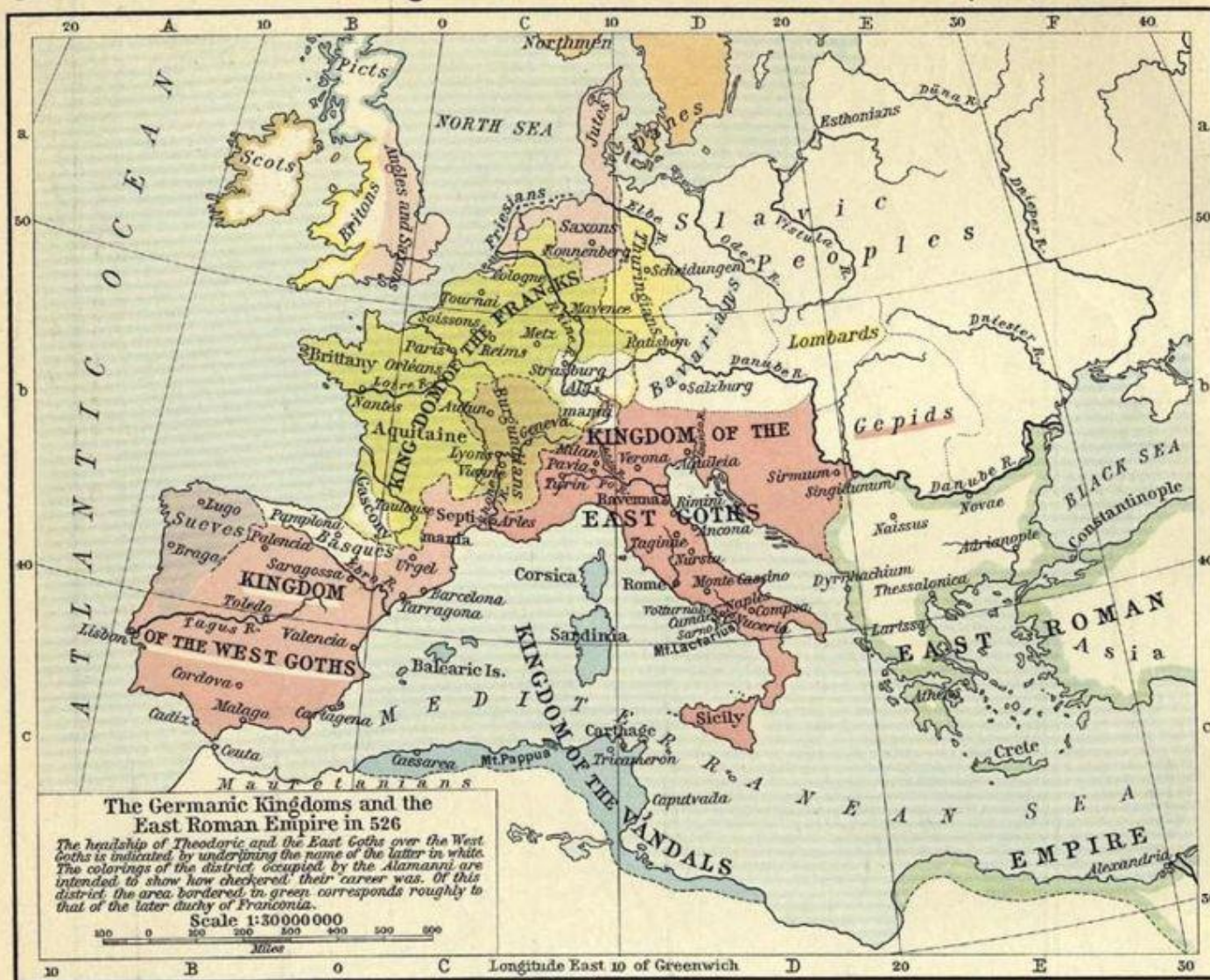
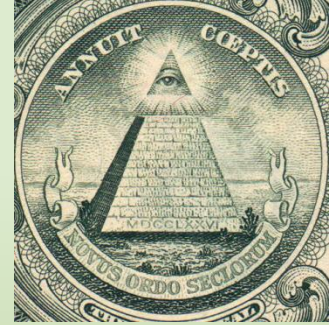
# Migrations of Peoples: 100–500



