

❖❖AP EUROPEAN HISTORY❖❖

Video Guide: The Dark Ages

Fall of Rome 0:00 - 12:00

When did Rome fall? Which group of people was responsible for the empire's demise?

Rome fell in 410 A.D. after the Visigoths, led by Alaric I, invaded. In 408 the Visigoths had come to the city in search of wealth and food. For two years they cut off the city from its sources before attacking.

How did Alaric I weaken Rome before attacking?

Alaric weakened Rome by stationing his men outside the city, thus cutting off the people inside from food and other sources. The city began to starve as time went on, even resorting to cannibalism in some cases.

What other factors had led to the Western Roman Empire's collapse?

The empire had been controlled by many poor leaders in previous centuries and led to civil wars. During a period of about half of a century, nearly two dozen rulers were slain, showing the problems and unrest during this brutal period. Diseases also led to a decrease in population and a decreased number of border guards. Barbarian fighters, including Alaric, were hired in order to protect the vast empire as the Romans became more hostile towards outsiders.

What two events mark the time period known as the Dark Ages?

The Dark Ages begins after the fall of Rome and ends when the First Crusade begins.

What happened to many of the great Roman monuments after the empire's fall?

The monuments were deconstructed and used for building materials.

The Spread of Christianity 12:00 - 23:00

What is significant about Christmas Day in 496 A.D.?

Clovis, King of the Franks, renounced his pagan roots and took up Christianity. This helped unite his people and can be seen as France's start as a Christian nation.

Why was Christianity so appealing to the people of the sixth century?

During this time of violence and war Christianity not only united people but also offered people the idea of a peaceful afterlife that seemed more attractive than their lives in Europe.

What allowed Christianity to gain followers after centuries of persecution?

Constantine the Great legalized Christianity and Christian worship in 313 A.D. and even believed in the religion himself.

The Byzantine Empire 23:00 - 41:00

Where was the Eastern Roman Empire located? What was its capital city?

The Eastern Roman Empire included areas including Greece, Turkey, and Egypt. At the heart of the empire was the city known as Constantinople, modern day Istanbul.

During what century did the Roman Empire split into two and why did this occur?

The split between empires occurred in the third century. This was done in order to make it easier to handle problems that occurred, as the single empire was far too large to easily control.

❖❖AP EUROPEAN HISTORY❖❖

What advantage did the East have that the West did not?

The West did not have the material resources that the East did, and the split cut off the West from these important sources.

What was Justinian's primary goal as emperor?

He wanted to reconquer old lands and reunite the empire to its former glory.

Who persuaded Justinian to stay after the people of Constantinople began to oppose him?

His wife, Theodora, convinced him to stay and fight back.

What is significant about her?

She was born into the lowest class of Byzantine society and was a burlesque dancer when she met Justinian. She was able to win him over and keep her high position, which showed great intelligence. She saved her and her husband during the Nika riots and also had great control over the empire.

What famous house of worship did Justinian have built in Constantinople?

He had the Hagia Sophia built, which was one of the greatest symbols of Christianity at that time. The church was built with the best materials that were available and the church still stands today as a museum.

What was responsible for wiping out nearly half of the population of the Byzantine Empire?

The bubonic plague killed nearly one hundred million people in the empire after being brought to Constantinople by way of cargo ship.

What happens to the Byzantine Empire after Justinian's death?

After Justinian's death the empire scaled back. The Byzantine Empire itself could not afford to expand or even maintain its current size; in essence, Justinian's dreams died with him.

Monastery Life 41:00 - 51:30

What was the "light" that people during the Dark Ages had?

Monasteries were like lights during the dark times and were important centers in people's lives.

What was Beade's best literary achievement?

Beade wrote a five-volume history of England that linked people to times before Christianity and spanned from the times of Caesar until the seventh century.

Who was Benedict of Nursia?

