

model. As a militarist he was an enormously capable man and socially possessed a much better understanding of culture than any of his predecessors or successors. Fond of education, he could read Latin and some Greek. He founded a school at his court directed by the British monk Alcuin and where the educationally famed "trivium" and "quadrivium" were developed into a curriculum model. Charles used the church to his own advantage but seems to have had a heart for it as well. He was not devoid of the medieval vices and he was vicious in warfare but on the whole was a very enlightened man for his time. On Christmas Day, 800 AD, Leo III of Rome crowned him "King of the Romans." Relations between the two offices were at a high point and this is an important factor in the development of the Roman political authority. In church work Charles is noted for the convening of the Synod of Frankfurt and his opposition to the teaching of adoptionism. He apparently was misled as to the outcome of Nicaea II and consequently mishandled the icon issue in the west..but in fact the matter was of much less consequence in the west.

Following Charlemagne, the Frankish kingdom will go into a gradual decline and although it will continue as a political force it will not maintain the level of intensity or political acumen that it knew in the days of these kings. Charles is followed by Louis the Pious (d. 843), Charles the Bald (d. 877) and eventually Louis the Child (d. 911). The fortunes of the Franks deteriorated progressively. By 900 the Italian territories were lost and a number of "independent" monarchies had sprung up in fringe Frankish areas. It will be succeeded in the emperorship role in the west by the Teutonic lords.

The Germanic Kingdoms

The best word to describe this group is "Teutonic" but if we understand the use of the word "German" in an anachronistic sense we will find it the more politically understandable term. Political Germany as we have known it was created in the 19th century and for all the period of mediaeval European history it was a very loose confederation of states often at war with one another or someone else!

As the Frankish kingdom weakened, so the Germanic