

- the conquerors were Arian Christians
- the Ostrogoths "protected" the city and gave a sanctuary approach to the church
- when the Ostrogoths could no longer do this the eastern empire gave military protection and help.
- eventually, when the east was no longer efficient, a local leadership developed that was able to stabilize the politics and economic life of Rome...leader in this effort was Gregory I (590-604)
- the resultant creation of the Papal States created a national entity that could fend for itself on a local level.

b. The Conversion of the Franks

A Teutonic tribe, the Franks came into the Christian community at the end of the fifth century with the conversion of Clovis .. somewhat in the pattern of the conversion of Constantine. The Franks were not, at that time, an "international" power but a strong barbarian community. Frankish history is developed as the family line of Clovis (Merovingians) gave place to the Carolingian line about 700 AD. For awhile both families ruled but the eventual climax found the Carolingians emerging the stronger and this became the founding dynasty of the greater Frankish Empire. We trace the history by the rulers:

- Pippen (714)
- Charles Martel (740)..delivered Europe from the Islamic forces..confined the inroads of Islam to the Iberian peninsula.
- Pepin the Short (771)..who, in 754 in a deal with the Bishop of Rome (Zachary and Stephen) was ecclesiastically recognized as king of all the Franks and who then added territories to the papal states.
- Chalemagne (814) Expanded the Frankish Empire to its greatest extent and was, in 800 (Christmas Day), crowned "King of the Romans" by the Bishop of Rome at a ceremony in Rome.