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Chapter 1 : Germania - Wikipedia

All of these civilizations were eventually absorbed by the power of the Roman Empire, but each contributed to the Romans' rise. The ruins, burial sites and artifacts that remain are sure to enrich any trip to Central Italy, Sardinia or Sicily.

In the 4th century A. To the west of these tribes and extending over a large area of the Rhine were the Vandals, Lombards, Alemanni, Burgundians, and Franks. In and near present day Denmark lived the Jutes, Angles, and Saxons. These groups were seminomadic, herding their flocks and tilling the soil. Large and vigorous, the people prized strength and courage in battle. They worshiped many gods, including Tiw, the god of war; Wotan, the chief of the gods; Thor, the god of thunder; and Freya, the goddess of fertility. The names of these deities are preserved in the English words Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. The German tribal assemblies were made up of voting freeman, and their laws were based on long-established customs of the tribe. These political practices were to have a strong influence in medieval England, where they laid a foundation for the rise of parliamentary government and English common law. The Roman historian Tacitus 55 to A. They wore German costumes and followed German customs. They had reddish or blond hair, blue eyes, great stature, and generally powerful physiques. More fond of war than of work, they consumed quantities of a kind of beer in prolonged contests. Besides drinking, gambling was a favorite amusement. The men were primarily fighters who scorned labor and relegated all agricultural and household tasks to women and slaves. German family life was commonly a model of simplicity and virtue. In general, German society was tribal, that is, it emphasized the relation and loyalties of kinship rather than of citizenship. An injury to his kin must be avenged by them unless they were compensated by a graded system of penalties, known as Wergeld. Some tribes however, had coalesced into groups, which for lack of a better term, might be called "nations". Over such nations ruled kings, at first hardly more than war leaders elected by the free men and subject to their wishes. But by the time they entered the Empire there was already a tendency to choose rulers from the same family, thus paving the way for hereditary succession. For hundreds of years the Germans had exerted pressure on the frontiers of the empire. German warriors inflicted a terrible defeat on a Roman army, but four years later, a capable Roman leader, Marius, became a national hero when he outmaneuvered the Germans and defeated them. During the reign of Augustus, the Romans launched a drive against the restless German tribes between the Rhine and the Elbe rivers, but in 9 A. Three legions were completely wiped out. From then on the Romans were content to hold the frontier on the Rhine-Danube line, and quiet continued for a long period. Again, in the reign of Marcus Aurelius, from to A. But after A. During tranquil interludes, the Romans and Germanic peoples had many opportunities for peaceful association. Some Germans were permitted to enter the Roman Empire to settle on vacant lands. Others, captured in war, became slaves on Roman estates, and still others accepted service in the legions. If intermingling had been allowed to continue, the Germans might have been gradually assimilated into the empire. However, pressure from the German tribes suddenly turned the gradual infiltration into a rushing invasion. German tribes forced their way into all parts of the western Roman Empire. In Asia, during the 4th century, restless nomads called Huns were on the march from the east. Mounted on swift horses, they attacked with lightning ferocity all tribes in their path. Crossing the Volga River, they conquered the Ostrogoths in eastern Europe. Fearing that the Huns would attack them also, the Visigoths implored Roman authorities for sanctuary in the empire. The Roman officials agreed, promising them lands for settlement provided they came unarmed. Neither side lived up to the agreement, however, and the Visigoths, without land and facing starvation, began to sack Roman settlements. When the Roman emperor Valens led a great army against the Visigoths, to the astonishment of Romans and Germans alike, the imperial force was scattered and the emperor slain. This battle on the field of Adrianople in A. German tribes outside the frontiers began to round up their cattle, mobilize their fighting men, and move toward the Roman borders. Marching southwestward under their leader Alaric, the Visigoths reached Rome in

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A. By that time other German tribes--the Franks, Vandals, and Burgundians--were moving into the empire. And about A. To add to the tumult, the Huns, led by Attila, had also invaded the empire and were threatening to enslave or destroy both Romans and Germans. So, forgetting their own differences for a while, the Romans and Germans united against a common enemy. Shortly afterward Attila died and his savage cavalry drifted apart. The western empire collapsed. Meanwhile, the power of the emperors in Rome had fallen to a point where they had become merely puppets of the legionaries, many of whom were of German birth. In the A. In a strict sense, there was no "fall. Since the early decades of the 4th century, emperors at Rome had sensed the growing weakness of the empire in the West. In the year A. Emperor Constantine had moved his capital to the city of Byzantium, in the eastern part of the empire, changing its name to Constantinople. By the end of that century, the Roman Empire had become permanently divided, with one emperor ruling the West and another in the East. Although separated, the two sections of the empire continued to be thought of as one. But the western part of the empire was breaking up. By the year A. The Italian peninsula was to become the scene of conflict and strife, and near the end of the 5th century, it was to fall under the rule of the Ostrogoths. The Ostrogoths had become free from the Huns after the death of Attila in A. To prevent the Ostrogoths from encroaching on his lands, the emperor in the East encouraged Theodoric to invade Italy instead and to overthrow Odoacer who had ruled there since A. Theodoric did so, and by A. His rule brought prosperity and peace to Italy, but at his death in A. In the middle of the 6th century a strong emperor at Constantinople, Justinian, won back Italy for a few years. Events of great importance were taking place during this period. It was while Clovis was establishing the Frankish kingdom in Gaul that Theodoric, the great Ostrogothic king, carved out for his people a kingdom in Italy, and while the sons of Clovis were conquering the remainder of Gaul, Justinian A. Byzantine emperor from to A. Within three years after the death of Justinian, another great change took place. A new nation of barbarian invaders, the Lombards, swept down into Italy and opened a new chapter in its history. The Lombards were one of the East German nations. Their original home was on the banks of the Elbe River in northern Germany. From there they migrated south and east to the Danube River, where they were converted to the Arian form of Christianity. Meeting with little opposition, for the country had been ravaged by war and plague, they occupied the great plain between the Alps and the Apennines, ever since called Lombardy. It was a thorough conquest. They made no pretense of alliance with the empire, as the Ostrogoths had done, nor did they leave the conquered Italians in possession of their estates. The continuity of Roman civilization, which had survived so many invasions, was at last broken, or at least severely strained. The emperors made some attempt to check the Lombards, but in vain. By that time, the Lombards had conquered all of Italy except the territories around Ravenna, Rome, Naples, and to the extreme south. These were still ruled by representatives of the emperor, nominally under the Exarch of Ravenna, though Rome and the other imperial possessions were so cut off from the exarchate as to be left practically independent. The unity of Italy was completely destroyed, to be recovered only after thirteen centuries has passed. The Lombard Kingdom itself was not strongly united. The Lombard dukes were always half independent and often rebellious, especially in the two great duchies of Spoleto and Benevento in the center and south, which were never firmly attached to the kingdom and where the Lombards remained in the minority. Out of the chaos of this last barbarian invasion, one Italian power, the Roman papacy, rose with greater authority than ever before. The popes had lost much of their prestige since the days of Leo the Great, though they had gained much in wealth from estates bequeathed to them in all parts of Italy. The restoration of imperial rule in Italy had been a serious blow to their authority, for Justinian had introduced that domination of the church by the state which had long been recognized in the Eastern Empire, but had never been enforced in the West. The bishops of Gaul were controlled by the Frankish kings, and Spain under the Visigoths was Arian almost to the end of the sixth century. But the Lombard conquests broke the power of the emperor over the pope, and in A. Explanation of the names Lombards and Middle English called Lumbarde. The term Middle Ages was given to the period of Western European history that extended from the decline of Rome to the discovery of America. The Western Europeans who lived just after the Middle Ages named it that because

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they thought it was a period of darkness between the splendor of Rome and the splendor of the civilization they were creating. They believed that nothing of importance happened then. Today, however, we know that the Middle Ages was an important period in itself in Western Europe. Many of our cherished institutions started during that period of about a thousand years. These two periods differed in their character. The first was a period in which civilization was at a low ebb. For about five hundred years there was almost no education, no city life, trade, or good government. The Latin literature was unread, and no new literature was produced.

