THE FRANKS
FROM THE FALL OF ROME TO THE TREATY OF VERDUN
FRANKISH KINGDOM
RISE OF THE FRANKISH EMPIRE 476 TO CLOVIS
MEROVINGIAN DYNASTY 458-752 A.D.

“LONG HAIRRED KINGS”
"DO NOTHING KINGS"
FOUNDED BY MEROVUS OR MEROVEG
SECONDARY SOURCES
The Merovingian Kingdoms
450-751
Ian Wood

J.M. Wallace-Hadrill
The Long-Haired Kings
Medieval Academy Reprints for Teaching
Kingdom of Clovis

The kingdoms under the sons of Clovis
CLOVIS

- LIVED 466-511
- FIRST TRUE RULER OF THE FRANKS
- UNIFIED THE FRANKS
- BECAME A CHRISTIAN 496
QUEEN CLOTILDE

- CHRISTIAN PRINCESS OF BURGUNDY
- MARRIED CLOVIS
- HELPED CONVERT CLOVIS TO CHRISTIANITY
- SAINTED BY THE CHURCH
BAPTISM OF CLOVIS
SALIC LAW
FRANKISH (GERMANIC) LAW
WRITTEN DOWN DURING THE REIGN OF CLOVIS
SALIC LAW MONEY VALUES

- 1 DENAR = 15 CENTS
- 39.68 DENARS = 1 SHILLING
- 1 SHILLING = $5.95
SALIC LAW

• VARIOUS PENAL CODES
• PUNISHMENT BY ORDEAL, MONEY PAYMENT, BANISHMENT, EXILE
• GERMANIC INHERITENCE- ONLY A MAN CAN INHERIT LAND AND LAND OF A FATHER EQUALLY DIVIDED DIVIDED AMONG HIS SONS
SALIC LAW EXAMPLES
Title XI. Concerning Thefts or Housebreakings of Freemen.
1. If any freeman steal, outside of the house, something worth 2 denars, he shall be sentenced to 600 denars, which make 15 shillings.
2. But if he steal, outside of the house, something worth 40 denars, and it be proved on him, he shall be sentenced, besides the amount and the fines for delay, to 1400 denars, which make 35 shillings.
3. If a freeman break into a house and steal something worth 2 denars, and it be proved on him, he shall be sentenced to 15 shillings.
4. But if he shall have stolen something worth more than 5 denars, and it have been proved on him, he shall be sentenced, besides the worth of the object and the fines for delay, to 1400 denars, which make 35 shillings.
5. But if he have broken, or tampered with, the lock, and thus have entered the house and stolen anything from it, he shall be sentenced, besides the worth of the object and the fines for delay, to 1800 denars, which make 45 shillings.
6. And if he have taken nothing, or have escaped by flight, he shall, for the housebreaking alone, be sentenced to 1200 denars, which make 30 shillings.
Title XVIII. Concerning him who, before the King, accuses an innocent Man.
If any one, before the king, accuse an innocent man who is absent, he shall be sentenced to 2500 denars, which make 63 shillings.

