

### **III. European History 1.0**

#### A. The Simple Answer

1. Why does modern Europe want *supranationalism*? The explanation can only be found in its history.
2. The simple answer is: *the World Wars*.
3. They were the worst wars of the last century, between rival nations that all wanted to create huge empires.
4. When they almost destroyed themselves in these wars, Europeans were faced with the challenge of redefining who they wanted to be. Seeking a way to avoid wars between their nations, their leaders decided to try to make something more important than nations: a “United States” of Europe.

#### B. The Question That Follows

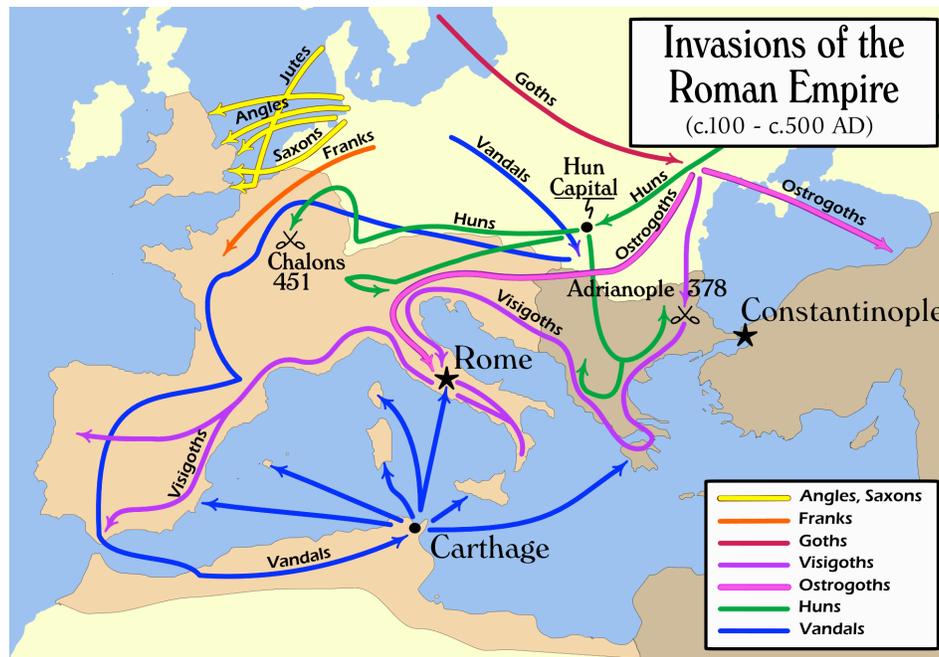
1. The basic idea is that *supranationalism* was adopted as a way to stop *nationalism* after the *World Wars*. However, *all* the world’s major cultures experienced the *World Wars* in one way or another, but only Europe turned to *supranationalism* afterwards. The *World Wars* are not themselves the explanation for the rise of *supranationalism*. They are merely the “trigger.” The explanation is found deeper in European history.
2. The questions must thus be asked: how did Europe become the kind of culture that would almost destroy itself in the *World Wars*, leading to *supranationalism*?

#### C. The Origin of European Civilization

1. To understand the evolution of European civilization, we must follow its history from start to finish.
2. The beginning is the Fall of Roman Empire, a vast empire that controlled almost all of Europe. It began in ancient times, and lasted until it was destroyed by barbarian tribes.
3. It took about a century for the Roman Empire to collapse, and in the year **476 AD**, the last Roman leader to call himself an “emperor” in Rome was deposed (kicked off the throne). His name was Romulus Augustus, but he gave up his throne and disappeared from history.

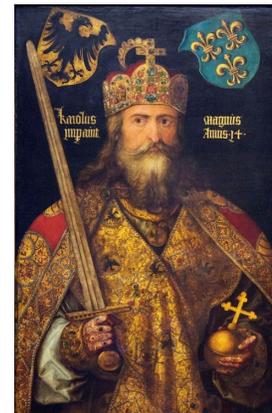
#### C. The Era of Musical Kingdoms

1. After that, many barbarian tribes competing to claim some part of the map for themselves.
2. This period is sometimes called the “Dark Ages.” Since most people then were illiterate barbarians at war with one another, this is an accurate name, especially when compared to the time of the Roman empire, which boasted an advanced governmental, a stable way of life, and technology such as roads, bridges, and running water.

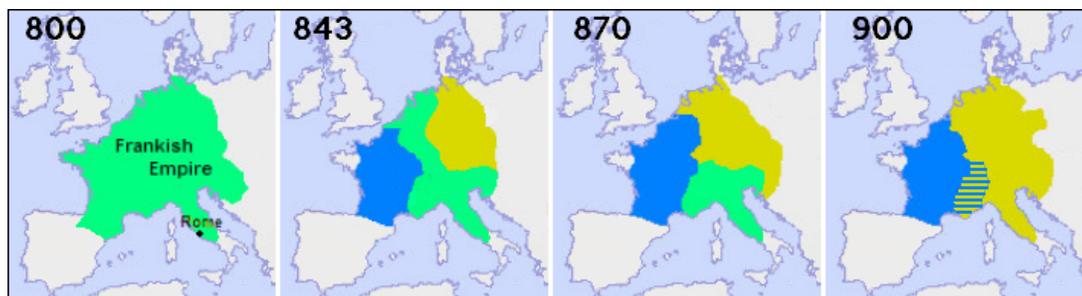


During the extended anarchy of the “Dark Ages,” barbarian tribes migrated continually and fought one another for control over the carcass of the Roman Empire.

3. In a way, however, this period can be thought of as “The Era of Musical Kingdoms,” because it’s like a game of musical chairs.
4. When the game came to an end, one tribe—the Franks—had achieved primacy, and one leader—Charlemagne—had become the undisputed leader of Europe.
5. Charlemagne’s empire did not last, however. His was a charismatic monarchy, meaning a monarchy powered by his “charisma” (an undefinable “gift” of leadership ability).
6. After Charlemagne died, his own son passed on the empire to *three grandsons*. It was a Frankish tradition that the king passed on his land to *all* his male heirs, not just the oldest. The result in **843 AD** was the breakup of a united Europe into at first three kingdoms, and then after wars between the brothers, just two: *essentially France and Germany*.



Charlemagne - the first emperor of a European union, c.800 AD.



The Frankish empire under the rule of Charlemagne broke up into France and Germany.