became the first king of Italy. The Germanic Ostrogoths founded a kingdom in Italy in 493, ruled by Theodoric (Theodoric the Ostrogoth).

- **Rise of Christendom**

During the early years of Christianity it was seen as an offshoot of Judaism or as another sect of Judaism. It was mainly a religion of the lower and working classes within the Roman Empire. The earliest followers of Jesus were Jews who came to be called Christians (followers of Christ). In 312 A.D. Constantine (Roman Emperor) fought a Battle at the Milvian Bridge. Before this battle he claims to have seen the initials Chi Rho (CR), which are the initials of the first three letters of the name/word Christ in the sky. The vision said, *In Hoc Signo Vinces*, meaning “with this symbol, you shall conquer.” Eventually Constantine converted to Christianity at aged 42. His mother Helena had already converted. As the religion spread it became quite trendy for the upper classes of Rome to become Christians.

In 313 A.D. Constantine issued the **Edict of Milan**. The edict made Christianity a legal religion in the empire.

**The Nicene Creed** made the determination that Jesus was the begotten son of God. The creed was established in 325 A.D. by a church counsel headed by Emperor Constantine. This led to Catholics electing a bishop called a Pope to be their leader and to rule from Rome which was also the seat of the Roman emperors.

There were differing forms of Christianity such as the Gnostics, Nestorians, Monophysites, and Arians. **The Arians** were followers of Arius and believed that Jesus was not co-equal with God. **The Nestorians** believed that Jesus was a
then placed an Englishman, Ecgberht I of Northumbria, on the throne of Northumbria as a puppet ruler. The Danes were the real overlords.

The Danes did not give up their designs on England. From 1016 to 1035 Cnut the Great ruled over a unified English kingdom, itself the product of a resurgent Wessex, as part of his North Sea Empire, together with Denmark, Norway, and part of Sweden. Cnut was succeeded in England on his death by his son Harold Harefoot, until he died in 1040, after which another of Cnut's sons, Hardicnut, took the throne. Since Hardicnut was already on the Danish throne, this reunited the North Sea Empire. Hardicnut lived only another two years, and from his death in 1042 until 1066 the monarchy reverted to the original English line through Edward the Confessor.

Edward died in January 1066 without an obvious successor, and an English nobleman, Harold Godwinson, took the throne. Harold was crowned king shortly after Edward's death.

The Normans

William I, usually known as William the Conqueror and sometimes William the Bastard (Guilluame le Batard) was the first Norman King of England, reigning from 1066 until his death in 1087. He was the descendant of Viking raiders, and had been Duke of Normandy since 1035 under the name William II of Normandy. William was the son of the unmarried Robert I, Duke of Normandy, by Robert's mistress Herleva. His illegitimate status and his youth caused some difficulties for him after he succeeded his father, as did the anarchy that plagued the first years of his of his rule as the duke.

William had claims to the throne of England. He was a cousin of King Edward. When Edward died without an heir, William made his claim and crossed the English channel from France (Normandy) and arrived to claim his throne.

The Battle of Hastings was fought on 14 October 1066 between the Norman-French army of Duke William II of Normandy and an English army under the Anglo-Saxon King Harold II, during the Norman conquest of England. William won the battle and became William I of England. The Normans were now the overlords of England. Norman French became the language of the court. The Anglo-Saxons had been replaced by the new Norman nobles and knights.
The High Middle Ages (or High Medieval Period) was the period of European history around the 11th, 12th, and 13th centuries. The key historical events of the period were the rapidly increasing population of Europe, which brought about great social and political changes. By 1250 the robust population increase greatly benefited the European economy, making for the reopening of roads, which helped to increase trade.

Henry II also called Henry FitzEmpress or Henry Plantagenet, had several titles and ruled as Count of Anjou, Count of Maine, Duke of Normandy, Duke of Aquitaine, Count of Nantes, King of England (1154–89) and Lord of Ireland. And at various periods, he also controlled Wales, Scotland and Brittany. Henry was the son of Geoffrey of Anjou and Matilda, daughter of Henry I of England. He is known for bringing the court system under royal control. By the middle of the 12th century, England had many different ecclesiastical and civil law courts, with overlapping jurisdictions resulting from the interaction of diverse legal traditions. Henry greatly expanded the role of royal justice in England, producing a more coherent legal system. The English law system became known as Common Law, and it pertained to all citizens. Common Law is a legal system that gives great precedent to common law, on the principle that it is unfair to treat similar facts differently in different occasions. It created a more fair system.

King John, also known as John Lackland (Norman French: Johan sanz Terre), was King of England from 1199 until his death in 1216. John, the youngest of five sons of King Henry II of England and Eleanor of Aquitaine, He was called “Lackland”, because he was not expected to inherit significant lands.

Magna Carta (Latin-"the Great Charter"), was a charter issued in England in 1215, by King John. It was an attempt to negotiate a peace between the unpopular king and a group of rebel barons, overseen by the Archbishop of Canterbury, it promised the protection of church rights, protection for the barons from illegal imprisonment, access to swift justice and limitations on feudal payments to the Crown, to be implemented through a council of 25 barons.

