

## **CAROLINGIAN EMPIRE: ORIGINS AND EXPANSION**

The prime minister in the Frankish Kingdom was the major-domo, who became more influential. In fact, one of them, Pippin the Younger occupied the throne in 751. This created a problem of legitimacy for him and his family ( ) that they solved by helping the Pope.

Pippin and their son, Charles, gave military help to the Pope (fighting with the Lombards in Italy) and, in exchange, the Pope gave the Carolingians the legitimacy they didn't have.

Charles came to the throne in 768, when his father died. He continued to expand his domains and in 800 was crowned emperor by the Pope, Leo III. He also received the title of "Magno" and he wanted to rebuild the Western Roman Empire, with its capital in Aquisgrán.

When Carlomagno died, in 814, his son Louis succeeded him and when he died, his sons fought among themselves over their inheritance. Finally, in 843 they made the Treaty of Verdun, which consisted on the division of the Carolingian Empire into various political units.

In the 10<sup>th</sup> century, the emperor Otto I established the Holy Roman Empire in the whole Central Europe and Northern Italy. This empire was made up of various autonomous kingdoms.