

# 2021-22 / LESSON 5 / 2021-10-14

## Early Middle Ages -- 476-~1000 ce/4

### 800

**Renovatio imperii** (reinstitution of a Roman Empire in the West): Charles king of the Franks and conqueror of the Langobards is crowned by pope Leo III as (Western) Roman emperor. Thus the pope makes the newly-appointed emperor, the most powerful leader in the West, his supporter against the heretic Byzantine emperors in the East, who do not acknowledge the primacy of the bishop of Rome.

[http://www.arielcaliban.org/PX\\_charles\\_the\\_great.pdf](http://www.arielcaliban.org/PX_charles_the_great.pdf)

[http://www.arielcaliban.org/PX\\_holy\\_roman\\_empire.pdf](http://www.arielcaliban.org/PX_holy_roman_empire.pdf)

### 804

Doge Mauritius Galbanius, supporter of close links with the Byzantine Empire, is deposed in favour of Obelerius and his son and prospective successor, Beatus, supporters of Charles.

**Coregents**, often (but not always) sons or other relatives of the doge, had a chance to practice politics and gain favour in view of the next election, thus hopefully limiting riot and bloodshed between factions. However, they still had to be elected by the *placitum*.

### 809

Charles plans to redirect the economy of the kingdom, based on agriculture and cattle breeding, toward sea trade, in order to compete against the economical power of the Byzantines from a basis in the **Venetia**.

**Pepin**, son of Charles, attacks Metamauco, but his borrowed ships get stranded during the low tide and his men are massacred by the *Venetici* who counter-attack on flat-bottomed boats.

[http://www.arielcaliban.org/PX\\_pipin.pdf](http://www.arielcaliban.org/PX_pipin.pdf)

Obelerius and Beatus, Frankish supporters, are exiled as traitors and Agnellus Parteciacus elected as doge.

At the presence of a Byzantine envoy, Arsaphius, as witness, the capital is officially moved to **Rialto**, an area of solid ground next to a deep canal, fit for a trading port. Moreover, Rialto is located in the very centre of a labyrinth of canals which only locals can navigate safely; any foreign comers must be piloted in and out of the lagoon to and from the mouths of the rivers along the coastline or to and from the open sea. This makes Rialto relatively safe from attacks both from the mainland and the Adriatic sea.

The area of the new seat of the government is nowadays the lowest above sea level, not anymore the highest, because of centuries of pressure from thousands of tons of bricks and stone.

## 812

**Pax Nicephori:** after difficult negotiations, in which the *Venetici* have no part, the Western emperor Charles and the Eastern emperor Nicephorus I Logothetes set the boundaries between the two Empires; the pact is ratified in 814 by the latter's successor, Michael I Rangabes.

Charles abandons his plans to make his Empire a sea power.

The area around the lagoons is marked according to the boundaries set by *Terminatio Liutprandina* and *Largitio Astolfina*, given that Charles is the successor of the Langobard kings.

During the IX, X and XI centuries, political life in the *Venetia* is unstable and often violent; doges are deposed, blinded, exiled or murdered and elections depend on fights between factions.

## Monographical section: Origins and development of a customary legal system/1

Development of original legal customs evolving from the Roman Theodosian base by national innovation as well as adoption and adaptation of foreign practices.

[http://www.arielcaliban.org/PX\\_prestatutory-customs.pdf](http://www.arielcaliban.org/PX_prestatutory-customs.pdf)