

grew stronger. Eventually the German warlords took over where the Franks had stopped. The first Germanic king of note was Henry the Fowler (919-936). He was elected the overall king of the Teutonic states, a titular office with little power but with the idea of a popular unity among those peoples. He was still king, in a real sense, in his own territory. The German lords made the election whenever a new leader was needed so the office was not hereditary. The elected leader would give unity and order to the territories in case of attack by a foreign power or a need of commitment to a common cause. He would also seek to discourage in-fighting and marshall protection against moves by the Huns, the Turks, or whomsoever. Henry's reign marks the transition of power from the Franks to the Germans.

Henry's immediate successor was Otto I (936-973 as king)..a young and impulsive ruler who would embroil the state in battles with the church..battles that would have far-reaching implications. The heart of the problem was in what is called the lay investiture controversy. The question is: who has the authority to invest another with ecclesiastical office? Since the bishops in a territory also served as civil officers, and in the interest of the king, Otto felt it was his right to appoint bishops...particularly in newer territories but especially so that the men serving the provinces would be trusted by the king. Since he was not ordained, the church saw this action as a lay appointment of an ecclesiastical party and the reaction against it in the church was large. The Bishop of Rome strongly opposed the idea and asserted that no king could appoint one to spiritual office since the king did not hold such office himself! In many church courts it was expressed that only appointments of clerically approved persons carried the approval of heaven. Thus at times one could find two bishops working the same see...one sent by the king and another by the church bodies. In the western world the office of the Roman bishop (or any other) would then be subject to the whims of the king.

Unable to fully have his way in this, Otto concluded that if he controlled Italy and the Papacy...he could then appoint popes that would support his view. He gathered his forces and since the Bishopric of Rome was particularly vulgar at this time, persuaded many that a purification of the church was in order. He marched on Italy and Rome in 964 and would have done anything he wished but John XII...one who had been