Notes

8.3

The Church in the Middle Ages

Foundations of early Medieval society

* Classical heritage of Rome
* Christian beliefs
* Customs of Germanic tribes

Even though many people in early Medieval Europe were not united politically, they were united under Christianity and the Church.

King Clovis and later Frankish kings (particularly Charlemagne), united politics and religion, combining political ruling authority with Christian authority. This united previously separate areas.

Influence of the Roman Catholic Church

* Roman authority declined, while church authority grew
* Monasteries preserved Greco-Roman cultural achievements
* Missionaries carried Christianity and Latin alphabet to Germanic tribes
* Pope appointed Charlemagne as the Holy Roman Emperor (“Emperor of the Romans”) in 800 A.D.
* Parish priests served the religious and social needs of the people