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Chapter 2 : Did Rome really fall? Or was it absorbed into the Byzantine Empire? | Yahoo Answers

The Germans were primitive tribesmen and had little to offer to the Roman Empire. Yet they were warlike and fought many hard battles against them. Although the Roman armies were generally much more advanced with regard to arms technology and tactics, there were also huge setbacks like the Battle of the Teutoburg Forest.

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Depiction of Magna Germania in the early 2nd century
The name came into use after Julius Caesar and whether it was used widely before him amongst Romans is unknown. The term may be Gallic in origin. Caesar reports hearing from his Remi allies that the term Germani was used for the group the Romans called the Germani Cisrhenani , and that these tribes had historically come from over the Rhine , so the name Germania seems to have been extended to cover the similar tribes in the area understood to be their homeland. Tacitus wrote in AD For the rest, they affirm Germania to be a recent word, lately bestowed. For those who first passed the Rhine and expelled the Gauls, and are now named Tungrians , were then called Germani. And thus by degrees the name of a tribe prevailed, not that of the nation; so that by an appellation at first occasioned by fear and conquest, they afterwards chose to be distinguished, and assuming a name lately invented were universally called Germani. Geography[edit]
Germania extended from the Rhine eastward to the Vistula river, and from the Danube river northward to the Baltic Sea. The Roman parts of Germania, "Lesser Germania", eventually formed two provinces of the empire, Germania Inferior , "Lower Germania" which came to eventually include the region of the original germani cisrhenani and Germania Superior in modern terms comprising an area of western Switzerland , the French Jura and Alsace regions, and southwestern Germany. By means of a geodetic deformation analysis carried out by the Institute of Geodesy and Geoinformation Science at the Technical University of Berlin as part of a project of the German Research Association under the direction of Dieter Lelgemann in 2006, many historical place names have been localized and associated with place names of the present day. The tribal and ethnic makeup changed over the centuries as a result of assimilation and, most importantly, migrations. The Germanic people spoke several different dialects. Classical records show little about the people who inhabited the north of Europe before the 2nd century BC. Herodotus also mentioned the Scythians but no other tribes. At around 300 BC, Pytheas of Massalia sailed around Britain and along the northern coast of Europe, and what he found on his journeys was so strange that later writers refused to believe him. He may have been the first Mediterranean to distinguish the Germanic people from the Celts. Contact between German tribes and the Roman Empire did take place and was not always hostile. Recent excavations of the Waldgirmes Forum show signs that a civilian Roman town was established there, which has been interpreted to mean that Romans and Germanic tribesmen were living in peace, at least for a while. He states that the Gauls, although warlike, had a functional society and could be civilized, but that the Germanic tribesmen were far more savage and were a threat to Roman Gaul and Rome itself. Caesar said the Germanic tribes were nomadic, with no notable settlements and a primitive culture. He used this as one of his justifications for why they had to be conquered. His accounts of barbaric northern tribes could be described as an expression of the superiority of Rome, including Roman Gaul. The perceived menace of the Germanic tribesmen proved accurate. This section does not cite any sources. Please help improve this section by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. December
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Some Germani, perhaps the original people to have been referred to by this name, had lived on the west side of the Rhine. At least as early as the 2nd century BC this area was considered[by whom? These so-called Germani cisrhenani lived in the region of present-day eastern Belgium , the southeastern Netherlands , and stretching into Germany towards the Rhine. During the period of the Roman empire, more tribes settled in areas of the empire near the Rhine, in territories controlled by the Roman Empire. Eventually these areas came to be known as Lesser Germania, while Greater Germania Magna Germania; it is also referred to by names referring to its being outside Roman control: Germania libera, "free Germania" formed the larger territory east

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of the Rhine. The Germania of Caesar and Tacitus was not defined along linguistic lines as is the case with the modern term " Germanic ". It is also not clear that they distinguished the tribes into linguistic categories in any exact way. The language of the Germani Cisrhenani and their neighbours across the Rhine is still unclear. Their tribal names and personal names are generally considered Celtic , and there are also signs of an older Belgic language which once existed between the contact zone of the Germanic and Celtic languages. Germania in its eastern parts was likely also inhabited by early Baltic and, centuries later, Slavic tribes. These parts of eastern Germania are sometimes called Germania Slavica in modern historiography. Roman conquests[edit] Roman limes and modern boundaries. The occupied Lesser Germania was divided into two provinces: Germania Inferior Lower Germania approximately corresponding to the southern part of the present-day Netherlands and Germania Superior Upper Germania approximately corresponding to present-day Switzerland , South West Germany and Alsace. By 6 AD, all of Germania up to the River Elbe was temporarily pacified by the Romans as well as being occupied by them. The region soon became a vital part of the Limes Germanicus with dozens of Roman forts.

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Chapter 3 : Byzantine Empire - HISTORY

From that time on, the Kings of Italy were always also Kings of Germany, and Italy thus became a constituent kingdom of the Holy Roman Empire, along with the Kingdom of Germany (regnum Teutonicorum) and - from - Burgundy.