Huns: from east invade Europe 370. Attila the Hun d.453. May be cause for the Great Migrations. Urals to Rhine. Artificial cranial deformation



# Vandals and Goths



invade  
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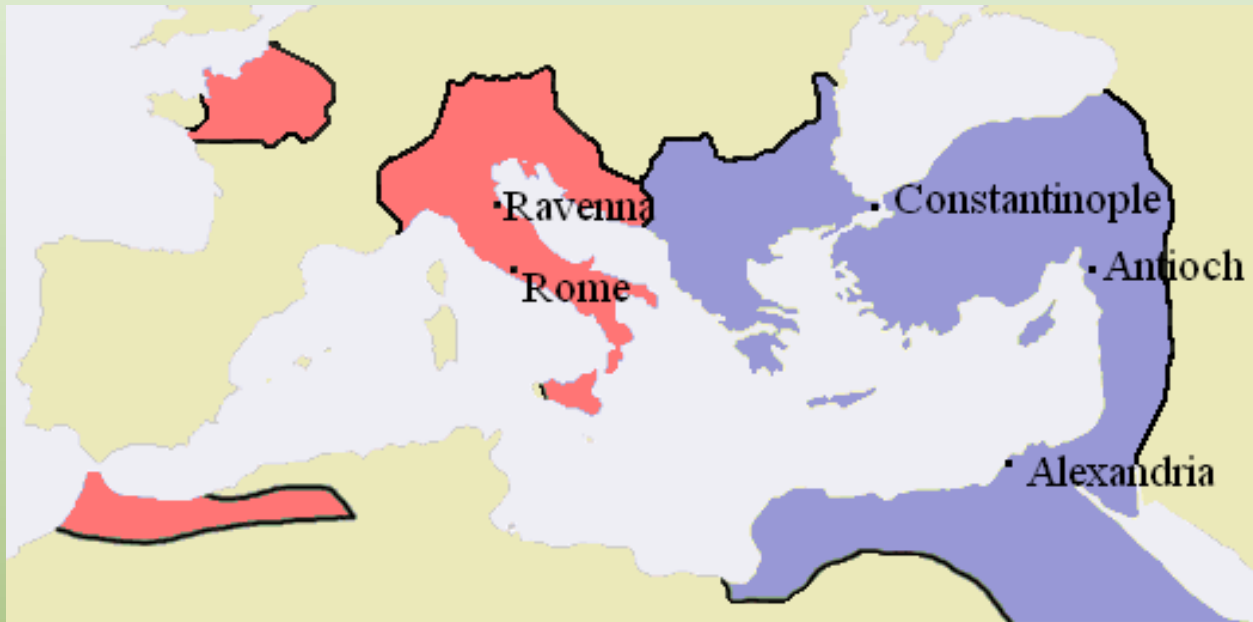
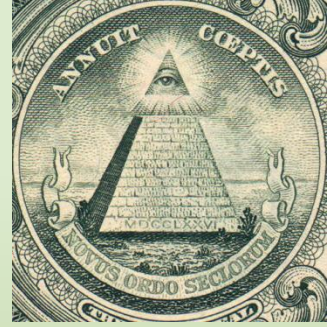
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# Rome and Constantinople



- 50-300 AD: Christianity spreads in all directions
  - Popes/Patriarchs/Sees exist in five regions
  - Theological differences
- Constantine and Christianity, 313 AD
  - Center of Christianity intended for Constantinople – lasts until 1453
  - Wants to unite Christianity's sects – calls for Nicene Council
- Ecumenical councils lead to split into Greek & Latin centers
- 395: Eastern and Western Empires split again
- 527-537: Justinian rules, Constantinople flourishes, General Belisarius
- 546: Totila sacks Rome destroying most of its ancient population
- 610: Emperor Heraclius replaces Latin with Greek as army's language
- 751: Lombards conquer Ravenna and threaten Rome
- 752: Pope requests aid from Pepin with Donation of Constantine forgery
  - Legal basis to Papal States; defines Western Roman Empire for Papal oversight
- 800: Charlemagne becomes Augustus of Roman Empire
  - Battles Saracens in Italy and pagans in Europe
- 1054: Popes of Constantinople and of Rome excommunicate each other
- 1155: Frederick Barbarossa adds "Holy" to Roman Emperor title

