

KEY FIGURES OF MEDIEVAL EUROPE

A Chronological Reference Chart (500 - 1500 AD)

EARLY 481 - 511 **Clovis I** *King of the Franks*

United the Frankish tribes and converted to Catholicism, laying the foundations for the French monarchy.

742 - 814 **Charlemagne** *Emperor of the Romans*

Unified much of Western Europe and catalyzed the Carolingian Renaissance of culture and education.

HIGH 1028 - 1087 **William the Conqueror** *Duke of Normandy / King of England*

Led the Norman Conquest of England in 1066, fundamentally changing English society and law.

1122 - 1204 **Eleanor of Aquitaine** *Queen Consort of France and England*

One of the most powerful and influential figures of the era; patroness of the arts and mother to two kings.

1225 - 1274 **Thomas Aquinas** *Philosopher and Theologian*

Bridged the gap between Aristotelian philosophy and Christian theology in his "Summa Theologica."

LATE 1313 - 1375 **Giovanni Boccaccio** *Author and Poet*

Wrote "The Decameron," providing a vivid look at 14th-century life during the Black Death.

1412 - 1431 **Joan of Arc** *Military Leader and Saint*

Peasant girl who led French armies to crucial victories in the Hundred Years' War before being martyred.

1451 - 1504 **Isabella I of Castile** *Queen of Spain*

Unified Spain through her marriage to Ferdinand II and funded the expeditions to the New World.