A mosaic showing Alexander the Great battling Darius III The Hellenic civilisation was a collection of city-states or poleis with different governments and cultures that achieved notable developments in government, philosophy, science, mathematics, politics, sports, theatre and music. Athens was a powerful Hellenic city-state and governed itself with an early form of direct democracy invented by Cleisthenes ; the citizens of Athens voted on legislation and executive bills themselves. Athens was the home of Socrates , [14] Plato , and the Platonic Academy. By the late 6th century BC, all the Greek city states in Asia Minor had been incorporated into the Persian Empire , while the latter had made territorial gains in the Balkans such as Macedon , Thrace , Paeonia , etc. In the course of the 5th century BC, some of the Greek city states attempted to overthrow Persian rule in the Ionian Revolt , which failed. This sparked the first Persian invasion of mainland Greece. At some point during the ensuing Greco-Persian Wars , namely during the Second Persian invasion of Greece , and precisely after the Battle of Thermopylae and the Battle of Artemisium , almost all of Greece to the north of the Isthmus of Corinth had been overrun by the Persians, [15] but the Greek city states reached a decisive victory at the Battle of Plataea. With the end of the Greco-Persian wars, the Persians were eventually decisively forced to withdraw from their territories in Europe. The Greco-Persian Wars and the victory of the Greek city states directly influenced the entire further course of European history and would set its further tone. The Peloponnesian Wars ensued, and the Peloponnesian League was victorious. Subsequently, discontent with Spartan hegemony led to the Corinthian War and the defeat of Sparta at the Battle of Leuctra. Hellenic infighting left Greek city states vulnerable, and Philip II of Macedon united the Greek city states under his control. The son of Philip II, known as Alexander the Great , invaded neighboring Persia , toppled and incorporated its domains, as well as invading Egypt and going as far off as India , increasing contact with people and cultures in these regions that marked the beginning of the Hellenistic period. After the death of Alexander, his empire split into multiple kingdoms ruled by his generals, the Diadochi. The Diadochi fought against each other only three major kingdoms remained: Ptolemaic Egypt , the Seleucid Empire and Macedonia kingdom. These kingdoms spread Greek culture to regions as far away as Bactria. First governed by kings , then as a senatorial republic the Roman Republic , Rome finally became an empire at the end of the 1st century BC, under Augustus and his authoritarian successors. The Roman Empire at its greatest extent in AD, under the emperor Trajan The Roman Empire had its centre in the Mediterranean, controlling all the countries on its shores; the northern border was marked by the Rhine and Danube rivers. In the 4th century, the emperors Diocletian and Constantine were able to slow down the process of decline by splitting the empire into a Western part with a capital in Rome and an Eastern part with the capital in Byzantium, or Constantinople now Istanbul. Whereas Diocletian severely persecuted Christianity, Constantine declared an official end to state-sponsored persecution of Christians in with the Edict of Milan , thus setting the stage for the Church to become the state church of the Roman Empire in about Decline of the Roman Empire[edit] Main articles: Gibbon said that the adoption of Christianity, meant belief in a better life after death, and therefore made people lazy and indifferent to the present. Bowersock has remarked, [17] "we have been obsessed with the fall: Some other notable dates are the Battle of Adrianople in , the death of Theodosius I in the last time the Roman Empire was politically unified , the crossing of the Rhine in by Germanic tribes after the withdrawal of the legions to defend Italy against Alaric I , the death of Stilicho in , followed by the disintegration of the western legions, the death of Justinian I , the last Roman Emperor who tried to reconquer the west, in , and the coming of Islam after Many scholars maintain that rather than a "fall", the changes can more accurately be described as a complex transformation. Late Antiquity and Migration Period[edit] Main articles: Late Antiquity and Migration Period A simplified map of migrations from the 2nd to the 5th century.

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When Emperor Constantine had reconquered Rome under the banner of the cross in 312, he soon afterwards issued the Edict of Milan in 313, preceded by the Edict of Serdica in 311, declaring the legality of Christianity in the Roman Empire. In addition, Constantine officially shifted the capital of the Roman Empire from Rome to the Greek town of Byzantium, which he renamed Nova Roma- it was later named Constantinople "City of Constantine". In 395, Theodosius I, who had made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire, would be the last emperor to preside over a united Roman Empire. The empire was split into two halves: Migration Period, and in 476 the Western part fell to the Heruli chieftain Odoacer. Over time, feudalism and manorialism arose, two interlocking institutions that provided for division of land and labor, as well as a broad if uneven hierarchy of law and protection. These localised hierarchies were based on the bond of common people to the land on which they worked, and to a lord, who would provide and administer both local law to settle disputes among the peasants, as well as protection from outside invaders. Unlike under Roman rule, with its standard laws and military across the empire and its great bureaucracy to administer them and collect taxes, each lord although having obligations to a higher lord was largely sovereign in his domain. Tithes or rents were paid to the lord, who in turn owed resources, and armed men in times of war, to his lord, perhaps a regional prince. However, the levels of hierarchy were varied over time and place. The western provinces soon were to be dominated by three great powers: These new powers of the west built upon the Roman traditions until they evolved into a synthesis of Roman and Germanic cultures. Although these powers covered large territories, they did not have the great resources and bureaucracy of the Roman empire to control regions and localities. The ongoing invasions and boundary disputes usually meant a more risky and varying life than that under the empire. This meant that in general more power and responsibilities were left to local lords. On the other hand, it also meant more freedom, particularly in more remote areas. In Italy, Theodoric the Great began the cultural romanization of the new world he had constructed. He made Ravenna a center of Romano-Greek culture of art and his court fostered a flowering of literature and philosophy in Latin. In the feudal system, new princes and kings arose, the most powerful of which was arguably the Frankish ruler Charlemagne. Outside his borders, new forces were gathering. For the duration of the 6th century, the Eastern Roman Empire was embroiled in a series of deadly conflicts, first with the Persian Sassanid Empire see Roman-Persian Wars, followed by the onslaught of the arising Islamic Caliphate Rashidun and Umayyad. By 711, the provinces of Egypt, Palestine and Syria were lost to the Muslim forces, followed by Hispania and southern Italy in the 7th and 8th centuries see Muslim conquests. The Arab invasion from the east was stopped after the intervention of the Bulgarian Empire see Han Tervel. Middle Ages and Medieval demography The Middle Ages are commonly dated from the fall of the Western Roman Empire or by some scholars, before that in the 5th century to the beginning of the early modern period in the 16th century, marked by the rise of nation states, the division of Western Christianity in the Reformation, the rise of humanism in the Italian Renaissance, and the beginnings of European overseas expansion which allowed for the Columbian Exchange.

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Chapter 4 : Persian Empire - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The Umbrians were a Gallic tribe living in eastern Italy. They were conquered by Rome in BC. They became Roman allies after Roman conquest and several of their citizens were awarded citizenship.

What little is known is based upon linguistic evidence. The Germanic languages belong to the Indo-European family of languages that span Eurasia from Ireland on the west to India on the east. The origin of the Indo-European languages is believed to have been in the merger of three peoples in the region between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea. One of the three excelled in warfare, one in agriculture and one in metal-working. The synthesis of these three strengths produced a folk that spread east and west. The western branch splits into the ancestors of the Baltic, the Celtic, the Germanic and the Slavic tribes as well as a welter of smaller groupings such as those of the Latins and Greeks. The languages of the Germanic tribes underwent a systematic sound change that distinguished them from the languages of the other branches. Some of these Germanic tribes migrated and established control of new territories. Tribes from Scandinavia, known as the Goths, migrated southeast to the area north of the Black Sea. Later they divided into the Ostrogoths and the Visigoths and conquered areas in the north shore of the Mediterranean Sea as far west as the Iberian peninsula. Another Germanic tribe, the Lombards long beards , invaded and conquered what is now northern Italy. The Burgundians from the region which included the Baltic Island of Bornholm moved southward and ended up establishing the Kingdom of Burgundy in what is now southeast France. Still later Germanic tribe invaded the territory of the Prussians, a Slavic people, and conquered them so thoroughly that Prussian came to be identified as the epitome of Germanness. All in all it was a remarkable record of military prowess on the part of the Germanic tribes. However in the scheme of things the occupation of territory by the less bellicose Slavic tribes was more successful. And while the Slavic tribes by and large maintained their linguistic and cultural identity the conquering Germanic tribes were largely absorbed into the cultures they conquered. German tribes were moving into the region that is now southwestern Germany about the same time the Romans were conquering Gaul. But a Roman fear of militaristic peoples on their borders prompted the Roman governor Varus to invade the territory beyond the Rhine. The leader of the victorious Germans was a German who had received military training in the Roman army. This German victory freed the German tribes of any serious threat of domination by the Romans, although the Romans did later conquer some territories beyond the Rhine and the Danube. His line became known as the Carolingians. The greatest of the Carolingians was Charlemagne Charles the Great who ruled the Franks from to Charlemagne conquered the Lombard kingdom of north Italy in

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Chapter 5 : List of states in the Holy Roman Empire - Wikipedia

German tribes were moving into the region that is now southwestern Germany about the same time the Romans were conquering Gaul. Julius Caesar defeated the Suevian tribe in 70 BCE and thus established the Rhine River as the boundary between Roman and German territory.

