



Shotoku

573-622 A.D. A Japanese prince who introduced Buddhism to the already existing Shinto religion. Known for his many humanitarian efforts, he was also considered the "founder of Japanese civilization," with the writing of a constitution that formed a centralized government in Japan.



Mohammed

570-632 A.D. Arab prophet of Islam who began to preach as God's prophet at the age of 40 after seeing visions of a messenger angel. His revelations were written in the *Qur'An*. He established a theocratic state at Medina after 622 and began to convert Arabia to Islam.



Dionysius the Pseudo-Areopagite

sixth century A.D. A native of Syria and theologian, he wrote *Mystical Theology*, *Divine Names*, and *The Cloud of Unknowing*.



Justinian I

483-565 A.D. Byzantine emperor who reigned with his wife, Theodora, over the Eastern Empire, protecting it from the Persians and re-conquering former Roman territories. He instituted major administrative changes, forming a foundation of civil law in most of Europe.



Columba

521-597 A.D. Irish missionary who Christianized northern Scotland. He established a monastery with the help of 12 disciples on the island of Iona.



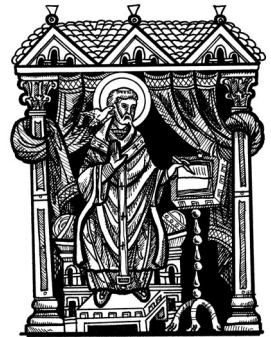
Abu Bakr

573-634 A.D. First caliph of Mecca, rising to power after the death of Mohammed, his son-in-law. He began the expansion of Islam as a political and military force throughout the Arab world.



Clovis

reigned from 481-511 A.D. A young king of the Franks and the Merovingian Dynasty, Clovis worshipped pagan gods until, failing in a battle with the Alemanni, Clovis turned to the God his Christian wife, Clotilde, worshipped. Defeating his opponent and giving God the glory, he returned home to destroy all pagan images and be publicly baptized a Christian. This witness led to a wave of conversions.



Pope Gregory the Great

590-604 A.D. Considered the greatest pontiff, Gregory established a papal system that lasted through the Middle Ages and brought about a tolerable peace. He initiated friendly relations with the Lombard court at Pavia and is believed to have arranged Gregorian chant.



The Sui Dynasty

589-618 A.D. Led by Yang Chien, originally an official of Northern Zhou, the dynasty led in a reunification of China after a period of decline. It was marked by tax relief and the building of the Grand Canal. His son, Yang Do, however, ruled with cruelty and reckless greed and was eventually killed, ending the Sui Dynasty.



Emperor Zeno

died 491 A.D. Originally from Isauria and bearing the name Tarasicodiss, he changed his name to "Zeno" after marrying the daughter of Leo I. Instated co-Augustus by Leo II in 474, they reigned jointly until Leo's death. Zeno's reign as Roman emperor was unpopular due to several controversies and conspiracies.



Theodora

508-548 A.D. Byzantine Empress who shared the throne of her husband, Justinian I, taking an active part in decision making.