Lecture 7: Rome, Germans, Byzantines, and Muslims: the Emergence of Medieval Europe

The Germanic Kingdoms
- Germans migrate south from northern Scandinavia ca. 500 BC
  - Burgundians settle southern France
  - Vandals settle North Africa ca. 429
- The Goths
- Frankish Kingdom under Clovis (c. 428-511)
- Angles and Saxons

Germanic Society
- Influenced by Roman Laws
- Fusion of Roman and Germanic upper-classes
- Crucial bond was kinship
- Germanic Law
- Wergeld (wergild)
- Family and marriage

The Church in Western Europe
- Doctrine of Petrine Supremacy
- Council of Nicea, 325
- Gregory I (the Great) (590-604)
  - Created Papal States
  - Intervened in Church conflicts
  - Sent Missionaries to England
- Augustine of Hippo (354-430)
  - Confessions
  - The City of God
- Jerome (345-420)
  - Creates Latin “Vulgate” Bible

Monasticism
- The monastic ideal attracted many
- Originally based on solitary life
  - Saint Anthony (ca. 250-350)
  - Saint Simeon the Stylite (ca. 388-459)
- Saint Pachomius (ca. 290-346)
  - Communities of men and women
- Saint Benedict of Nursia (ca. 480-543)
  - Founded Mont Casino
  - Benedictine Rule
  - Ideal of moderation
Rule of St. Benedict
• Motto of the Benedictine Order: *pax*, "peace."
• Monk or nun's life is divided
  – Sleep
  – Prayer
  – sacred reading
  – rest,
  – physical labor.
  – intellectual work and teaching took
• Model for the monastic life under Benedict
  – family,
  – with the abbot as father
  – and all the monks as brothers.

The Monk As Missionary
• Theodoric was Christian prior to taking Rome
• Clovis converted to Christianity in 500
• Monasticism in Ireland
  – Saint Patrick (390-461)
  – Saint Columba (521-597)
  – Saint Columanus (530-615)
• The conversion of England
  – Augustine
  – Synod of Whitby, 664
• English monks travel to
  – Frisia, Bavaria, and Saxony

The Byzantine Empire
• The Reign of Justinian (527-565)
  – 529 he codifies Roman Law (*Justinian`s Code*)
• Byzantine must deal with Lombards, Slavs, and Avars
• Constantinople (Byzantium) becomes new Rome
• Pesky Muslims and Bulgars
• Iconoclastic Controversy 730

The Rise of Islam, ca. 600
• Bedouins and the Concept of Allah
• Muhammad (c. 570-632) has conversion experience
• Mohammad travels to Medina (622)
• 632 *Abu Bakr* succeeds Mohammad at his death and…
  – Jihad
  – Battle of Yarmuk in 636
  – Persians defeated in 637
  – Egypt falls in 642
• 661 Muawiyah becomes caliph (successor)
  – *Umayyad Dynasty*
• Spain attacked in 710 conquered in 711
• Constantinople attacked by Muslim fleet in 717
• Battle of Tours "saves" Europe in 732
The Five Pillars of Faith

- The two sources of authority are the Quran and Sunna
- **Shiites (Shi’ites)**
  - Accepted only decedents of Ali, Muhammad’s son-in-law, as true rulers
- **Sunnites (Sunni)**
  - Follow the Sunna of Mohammad which means the Umayyads were true caliphs

**Five Pillars**

- Belief in Allah and Muhammad as his Prophet
- Prayer five times a day and public Prayer on Friday at noon
- Observance of Ramadan (fasting from dawn till sunset)
- Pilgrimage to Mecca
- Giving alms to the poor