

Recommended reading about the Franks and the Carolingian Empire

Compiled for the History paper Part I, Paper 13: 'European History, 31 BC – AD 900' by Rosamond McKitterick, Tom Hooper, Michael Humphreys and Richard Sowerby

MEROVINGIAN GAUL AND THE FRANKS

Sources:

- Gregory of Tours, *Ten Books of Histories* trans. L. Thorpe, *Gregory of Tours: The History of the Franks* (1974)
- Fredegar, *Chronicle* trans. J. Wallace-Hadrill, *The Fourth Book of the Chronicle of Fredegar, with its Continuations* (1960)
- Collected sources, trans. A. Murray, *From Roman to Merovingian Gaul: A Reader* (2000)
- Collected sources, trans. P. Fouracre and R. Gerberding, *Late Merovingian France: History and Hagiography, 640–720* (1996)

Introductions:

- P. Geary, *Before France and Germany: The Creation and Transformation of the Merovingian World* (1988)
- E. James, *The Franks* (1988)
- J. Wallace-Hadrill, *The Long-Haired Kings and Other Studies in Frankish History*
- I. Wood, *The Merovingian Kingdoms, 450–751* (1993)

Further reading:

- J. Drinkwater and H. Elton (eds.), *Fifth-Century Gaul: A Crisis of Identity?* (1992)
- Y. Hen, *Culture and Religion in Merovingian Gaul, AD 481–751* (1995)
- E. James, *The Franks* (1988)
- R. Mathisen and D. Shanzer (eds.), *Society and Culture in Late Antique Gaul: Revisiting the Sources* (2001)

I. Wood (ed.), *Franks and Alamanni in the Merovingian Period: An Ethnographic Perspective* (1998)

Clovis:

W. Daly, 'Clovis: how barbaric, how pagan?', *Speculum* 69 (1994), 18–39

I. Wood, 'Gregory of Tours and Clovis', *Revue belge de philologie et d'histoire* 63 (1985), 249–72

Gregory of Tours:

W. Goffart, *The Narrators of Barbarian History (A.D. 550-800): Jordanes, Gregory of Tours, Bede, and Paul the Deacon* (1988) [ch. 3]

M. Heinzelmann, *Gregory of Tours: History and Society in the Sixth Century*, trans. C. Carroll (2001)

K. Mitchell, *The World of Gregory of Tours* (2002)

THE CAROLINGIAN EMPIRE

Sources:

Einhard, *Life of Charlemagne*, trans. D. Ganz, *Two Lives of Charlemagne* (2008) [among other available translations]
Collected sources, trans. B. Scholz, *Carolingian Chronicles: Royal Frankish Annals and Nithard's Histories* (1970)
Collected sources, trans. P. Dutton, *Carolingian Civilization: A Reader* (1994)

Introductions:

M. Costambeys, M. Innes and S. MacLean, R. McKitterick (ed.), *The Carolingian World* (2011)
R. McKitterick, *The New Cambridge Medieval History. Volume II: c. 700–c. 900* (1995)
J. Nelson, *The Frankish Kingdoms under the Carolingians, 751–987* (1983)
The Frankish World, 750–900 (1996)

The emergence of the Carolingians:

P. Fouracre, *The Age of Charles Martel* (1999)
R. Gerberding, *The Rise of the Carolingians and the Liber Historiae Francorum* (1987)
R. McKitterick, 'The illusion of royal power in the Carolingian annals', *English Historical Review* 115 (2000), 1–20

Expansion and warfare:

- P. Godman and R. Collins (eds.), *Charlemagne's Heir: New Perspectives on the Reign of Louis the Pious (814–840)* (1990) [chapters by Noble and Reuter]
- G. Halsall, *Warfare and Society in the Barbarian West, 450–900* (2003) [esp. ch. 4]
- T. Reuter, 'Plunder and tribute in the Carolingian empire', *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society* 35 (1985), 391–405

Charlemagne:

