



## **CLOVIS AND THE FRANKS: A QUICK TIMELINE**

- c.200-400 Franks established along the lower Rhine
- 476 Deposition of Romulus Augustulus (last western Roman emperor)
- c.481 Death of Childeric (Tournai); “Accession” of Clovis
- c.486 Defeat of Syagrius, son of Aegidius
- c.495 Clovis’ marriage to Burgundian princess Clothild
- 496 Traditional date of Clovis’ baptism and Alamanni war
- 503/506 Possible dates for the Battle of Tolbiac against the Alamanni
- 507 Battle of Vouillé, Clovis defeats Visigothic king Alaric II
- 508 Possible date of Clovis’ baptism
- 511 Death of Clovis, division of his kingdom (partitive inheritance)
- 534 The Franks conquer the Burgundians
- 561 Death of Chlothar I, redivision of the Frankish kingdom
- 569 Radegund promotes her Monastery of the Holy Cross at Poitiers
- 587 Treaty of Andelot between Childebert II, Guntram, and Brunhild
- 594 Death of Gregory of Tours (*History of the Franks*)
- 613 Reunification of the Frankish kingdoms of Neustria (west) and Austrasia (east) by Chlothar II; death of Brunhild
- 687 Battle of Tertry won by Austrasian mayor Pepin of Herstal
- 732 Muslim attack defeated by Pepin’s son Charles Martel at Poitiers
- 751 The last Merovingian king, Childeric III, deposed by Pepin the Short, the first Carolingian ruler
- 800 Charlemagne (768-814) crowned emperor in Rome

## **CLOVIS AND THE FRANKS: SOME SUGGESTED READING**

The last thirty years have seen a steady flow of books on the Franks and their place in the rapidly changing world which emerged from the collapse of the western Roman empire. The following suggestions provide some possible starting points for those who wish to read further, whether on the Franks themselves or the broader history of the early Germanic kingdoms and the rise of medieval Europe.

### **The Western Roman Empire and the Germanic Kingdoms**

- G. Halsall, *Barbarian Migrations and the Roman West, 376-568* (2007)  
P. Heather, *Empires and Barbarians: The Fall of Rome and the Birth of Europe* (2012)  
M. Innes, *Introduction to Early Medieval Western Europe, 300-900: The Sword, The Plough and the Book* (2007)  
C. Wickham, *The Inheritance of Rome: A History of Europe from 400 to 1000* (2009)

### **Clovis, Gregory of Tours and the Frankish Kingdoms**

- E. James, *The Franks* (1988)  
I. Wood, *The Merovingian Kingdoms 470-751* (1994)  
B. Effros and I. Moreira (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of the Merovingian World* (2020)  
R.W. Mathisen and D. Shanzer (eds.), *The Battle of Vouille, 507 CE: Where France Began* (2012)  
A.C. Murray (ed.), *A Companion to Gregory of Tours* (2016)

### **Primary Sources**

Our single most important source, the *History of the Franks* by Gregory of Tours, is translated by L. Thorpe in the Penguin Classics series (1974)

Extracts from Gregory's writings and from many other important sources on the Franks can be found in A.C. Murray, *From Roman to Merovingian Gaul: A Reader* (2008)