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EARLY MEDIEVAL EUROPE 300-1000 · ROGER COLLINS



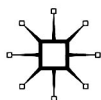
Early Medieval Europe 300–1000

Roger Collins

Third Edition



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Praise for the book when it was first published in 1991:

'A large and intricate body of fundamental research on the narrative sources, deployed with clarity and expertise for which many readers will be extremely grateful.'—*The Times Higher Education Supplement*

In this classic textbook history of early medieval Europe, Roger Collins provides a comprehensive account of the centuries during which Europe changed from being an abstract geographical expression to a new culturally coherent, if politically divided, entity. This essential volume:

- examines how the social, economic and cultural structures of Antiquity were replaced by their medieval equivalents
- defines the European context by looking at the external forces which helped to shape it through conflict
- explores key topics such as the fall of the Roman Empire, the rise of both Christianity and Islam, the Vikings, and the expansion of Latin Christian culture into eastern Europe
- features maps, genealogies, a chronology and bibliography to aid understanding and further study.

This third edition has been fully updated, augmented and revised to take account of the latest scholarship and research on all aspects of the period it covers. The text has also been extensively rewritten to make it more accessible for students. Clear and insightful, this is an invaluable guide to an important era in the history of both Europe and the wider world.

Roger Collins is Honorary Fellow in History at the University of Edinburgh, UK.

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For Judith

Chronology of main events, 238–1000

British Isles	Western Europe	Eastern Europe	North Africa	Near East
	238 Murder of Maximin I			241–72 Reign of Shapur I
	253–60 Reign of Valerian	244 Gordian III deposed by Philip	248 Cyprian Bishop of Carthage	260 Shapur I captures Valerian
	253–68 Reign of Gallienus		258 Martyrdom of Cyprian of Carthage	
	259–73 'Gallic Empire'	282–3 Reign of Carus		283 Carus's invasion of Persia
286–93 Reign of Carausius	285 Diocletian ruling West	284–305 Reign of Diocletian		
293–6 Reign of Allectus	293 Appointment of Caesars	303 Beginning of 'Great Persecution'		293–303 Reign of Narseh
	305–6 Reign of Constantius I in West	305–11 Reign of Galerius		296–7 War with Rome
306 Constantine proclaimed at York	306–37 Rule of Constantine in West	313 War between Maximin and Licinius	311 Reign of Alexander	309–79 Reign of Shapur II
	312 Battle of Milvian Bridge; conversion of Constantine	314 War with Licinius (308–24)	312 Beginning of Donatist schism	
		324–37 Constantine ruling East		
		324 Founding of Constantinople		

Chronology of main events, 238-1000 (continued)

British Isles	Western Europe	Eastern Europe	North Africa	Near East
		325 Council of Nicaea		
		330 Dedication of Constantinople		
343 Visit of Constans	337-50 Reign of Constans	337-61 Reign of Constantius II	354 Birth of Augustine	
350-3 Britons support Magnentius	357-9 Julian's campaigns in Gaul	350-3 Gallus Caesar at Antioch		360 War between Rome and Persia
367 Raids by Picts, Irish and Saxons; Hadrian's Wall repaired	360 Julian's revolt	361-3 Reign of Julian; 'pagan revival'		363 Julian's invasion of Persia
	364-75 Reign of Valentinian I	364-78 Reign of Valens		364 Jovian's treaty
		376 Visigoths admitted into Balkans		
		378 Battle of Adrianople		
	383-8 Reign of Magnus Maximus	379-95 Reign of Theodosius I		
	392-4 Reign of Eugenius; 'pagan revival'	391 Closing of pagan temples	395-430 Augustine Bishop of Hippo	
	395-423 Reign of Honorius	395-408 Reign of Arcadius		
	395-408 Ascendancy of Stilicho			
			397 Augustine writes 'Confessions'; Revolt of Gildo	
406 Reigns of Marcus and Gratian	406 Vandals, Alans, Sueves cross Rhine		413-27 Augustine writing 'City of God'	

407-11	Reign of Constantine III	408	Alaric's Visigoths enter Italy	418	Council of Carthage
410	Revolt of Britons	410	Sack of Rome		
c. 425?	Nynia in Galloway and southern Pictland	c. 411-21	Ascendancy of Constantius	429	Vandal invasion
431	Palladius sent to Ireland	425-55	Reign of Valentinian III	439	Vandals take Carthage
c. 446-53	Appeal to Aetius	430-53	Ascendancy of Aetius	442	Vandal treaty
	Saxon treaty	440-61	Leo I Bishop of Rome		
		440s	Hun raids on Balkans		
		451	Hun invasion of Gaul	455	Vandal sack of Rome
		451	Council of Chalcedon		459-84 Reign of Peroz
		453	Death of Attila		Persian wars with the Hephthalites
		454	battle on the Nedao	468	Attack by eastern fleet fails
		455-7	Reign of Avitus	476-84	Reign of Huneric; 'persecution' of Catholics
480s/490s?	Patrick in Ireland	474-91	reign of Zeno		
		476/80	Formal end of western Empire		488-97, 499-531 Reign of Kavad I; Mazdakite movement.
		c. 481-c. 511	Reign of Clovis in Gaul		

