**Early Middle Ages -- 476-~1000 ce/2**

**572-584**

The Langobard territories extend to Central and Southern Italy, divided into duchies.

The Byzantines are restricted to a large area around Ravenna, across the Appennines to Rome, and to Liguria, Apulia, Calabria and the major islands.

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Italy/The-Lombard-kingdom-584-774>

**580-590**

Catastrophic weather and repeated floods extensively remodel the landscape and water courses of the eastern Po plain; the river Adige finds a new direct route to the sea and does not flow into the Po anymore, its mouth blocked by silt deposited in violent floods.

<https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rotta_della_Cucca>

**601-602**

The Langobards, led by their king Agilulph, defeat the Byzantines on the Veneto mainland and take hold of Padua, Monselice and Altino.

The bishop of Altino is now in Langobard territory.

<http://www.arielcaliban.org/PX_migrations.pdf>

**605**

The refugees choose a bishop of their own, with his seat in Grado.

Early infrastructures built in the lagoons. See:

-- Guido Perocco - Antonio Salvadori, *Civiltà di Venezia*, 1, *Le origini e il medio evo*, Venezia: La Stamperia di Venezia, 1973

-- Wladimiro Dorigo, *Venezia origini*, Milano: Electa 1983 (2 voll.).

<http://www.arielcaliban.org/PX_consolidation_of_soil.pdf>

<http://www.arielcaliban.org/PX_construction_techniques.pdf>

**622**

*Egira*, the move of Mohammad from Mecca, seat of the pagan cult of the Kaaba, to Yathrib = Medina

<http://www.arielcaliban.org/PX_islam.pdf>

**634**

The successor of Mohammad, the caliph Omar, establishes an expanding teocratic Empire in the Middle East and North Africa.

**636**

**Edict of Rotari**: the Langobard king enacts a body of fundamental laws which legificate and update Langobard customs. Introduction of wergild (damages due to the family of the victim of an illicit act, instead of revenge); private criminal law.

**637-639**

The Langobards expand into the Byzantine territories and take Oderzo. The *magister militum* moves from Oderzo to a new city called Cittanova or Eracliana, after the Eastern emperor Eraclius.

The Byzantine territory in the north-east of Italyis now reduced to *Venetia maritima*, that is the lagoons between Grado and Cavarzere with their islands and lidi, and a narrow coastal strip of no interest to the Langobards but essential for supply of water, wood for fuel and meagre pasture for the Venetici.

<http://www.arielcaliban.org/PX_cittanova.pdf>

<http://www.arielcaliban.org/PX_torcello.pdf>

**697**

Legendary election of the alleged first doge, Paulicius Anafestus; in fact, a celebratory myth introduced by chronicler Johannes Diaconus in the XI century through a misreading of *Terminatio Liutprandina* (see below).

**711**

The Muslim army led by Tariq crosses the Gibraltar strait and conquers most of the Iberian peninsula.

**712**

The Langobard king Liutprand updates the Langobard legal system and introduces deeds and witness as preferred evidence in trials, although the ritual evidence given through the judicial duel and the purgatory oath is maintained.

***Terminatio Liutprandina*** = setting of stones along the boundaries of the *Venetia maritima*, to mark them against the Langobard territories on the mainland.

The act was mythologised since the Middle Ages as an international pact between the first doge Paulus (called Anafestus) and the Langobard king Liutprand. Roberto Cessi (1885-1969) found instead that the setting of boundaries was unilaterally ordered by the hexarch in office, Paulus, to the *magister militum* of Cittanova, Marcellus. The mention of Liutprand sets the chronological date and reflects the immediate reason for the *terminatio*, but does not imply more than a mere knowledge of the act by the Langobard government.

**727**

The Byzantine emperor Leo III Isauricus promotes the **iconoclastic heresy**; the Latin people in Byzantine Italy take the parts of the popes Gregory II and III and rise against the Byzantines.

Ursus Ipatus may be a doge elected in the lagoons by the rebel *Venetici*.

<http://www.arielcaliban.org/PX_iconoclasm.pdf>

**732**

**Battle of Poitiers**: the *Europeenses* (an ephemeral coalition of Christian kings), led by the Merovingian Frank chamberlain Charles Martel, defeats the Muslim army and stops their expansion on the Continent.

Beginning of the Reconquista: during seven centuries, the Christian kings in Iberia push the Muslim back south, with no further help by other European kings, until Granada, the last Muslim fragment of territory, was recovered after a long siege in 1492.

**737**

The Byzantines quash the rebellions in Italy and recover their hold on the *Venetia maritima*, depose the doge Ursus and re-establish government by *magistri militum.*