



Empress Wu Zetian

625-705 A.D. A highly educated, beautiful 14-year-old concubine to the emperor T'ai Tsung, she went on after his death to become concubine to Koa Tsung. Her deceitful, greedy ways led to her ruthless domination of the throne, deposing her own son to achieve it. The only woman to ever rule China, she did so justly and brought about improvement.



The T'ang Dynasty

618-907 A.D. Ruling on the heels of the Sui Dynasty, the T'ang Dynasty, led by Li Yuan, gained its wealth and power from the canals built by the Sui, as communication was opened throughout the empire. It is known for its advancement of literature and the arts.



Cuthbert

634-687 A.D. English prior known for his care for plague victims. A supporter of Celtic evangelism at a time of ecclesiastical division, he gave in to Roman practice which soon dominated the English church. Sent to Lindisfarne to be prior under Eata, Cuthbert resigned his post, becoming a hermit. He was known as a protector of seabirds.

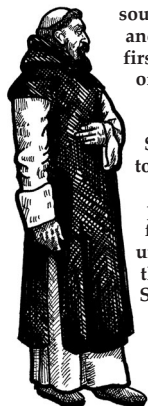


Boniface

675-754 A.D. English Roman Catholic missionary and archbishop whose major role was the Christianization of Germany.

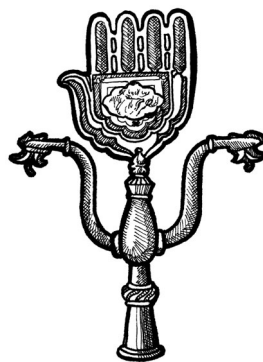
Augustine of Canterbury

died 604 A.D. Called the "Apostle of the English," this Italian-born missionary introduced Christianity to southern Britain and became the first archbishop of Canterbury, converting thousands of Saxon people to Christianity and helping pave the way for the future unity between the Celtic and Saxon people.



The Hegira

622 A.D. Flight of Mohammed from Mecca to Medina, defining the inception of the Muslim era. The Medieval Latin word "Hegira" comes from the Arabic *hijrah*, "flight" or "migration," and *hajara*, "to depart."

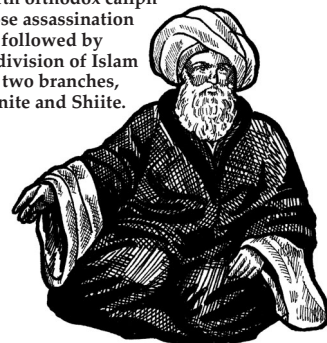


Fatima

616-633 A.D. Daughter of Mohammed, Fatima married Ali, and was among the first to embrace Islam. She is deemed by Muslims to be one of the "Four Perfect Women" and is the origin of the Fatimid dynasty of northern Africa.

Ali

600-661 A.D. Fourth orthodox caliph whose assassination was followed by the division of Islam into two branches, Sunnite and Shiite.



Epic of Beowulf

700 A.D. An Anglo-Saxon poem that illustrates historical Scandinavian events of the 6th century. It tells of the hero, Beowulf, who kills the tormenting monster, Grendel, and its mother. As king of the Swedish tribe of Geats, he is mortally wounded while slaying a dragon.



Bede

673-735 A.D. Known as "the Venerable Bede," an Anglo-Saxon historian and theologian recognized for his Latin work, *Ecclesiastical History of the English Nation*, which remains a significant source of ancient English history. He also instituted the system of dating events from the birth of Christ.

The Arab-Muslim Sweep

633-732 A.D. The Islamic empire sent its Muslim armies, rapidly spreading its religion across the Byzantine Empire. Called a "jihad" (holy war) by the Muslims, they continued east, conquering Mesopotamia, Anatolia, Persia, Afghanistan, India, Egypt, and the north coast of Africa.



Invading Spain, they were defeated by the Franks in 732, restricting their further passage into Europe; however the Muslim faith became established in the conquered lands.



Umayyad Dynasty

661-750 A.D. The first Arabian dynasty of the Islamic Empire led by reigning caliphs, with Damascus as its capital.