# Western Empire Shrinks, 476 AD



- Rome sacked several times
- Barbarians rule Rome in 476

- Justinian I in the 6<sup>th</sup> century of Eastern empire tries to win back the West





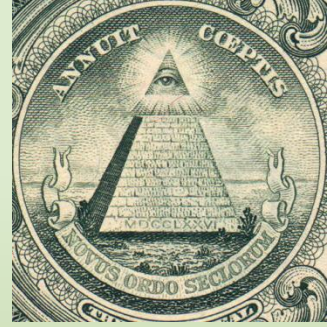
# Theological Evolution



- 869 AD – 8<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Council declared it heresy to speak of a human spirit or a 2<sup>nd</sup> soul
- Rise of Troubadours and Minnesingers - Parzifal
  - Search for the Holy Grail
- Secret Grail Knights
- 337 Christianization of
  - Germanic tribes
  - By Ulfilas the Initiate
  - Arian
  - Christ as Warrior
    - Arch-angel Michael
    - Concept leads to Grail and Templar knights (?)



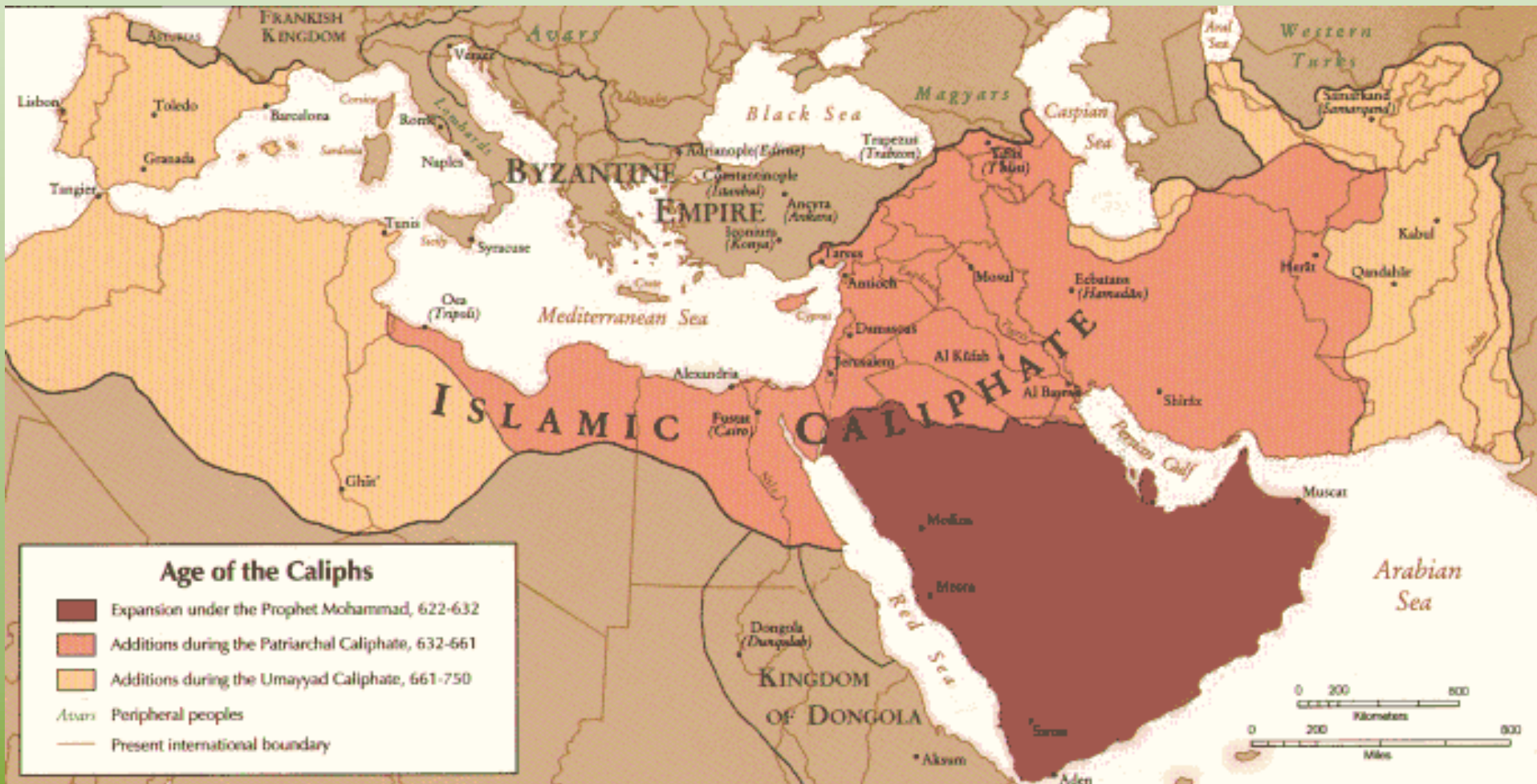
# Pope Gregory, c. 540-604



- Monk but from famous, wealthy family
- 578: as ambassador to Constantinople asks the emperor for military aid for Papacy against the Lombards
- Public debate with Eutychius culminated in an exchange before Tiberius II where Gregory cited a biblical passage in support of his view that Christ was corporeal and palpable after his Resurrection; impressed, Tiberius II ordered Eutychius's writings burned
- 590–604: Pope. Evangelized pagan England
- Gregorian Chant, mystical theology, dove legend



# The Spread of Islam



# Spread of Islam



- Muhammad (570 – 632 AD).
  - Visions from 610-632 brought by arch-angel Gabriel
  - Recorded in the Qur'an (Koran)
  - Like Christianity, a power struggle ensues: Sunni and Shi'a
  - Mystic sect: Sufi
- Over war weakened
  - Persia
  - Northern Africa
- Century of war
  - 632-732
  - 717: Constantinople
  - 732: Tours-Poitiers





# Battle for Europe



- Rapid Muslim conquest of Palestine, Syria, Egypt, & North Africa 7<sup>th</sup> C on previously Christian and non-Arab war-weary base