Benedict of Nursia lived for a period as a hermit and the people believed that he possessed special powers; his life of seclusion, however, was cut short when people began to spread this belief. He became a "miracle worker" of sorts. He became an abbot of a monastery, but he was unpopular. Two attempted murders were thwarted by strange circumstances before he left to start his own monasteries that followed the Rule of Saint Benedict.

Battle of Tours 51:30 - 60:00

What was the war in the early eighth century over?

The war was over whether Europe would be taken over by the Muslims or whether Christianity would remain the dominant religion.

❖❖AP EUROPEAN HISTORY❖❖

How did Charles Martel defeat the Muslims in the Battle of Tours?

Charles Martel had a great infantry that was reported to “stand like a wall.” He also sent troops to the Muslim camp that held all of the riches from the Muslim campaign. Men were told to retreat to the camps, and it was thought that a general retreat had been issued; Muslim general 'Abdul Rahman Al Ghafiqi tried to get his men to continue fighting but was soon killed. The Moors then retreated and were unable to move farther north.

Charlemagne 1:00:00 - 1:09:45

What modern-day countries mentioned in the video made up parts of Charlemagne’s empire?

France, Germany, Holland, Switzerland, Austria, Poland, and Italy were all mentioned in the video. (A full list can be found at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carolingian_Empire/List_of_modern_countries_within_the_Frankish_Empire)

What happened to Carloman?

Carloman suddenly died, and this meant that Charlemagne controlled the entire kingdom that his father had left.

What did Charlemagne focus on the most as king?

He wanted to expand his kingdom and control as much areas as possible. During his reign that lasted over four decades, he led many military campaigns and never truly lost.

What choice did Charlemagne give the men he captured?

They could either convert to Christianity or be killed.

What did Charlemagne do in order to make his large empire more manageable?

He divided it into 350 counties, all supervised by counts who reported to the king.

True or False: Charlemagne had multiple schools constructed and valued education.

This is true.

What was the most daunting challenge that Charlemagne faced as emperor?

According to the video, Viking invasions were the most prominent challenge that he faced.

Vikings 1:09:45 - 1:20:00

What happened in Lindesfarne in 793?

Vikings attacked the monastery in search of wealth and marked the beginnings of Viking invasions.

According to the video, why did the Vikings begin to leave Scandinavia?

The Vikings were leaving their native lands due to overpopulation as well as the prospect of wealth.

What area did the Vikings focus on in 866?

Vikings, led by Ivar the Boneless, focused on Northumbria and wanted to claim land there. He had a special interest in York, as his enemy controlled this area.

How did Alfred the Great prevent the Vikings from attacking his lands?

He built fortresses to protect the area and the Vikings were unable to break into them. He fought off the Vikings in the area until peace was reached.

❖❖AP EUROPEAN HISTORY❖❖

Knights 1:20:00 - 1:25:00

True or False: Knights during this time were typically honorable men who followed strict rules; they were much like Sir Lancelot was said to be like.

This is false.

Why were lords using knights?

Knights were supposed to make nearby peasants obey a lord and his castle. They were rough and took people's belongings as well.

Why were there so many knights and soldiers in Europe?

The Viking invasions led to Europe becoming militarized; there were more knights during this time and thus were left over after the Viking threat was gone. Many allied with local counts that were wealthy.

Who was the real authority at this time?

The real power was held by the local lords.

What did the church do about these knights?

They put regulations against when and where knights could attack. They used relics to make the knights obey. The church issued two proclamations, the Peace of God and the Truce of God, which told of God's position on warfare.

The Crusades and the "Rebirth" of Europe 1:25:00 - 1:30:00

What was the reason for the Crusades?

Muslims had taken over the Holy Land, and Christians decided that they wanted the land back.

When was the First Crusade and who gave an important speech?

The First Crusade started in 1095 and Pope Urban's Appeal at Clermont is often remembered. He said that "God wills it!"

What was the ultimate conclusion to the Crusades? Who controlled Jerusalem?

Christians had no permanent conquests, and the Muslims still controlled the area. Crusaders did, however, bring back new knowledge to Europe. Europe had a sort of "rebirth."