

add legitimacy to their rule and as a nostalgic tool to invoke support

Warfare

Quote	Analysis	Other Sources
"Charles did not cease, after declaring war, until he had exhausted King Desiderius by a long siege [751], and forced him to surrender at discretion; driven his son Adalgis, the last hope of the Lombards, not only -from his kingdom, but from all Italy [774]; restored to the Romans all that they had lost; subdued Hruodgaus, Duke of Friuli [776], who was plotting revolution; reduced all Italy to his power, and set his son Pepin as king over it. [781]"	This simple list of all of Charlemagne's military conquests is an effective opening to this chapter from Einhard. He references "restoring to the Romans what they had lost", meaning the defeat of the Lombards in Italy. Through the successful campaign against the Lombards, Charlemagne saved the Pope from frequent skirmishes and attacks, and won a lot of favour from the Catholic Church	G. Nelson "Empires appear to require rough things in the making of them: it is perhaps enough that the result is a boon to mankind sufficient to outweigh the cost and the wrong. Was that the case with the re-founded empire? Are we not even now in the nightmare of its dream? The map of Charlemagne's dominions inevitably suggests a modern aspiration"
"At the conclusion of this struggle, the Saxon war, that seems to have been only laid aside for the time, was taken up again. No war ever undertaken by the Frank nation	The war between the Franks and the Saxons is one of the constant themes of Life of Charlemagne and also many other primary contemporary sources, such as the Royal Frankish Annals. Here, Einhard	E.T Meril "The account of the Spanish expedition with the disaster "at Roncevalles" may serve as an example...he devotes a whole chapter to the incident, but is more impressed by the attack on the return march than by the evident fact that the entire expedition was a curious thing that needed

silver, and precious stones. He sent great and countless gifts to the popes; and throughout his whole reign the wish that he had nearest at heart was to re-establish the ancient authority of the city of Rome under his care and by his influence, and to defend and protect the Church of St. Peter, and to beautify and enrich it out of his own store above all other churches.

develop, or even fabricate links and continuity with the Roman Empire in order to allude to a long and illustrious history and legitimise his reign, as they had technically usurped the rightful Merovingian kings

Charlemagne's preoccupation with the restoration and enrichment of Christian churches, institution and architecture was not only benevolence or paternalism, but self-interest in seeking the powerful support network and legitimacy the Catholic Church could bestow

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Qualities of Kingship

Quote	Analysis	Other Sources
" He added to the glory of his reign by gaining the good will of several kings and nations; so close, indeed, was the alliance that he contracted with Alfonso [II 791-842] King of Galicia and Asturias, that the latter, when sending letters or ambassadors to Charles, invariably styled	Good diplomatic relations with other foreign rulers is emphasised by Einhard here. Developing and maintaining useful and symbiotic alliances with other kings was a vitally important quality in medieval Kingship. Rulers had to choose their allies carefully, as they	E.T Merrill "the history of Charlemagne is of marked interest to the classicist on account of the emperor's devotion to letters, and the widespread influence of his "Palace School" in which Einhard was a shining light"

both in the palace and the kingdom, that they might reasonably have been considered a nuisance; but he, with his broad humanity, was very little disturbed by such annoyances, because he felt himself compensated for these great inconveniences by the praises of his generosity and the reward of high renown.

and puzzling here. It is clear why he includes this- in order to make Charlemagne seem more humane, relatable and merciful, yet considering Einhard's earlier passages on the barbarity and subhuman nature of the Saxons, this seems almost hypocritical. Yet Charlemagne's tolerance towards (some) foreigners would have made Charlemagne seem a more generous and compassionate monarch, and reads like a PR operation

"He despised foreign costumes, however handsome, and never allowed himself to be robed in them, except twice in Rome, when he donned the Roman tunic, chlamys, and shoes; the first time at the request of Pope Hadrian, the second to gratify Leo, Hadrian's successor. On great feast-days he made use of embroidered clothes, and shoes bedecked with precious stones; his cloak was fastened by a golden buckle, and he appeared crowned with a diadem of gold and gems: but

This passage displays both Charlemagne's Frankish pride and political pragmatism, both vital qualities of kingship.

Charlemagne chose to identify himself with his people by wearing his traditional Frankish dress as much as possible, and not dressing too expensively too often. However, he also recognised when it was necessary to dress differently for a particularly momentous occasion- e.g wearing Roman style garments for his

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