- 711: Visigothic kingdom of Roderick fell to Muslim conquerors in a single battle at Guadalete on Rio Barbate
- Charles Martel's victories defines Western civilization
  - 732: Tours-Poitier, 737: Narbonne
  - German historians are ardent in their praise of Martel and in their belief that he saved Europe and Christianity from then all-conquering Islam, praising him also for driving back the ferocious Saxon barbarians on his borders.
  - Schlegel speaks of this "mighty victory" in terms of fervent gratitude, and tells how "the arm of Charles Martel saved and delivered the Christian nations of the West from the deadly grasp of all-destroying Islam"
- The Reconquista took 700 years to regain Spain
  - Completed in 1492, only months before Columbus set sail

# Muslim – Christian Worlds, 1000 AD



- Gondishapur (formed 250 AD) in Baghdad
  - Academy of higher learning formed by King Shapur I
    - Grew with Aristotlelians and mystics driven out by Justinian
- Baghdad's House of Wisdom was an establishment dedicated to the translation of Greek, Persian and Syriac works.
  - Scholars headed there from all over the Mediterranean area, even India
- Baghdad and Córdoba were the largest cities in the world during 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> C
- Diplomatic relations established with the Chinese Tang dynasty
- Moorish Spain
  - Cordoba: 113,000 homes, 600 mosques, 300 public baths, 80 public schools, 17 universities, 50 hospitals, 20 public libraries with 100s of thousands of books, 80,000 shops, & street lamps.
    - Charlemagne never learned to read or write
  - Most European cities had no street lamps until 19<sup>th</sup> century
  - Moor royalty became tall, red-haired, fair skinned, long beards
    - Why? To keep peace, Goths to north gave 100 virgins per year