And while the Romans undoubtedly had a huge influence on a lot of what came after, earlier civilizations made their own key contributions. Or the mystical detail that the siblings were supposedly rescued from a riverbank and nurtured by a she-wolf. Most tourists and visitors to Italy flock to Rome to see the remains of the epic civilization that followed the feud between the two brothers, yet often overlook their predecessors. The advances made by the Rome in engineering, urbanization, law and warfare to some extent justify the centrality of the Romans within Italian history. A more careful analysis, however, reveals a plethora of complex civilizations that already inhabited the territory today known as Italy. Ten must-see places within reach of Rome While a trip to Rome is undoubtedly one of the greatest rewards Italy has to offer, a tour of the remains of the Nuragic era in Sardinia, ancient Greek civilization in Sicily or the Etruscan ruins in central Italy will take visitors further back in time than the Roman Empire. The Etruscans were heavily influenced by the Greeks. Some historians argue they created the first republic in Italy. The earliest Etruscan inscriptions date back to the 8th century BC, although some historians suggest the ancient civilization existed more than 3, years ago. A tomb in the the Etruscan Cerveteri Necropolis in Tarquinia. Sandal in the Mediterranean: The Su Nuraxi nuraghe in the south of the island is a World Heritage-listed site, although more than 7, other nuraghi are dotted across the island. These settlers brought with them much of the Hellenic civilization that would come to shape the Roman Empire, from their Gods, to their technology, their architecture and their food. Remains of this year era can be seen in the temples and necropoles that survived in the regions of Sicily, Campania, Apulia, Basilicata and Calabria. Seven temples within a few miles of each other, just outside the southern Sicilian city, lay testament to the Greek influence on the Italian island. The Temple of Concordia in Agrigento, Sicily. Many more Celtic clans migrated en masse across the Alps in the 4th century BC, eventually becoming assimilated into the Roman Empire some three centuries later. At first, they settled in Liguria, Veneto and all along the Po river. But the roots of this migration began nearly a millennium earlier with the arrival of the Canegrate culture, which historians date as far back as the 16th century BC. The Celts brought with them advances in the use of bronze and other metals, as well as the practice of cremation for their dead. Fantini in Monterenzio, near Bologna, hosts 40 burial sites and hundreds of artifacts. The ruins, burial sites and artifacts that remain are sure to enrich any trip to Central Italy, Sardinia or Sicily.

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Chapter 6 : Ancient Rome for Kids: Barbarians

The first Germans entered the Roman Empire in AD They asked for permission to settle, but this was refused and the Roman army were able to push them back. However, it was difficult for the Romans to keep them out and in AD they decided to abandon the province of Dacia to the Visigoths.

Visit Website Did you know? One of the most extraordinary aspects of the Byzantine Empire was its longevity: It was the only organized state west of China to survive without interruption from ancient times until the beginning of the modern age. Visit Website Though Constantine ruled over a unified Roman Empire, this unity proved illusory after his death in In , Emperor Valentinian I again divided the empire into western and eastern sections, putting himself in power in the west and his brother Valens in the east. The fate of the two regions diverged greatly over the next several centuries. In the west, constant attacks from German invaders such as the Visigoths broke the struggling empire down piece by piece until Italy was the only territory left under Roman control. In , the barbarian Odoacer overthrew the last Roman emperor, Romulus Augustus , and Rome had fallen. Byzantine Empire Flourishes The eastern half of the Roman Empire proved less vulnerable to external attack, thanks in part to its geographic location. It also benefited greatly from a stronger administrative center and internal political stability, as well as great wealth compared with other states of the early medieval period. Eastern Roman Empire As a result of these advantages, the Eastern Roman Empire, variously known as the Byzantine Empire or Byzantium, was able to survive for centuries after the fall of Rome. Though Byzantium was ruled by Roman law and Roman political institutions, and its official language was Latin, Greek was also widely spoken, and students received education in Greek history, literature and culture. In terms of religion, the Council of Chalcedon in officially established the division of the Christian world into five patriarchates, each ruled by a patriarch: Rome where the patriarch would later call himself pope , Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch and Jerusalem. The Byzantine emperor was the patriarch of Constantinople, and the head of both church and state. Even after the Islamic empire absorbed Alexandria, Antioch and Jerusalem in the seventh century, the Byzantine emperor would remain the spiritual leader of most eastern Christians. Justinian I Justinian I, who took power in and would rule until his death in , was the first great ruler of the Byzantine Empire. Many great monuments of the empire would be built under Justinian, including the spectacular domed Church of Holy Wisdom, or Hagia Sophia. Justinian also reformed and codified Roman law, establishing a Byzantine legal code that would endure for centuries and help shape the modern concept of the state. Debts incurred through war had left the empire in dire financial straits, however, and his successors were forced to heavily tax Byzantine citizens in order to keep the empire afloat. During the seventh and eighth centuries, attacks from the Persian Empire and from Slavs, combined with internal political instability and economic regression, threatened the stability of the empire. A new, even more serious threat arose in the form of Islam , founded by the prophet Muhammad in Mecca in In , Muslim armies began their assault on the Byzantine Empire by storming into Syria. Iconoclasm During the eighth and early ninth centuries, Byzantine emperors beginning with Leo III in spearheaded a movement that denied the holiness of icons, or religious images, and prohibited their worship or veneration. Though it stretched over less territory, Byzantium had more control over trade, more wealth and more international prestige than under Justinian. The strong imperial government patronized Byzantine art, including now-cherished Byzantine mosaics. Rulers also began restoring churches, palaces and other cultural institutions and promoting the study of ancient Greek history and literature. Greek became the official language of the state, and a flourishing culture of monasticism centered on Mount Athos in northeastern Greece. Monks administered many institutions orphanages, schools, hospitals in everyday life, and Byzantine missionaries won many converts to Christianity among the Slavic peoples of the central and eastern Balkans including Bulgaria and Serbia and Russia. The Crusades The end of the 11th century saw the beginning of the Crusades , the series of holy wars waged by European Christians against Muslims in the Near East from to As armies from France, Germany

