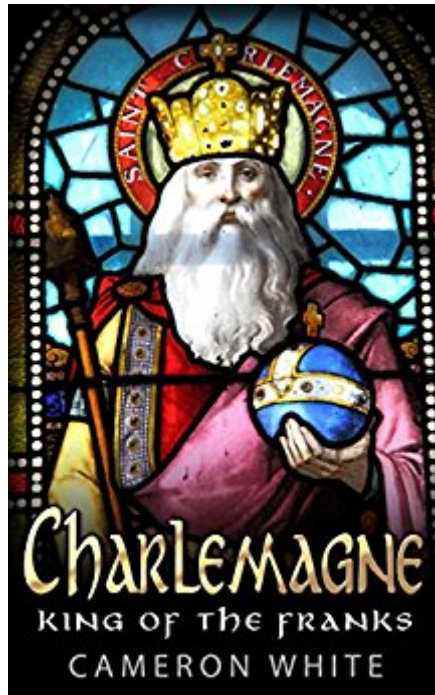


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# Charlemagne: King Of The Franks



## Synopsis

By the mid 8th century no centralized European authority had yet arisen to take the place of the Roman Empire since its collapse. But in Germany, the Frankish dynasty began to establish itself and eventually their kingdom covered most of modern day France as well as other parts of Central and Eastern Europe. In the midst of all of the chaos to control the land, one individual stood at the heart of the Franks' expansion: Charlemagne. A pious and arrogant leader, he made such an impact on the world he is still arguably one of the greatest kings to have ever ruled. Charlemagne established his dynasty and elevated his family's influence throughout Europe. His is a story full of violence and heroism, displaying political, social, and religious advances. It is a story that exhibits what it takes to be a king during a time in history where it was difficult to amount to anything at all. Author Cameron White in his book entitled Charlemagne: King of the Franks captures the essence of the warrior King Charlemagne, the time period in which he ruled and the great impact he had upon the world.

## Book Information

File Size: 379 KB

Print Length: 260 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Make Profits Easy LLC (December 2, 2015)

Publication Date: December 2, 2015

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B018W3ZJVQ

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #59,972 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #30 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Europe > France #45 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > World > Medieval #65 in Books > History > Europe > France

## Customer Reviews

This book was a decent primer on its subject, but suffers from a lack of depth and some nonexistent

editing. Worth reading for free but kind of a poor excuse for a professional biography. The author contradicts himself, too, i.e. stating on one hand how conquest and tribute provided little income in one chapter, then describing this income as vast and significant in another. I don't feel like I wasted my time reading it, nor do I feel like I just received a masterful education on Charlemagne.

Enjoyable book and it filled in a lot of information on a king I have heard about but never researched. Honestly it is easy to get lost in the myriad politics but the author did a good job avoiding too large a picture which would detract from the main character. There were some mentioned treaties broken which means that something caused the offender to feel they had the ability to challenge Charlemagne's authority that I was left unclear on but my preference would be to leave those for follow up study rather than have the author write a treatise on the entire political situation surrounding Charlemagne. One thing that really struck me was the practice of splitting the kingdom between all sons which seems designed to weaken a strong Frankish kingdom through balkanisation. I found this interesting because it is so different than what we are used to. Overall I really enjoyed the book but I believe it is one I need to read/listen to again with a notebook to list some follow up topics.

Charlemagne is the pious and arrogant leader, he made an impact on the world he is still certainly one of the greatest kings to have ever ruled. This book provides the information about the life of Charlemagne. This is a nice educational book which gives you the information about the history of Kingdom of Charlemagne.

The book sheds light on many facets of the middle ages and early renaissance through these explorations. As a result I was left with a few overwhelming impressions. First the vibrancy of a period commonly referred to as the dark ages. Second, the amazing ability for ideas to travel even before modern printing, easy roads, and the paper-let alone the internet. Man's ability to expand his horizons, or impair them, becomes apparent. The book also brought up many questions for future exploration in my mind, such as the role of Byzantium, the fourth crusade, the establishment of dynastic power post-Charlemagne and the papacy and reformation. I consider this a positive. In the end, to summarize, I recommend this book to those interested in Charlemagne and his legacy. Highly recommended.

I am not sure how much you can demand from a free e-book, and there were parts that were

reasonably well done. Unfortunately, other parts clearly showed a lack of understanding. It had the feeling of having been written by a high school student, and not an especially good one. I would find it hard to believe that the author ever studied economic history or economics, or history beyond the high school level. It is an easy read, and if you are looking for light reading for enjoyment you could do worse. On the other hand, if you are a student I would strongly recommend you avoid using it as a reference work.

This book is very enlightening and descriptive on the events of Charlemagne's reigning period. I have learned that during those Dark Ages, there was this one King that doesn't follow the norms of their society which one is marrying their own daughters. He is very effective as a King, precisely intelligent and courageous in pushing forward his ideas and ambitions. The book also discloses his influence on the church and the society. The book reveals his lifetime, not only his accomplishments but also the mistakes he made on the whole journey of his life.

Considering the absence of primary sources from the Dark Ages, this book pieces together lots of elements that make it a good starting point for those who want to understand a difficult period in Western Europe's history.

It's hard for me to say if this is a good book or not. I don't generally read a lot of history books. I like historical fiction, but always struggled with a straight history book. I did like the set up of the book. It gave a general overview of Charlemagne's rule in each topic reference. I did struggle in some sections, because I felt dragged down, which is why I generally struggle with pure history books. I did like it and I will try another.

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