

EUROPEAN MIDDLE AGES—CHARACTERS

600 TO 1650

RISE OF THE FRANKS TO THIRTY YEARS WAR

CHRISTIAN CONVERSION OF EUROPE

Clovis	466–511	Founder of the Frankish Kingdom. Converted to Christianity by his wife Clotilda.
Charlemagne	742–814	First Holy Roman Emperor. Unified most of Western Europe into a Frankish Empire.
Wittekind the Saxon	~ 780	Leader of Saxon resistance to Charlemagne. After years of struggle, converted to Christianity.
Saint Stephen	975–1038	Christian King of Hungary who defeated pagans and united Magyar clans.
Henry I of Germany	876–936	United Rival German duchies in a confederation to resist the Magyars.

VIKINGS AND NORSEMEN

Rollo the Viking	d. 931	Viking Leader granted the Dukedom of Normandy if he became Christian.
Rurik the Norseman	830–879	Norseman invited by a Slavic tribe to rule over the region of Ukraine.

MOSLEM THREAT AND THE CRUSADES

Charles Martel	686–741	Frankish King who defeated the Moors at the <i>Battle of Tours</i> .
Frederick Barbarossa	1122–1190	Well-known warrior. Campaigned in Italy many years, but to no avail. Died on Third Crusade.
Saint Louis IX	1214–1270	Crusading king. Canonized as a saint for his concern and compassion for the poor.
Don John of Austria	1545–1578	Son of Charles V. Hero of the naval <i>Battle of Lepanto</i> . Briefly governed Spanish Netherlands.
Mohammed II	1432–1481	Sultan of the early Ottoman Empire who conquered Constantinople and much of the Balkans.
Solyman the Magnificent	1494–1566	Most famous of the Ottoman Emperors. Extended the empire to the Balkans and North Africa.
Prince Eugene of Savoy	1663–1736	One of the Greatest generals of the Hapsburg Empire. Led HRE during the War of Spanish Succession.

CHURCH STATE CONFLICTS

Saint Benedict	480–547	Established the Benedictine order of monks. Founded the monastic movement in Europe.
Pope Gregory VII	1020–1085	Tested wills with Holy Roman Emperor, Henry IV over 'investiture' issues.
Saint Catherine of Siena	1347–1380	Saint who helped resolve the Papal schism of the 14th century.
Joan of Arc	1412–1431	Led the French Army to Victory at the Siege of New Orleans. Burned at the stake by English.

RENAISSANCE

John Gutenberg	1400–1468	Invented printing press. Made improvements over many years on types, inks and methods.
Lorenzo de Medici	1449–1492	Great power broker Renaissance Florence. Great Patron of the Arts.

REFORMATION

Martin Luther	1483–1546	Leader of the Protestant Reformation. Excommunicated by Catholic Church.
Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor	1500–1558	Holy Roman Emperor. Ruled Hapsburg Austria, the Low Countries, Spain and parts of Italy.
Cardinal Richelieu	1585–1682	Very influential Minister of Louis XIII. Consolidated royal power and crushed dissenters.
William the Silent	1533–1584	Hero of the Dutch Revolt. Led resistance to the Inquisition and Spanish tyranny.
Henry IV of France	1553–1610	Popular Huguenot King who converted to Catholicism, but decreed religious toleration.
Gustavus Adolphus	1594–1632	Renowned Protestant General during the thirty Years War. King of Sweden.

WORLD EXPLORATION

Marco Polo	1254–1324	Traveler from Venice who spent 30 years at the court of Kublai Khan in China.
Christopher Columbus	1451–1506	Sailed across Atlantic Ocean and discovered the Americas.
Vasco da Gama	1460–1524	Sailed from Europe to the Orient by sailing around the Cape of Good Hope.
Ferdinand Magellan	1480–1521	Captain of first fleet to circumnavigate the globe. Died in Philippines.