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and Italy poured into Byzantium, Alexius tried to force their leaders to swear an oath of loyalty to him in order to guarantee that land regained from the Turks would be restored to his empire. After Western and Byzantine forces recaptured Nicaea in Asia Minor from the Turks, Alexius and his army retreated, drawing accusations of betrayal from the Crusaders. During the subsequent Crusades, animosity continued to build between Byzantium and the West, culminating in the conquest and looting of Constantinople during the Fourth Crusade in 1204. Many refugees from Constantinople fled to Nicaea, site of a Byzantine government-in-exile that would retake the capital and overthrow Latin rule in 1261. Fall of the Byzantine Empire During the rule of the Palaiologan emperors, beginning with Michael VIII in 1259, the economy of the once-mighty Byzantine state was crippled, and never regained its former stature. In 1204, Emperor John V unsuccessfully sought financial help from the West to confront the growing Turkish threat, but he was arrested as an insolvent debtor in Venice. Four years later, he was forced to become a vassal of the mighty Turks. As a vassal state, Byzantium paid tribute to the sultan and provided him with military support. Murad revoked all privileges given to the Byzantines and laid siege to Constantinople; his successor, Mehmed II, completed this process when he launched the final attack on the city. The fall of Constantinople marked the end of a glorious era for the Byzantine Empire. Legacy of the Byzantine Empire In the centuries leading up to the final Ottoman conquest in 1453, the culture of the Byzantine Empire—including literature, art and theology—flourished even as the empire itself faltered. Byzantine culture would exert a great influence on the Western intellectual tradition, as scholars of the Italian Renaissance sought help from Byzantine scholars in translating Greek pagan and Christian writings. This process would continue after 1453, when many of these scholars fled from Constantinople to Italy. Long after its end, Byzantine culture and civilization continued to exercise an influence on countries that practiced its Orthodox religion, including Russia, Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia and Greece, among others. Start your free trial today.

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Chapter 7 : Kingdom of Italy (Holy Roman Empire) - Wikipedia

Now, if you consider Western Europe to be Britain, Scandinavia, Germany, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Switzerland, these lands were divided until the Roman conquest into Celtic (France, Switzerland, Belgium, Britain, Central Germany and Europe) and Germanic Lands (Scandinavia, Netherlands, northern Germany and parts of Switzerland).

Some of the Germanic tribes are frequently blamed in popular conceptions for the "Fall" of the Roman Empire in the late 5th century. Professional historians and archaeologists have since shifted their interpretations in such a way that the Germanic peoples are no longer seen as invading a decaying empire but as being co-opted into helping defend territory the central government could no longer adequately administer. Individuals and small groups from Germanic tribes had long been recruited from the limes. Later the government of the Empire began to recruit whole tribal groups under their native leaders as officers. Assisting with defence eventually shifted into administration, and then outright rule, as Roman traditions of government passed into the hands of Germanic tribal leaders. The presence of successor states controlled by a nobility from one of the Germanic tribes is evident in the 6th century - even in Italy, the former hearth of the Empire, where Odoacer was followed by Theodoric the Great, leader of the Ostrogoths, who was regarded by Roman citizens and Gothic settlers alike as a legitimate successor to the rule of Rome and Italy. They apparently dwelt in the basin of the Main River, to the south of the Chatti. According to Asinius Quadratus their name all men indicates that they were a conglomeration of various tribes. There can be little doubt, however, that the ancient Hermunduri formed the bulk of the nation. Other groups included the Juthungi, Bucinobantes, Lentienses, and perhaps the Armalasi. From the 4th century onwards we hear also of the Suebi, Suevi or Suabi. The Hermunduri had apparently belonged to the Suebi, but it is likely enough that reinforcements from new Suebic tribes had now moved westward. In later times the names Alamanni and Suebi seem to be synonymous, although some of the Suebi later migrated to Spain and established an independent kingdom there that endured well into the sixth century. The tribe was continually engaged in conflicts with the Roman Empire. They launched a major invasion of northern Italy in 455, when the Romans were forced to denude much of their German frontier of troops in response to a massive invasion of the Visigoths. In the early summer, the Emperor Gallienus halted their advance in Italy, but then had to deal with the Goths. After efforts to secure a peaceful withdrawal failed, Claudius forced the Alamanni into war at the Battle of Lake Benacus in November. The Alamanni were routed, forced back into Germany, and did not threaten Roman territory for many years afterwards. Their most famous battle against Rome took place in Strasbourg, in Julian, later Emperor of Rome, and their king Chonodomarius was taken prisoner. On January 2, the Alamanni crossed the frozen Rhine in large numbers, to invade the Roman Empire. Early in the 5th century the Alamanni appear to have crossed the Rhine river, conquered and then settled what is today Alsace and a large part of Switzerland. Their kingdom or duchy of Alamannia lasted until 496, when they were conquered by Clovis I at the Battle of Tolbiac, from which time they formed part of the Frankish dominions. In a strange twist of fate, the word "Frankish" eventually gave its name to the Romance language French, while the Alamanni gave their name to the French word for "German" Allemand. Angli were one of the Germanic peoples who migrated from continental Germany to Britain in the 5th century, along with the Saxons and Jutes. Thanks to the major influence of the Angles, the people of England are also known as Anglo-Saxons, and, of course English. A region of the United Kingdom is known by the name East Anglia. The Angle homeland, a small peninsular form in the southern portion of the modern German bundesland of Schleswig-Holstein, itself on the Jutland Peninsula is still called Angeln today, and is formed as a triangle drawn roughly from modern Flensburg on the Flensburger Fjord to Kiel and then to Maasholm on the Schlei inlet. Of course, ethnic Frisians are known to have inhabited the land directly in the path of any invasion route from Angeln to Great Britain and in fact, also inhabited lands between the ancient Saxon domain and Britain, yet they are rarely mentioned as having taken part in the vast migration. In the fifth century, an exodus of tribes took place to Great Britain. The Jutes