# History of France and Germany



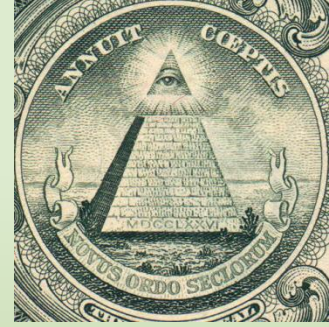
- 687: Pippin of Herstal, mayor of the palace of Austrasia, becomes the sole governor of the entire Frankish kingdom with his victory at Tertry
- 737: Pippin was succeeded by his illegitimate son Charles Martel
  - Governed the Franks without a king on the throne declining to call himself king
- 741: Sons Carloman and Pepin the Short succeed Charles
- 743: The brothers place Childeric III on the throne – the last Merovingian king
- 746: Carloman resigns, becomes a monk; Pepin asks Pope if a king to have no royal blood
- 749: Pope orders Pepin to become the king and brands Childeric III as a false king
- 750: Pepin was elected by an assembly of the Franks, anointed by the archbishop, and then raised to the office of king; the Merovingian dynasty replaced by the Carolingian
- 753: Pope Stephen II flees Italy to Francia appealing to Pepin for assistance; in return the pope could only provide legitimacy, which he did by again anointing and confirming Pepin and adding his young sons Carolus and Carloman to the royal patrimony
- 754: Pepin accepted the Pope's invitation to visit Italy on behalf of St. Peter's rights
- Under the Carolingians, the Frankish kingdom spread to encompass an area including most of Western Europe; the division of the kingdom formed the basis for modern France and Germany

# Basic History on Charlemagne



- The oldest son of Pepin the Short
  - First Mayor then King of the Franks
  - 768: Dies at St. Denis Cathedral, Paris making Charlemagne King
- 774: Adds (northern) Italy to Kingdom
  - Papal protector removing the Lombards from power in northern Italy
- Led an incursion into Muslim Spain
- Campaigned against the peoples to his east, Christianizing them upon penalty of death: e.g. Massacre of Verden
- Crowned "Emperor" by Pope Leo III on Christmas Day at Old St. Peter's Basilica
- 800: First emperor in western Europe since the collapse of the Western Roman Empire 300 years earlier
- 812: the Byzantium emperor recognizes Charlemagne as co-emperor
  - In return, Charlemagne acknowledges Venice and southern Italy as belonging to Byzantium
  - Strengthens the Roman Papacy and its bishops
    - Makes civil authority derive from ecclesiastical conferment

# Charlemagne, 742-814



- Determined to bring order to Europe
  - In 772 he launched 30-years of military campaigns consolidating an empire of France, Germany, and northern Italy
  - Culturally “pushed” by Moors in Spain
  - By 800 Charlemagne was the undisputed ruler of Western Europe
- Education and culture
  - Established centers of learning that become Europe’s universities
  - At meals, instead of jesters perform, he listened to visiting scholars
- Believed that government should be for the benefit of the governed
  - He legislated for agriculture, industry, finance, education, religion, and morals
  - He set up money standards to encourage agricultural commerce



# Harun al-Rashid, 763-809



- Aaron the Just (or the Upright)
- 799: Charlemagne visits Harun al-Rashid in Ar Raqqa
  - Near Baghdad – at the time the cultural center of the world, & Babylon
  - Offers horses, colorful Frisian cloaks, and impressive hunting dogs
- Seals their understanding by sending elephants and the **keys to the Christian holy places** in Jerusalem
- Eastern emperor Leo IV, in retaliation, encourages the emir of Cordova to renounce allegiance to Baghdad
- After Irene, emperor Nikephoros I refused to pay tribute to Harun, saying he should be paying it
- Angered, Harun wrote back "In the name of God the most merciful, from Harun al-Rashid, commander of the faithful, to Nikephoros, dog of the Romans, Thou shalt not hear, thou shalt behold my reply"
- Nikephoros was forced to sign a treaty, with humiliating terms



# Charlemagne and Byzantine



- 798: Harun al-Rashid goes to war against Byzantium
  - Leads 95,000 soldiers to take Constantinople
  - Irene negotiates a ransom of 70,000 gold pieces paid yearly
    - Funds cultural re-growth of Baghdad and Gondishapur
- Charlemagne proposes marriage to Irene, guardian of the Byzantine Empire
  - Purpose to unite East & West
- 802 Nicephorus takes throne from Irene – stops payments
  - 806: Harun defeats Nicephorus who resumes but at 30,000 gold pieces
  - 809: Harun al Rashid dies – payments stop
- 812, the Greek Basileus recognizes Charlemagne as co-emperor
  - In return, Charlemagne acknowledges Venice and southern Italy as belonging to Byzantium
  - Strengthens the Papacy and the bishops
    - Makes civil authority derive from ecclesiastical conferment

