**Chapter 13: Middle Ages**

I. Invasion of Western Europe

* Fall of Rome results in the Middle Ages
* Also known as the Medieval Period or the Dark Ages
* 500-1500
1. Decline of Learning
* Rome had been a highly educated society
* Germanic invader could not read or write
* Sharp drop in overall learning
* Few people besides church leaders were able to read
1. Loss of a Common Language
* **Latin –**
* Helped to unite it
* Germanic tribes couldn’t speak Latin
* **800s –**
1. Catholic Church
* Only major institution to survive the fall of Rome
* Helps unify a land divided by geography and different languages
* Church is the one place that provides order and security
* Most Germanic tribes quickly convert to Christianity
* **Monasteries –**
* Became the best educated places in Europe
* Copied books and maintained literacy
* Saved writings that the Church saw worthy of being saved
1. Charlemagne Becomes Emperor
* Charles the Great
* Imposing figure – 6’4”
* **800 -**Was crowned Holy Roman Empire by Pope Leo II
* Built largest empire since the fall of Rome
* Helped unite Christianity and unite Western Europe for a time
* Used his military might to force people he overtook to convert to Christianity or die
* Strengthened the power of royals and the church
* Greatest accomplishment was his encouragement of learning
* Helps keep power in the hands of nobles
* **Why?**
1. Charlemagne’s Heirs
* **814 –**
* Three grandsons divided the empire – Lothair, Charles the Bald, Louis the German
* Results in a lack of strong central government and the development of feudalism