

Medieval Empires: The Holy Roman Empire

AEIOU

- *Austria est imperio optime unita*
 - o Austria is the empire best united
- *Alles Erdreich ist Österreich untertan*
 - o All the World is subject to Austria

Formation of the Empire

Otto I

- 951 – 973 C.E.
- 936 – Duke of Saxony Otto I claims title of King of Germany
 - o Made sure top church officials were included in his government
- 962 – Pope John XII crowns Otto as emperor
 - o In thanks for again helping pope against Italian nobles
 - o Establishes the first “Reich” (Kingdom)
 - Holy Roman Empire
 - Empire of Three Lies
 - “Holy” – Emperors were crowned by the pope
 - o The Emperors and Empire was anything but
 - “Roman” – Saw themselves as Heirs to Roman throne
 - o They were Germans!
 - “Empire” – They saw themselves controlling all of central Europe
 - o Emperor never had complete control of vassals



Pope Gregory VII

- 1073 – 1085 C.E.
- Reformed Catholic Church
 - o Sought to strengthen power of pope
 - o Praised by some people
 - Hated by others
- Lay Investiture
 - o Previously lay people (not part of clergy) appointed bishops
 - o Made it so only pope could appoint bishops

Henry IV

- 1054 – 1106 C.E.
 - o King of Germany
 - o Thought that since Kings technically owned fiefs that bishops were on, he should be allowed to appoint bishops
 - o Gregory Disagreed
 - Pope and Henry exchange hateful letters
 - 1076 Pope excommunicates Henry
 - Briefly breaks empire’s allegiance to Henry
 - Henry repents and pope is forced to forgive
 - Gregory turns around and reunifies Germany then marches on Rome

Concordat of Worms

- 1122 C.E.
- Treaty between the Pope and Emperor
- Declared only pope could appoint bishops
 - o Emperors could appoint fiefs

Frederick Barbarossa

- 1155-1190 C.E.
- Dreamed of extending Empire into Italy and all the way to Greece
 - o Especially wanted to control the rich
- Italy unites under the "Lombard League"
 - o The pope along with Italian nobles/cities
- Able to defeat Barbarossa
- Legacy
 - o His son Frederick II
 - Took up father's mission to control northern Italy
 - Also failed
 - o Created further separation between pope and HRE
 - Lead pope to turn to France to overthrow HRE
 - o HRE remained un-united
 - Prevented Germany from becoming a state for another 600 years