# Irene, Byzantium Empress

- 768: brought as orphan to Constantinople by Emperor Constantine V
- 17 December: married to his son Leo IV (ages 19 and 17)
- 14 January 771: gave birth to a son, Constantine VI
- September 775: Constantine V dies with Leo (at 25) as co-emperor
- Leo (a Khazar) despised icons – no graven images
- 780: a number of courtiers were punished for icon-veneration
- He discovered icons concealed among Irene's possessions
- Leo refused to share the marriage bed with her thereafter
- 780: month later Leo dies, Irene becomes Regent for 9-year old Constantine VI
- Caesar Nikephoros, a half-brother of Leo IV, conspires to take the throne
- Irene has Nikephoros and his co-conspirators ordained as priests, a status which disqualifies them from ruling
- 781: Irene seeks a relationship with Charlemagne and the Pope
- 786: She negotiates a marriage between her son Constantine and Rotrude, a daughter of Charlemagne by his third wife Hildegard
- 787: Against her son's wishes, Irene breaks off the engagement
- 787: Convened 7<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Council at Nicaea to allow the veneration of icons and, for Rome's support, agreed to reunite the Eastern church with Rome
- 782: Makes "peace" with Harun al-Rashid: pay 80,000 dinars annually
- 790: Constantine VI tries to assert his rule – she has his eyes taken out and he dies
- 800: Pope Leo III, crowns Charlemagne as Roman Emperor – Irene proposes marriage
- 802 Nicephorus takes throne from Irene



# Division of the Empire



- 806, Charlemagne made provision for the division of the empire on his death to his sons Charles the Younger, Pippin, and Louis
- There was no mention of the imperial title – did Charlemagne regard the title as an honorary achievement with no hereditary significance?
- Pippin died in 810 and Charles in 811
- 813: Charlemagne then crowned his youngest son, Louis, co-emperor and co-King of the Franks, granting him a half-share of the empire and the rest upon Charlemagne's own death
- The only part of the Empire which Louis was not promised was Northern Italy, which Charlemagne specifically bestowed upon Pippin's illegitimate son Bernard



# Charlemagne's Theology



- Doctrinal issue of contention between East and West
- 447: The Filioque used in Toledo, Spain
  - Purpose to counter Arian Christian faith of the nobility of Spain
  - "We believe in the Holy Spirit ... who proceeds from the Father *and the Son*".
- 767: Filioque repudiated at a council held at Gentilly
- 809: Council at Aachen called by Charlemagne to confirm his belief that the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son (ex Patre Filioque) and sanctioned inclusion in the Nicene Creed the phrase Filioque (and the Son)
- Pope Leo III forbade the Filioque clause and ordered that the Nicene creed be engraved on silver tablets so that his conclusion may never be overturned
- Eastern Orthodox theologians consider Filioque inclusion as a heresy
- 869: 8<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Council brings Christianity closer to Islamic theology
- In the 10th century, Photius, the Patriarch of Constantinople, accuses the West of having fallen into heresy through continued use of the Filioque
- Filioque clause appears in 1014 in the coronation liturgy of Emperor Henry II by Pope Benedict VIII.
- Officially added to the Latin creed in 1274 by the Second Council of Lyon
  - Effectively ended a short-lived reunion between East and West
- "Filioque" not the only phrase in the Latin text that is not in the Greek.
  - "Deum de Deo" (God from God) is also not found in the Greek

