

# FALL OF THE WEST—CHARACTERS

## 235 TO 565 A.D.

### MILITARY ANARCHY TO THE REIGN OF JUSTINIAN I

#### MILITARY ANARCHY

- Maximinus** d. 238 Thracian giant. Rose to head of army, seized imperial throne, and reigned as a barbarian.
- Aurelian** 214–275 Emperor who reunited the empire during the Military anarchy. Led campaign in Palmyra against Zenobia.
- Zenobia of Palmyra** ~ 267 Queen of Palmyra. Attempted to control the eastern empire, only to be crushed by Rome.

#### DIOCLETIAN/CONSTANTINE

- Diocletian** 245–313 Restored order to the empire after fifty years of chaos. Broke empire into four regions.
- Constantine** 272–337 First Christian emperor. Unified empire. Moved capital to Constantinople near Black Sea.
- Julian the Apostate** 331–363 Last emperor of the Constantinian dynasty. Tried to restore paganism.
- Ulfilas** 310–383 Missionary bishop who translate the bible into the Gothic language and converted the Goths to Arian Christianity.

#### LATE WESTERN EMPIRE

- Stilicho** 359–408 Roman general who fought off the Visigoths before they overran Rome. Murdered by Emperor Honorius.
- Aetius** 396–454 Last great General of the Western Empire. Defeated Attila the Hun at Chalons.
- Ricimer** 405–472 Visigoth General who was master of Rome during the final years of the Empire.
- Alaric the Visigoth** 370–410 Chieftain who led the Visigoths into northern Italy, and then besieged and sacked Rome.
- Attila the Hun** 406–453 Barbarian chieftain who overran and terrorized much of Europe. Defeated at the *Battle of Chalons*.
- Genseric** 390–477 Leader of Vandals. Conquered Northern Africa and Sicily. Invaded and ransacked Rome.
- Odoacer** 435–493 Deposed last Roman Emperor and became King of Italy. Later overthrown by Theodoric the Ostrogoth.
- Theodoric the Ostrogoth** 454–526 Ostrogoth king who invaded Italy and successfully formed a Gothic-Roman kingdom.
- Alboin** d. 573 King of the Lombards who crossed the Alps and invaded Northern Italy. Made Pavia capital of Lombards.
- Clovis** 466–511 Founder of the Frankish Kingdom. Converted to Christianity by his wife Clotilda.

#### LATE EASTERN EMPIRE

- Valens** 328–378 Eastern Emperor embroiled in wars in Persia and with the Goths. Died fighting Visigoths at Adrianople.
- Theodosius** 346–395 Emperor excommunicated by Ambrose for massacre of civilians at Thessalonica.
- Justinian the Great** 483–565 Ruled Byzantine Empire for 40 years. Well known for legal reforms known as Code of Justinian.
- Empress Theodora** 500–548 Born in humble circumstances, she married Justinian the Great and became his trusted advisor.
- Belisarius** 505–565 General associated with Julian the Great, reconquered much of lost Roman territory.