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Actually in our organization, or lack thereof, there are three divisions to the mediaeval period:

Early or the dark ages where we are now...to 1054
Scholastic, 1054-1416
Pre-Reformation, 1416-1520

And the exact dates on these may be suspect. There is some arbitrariness in it all but it is more for the purpose of simplicity in handling than for deceit! Each of these periods has certain subdivisions of its own and we will comment on these as we come to them.

Historical Flow

The general flow of history may be briefly sketched:

Politically the flow was one of movement from barbarian warlords to established governments of national proportion.