Scholasticism
A new method of Catholic Church based learning was influenced by Anselm of Canterbury due to the rediscovery of the works of Aristotle. This re-discovery was at first by way of Medieval Jewish and Muslim Philosophy from Spain, from Maimonides, Avicenna, and Averroes and then through Aristotle's own works brought back from the libraries of Byzantium and the Muslim libraries. And also from those whom he influenced, most notably Albertus Magnus, Bonaventure and Peter Abélard. Many scholastics believed in empiricism and supporting Roman Catholic doctrines through secular study, reason, and logic. They opposed Christian mysticism, and the Platonist-Augustinian belief that the mind is an immaterial substance. The most famous of the scholastics was Thomas Aquinas, who led the move away from the Platonic and Augustinian and towards Aristotelianism. Aquinas developed a philosophy of mind by writing that the mind was at birth a tabula rasa ("blank slate") that was given the ability to think and recognize forms or ideas through a divine spark.

The science and philosophy of the Early Middle Ages was based upon few copies and commentaries of ancient Greek texts that remained in Western Europe after the collapse of the Western Roman Empire. Most of them were studied only in the Latin as knowledge of Greek was very limited. Many of these texts were being studied by the Jewish and Muslim scholars in Spain, who had maintained the learning of the ancient world.

The late 11th century/early-mid 12th century was the height of the golden age of Christian monasticism (8th-12th centuries). The 13th century saw the rise of the Mendicant orders. Christian heresies also existed in Europe before the 11th century, in small number. In most cases, the heresy was the result of a rogue priest, or a village returning to its old pagan traditions. Beginning in the 11th century, however several mass-movement heresies appeared. The roots of this can be partially sought in the rise of urban cities, free merchants, and a new money-based economy. The rural values of monasticism held little appeal to urban people who began to form sects more in tune with urban culture. The first large-scale heretical movements in Western Europe originated in the newly urbanized areas such as southern France and northern Italy and were probably influenced by the Cathars, Bogomils and other dualist movements that believed in the duality of God's nature.

In Northern Europe, the Hanseatic League, a federation of free cities to advance trade by sea, was founded in the 12th century. In the late 13th century, a
1489  Death of the painter Simon Marmion, of Valenciennes
1490  Aldine Press founded at Venice by Aldus Manutius
1492  Conquest of Granada by Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabella of Castile
      Christopher Columbus sails to the New World
      Martin Behaim constructs at Nuremberg the first terrestrial globe
1494  Death of the painter Hans Memling, of Bruges
1495  Manuel I becomes King of Portugal (r. 1495-1521)
1496/7 Double marriage between the Archduke Philip the Fair and Joanna of
      Castile, and Margaret of Austria and the Infante John of Castile
1497  John Cabot sails to Newfoundland
1498  Vasco da Gama reaches India
      Leonardo da Vinci completes The Last Supper in Milan
1500  Birth of the future Holy Roman Emperor Charles V
1503  James IV of Scotland marries Margaret Tudor
1506  Death of the painter Andrea Mantegna
      Death of the Archduke Philip the Fair in Spain
1507  Margaret of Austria appointed Governor of the Netherlands
1509  Henry VIII becomes King of England (r. 1509-1547)
1510  Death of the painter Sandro Botticelli, of Florence
1513  Niccolò Machiavelli completes The Prince
1516  Publication at Basel of Erasmus's Latin translation of the New Testament
1517  Publication at Wittenberg of Luther's Theses
1520  The Emperor Charles V crowned at Aachen
      Suleiman the Magnificent succeeds his father Selim I
      Death of the painter Raffaello de'Santi (Raphael)
1521  Death of the composer Josquin Desprès
1555  Charles V abdicates as Holy Roman Emperor  
1558  Elizabeth becomes Queen of England  
1561  Death of the miniaturist Simon Bening, of Bruges  

- **Ancient/Medieval Non Europeans** (China, India, Sub-Saharan Africa, The Aztec, Maya and The Islamic World)  

**China**  

**Zhou (Chou) Dynasty**- The earliest known Chinese dynasty. The Zhou Dynasty began around 1000 B.C. to about 256 B.C. At this time the Chinese were developing their values, society, philosophy and political system. This was a time great early development for Chinese culture.  

**Warring States**- The Collapse of the old **Zhou (Chou) Dynasty** around 402-332 B.C.
submission to Allah formed the basis for Islam which means submission to God. One who submits to God is called a Muslim. Islam has 5 Pillars, which are professing that there is only one God and Muhammad is his prophet, pray 5 times a day (prayer call done by a muezzin), giving alms, fasting during the holy month of Ramadan, and making the Hajj (pilgrimage) to Mecca.

Islam believes that Abraham was the first prophet to accept the concept of one god (monotheism). They also acknowledge Jews and Christians as believing in the same god as them. Moses and Jesus are both considered prophets.

As Muhammad began to spread his revelations he came into contact with polytheist resistance. This led a ruling group in Mecca to persecute Muhammad and he fled to Medina. This flight to Medina is called the Hegira in 622 A.D. When he returned to Mecca he found that he had a large following. The unification of the clans into Islam helped to create united political, social, and religious system.

Muhammad died in 632 A.D. After his death his followers were divided on who should rule them. Some believed that Abu Bakr, a close friend and follower of Muhammad should take his place and others thought that Ali, a relative of Muhammad should take his place. The successor to Muhammad was called a caliph. Those who believed that Abu Bakr should be successor were called the Shi’ites and the others who believed that the successor to Muhammad could be selected by agreement, were called the Sunnis.

Islam spread throughout the Arabian Peninsula and then to North Africa, India, Persia, South-Western and eventually south-east Asia. In 711 A.D. groups of Islamic conquerors called Moors conquered the Iberian Peninsula and ruled and influenced Spain for almost 700 years. The Mogul Empire of India was also Islamic in origin. Traders and merchants helped to spread Islam along the trade routes of Africa, Europe, and Asia.

Africa