

the national states in a few centuries and that would produce added confusion. Bu the political/ ecclesiastical entity would be hard to overcome.

### 3. Ecclesiastical Development

But if there is a secret to Rome's place in ascendancy, it is the matter of its ecclesiastical development that gave it continuity, authority, and power. We may track this on certain lines:

#### a. The papacy

This central office provided a monolithic structure for the church as a whole and while it might not be what you would want to do, it does comprise an effective operation.

--Originally the bishop of the Roman church was chosen as were other bishops..the vote and consent of the people of the community.

--Early bishops often claimed great powers for themselves on the strength of their position and prestige. (Some of these are noted on pages 94-98 of this syllabus)

--Foundation ideas for a more emphatic and stronger papacy were found in the ideas given in the Donation of Constantine, the Fabian concessions, and the Decretals of Isidore. (I will note all of them.) These gave broad and effective powers to the papacy and, although they were all shown to be forgeries and fakes in later years, the aggrandizement of power was never given up.

--Papal selection came to be a key issue as national rulers saw the popes to be political threats. Kings tried to control the election process so that a papal leader favorable to them would be in place. About 1060 the new papal constitution called for an election of the pope by the "cardinals" the first clergy of Rome..one that could then be "ratified" in the other bishops. It was not a popular move with the kings of the time but eventually took the papacy out of the political arena.