# Pilgrimages to The Holy Places



- Constantine and his mother St. Helena, 300 AD
  - Discovery of the grave of Jesus
  - Hospital in Jerusalem to treat and care for Christian pilgrims
- 614: Persians capture Jerusalem, destroy all churches
  - Capture of the Cross of Christ, destruction of priests, of deacons, and monks, and all Christians, rape of nuns, enslavement of men & children
- 627: Byzantine Emperor Heraclius (610-41) AD defeats Persians
- 638: Caliph Omar enters Jerusalem, establishes religious tolerance
  - Pilgrimages to holy land grow dramatically afterwards
  - Period of Muslim rule but religious peaceful co-existence
- 799: Charlemagne secures the “keys” to the Holy Sites
- 1005: Caliph Al Hakim destroys the hostel and 3000 other buildings
- 1023: Caliph Ali az-Zahir of Egypt gives Italian merchants from Amalfi and Salerno permission to rebuild the hospice in Jerusalem
- 1064: over 7000 pilgrims at Easter
  - includes Archbishop of Mentz and many Bishops
- 1065: Turkomans overthrow Jerusalem and massacre 3000 pilgrims
- 1090s: Continued dangers to pilgrims leads to First Crusade

# Chartres

- About 80 km from Paris
- The original Church of 876 housed the Sancta Camisia, Mary's tunic
  - From Charlemagne
- First cathedral burnt 1020
- Popular pilgrimage destination in the 1100s
- 2<sup>nd</sup> fire 1134 – tunic OK
- Cathedral rebuilt 1145
- 3<sup>rd</sup> fire 1194 – tunic OK
- Cathedral rebuilt 1220





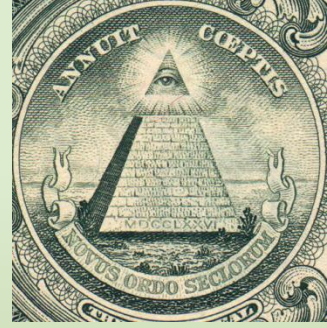
# School of Chartres & Platonism



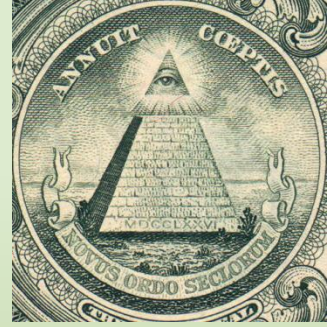
- John Scotus Erigena (815–877) Greek scholar
  - First to translate Plato and Dionysius the Areopagite into Latin
  - Head of Palatine Academy later Palace School in France
    - Established by Charlemagne
  - All creatures--angels, humans, and devils--will eventually come to a harmony in God's kingdom
- Plato's *Timaeus* and Cicero's *Dream of Scipio*
- Bernard of Chartres (? – 1124+?)
  - Chancellor of Chartres School until 1124
  - Students included Gilbert de la Porrée and William of Conches
- John of Salisbury (1120 – 1180), English author, diplomat, and bishop of Chartres
  - Student of Gilbert de la Porrée
  - Presented by Bernard of Clairvaux to Theobald, archbishop of Canterbury, who sponsors him in England about 1150
- Alanus ab Insulus (Alain de l'Isle) (1128-1203)
  - Platonism, Pythagoreanism/Hermes, and transition to Aristotelianism

# Chartres' Labyrinth – why in a church?

- Daedalus and Labyrinth for Minotaur

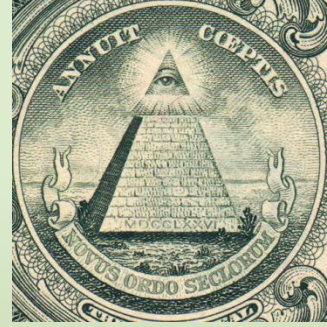


# Odd Origins?



- Germanic/Gothic tribes become Arian Christians
- Roman Catholic Popes bestow legitimacy on Frankish kings for their support creates bond
- Holy Roman Empire later divides into modern France and Germany
- France continues to bastion of faith for Catholic Church
- Reformation will originate in Germany

# Summary Points from Tonight



1. One man's garbage is another man's gold
  - Christendom's heresy hunting drove out the Mystery remnants including the Platonists and Aristotelians
  - Culture in Islamic world benefitted, prospered
  - Europe, after Rome, was considered home of Barbarians
2. Charlemagne travels to Iraq – comes home with teachers and keys to the holy sites
  - Pilgrimages result
  - Search for relics, the Holy Grail
3. Neoplatonism & Mysteries replanted in Chartres