



The Barbarian Kingdoms

Genus, generis (n.)

- birth, descent, origin
- Race, stock
- Birth, noble birth
- Descendant, offspring e.g. child of the human race
“generis humani”

Barbarian: definition

- Foreigner
- “babbling” or “babblers”
- Seen as inferior (by Romans)

Barbarian invasions/migrations



- First Wave as invaders/migrants (4th and 5th centuries): Goths
- Second wave as settlers (5th and 6th centuries): e.g. Franks
- Third Wave? (8th to 10th centuries): Vikings

First Wave: Goths

- Invited into Empire (376)
- Battle of Adrianople and Death of Emperor Valens (378)
- Split into two groups:
Visigoths and Ostrogoths
- Attack of Rome (410)



Visigoths in Iberian peninsula

- Sueves, Alans, and Vandals in Iberia (409)
- Visigoths defeat others (416)
- Southern Gaul (418-490s)
- Shift focus to Iberia (526)
- Defeated by Muslim Army (711)



MIGRATIONS AND KINGDOMS OF THE GOTHS 5TH AND 6TH CENTURES AD





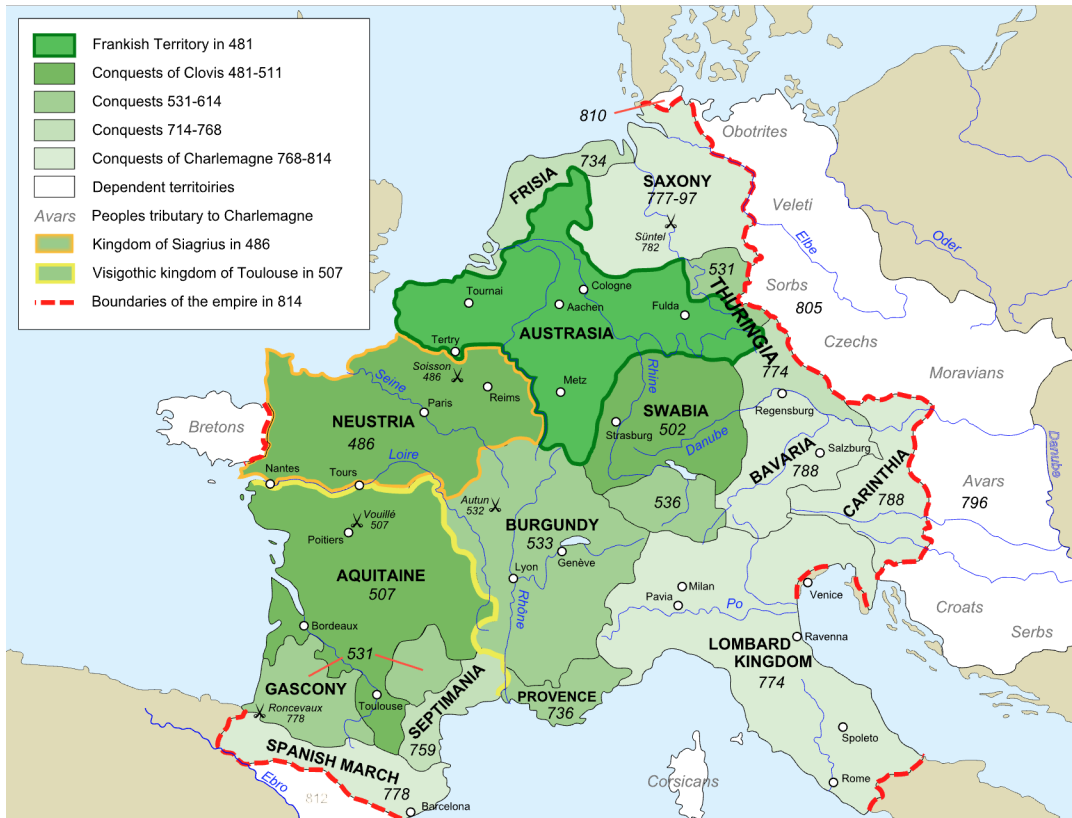
Visigoths in Iberia

- Latin Language
- Catholic Christianity
- Imperial administrative structure
- Roman ideas of state, kingship, and law

Image: King Chindasuinth from *Codex Albedense* (11th century)

Second Wave: Franks

- Gradual takeover of former Roman province of Gaul, starting in 4th century
- Merovingian Dynasty, starting in 486 with Clovis