- S. Airlie, 'Narratives of triumph and rituals of submission: Charlemagne's mastering of Bavaria', *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society* 9 (1997), 93–119
- R. McKitterick, *Charlemagne: The Formation of a European Identity* (2008)
- J. Nelson, 'Women at the court of Charlemagne: a case of monstrous regiment?', in *Medieval Queenship*, ed. J. Parsons (1993); rptd in J. Nelson, *The Frankish World* (1996), pp. 223–42
- J. Story (ed.), *Charlemagne: Empire and Society* (2005)

Louis the Pious:

- P. Godman and R. Collins (eds.), *Charlemagne's Heir: New Perspectives on the Reign of Louis the Pious (814–840)* (1990) [chapters by Noble and Reuter]
- M. Innes, 'Charlemagne's will: piety, politics and the imperial succession', *English Historical Review* 112 (1997), 833–55
- M. de Jong, *The Penitential State: Authority and Atonement in the Age of Louis the Pious, 814–840* (2009)

The later Carolingians:

- E. Goldberg, *Struggle for Empire: Kingship and Conflict under Louis the German, 817–876* (2006)
- S. MacLean, *Kingship and Politics in the Late Ninth Century: Charles the Fat and the End of the Carolingian Empire* (2003)
- S. MacLean, 'Charles the Fat and the Viking Great Army: the military explanation for the end of the Carolingian empire', *War Studies Journal* 3 (1998), 74–95
- J. Nelson, *Charles the Bald* (1992)

- T. Reuter, *Germany in the Early Middle Ages* (1991)
- C. West, *Reframing the Feudal Revolution: Politics and Social Transformation between Marne and Moselle, c. 800–c. 1100* (2013)

Kingship, government and law:

- F. Ganshof, *The Carolingians and the Frankish Monarchy* (1972)
- M. Innes, *State and Society in the Early Middle Ages* (1999) [esp. pp. 118–28 and 172–241]
- R. McKitterick, *The Carolingians and the Written Word* (1989) [chs. 2 and 6]
- J. Nelson, ‘Kingship and empire’, in *Carolingian Culture: Emulation and Innovation*, ed. R. McKitterick (1993), pp. 52–87
- J. Nelson, ‘Literacy in Carolingian government’, in *The Uses of Literacy in Early Medieval Europe* (1990), pp. 258–96; rptd in J. Nelson, *The Frankish World, 750–900* (1996), pp. 1–36

The ‘Carolingian renaissance’:

- P. Brown, *The Rise of Western Christendom: Triumph and Diversity, AD 200–1000* (2nd ed., 2003) [ch. 19]
- J. Contreni, ‘The Carolingian renaissance: education and literary culture’, in *The New Cambridge Medieval History. Volume II: c. 700–c. 900*, ed. R. McKitterick (1995), pp. 709–57
- J. Contreni, *Carolingian Learning, Masters and Manuscripts* (1992)
- R. McKitterick, ‘The Carolingian renaissance of culture and learning’, in *Charlemagne: Empire and Society*, ed. J. Story (2005), pp. 151–66

- R. McKitterick, 'Royal patronage of culture in the Frankish kingdoms under the Carolingians: motives and consequences', *Settimane di studio del Centro italiano di studi sull'alto Medioevo* 39 (1992), pp. 93–135
- R. McKitterick (ed.), *Carolingian Culture: Emulation and Innovation* (1993)
- J. Nelson, 'On the limits of the Carolingian renaissance', in *Renaissance and Renewal in Christian History*, ed. D. Baker (1977), pp. 51–69; rptd in J. Nelson, *Politics and Ritual in Early Medieval Europe* (1986), pp. 49–67

Church and reform:

- M. de Jong, 'Charlemagne's church', in *Charlemagne: Empire and Society*, ed. J. Story (2005), pp. 103–35
- M. de Jong, 'Monasticism and the power of prayer', in *The New Cambridge Medieval History. Volume II: c. 700–c. 900*, ed. R. McKitterick (1995), pp. 622–53
- R. McKitterick, *The Frankish Church and the Carolingian Reforms, 789–895* (1977)