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appear to have come from Jutland and the area near the mouth of the river Rhine. The Saxons, by this time had covered a wide area, but invaded Britain from what is now primarily Northern Germany. The Saxons were not just one tribe, but a confederation of several smaller tribes, and are not even mentioned by the Roman chroniclers until the second century when Ptolemy placed them in the area of the Elbe River an area once held by the Cimbri. What tribes composed the confederation is truly not known, though the Cimbri that remained in the North may have been among them as well as the Cherusci other tribes that have been suggested as forming the confederation are the Avioni, Nuithoni, Reudigni, Suarini, and some of the Suebi. The Frisians came from what is now the Netherlands, and the Frisian coast of Germany. Other tribes such as the Varni, neighbors of the Angles, and the Geats of Sweden invaded Britain in smaller numbers. Hired as mercenaries by the Celtic leader Vortigan, they came to take land promised them in return for defending the Celts from the Picts. Other tribes such as the Frisians would also invade in smaller numbers. By the Saxons had established Wessex, Kent was established not long after the arrival of Hengest and Horse by the Jutes. Other kingdoms would be established later. For over 50 years, the Germanic tribes in what is now England went unmolested by Christianity. They kept to the religion of their ancestors, and practiced rites as they had for eons. By CE he convinced Ethelbert to destroy the Heathen temples and idols and repress Heathen worship. Missionaries were sent to the West Saxons. Kings would convert their kingdoms to Christianity, then their successors covert the kingdoms back to Heathenry, and folks would lapse back to the old religion when the Church was not looking. But this was the beginning of the end for Anglo-Saxon Heathenry. Thus was the end of ancient Anglo-Saxon Heathenry in England amongst the kings While the kings and ealdormen of the Anglo-Saxons were converted to Christianity, for the common folk merely the names of the Gods changed. They continued to practice Heathenry in their homes, and throughout their lives. A long period of mixed faith continued long after the conversion of the Anglo-Saxons. Perhaps until as late as the time of Cromwell, Heathen tradition, although not worship survived in many areas. Plows which had been blessed in the fields in Heathen times were brought into the Churches to be blessed in the spring. Christian festivals were celebrated with Heathen customs such as Maypole dancing, and the dead honored in funeral feasts as they had prior to the conversion. Even the Heathen gods were still being invoked in charms for healing as late as the 10th century. As late as the reign of King Canute in the 11th century, laws had to be enacted against Heathen practices. The Batavii or Batavi, Batavians were a Germanic tribe reported by Julius Caesar and Tacitus to have lived around the Rhine delta, in the area which is currently the Netherlands. This led to the Latin name of Batavia. They were mentioned by Julius Caesar in his commentary Gallic Wars, as living on an island formed by the Meuse River after it is joined by the Waal, 80 Roman Miles from the mouth of the river. He said there were many other islands formed by branches of the Rhine, inhabited by savage and barbarous nations, some of whom were supposed to live on fish and the eggs of sea-fowl. Tacitus described the Batavi as the most brave of the tribes of the area, inhabiting not much territory on the Rhine but an island in it. They were formerly part of the Cattans but moved after a feud to become part of the Roman Empire. He said they retained the honour of the ancient association with the Romans, not required to pay tribute or taxes and used by the Romans only for war. He named the Mattiacians as a similar tribe under homage, but on the other Germanic side of the Rhine. The areas inhabited by the Batavians where never occupied by the Romans, they were allies. In 69 AD, a rebellion led by Claudius Civilis arose, which was defeated by the Romans the following year. After the 3rd century CE, the Batavians are no longer mentioned, and they are assumed to have merged with the neighbouring Frisian and Frankish people. The Batavians became regarded as the eponymous ancestors of the Dutch people. The Netherlands were briefly known as the Batavian Republic. Bavarii was a large and powerful tribe which emerged late in Teutonic tribal times, in what is now the Czech Republic Bohemia. They swiftly expanded their influence southward, and occupied Austria and the area which still bears their name: By the 6th c. Later absorbed into the larger Frankish community, and reportedly allies with Cherusci and others in defeating the Roman General, Varus at Teutoberg in 9 AD. Best place to find archival documents and history of the tribe is Soest, Germany. After possibly having dwelt in the Vistula basin, they migrated westwards into the Rhine

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Valley during the Germanic migrations. The Rhineland Burgundians lived in an uneasy relationship with the imperial Roman government. Nominally Roman foederati, they periodically raided portions of eastern Gaul. In 456, their king, Gundaharius, set up a puppet emperor, Jovinus, in cooperation with Goar, king of the Alans. The Rhineland kingdom with its capital at Worms, Germany was destroyed by Huns in 456, perhaps under the authority of the Roman general Aetius. The refugees were settled by Aetius near Lugdunensis, known today as Lyon. They spread over southwestern Gaul; that is, northern Italy, western Switzerland, and eastern France. The Burgundian kingdom was made part of the Merovingian kingdoms; the Burgundians themselves were by and large absorbed as well. One of the earliest Germanic law codes, the Lex Gundobada or Lex Burgundionum, is a collection of the constitutions or laws issued by king Gundobad, the best-known of the Burgundian kings, whose reign began in 483 and died in 516. The Lex Gundobada was a record of Burgundian customary law and is typical of the many Germanic law codes from the period. The name of the Burgundians has since remained connected to the area of modern France that still bears the name of Burgundy. Between the 6th and 20th centuries, the boundaries and political connections of this area changed frequently. The Burgundians, East German tribesmen, were great allies of Rome. So much the Roman allies, the Burgundian kings were given the title of Master of the Soldiers. Burgundians sought their place in history through military alliances. The rise of the Franks under Clovis committed the Burgundians as allies to the Franks in which they helped Clovis to defeat the Visigoths in AD 486. It was twice that the Burgundians faced destruction, the second time being fatal. The survivors fled to the territory surrounding Lake Geneva in Switzerland. Later, after repeated invasions, they moved to the valley of the Rhine River where they occupied eastern Gaul. Lyon became the capital of the Burgundian Kingdom. They gave their name to the region that still remains today as the region Burgundy. But later in AD, the Burgundians were attacked by the Franks, their former allies, and their kingdom was annexed. The greatest of the Burgundian kings was Gundobad, who reigned from 483 to AD 516, his greatest contribution being Burgundian law. In 501, he formulated a law code for his Burgundian subjects, the Lex Gundobada, or Lex Burgundionum. Years later, he sponsored a more significant law code, the Lex Romana Burgundinum, this time benefit of his Roman subjects, "[w]hich applied also to cases in which both Romans and Burgundians were involved," Jones, p. Finally, the Burgundians, like many other Germanic tribesmen, were Arian Christians. The Chauca was a numerous tribe inhabiting the extreme northwestern shore of Germany during Roman times - basically the stretch of coast between Frisia in the west to the Elbe estuary in the east. By the end of the 3rd century CE, they had merged with the Saxons. They were first allies of, and then enemies of Rome.

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Chapter 8 : ancient history - Why were the Romans unable to conquer Germania? - History Stack Exchange

At its height, the Holy Roman Empire consisted of eastern France, all of Germany, northern Italy and parts of western Poland. Despite being relatively small in terms of Empires, its influence on the history of central Europe is still felt today.

