RS Notes: The Growth of European Kingdoms

England in the High Middle Ages

* Increasing power of the monarchy
	+ 1066-William of Normandy defeated King Harold of England at the Battle of Hastings
		- William was crowned king
		- Gave fiefs to Norman knights
			* The Normans and the English merged to create a new English culture
		- Created the 1st census (Domesday Book) and new system of taxation
	+ Henry II (1154 to 1189)-enlarged the power of the English monarchy
		- Expanded the royal courts’ powers
		- This created **common law**- law common to the whole kingdom
			* Wanted the right to punish clergy in royal courts
				+ **Thomas á Becket** (Archbishop of Canterbury) disagreed
				+ Henry had 4 knights kill him
				+ There was public outrage and Henry backed off the Church
* Many began to resent the monarch’s power
	+ **1215 at Runnymede- King John was forced to agree to the Magna Carta (Great Charter)**
		- Recognized the feudal idea of mutual rights and obligations between lord and vassal
		- It paved the way for our current system of government
			* It was the original model of modern British democratic constitution
			* **It did not create Parliament, but gave people the right to**
	+ Parliament emerged during the reign of Edward I
		- It granted taxes and passed laws
		- Composed of two knights from each county, two people from each town, and all of England’s nobles and bishops
		- Later-nobles and church lords formed the **House of Lords**
		- Knights and townspeople formed the **House of Commons**

The French Kingdom

* The last Carolingian king died in 987
	+ Frankish nobles chose Hugh Capet as king
		- Established Capetian dynasty of French kings
		- Had very little power- only controlled area around Paris
			* Nobles were stronger
	+ Power grew under Philip II Augustus
		- Took back the French territories of Normandy, Maine, Anjou, and Aquitaine from the English
			* Greatly increased the income and power of the French monarchy
	+ Philip IV- greatly expanded the royal bureaucracy
		- Began the first French parliament-**Estates-General**
			* Made up of three estates (classes)
				+ **1st (clergy), 2nd (nobility), 3rd (commoners)**

The Holy Roman Empire

* 10th Century- Saxon dukes became kings of the eastern Frankish kingdom
	+ Best known- Otto I- became Roman Emperor after protecting the Pope
		- Tried to rule both German and Italian lands
	+ Frederick I considered Italy the center of a “holy empire,” hence the name Holy Roman Empire
		- 1176-N. Italian states and the pope allied to defeat Frederick’s army
* When the emperor was gone to war, the German nobles created their own independent states
	+ Unlike England and France, neither Italy nor Germany created a national monarchy
		- Consisted of small states and did not unify until the 19th century