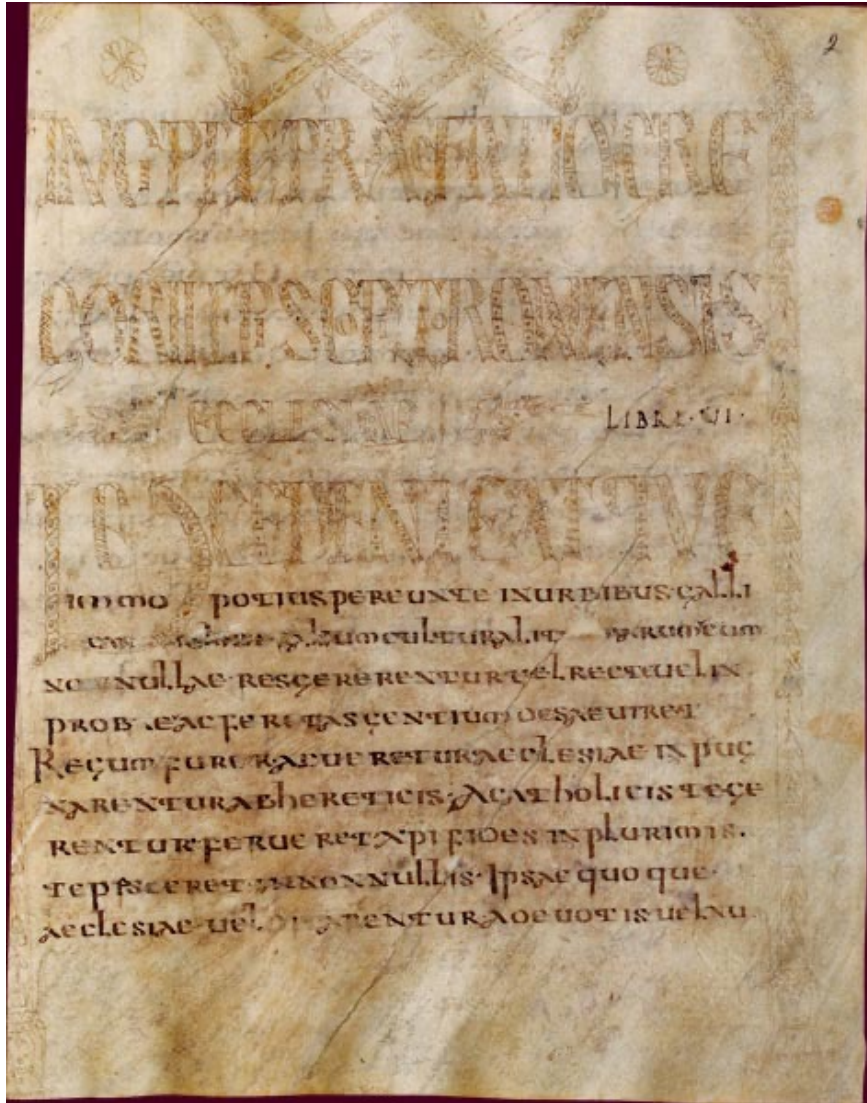
Clovis I, 466-511

- “King of the Franks”
- “Long-haired kings”
- Adopt Latin, Catholicism, administration

Image: Baptism of Clovis from *Grand Chronicles of France* (1375-80)



- Who is the author?
- When was it written?
- Where was it written?
- Why was it written?
- What is it?
- What is it about?
- What are the implications of what it says?
- How reliable is it?
- Are there any complicating factors?



Are there any complicating factors?

- Language
- Manuscript form
- Survival
 - Frontspiece from late 7th century edition

Arianism

- Arius, 4th century
- Christ a created being (human and divine)
- Catholic view: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost equally divine
- Outlawed at the Council of Nicaea (325)

Heresy-->haeresis
(choice)
Orthodox =
accepted



Merovingian queens and conversion

- Queen Clothild (474-545)
- Queen Balthild (626 or 630-680)

Image: Queen Clothild at prayer, 14th c.



Realities of Conversion

- Change of allegiance
- Importance of missionaries
- Syncretism: Christianity Germanized as Germanic culture was Christianized

Image: Tunic of Queen Balthild, 7th c.

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Germanic law

- Originally oral and customary
- Influence from Roman law
- Code of Euric (475) in Visigothic Spain
- Visigothic Code (*Lex Visigothorum*)—
654 by King Reccesuinth

Image: 11th c. copy of *Visigothic Code*