Teia, the new Ostrogothic king, gathered the remnants of the Ostrogothic army and marched to relieve the siege, but in October Narses ambushed him at Mons Lactarius modern Monti Lattari in Campania, near Mount Vesuvius and Nuceria Alfaterna. The battle lasted two days and Teia was killed in the fighting. Ostrogothic power in Italy was eliminated, but according to Roman historian Procopius of Caesarea, Narses allowed the Ostrogothic population and their Rugian allies to live peacefully in Italy under Roman sovereignty. After, the Lombard kings sometimes styled themselves Kings of Italy Latin: Upon the Lombard defeat at the Siege of Pavia, the kingdom came under the Frankish domination of Charlemagne. The Iron Crown of Lombardy Corona Ferrea was used for the coronation of the Lombard kings, and the kings of Italy thereafter, for centuries. The primary sources for the Lombard kings before the Frankish conquest are the anonymous 7th-century *Origo Gentis Langobardorum* and the 8th-century *Historia Langobardorum* of Paul the Deacon. The earliest kings the pre-Lethings listed in the *Origo* are almost certainly legendary. They purportedly reigned during the Migration Period; the first ruler attested independently of Lombard tradition is Tato. The actual control of the sovereigns of both the major areas that constitute the kingdom – Langobardia Major in the centre-north in turn divided into a western, or Neustria, and one eastern, or Austria and Tuscia and Langobardia Minor in the centre-south, was not constant during the two centuries of life of the kingdom. The Lombard kingdom proved to be more stable than its Ostrogothic predecessor, but in, on the pretext of defending the Papacy, it was conquered by the Franks under Charlemagne. They kept the Italo-Lombard realm separate from their own, but the kingdom shared in all the partitions, divisions, civil wars, and succession crises of the Carolingian Empire of which it became a part until, by the end of the ninth century, the Italian kingdom was an independent, but highly decentralised, state. Constituent of the Carolingian Empire[edit] The death of the Emperor Lothair I in led to his realm of Middle Francia being split among his three sons. The kingdom included all of Italy as far south as Rome and Spoleto, but the rest of Italy to the south was under the rule of the Lombard Principality of Benevento or of the Byzantine Empire. The Imperial crown was initially disputed among the Carolingian rulers of West Francia France and East Francia Germany, with first the western king Charles the Bald and then the eastern Charles the Fat attaining the prize. Following the deposition of the latter, local nobles – Guy III of Spoleto and Berengar of Friuli – disputed over the crown, and outside intervention did not cease, with Arnulf of Eastern Francia and Louis the Blind of Provence both claiming the Imperial throne for a time. The kingdom was also beset by Arab raiding parties from Sicily and North Africa, and central authority was minimal at best. In the 10th century, the situation hardly improved, as various Burgundian and local noblemen continued to dispute over the crown. Order was only imposed from outside, when the German king Otto I invaded Italy and seized both the Imperial and Italian thrones for himself in From that time on, the Kings of Italy were always also Kings of Germany, and Italy thus became a constituent kingdom of the Holy Roman Empire, along with the Kingdom of Germany regnum Teutonicorum and – from – Burgundy. In general, the monarch was an absentee, spending most of his time in Germany and leaving the Kingdom of Italy with little central authority. There was also a lack of powerful landed magnates – the only notable one being the Margraviate of Tuscany, which had wide lands in Tuscany, Lombardy, and the Emilia, but which failed due to lack of heirs after the death of Matilda of Canossa in This left a power vacuum – increasingly filled by the Papacy and by the bishops, as well as by the increasingly wealthy Italian cities, which gradually came to dominate the surrounding countryside. While besieging Milan in, he issued the *Constitutio de feudis* in order to secure the support of the vassal petty gentry, whose fiefs he declared hereditary. Indeed, Conrad could stabilise his rule, however, the Imperial supremacy in Italy remained contested. Staufer[edit] Imperial Italy outlined in red in the 12th and 13th

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centuries The cities first demonstrated their increasing power during the reign of the Hohenstaufen Emperor Frederick Barbarossa , whose attempts to restore imperial authority in the peninsula led to a series of wars with the Lombard League , a league of northern Italian cities, and ultimately to a decisive victory for the League at the Battle of Legnano in , which forced Frederick to recognize the autonomy of the Italian cities. Conflict continued between Ghibellines Imperial supporters and Guelfs Papal supporters in the Italian cities, but these conflicts bore less and less relation to the origins of the parties in question. Decline[edit] The Italian campaigns of the Holy Roman Emperors decreased, but the Kingdom did not become wholly meaningless. His further plans to restore the Imperial rule and to invade the Kingdom of Naples were aborted by his sudden death the next year. Successive emperors in the 14th and 15th centuries were bound in the struggle between the rivaling Luxembourg, Habsburg and Wittelsbach dynasties. His successor Charles IV also returned to Rome to be crowned in None of the Emperors forgot their theoretical claims to dominion as Kings of Italy. Nor did the Italians themselves forget the claims of the Emperors to universal dominion: The Imperial claims to dominion in Italy mostly manifested themselves, however, in the granting of titles to the various strongmen who had begun to establish their control over the formerly republican cities. Other families to receive new titles from the emperors included the Gonzaga of Mantua , and the Este of Ferrara and Modena. Shadow Kingdom[edit] By the beginning of the early modern period, the Kingdom of Italy still existed but was a mere shadow. Its territory had been significantly limited the conquests of the Republic of Venice , which considered itself independent of the Empire, in the " domini di Terraferma " had taken most of northeastern Italy outside the jurisdiction of the Empire, while the Popes claimed full sovereignty and independence in the Papal States in Central Italy. Nevertheless, the Emperor Charles V , owing more to his inheritance of Spain and Naples than to his position as Emperor, was able to establish his dominance in Italy to a greater extent than any Emperor since Frederick II. He drove the French from Milan, prevented an attempt by the Italian princes, with French aid, to reassert their independence in the League of Cognac , sacked Rome and brought the Medici pope Clement VII to submission, conquered Florence where he reinstalled the Medici as Dukes of Florence and later, Grand Dukes of Tuscany , and, upon the extinction of the Sforza line in Milan, claimed the territory as an imperial fief and installed his son Philip as the new Duke. This new Imperial dominance, however, did not remain with the Empire, in which Charles was succeeded by his brother Ferdinand , but rather was transferred by Charles to his son, who became King of Spain. Nevertheless, the Imperial claims to suzerainty remained, and were actually called forth in the early 17th century when the Duchy of Mantua fell vacant in In the early 18th century, during the War of the Spanish Succession , imperial claims to suzerainty were used again to seize Mantua in , which was now attached by the Austrian Habsburgs to the newly conquered Duchy of Milan. This was the last notable usage of Imperial power, as such, in Italy. The Austrians retained control of Milan and Mantua, and intermittently, other territories notably Tuscany after , but the claims to feudal overlordship had become practically meaningless. The imperial claims to Italy remained only in the secondary title of the Archbishop-Elector of Cologne to be "Arch-Chancellor of Italy" and in the formal adherence of Emperor and Diet to various treaties resolving the succession of various northern Italian states which were still considered to be imperial fiefs. The imperial reorganization carried out in left no room for Imperial claims to Italy even the Archbishop of Cologne was gone, secularized along with the other ecclesiastical princes. In , while the Empire was still in existence, Napoleon, by now Emperor Napoleon I, claimed the crown of Italy for himself, putting the Iron Crown on his head at Milan on 26 May The Empire itself was abolished the next year.

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Chapter 9 : Four civilizations in Italy that pre-date the Roman Empire - The Local

The Roman portions formed two provinces of the Empire, Germania Inferior to the north (present-day southern Netherlands, Belgium, and western Germany), and Germania Superior to the south (Switzerland, southwestern Germany, and eastern France).

