8.3 **Western Europe after the Roman Empire**, c. 476-1200

1) ***Roman Empire falls in 476 CE*** Dark Ages span from about *476-1000 CE* but the term *Dark Ages* is not coined until much later by historians

2) Western Europe is an impoverished feudal society - famine, war, political power with warlords or Church Bishops

    • Christian abbeys and monasteries an important stabilizing force in Western Europe
    • Like self-sufficient cities
    • Monasteries produced what they consumed
    • Established libraries, transcribed documents, engaged in liturgical activities, and other religious activities
    • Attracted patronage from wealthy leaders

3) By the Carolingian Revival we see a cultural movement emerge based on something that came before. This is a historical concept called **fundamentalism**. It means the cultural driver is the idea that fundamental ideas of society and culture come from fundamental ideas that are ancient, pure, and immutable. By contrast, the other historical concept of culture is called **progressivism**, which means that history is a persistent unfolding of a better state through providence or science.

    With the Carolingian Revival, we see the first time, really, when a culture self-consciously looks backward to another set of **fundamentalist** ideas that are thought to be superior and might be thought of as a **Golden Age**.

    Fundamentalism - therefore, might be thought of as a series of recurring authorities or *canons* of formal types… referring to a *Golden Age*. **Progressivism** - therefore, might be thought of as a series of progressives styles or technologies leading toward a better architecture… a *modern* sense of history.

    In Renaissance, both ideas were held - Progressive Humanism and a sense of a Golden Age.

    F. Scott Fitzgerald: "The test of a first-rate intelligence is the ability to hold two opposed ideas in mind at the same time and still retain the ability to function." (think of this in terms of an entire culture.)

    Renaissance authors created concepts of: **Antiquity** (Golden Age to 476 CE), **Middle Ages** or Dark Ages (476-1000 CE), and **Modern Era** (begins w Renaissance).

    Christian Monasteries might be considered a **progressive** social order.
    • After the year 1000, churches, monasteries, hospitals, castles were an optimistic expression of the social order that also was sustainable through work and devotion.

4) Era of **Charlemagne** crowned **King of the Franks 768** and first **Holy Roman Emperor in 800**
    • **Charlemagne (742-814).** Crowned by Pope Leo III.
    • **Carolingian Revival**
    • Charlemagne means **Charles the Great**: *Charle = Charles and magne = great*
    • *Latin for Charles is: Carolus, thus his era is called Carolingian*
    • **Carolingian** means: ***of or related to the reign of Charlemagne***

    • Prestige of the emperor was based on the assumption that he embodied the supreme power
       of the ancient Roman emperors. Concept of *Holy Roman Empire* not used until 13th C.
    • Attempted a revival of the greatness of the Roman Empire with the concept of
       Renovatio Romanae Imperii (re-no-VAT-zio-ro-man-NAY im-pear-EEE)
    • Sponsored the construction of sixteen cathedrals and 200 monasteries
    • His capital in Aix-la-Chapelle (modern-day **Aachen**, Germany) was a key project in reviving Roman greatness; established a school there; gathered philosophers and craftsmen; rehabilitated the alphabet; reorganized a monetary system
    • Charlemagne's palace at Aix-la-Chapelle included his **Palatine Chapel (791)** connected to his palace with a gallery.
    • Inspiration was taken from ***St. Vitale in Ravenna*** (Italy) completed in **547 CE** by *Theodoric*.

- ***Palatine Chapel begun 791 based on San Vitale in Ravenna*** - similar but less graceful
- Palatine had a **proto**-**westworks** - two towers on the western side of the church later evolved into the westworks of later cathedrals.
- Only surviving example of Carolingian age westworks is the ***Abbey of Corvey*** (***873***).

- Charlemagne's efforts in church building led to the development of the **double-ender**, a church with apses at both the east and west ends.

- ***Gatehouse of Lorsch*** (***760***) is an excellent example of Carolingian interpretation of ancient types, although the reinterpretations were not accurate or literal. Only the gatehouse of Lorsch remains.
- ***Gatehouse of Lorsch*** based on *Arch of Constantine* in Rome
- The ***building type*** is the monumental arch or civic entrance from ancient Rome.
- Patterned multicolored sandstone facade suggestive of Byzantine mosaics.
- Corinthian half-engaged columns, ionic pilasters supporting non-classical flattened pediments, decorative and symbolic motifs. Two half-round stair towers either side.
- Mixture of these Roman and Barbarian motifs referred to as ***Romanesque***

6) Vocabulary

- ***abbey***
- ***monastery***
- ***cloister***
- ***refectory***
- ***westworks***

7) Dominance and power of the **abbeys** and **monasteries**
- An ***abbey*** is sanctified by the Church in Rome. Walled, includes land, residence for an Abbess or Abbot, and may include monks, nuns, priests-in-training. A ***monastery*** is a place where monks or hermits live alone in the monastic lifestyle of religious devotion.

- Ven-Diagram: *all abbeys are monasteries but not all monasteries are abbeys*