Title XIX. Concerning Magicians.
1. If any one have given herbs to another so that he die, he shall be sentenced to 200 shillings (or shall surely be given over to fire).
2. If any person have bewitched another, and he who was thus treated shall escape, the author of the crime, who is proved to have committed it, shall be sentenced to 2500 denars, which make 63 shillings.
Title XXIV. Concerning the Killing of little children and women.
1. If any one have slain a boy under 10 years—up to the end of the tenth—and it shall have been proved on him, he shall be sentenced to 24000 denars, which make 600 shillings.
3. If any one have hit a free woman who is pregnant and she dies, he shall be sentenced to 28000 denars, which make 700 shillings.
6. If any one have killed a free woman after she has begun bearing children, he shall be sentenced to 24000 denars, which make 600 shillings.
7. After she can have no more children, he who kills her shall be sentenced to 8000 denars, which make 200 shillings.
Title XXX. Concerning Insults.
3. If any one, man or woman, shall have called a woman harlot, and shall not have been able to prove it, he shall be sentenced to 1800 denars, which make 45 shillings.
4. If any person shall have called another "fox," he shall be sentenced to 3 shillings.
5. If any man shall have called another "hare," he shall be sentenced to 3 shillings.
6. If any man shall have brought it up against another that he have thrown away his shield, and shall not have been able to prove it, he shall be sentenced to 120 denars, which make 3 shillings.
7. If any man shall have called another "spy" or "perjurer," and shall not have been able to prove it, he shall be sentenced to 600 denars, which make 15 shillings.
Title XVII. Concerning Wounds.
1. If any one have wished to kill another person, and the blow have missed, he on whom it was proved shall be sentenced to 2500 denars, which make 63 shillings.
2. If any person have wished to strike another with a poisoned arrow, and the arrow have glanced aside, and it shall be proved on him; he shall be sentenced to 2500 denars, which make 63 shillings.
3. If any person strike another on the head so that the brain appears, and the three bones which lie above the brain shall project, he shall be sentenced to 1200 denars, which make 30 shillings.
4. But if it shall have been between the ribs or in the stomach, so that the wound appears and reaches to the entrails, he shall be sentenced to 1200 denars—which make 30 shillings—besides five shillings for the physician's pay.
5. If any one shall have struck a man so that blood falls to the floor, and it be proved on him, he shall be sentenced to 600 denars, which make 15 shillings.
6. But if a freeman strike a freeman with his fist so that blood does not flow, he shall be sentenced for each blow-up to 3 blows—to 120 denars, which make 3 shillings.
Title LIX. Concerning Private Property.
1. If any man die and leave no sons, if the father and mother survive, they shall inherit.
3. If the father and mother do not survive, and he leave brothers or sisters, they shall inherit.
3. But if there are none, the sisters of the father shall inherit.
4. But if there are no sisters of the father, the sisters of the mother shall claim that inheritance.
5. If there are none of these, the nearest relatives on the father's side shall succeed to that inheritance.
6. But of Salic land no portion of the inheritance shall come to a woman: but the whole inheritance of the land shall come to the male sex.
INHERITANCE OF CLOVIS KINGDOM
SALIC LAW
GERMANIC INHERITANCE

CLOTAIRE I + QUEEN INGUND

CHARIBERT (died young) 567
GUNTRAM
SIGEBERT I a.weds BRUNHILDE
CHILPERIC I a.son of fathers incestous affair with Queen Ingunds sister.
b.first wife AUDOVERE
 c.2nd wife GALSWINTHA stranged in bed by FREDEGUND Chilperics mistress

VISIGOTHIC KING OF SPAIN
DAUGHTER

BLOOD FEUD BETWEEN BRUNHILDE AND FREDEGUND

SIGEBERT I + BRUNHILDE
HEUDEBERT, CHILDEBERT II +?
THIERRY II THIBERT II

BRUNHILDE + MEROVIOUS
(marriage dissolved by CHILPERIC I)
1. SIGEBERT I assassinated by agents of Fredegund (575ad)
2. GUNTRAM dies 592ad
3. CHILDEBERT II dies 595 leaving his two sons vs CLOTAIRE II
4. THIBERT II killed by Brunhilde 610
5. THIERRY II dies of dysentary
6. BRUNHILDE TAKES THRONE (tries to put her great grandson Sigebert Thierry's II son. king)

7. CLOTAIRE II calls for help and Brunhilde is captured and Thierry son is killed
8. 614ad Brunhilde is tortured for 3 days, paraded in front of the army riding a camel, then tied by one arm and one leg to a wild horse which trampled her and kicked her to pieces.
MAYOR OF THE PALACE

COMMANDER OF KINGS BODY GUARD

REAL POWER BEHIND THE MEROVINGIAN KINGS
PEPIN OF LANDEN

• MAYOR OF THE PALACE UNDER DAGOBERT I

• POWERFUL ENOUGH TO HAVE THE TITLE OF MAYOR OF THE PALACE TO BE MADE HEREDITARY

• WILL EVENTUALLY LEAD TO END OF THE MEROVINGIAN DYNASTY
FALL OF THE
MEROVINGIANS

CHARLES MARTEL AND THE
BATTLE OF TOURS
TRANSITION

MEROVINGIAN TO CAROLINGIAN

- VICTORY AT TOURS MADE MARTEL VERY POPULAR
- CHARLES SON PEPIN THE SHORT BECAME MAYOR OF THE PALACE
- KING CHILDERIC III RULED 742-752 HAD NO CHILDREN AND DYNASTY PASSED TO PEPIN