Islamic conquest of Iran Gonbad-e Qabus , built in , Iran, is a reminder of the blossoming of art and architecture in medieval Persia. The explosive growth of the Arab Caliphate coincided with the chaos caused by the end of Sassanid rule. Conquest came easily; most of the country was overrun in . The last resistance from the remnants of the Sassanid dynasty ended two years later. He tried to recover some of what he lost with the help of the Turks and the Tatars but they were easily defeated by Muslim armies. Then he sought the aid of the Chinese but they refused to help him. He is believed to have lived on the borders of the Islamic Persia. Some historians say that he lived inside the Islamic Persia. The Arab empire, ruled by the Umayyad Dynasty , was the largest state in history up to that point. Yet the Umayyads borrowed heavily from Persian and Byzantine administrative systems and moved their capital to Damascus , in the center of their empire. The Umayyads would rule Persia for a hundred years. The Arab conquest dramatically changed life in Persia. Arabic became the new lingua franca and Islam quickly replaced Zoroastrianism; and mosques were built. A new language, religion, and culture were added to the Persian cultural milieu. In the Umayyads were ousted from power by the Abbasid family. By that time, Iranians had come to dominate not only the bureaucracy of the empire, but all branches of the government [1]. The unrivaled dominance of the Persians on all affairs of the administration of the Caliphate led to the spread and blossoming of Persian culture, science, mathematics, and medicine, throughout the Arab world. The scientific movement that resulted from this was to have a direct impact on the European Renaissance centuries later: See full list here. But political unrest continued. In , East-Persia was conquered by the Persian Samanids , the first native rulers after the Arabic conquest. They made Samarkand , Bukhara and Herat their capitals and revived the Persian language and culture. It was approximately during this age, when the poet Firdawsi finished the Shah Nama, an epic poem retelling the history of the Persian kings; Firdawsi completing the poem in . In , West-Persia was conquered by the Buwayhid , a native Persian tribal confederation from the shores of the Caspian Sea. They made the Persian city of Shiraz their capital. Rather than a province of a united Muslim empire, Persia became one nation in an increasingly diverse and cultured Islamic world. The Muslim world was shaken again in with the invasion of the Seljuk Turks from the northeast. The Seljuks created a very large Middle Eastern empire and continued in the flowering of medieval Islamic culture. The Seljuks built the fabulous Friday Mosque in the city of Isfahan. The shahs of the Khwarezm Empire ruled for only a short while, however, because they had to face the most feared conqueror in history: Mosques with Persian names and designs in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan illustrate just how far east Persian culture extended due to their conquests. The governor of Otrar had these envoys executed. Genghis, out of revenge, sacked Otrar in and continued on to Samarkand and other cities of the northeast. Persia became the Ilkhanate , a division of the vast Mongol Empire. The Ilkhans patronized the arts and learning in the fine tradition of Persian Islam; indeed, they helped to repair much of the damage of the Mongol conquests. It splintered into a number of small states. This left Persia open to still more conquest at the hands of another conqueror connected with the Mongol Empire: Timur the Lame or Tamerlane. He invaded Persia beginning around and plundered the country until his death in . Timur was an even bloodier conqueror than Genghis had been. In Isfahan , for instance, he slaughtered 70,000 people so that he could build towers with their skulls. He conquered a wide area and made his own city of Samarkand rich, but he made no effort to forge a lasting empire. Persia was essentially left in ruins. For the next hundred years Persia was not a unified state. It was ruled for a while by descendants of Timur, called the Timurid emirs. But there was little unity and none of the sophistication that had defined Persia during the glory days of Islam. A new Persian empire: The Safavid Dynasty hailed from Azerbaijan , at that time considered a part of the greater Persia

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region. Ismail expanded Persia to include all of present-day Azerbaijan, Iran, and Iraq, plus much of Afghanistan. Safavid Persia was a violent and chaotic state for the next seventy years, but in Shah Abbas the Great ascended to the throne and instituted a cultural and political renaissance. He moved his capital to Isfahan, which quickly became one of the most important cultural centers in the Islamic world. He made peace with the Ottomans. He reformed the army, drove the Uzbeks out of Persia and into modern-day Uzbekistan, and captured a Portuguese base on the island of Ormus. Under the Safavids Persia enjoyed its last period as a major imperial power. In the early 1600s, a final border was agreed upon with Ottoman Turkey; it still forms the border between Turkey and Iran today. An 18th century Persian astrolabe. Throughout the Middle Ages, the natural philosophy and mathematics of ancient Greeks were furthered and preserved within the Muslim world. During this period, Persia became a centre for the manufacture of scientific instruments, retaining its reputation for quality well into the 19th century. Persia and Europe - In 1722, Safavid Persia collapsed. That year saw the first European invasion of Persia since the time of Alexander: Peter the Great, Czar of Russia, invaded from the northwest as part of a bid to dominate central Asia. To make the situation truly hopeless, Ottoman forces accompanied the Russians, successfully laying siege to Isfahan. The country was able to weather the invasions; neither the Russians nor the Turks gained any territory. The last Safavid shah was executed, and the dynasty came to an end. Nadir drove out the Russians and confined the Afghans to their present home in Afghanistan. However, his empire declined after his death. His rule was followed by the weak and short-lived Zand dynasty. Persia was left unprepared for the worldwide expansion of European empires in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Persia found relative stability in the Qajar dynasty, ruling from 1795 to 1925, but lost hope to compete with the new industrial powers of Europe; Persia found itself sandwiched between the growing Russian Empire in Central Asia and the expanding British Empire in India. Although Persia was never directly invaded, it gradually became economically dependent on Europe. The Anglo-Russian Convention of 1907 formalised Russian and British spheres of influence over the north and south of the country, respectively, where Britain and Russia each created a "sphere of influence", where the colonial power had the final "say" on economic matters. Winston Churchill, as First Sea Lord to the British Admiralty, oversaw the conversion of the Royal Navy to oil-fired battleships and partially nationalized it prior to the start of war. A small Anglo-Persian force was garrisoned there to protect the field from some hostile tribal factions. In 1914 Britain sent a military force to Mesopotamia to deny access to the Persian oilfields from the Ottomans. Germany retaliated on behalf of its ally by spreading a rumour that the Kaiser had converted to Islam, and sent agents through Persia to attack the oil fields and raise a Jihad against British rule in India. Most of those German agents were captured by Persian, British and Russian troops who were sent to patrol the Afghan border, and the rebellion faded away. This was followed by a German attempt to abduct and control the young Shah, with the assistance of his mainly-Swedish bodyguard, which was foiled at the last moment. In the fighting between Russian and Ottoman forces to the north of the country had spilt down into Persia; Russia gained the advantage until most of her armies collapsed in the wake of the Russian Revolution of 1917. This left the Caucasus unprotected, and the Caucasian and Persian civilians starving after years of war and deprivation. In a small force of British troops under General Dunsterville moved into the Trans-Caucasus from Persia in a bid to encourage local resistance to German and Ottoman armies who were about to invade the Baku oilfields. Although they later withdrew back into Persia, they did succeed in delaying the Turks access to the oil almost until the Armistice. In northern Persia was occupied by the British General Edmund Ironside to enforce the Turkish Armistice conditions and assist General Malleson contain Boshevik influences in the north. Britain also took tighter control over the increasingly lucrative oilfields. The second-to-last Shah, Reza Pahlavi, asked the world to call the country Iran in 1935, but in his subsequent successor and son, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, announced that both Persia and Iran can be used interchangeably. List of Kings and Emperors of Persia This comprehensive list covers years, even though Persia is much older than that.