Chronology of main events, 238–1000 (continued)

British Isles	Western Europe	Eastern Europe	North Africa	Near East
490s Battle of Badon	493 Ostrogothic kingdom established in Italy			
	507 Battle of Vouillé			
	c. 511 Division of Frankish kingdom	527–65 reign of Justinian	523–30 Reign of Hilderic	c. 525 Dhu Nuwas in the Yemen
c. 540 Gildas writing 'De Excidio'	535–53 Wars in Italy, leading to imperial conquest	527–33 'Corpus Iuris Civilis'	533 Imperial conquest of Africa	531–79 Reign of Khusrō I
		532 Nika Riots		540 Persian sack of Antioch
	558–61 Francia united under Chlotar I (c. 511–61)	550s Beginning of Slav penetration of Balkans	543 Berber revolt	536 Council of Carthage
c. 560–c. 590 Career of Ceawlin	568 Lombard invasion of Italy under Alboin		548 Revolt suppressed	
563/5 Foundation of Iona	569–86 Reign of Leovigild in Spain		563 New Berber revolt	570? Birth of Muhammad
	574–84 'Interregnum' in Lombard kingdom			579–90 Reign of Hormizd IV
	589 Third Council of Toledo			
	590–616 Reign of Agilulf in Italy			
597 Arrival of Augustine in Kent and death of Columba	590–604 Gregory the Great, bishop of Rome			591 Maurice installs Khusrō II in Iran

604	Death of Augustine	594	Death of Gregory of Tours	590s	Campaigns against Slavs		
				602	Overthrow of Maurice		
		613	Unification of Francia under Chlotar II	610	Fall of Phocas	610	Revolt of Heraclius
c. 626-55	Reign of Penda in Mercia	620s	Isidore writing 'History' and 'Chronicle'			610	Muhammad's revelations begin
629-32	Roman mission in Northumbria					614	Persian capture of Jerusalem
632	Death of Edwin	623-38	Rule of Dagobert I in Francia	626	Avar siege of Constantinople	622	The Hijra
633-42	Reign of Oswald in Northumbria	636	Death of Isidore of Seville	636	Battle of Yarmuk	628	Murder of Khusro II
		639	Thuringian revolt	641	Death of Heraclius I	630	Muhammad conquers Mecca
642-70	Reign of Oswy in Northumbria	649-72	Reign of Recessuinth	649	Arab conquest of Cyprus	632	Succession of Abu Bakr
655-8	Northumbrian rule over Mercia	654	Issue of 'Forum Iudicum'			634	Succession of 'Umar
						636	Arab conquest of Jerusalem
						640	Conquest of Egypt
						642	Collapse of Persia before Arabs
						651	Death of last shah, Yazdgard III
						661-80	Mu'awiya first Umayyad Caliph

Chronology of main events, 238–1000 (continued)

British Isles	Western Europe	Eastern Europe	North Africa	Near East
663/4 Synod of Whitby	657–664/5 Regency of Balthildis			
	c. 660–73, 675–80, Ebroin Mayor of Palace in Neustria	668 Murder of Constans at Syracuse	669 Arab invasion under 'Uqba	
	673 War between Wamba and Paul	674–7 Arab siege of Constantinople	670 Foundation of Kairouan	
685 Battle of Dunnichen		681 Bulgars established in Balkans	683 Death of 'Uqba ibn Nafi	680–4 Civil wars
	687 Battle of Tertry		698 Arab capture of Carthage	
705 Death of Adamnán			700–12 Governorship of Musa ibn Nusayr	
709 Death of Aldhelm	711 Arab invasion of Spain	711 Overthrow of Justinian II		
	712–44 Reign of Liutprand in Italy			
	714–19 Charles Martel gains control of Austrasia and most of Neustria	717 Arab siege of Constantinople and accession of Leo III		
716–57 Reign of Æthelbald of Mercia				724–43 Caliphate of Hisham
	720s Charles restores control east of Rhine			

731	Bede finishes his 'History'	733	Battle of Poitiers	726	Leo III's first Iconoclast measures
735	Death of Bede	735	Charles occupies Aquitaine		
		737 and 739	campaigns in Provence		
		741-7	joint rule of Pippin III and Carloman	741-75	Reign of Constantine V; most intense period of Iconoclasm
		749-56	Reign of Aistulf in Italy	744-55	Rule of Ibn Habib
		751	Coronation of Pippin III	743-50	Conflicts in Syria
754	Death of Boniface	756	Umayyad Amirate founded in Spain	749	'Abbasid revolt
757-96	Reign of Offa of Mercia			750	Umayyads replaced as Caliphs by the 'Abbasids
766	Death of Archbishop Egbert of York - Alcuin's teacher	768-814	Reign of Charlemagne	761	Restoration of 'Abbasid rule
		772-804	Saxon wars	762	Foundation of Baghdad
		774	Frankish conquest of Lombard kingdom	777	Rustamid kingdom in W. Algeria
				786-809	Reign of Harun ar-Rashid
				789	Idrisid kingdom in Morocco
				775-80	Reign of Leo IV the Khazar

