Political and Cultural Transformations:
From ANTIQUITY to the EARLY MIDDLE AGES

HUM 1B Lecture
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I. Introduction: Some Tensions in the Transition from Antiquity to the Middle Ages
   A. Old and New
      1. General Preference for the Old over the New
      2. Christianity and Old Faiths
         a) Jewish Origins of Christianity
         b) Veneration of Mary and the Saints
         c) Calendars and Pagan Religions
      3. Christianity’s Ambivalence towards Ancient Learning
   B. Church and State
      1. Mutual Support and Continuing Conflicts
      2. Byzantine Caesaropapism and Roman Papacy
   C. East and West
      1. Separation and Reunification of the Roman Empire
      2. Military Conflicts and Cultural Exchanges

II. Historical Background
   A. The Decline of the Roman Empire in the West and the Migrations of the 5th Century
   B. The Defeat of the Ostrogoths in Italy and the Rise of the Frankish Kingdom
   C. From Merovingians to Carolingians

III. The Revival of Learning and Education in Western Europe in the Time of Charlemagne: the "Carolingian Renaissance"
   A. Anglo-Irish Missionaries in Western Europe
   B. The Court of Charlemagne and the Educational Movement led by Alcuin
   C. The Dialogue of Charlemagne and Alcuin Concerning Rhetoric and the Virtues (ca. 794)
      1. The Dialogue as an Abridgment and Adaptation of Classical Learning
      2. Adaptations to Christianity
         a) Justification of the Use of Classical Learning
         b) Biblical References
         c) Emphasis on Moral Teaching
      3. Rhetorical Functions of the Dialogue
         a) Enhancing the Position of the Ruler
         b) Enhancing the Position of Education
      4. Educational Functions of the Dialogue
         a) The Teaching of the Seven Liberal Arts
         b) The Education of Ecclesiastical and Secular Functionaries
         c) Latinity and the Vernacular

IV. The Transmission of Law from Antiquity to the Middle Ages
   A. The Codification of Roman Law and the Condensation of Classical Jurisprudence in Justinian’s Corpus iuris (528-534)
      1. Aims of the Codification
      2. Process
      3. Structure
         a) Institutes
         b) Digest
         c) Code
         d) Novellae
   B. Roman Law and Indigenous Laws in the West after the 6th Century
      1. Complementarity and Competition between Roman and Indigenous Laws
      2. Secular and Ecclesiastical Law
   C. Outlook: The Revival and Reception of Roman Law after the 12th Century
Time Line

410  Sack of Rome by the Visigoths under Alaric
425  Roman forces leave England
430  St. Augustine dies; Hippo falls to the Vandals
431  Mary declared Mother of God at the Council of Ephesus
439  Carthage falls to the Vandals; establishment of a Vandal kingdom in North Africa
455  Sack of Rome by the Vandals
461  St. Patrick dies
476  Last West Roman emperor (Romulus Augustulus) deposed by Odoacer
493  Odoacer defeated and killed by the Ostrogoths under Theoderic, who establish an Ostrogothic kingdom in Italy (capital Ravenna)
496  Merovingian king Clovis I converts to (Catholic) Christianity
507  Byzantine emperor recognizes him as consul and Augustus
528-34  Compilation of Justinian's Corpus iuris
533-34  Byzantine forces defeat the Vandals, reconquer North Africa
ca. 547  St. Benedict of Nursia dies
554  Byzantine forces defeat the Ostrogoths, reconquer parts of Italy
568  Lombards invade northern Italy
643  Lombard law codified
ca. 660  Theodore of Tarsus comes to Canterbury as archbishop
ca. 690  St. Boniface begins his missionary work on the Continent of Europe
732  Carolingian mayor of the palace Charles Martel defeats Muslim forces from Spain at Tours
751  Pippin the Short deposes the last Merovingian king
753  Pope anoints Pippin and his sons
754-56  Pippin intervenes in Italy to protect the pope against the Lombards and thereby helps to lay the foundation for the Papal States
774  Charlemagne defeats the Lombards after their renewed attack on Rome and is crowned their king in Pavia
ca. 781  Alcuin of York becomes director of Charlemagne's palace school at Aachen (Aix-la-Chapelle)
ca. 794  Alcuin's Dialogue written
794  Council of Frankfurt approves vernacular for prayer
795  Charlemagne's edict "On Cultivating Letters"
800  Charlemagne crowned as "Emperor of the Romans" by Pope Leo III in Rome
802  Codification of Lex Saxonom combines elements of traditional Frankish and Saxon law
813  Council of Tours approves vernacular for sermons
814  Charlemagne dies in Aachen
ca. 833  Einhard completes his Life of Charlemagne
ca. 1088  Irnerius and his students begin intensive study of Justinian's Digest; early beginnings of what was to become the University of Bologna
ca. 1150  University of Paris founded
ca. 1167  University of Oxford founded