

# EUROPEAN MIDDLE AGES—TIMELINE

600 TO 1650

## RISE OF THE FRANKS TO THIRTY YEARS WAR

### CHRISTIAN CONVERSION

- 500 Conversion of [Clovis](#) to Catholic Christianity.
- 520 [Saint Benedict](#) founds Western Monasticism.
- 785 Baptism of [Wittekind the Saxon](#), chief of the Saxons.
- 865 Cyril and Methodius convert Slavs to Christianity.
- 1000 [Olaf I of Norway](#) converts Vikings to Christianity.
- 1000 Steven of Hungary converts Hungarians to Christianity.

### THE VIKING MENACE

- 885 Vikings [Besiege Paris](#).
- 911 [Rollo the Viking](#) becomes the first Duke of Normandy.

### THE MOSLEM THREAT AND THE CRUSADES

- 732 [Charles Martel](#) stops the Mohammedan invasion at the [Battle of Tours](#).
- 1096 [Peter the Hermit](#) organizes the [First Crusade](#).
- 1270 [Saint Louis IX](#) dies on his final *Crusade* in Tunis.
- 1453 [Mohammed II](#) [Conquers Constantinople](#), expands Turkish empire in Balkans.
- 1492 [Ferdinand of Aragon](#) [Conquers Granada](#), last of the Moors are driven from Spain.
- 1517 [Don John of Austria](#) defeats Turkish Army at the [Battle of Lepanto](#).
- 1683 Second [Siege of Vienna](#) relieved by Polish king [Jan III Sobieski of Poland](#).

### CHURCH-STATE CONFLICTS

- 800 [Charlemagne](#) is crowned Holy Roman Emperor in Rome.
- 1076 [Pope Gregory VII](#) seeks to reform lay bishoprics; excommunicates Henry IV.
- 1303-1378 "Avignon Papacy" is captive of the French Crown.
- 1378-1417 Western Schism. Multiple claimants for the office of pope.

### NEW WORLD EXPLORATION

- 1492 [Christopher Columbus](#) discovers America.
- 1498 [Vasco da Gama](#) opens up a trade route to Asia.
- 1521 [Ferdinand Magellan](#) circumnavigating the globe.

## THE REFORMATION

- 1450 [John Gutenberg](#) publishes the first Bible.
- 1517 [Martin Luther](#) initiates Protestant Reformation in Germany.
- 1572 St. Bartholomew Day's [Massacre of Huguenots](#) in France.
- 1568 [Revolt of the Netherlands](#) led by [William the Silent](#)
- 1598 [Henry IV of France](#) issues edict of Nantes, granting rights to Protestants.
- 1620-1650 The [Thirty Years War](#) devastates Germany, and reduces power of the Catholic Hapsburgs.