Chronology of main events, 238–1000 (continued)

British Isles	Western Europe	Eastern Europe	North Africa	Near East
793 Viking raid on Lindisfarne	790s Frankish Avar wars	787 Second Council of Nicaea		
802–39 Reign of Egbert of Wessex	800 Imperial coronation of Charlemagne	796 Blinding of Constantine VI	800 Aghlabid kingdom in Tunisia	
804 Death of Alcuin	808–10 Frankish conflict with Godfred	802 Deposition of Empress Irene		
	814–40 Reign of Louis the Pious	811 Defeat of Nicephorus by Bulgars		
	817 'Ordinatio Imperii'	813 Iconoclasm revived by Leo V (813–20)		813–19 Civil war in Caliphate
829 Compiling of 'Historia Brittonum'	822 Louis's penance at Attigny	814 Death of Khan Krum of Bulgars		
835 Beginning of Viking raids on Wessex	830–4 Civil wars in Francia	815 Byzantine–Bulgar peace treaty	827–78 Aghlabid conquest of Sicily	
	835 Beginning of Danish raids on Francia	830, 837 Byzantine victories over Arabs		836 Samarra becomes 'Abbasid capital
	840–3 Civil wars in Francia			
	843 Treaty of Verdun	847 End of Iconoclasm		
850/1 First Viking wintering in Britain				
	858 Louis the German invades West Francia	860 Rhos attack Constantinople	861 Murder of caliph Al Mutawakkil: ascendancy of Turks in the 'Abbasid Caliphate until 945	

867	Danish conquest of York	866-910	Reign of Alfonso the Great in Asturias	864	Conversion of the Bulgars
869/70	Conquest of East Anglia			867	Macedonian dynasty in Byzantium lasts until 1056
871-99	Reign of Alfred of Wessex			868	Aghlabids take Malta
871	Battle of Ashdown	871	Byzantines recapture Bari		
874	Danes expel Burghred from Mercia	872	Louis II forced to leave south Italy		
		875	Charles the Bald crowned emperor		
878	Danes' winter attack on Alfred, Battle of Edington	877	Death of Charles the Bald	870s	Byzantine campaigns in Asia Minor under Basil I (867-86)
		879-92	Resumed Viking raids in N. Francia		
		881	Imperial coronation of Charles the Fat		
		882	Death of Hincmar of Reims		
886	Alfred captures London	885-6	Viking siege of Paris	886-912	Reign of Leo the Wise

Chronology of main events, 238–1000 (continued)

British Isles	Western Europe	Eastern Europe	North Africa	Near East
892 New Danish invasion under Haesten	887 Deposition of Charles the Fat	889 Abdication of Boris		
894 Dispersal of the invaders		893 Symeon becomes ruler of the Bulgars		892 Baghdad restored as 'Abbasid capital
909 Wessex armies harry Viking kingdom of York	911 Charles the Simple's treaty with Rollo; Carolingian dynasty in E. Francia extinct		909 Aghlabids overthrown by Fatimids	
		912–59 Reign of Constantine VII Porphyrogenitos		
918 Death of Æthelred; Wessex annexes western Mercia				
920 Wessex conquest of East Mercia	912–61 Rule of 'Abd ar-Rahman III in Spain	917–24 Bulgar attacks on Byzantium		
924–39 Reign of Athelstan	923 Deposition of Charles the Simple	920–44 Romanos Lecapenos co-emperor		
937 Battle of Brunanburh	936 Restoration of Carolingian rule in France with Louis IV (d. 954)	927 Death of Tsar Symeon of the Bulgars; peace made with Byzantium		945 Buyids take Baghdad; 'Abbasid Caliphs under Buyid control until 1055
944 Edmund of Wessex conquers Northumbria	939 Battle of Simancas			

948 Eadred of Wessex harries Northumbria			
942-50 Hywel Dda 'King of all Wales'	955 Battle on the Lech	957 Visit of Olga to Constantinople	
	960 Hugh Capet 'Duke of the Franks'	c. 962-71 Rule of Svyatoslav in Kiev	
961-88 Dunstan Archbishop of Canterbury	962 Imperial coronation of Otto I	963-9 Reign of Nicephorus Phocas	
	972 Otto (II) marries Byzantine princess	969 Byzantium regains Antioch	969 Fatimids take Cairo
	973 Coronation of Edgar at Bath	973-83 Reign of Otto II	969-76 Reign of John Zimiskes
		970 Defeat of 'Rhos' invasion of Thrace	972 Zirid kingdom in Tunisia
975-8 Reign of Edward the Martyr	982 Otto II defeated in southern Italy	980-1025 Rule of Basil the Bulgar-slayer	
978-1016 Reign of Æthelred the Unready		978 Vladimir becomes ruler of Kiev	
	987 End of Carolingian rule in France; Hugh Capet crowned	c. 987 Conversion of Vladimir	
980 Viking raids on southern England			
991 Battle of Maldon	994 Otto III attains his majority		
990s Mounting Viking attacks	1000 Conversion of Iceland	995-1000 Olaf Tryggvason King of Norway	
	1002 Death of Otto III		