



Vladimir of Kiev

956-1015 A.D. Grand Russian prince, he negotiated a military alliance with the Byzantine emperor Basil II, trading marriage to his sister for a Christian conversion. Taking his Christianity seriously, he put aside pagan wives and mistresses, destroying idols and temples, and replaced them with churches, monasteries, and schools. Some of his former wives and sons revolted, causing his demise.



Otto I

912-973 A.D. Great Holy Roman Emperor and King of Germany. After defeating the Magyars and invading Italy, he advanced into Rome, deposing Pope John XII, and installed a new pope, Leo VIII, thus restoring the empire of Charlemagne.



Canute

994-1035 A.D. First king to successfully rule over a genuinely united realm of England, Denmark, and Norway, and the subject of many legends. Although his reign was cruel at first, it was later marked by wisdom and self-restraint. His protection of England preserved twenty years of peace during which trade, art, and Christianity were able to flourish.



Edward I

1003-1066 A.D. Known as "Edward the Confessor" and "Edward the Pious." English King and last of Anglo-Saxon line, his rule was marked by political contention between English and Norman sects. He founded Westminster Abbey.



"Good King" Wenceslaus

929 A.D. A Bohemian martyr and duke at 13 years old, his Christian upbringing by his grandparents overshadowed the pagan beliefs of his mother and brother. His rule abounded in Christian deeds, right down to the time of his death, when he forgave his brother, Boleslav, who sought to murder him.



Saint Simon (Simaan El Kharaz) and the Coptic Orthodox Church

979 A.D. The "Coptic Christians" of Egypt were a sect highly persecuted by the Muslims for their faith. A Muslim caliph challenged the Christians with a decree to prove the scripture that the faith of a mustard seed could move a mountain (Matt. 17:20). A vision from God led them to choose a simple shoemaker of extreme faith to represent them. When the crowd gathered, the Christians prayed, chanted, and bowed three times, resulting in the mountain rising and falling three times.



Rollo Dunstan

924-988 A.D. Bishop of Winchester, archbishop of Canterbury, and chief advisor to kings of Wessex, he preached peace among the Danes and the English. He reformed English monasticism.



Erik the Red

tenth century A.D. Norwegian navigator and explorer who founded the first settlement on the southwest coast of Greenland. Father of Leif Eriksson.



Song Dynasty

960-1279 A.D. Also known as the "Sung" Dynasty, Zhao Kuangyin reunited war-torn China. The dynasty achieved a high level of economic and cultural prosperity. It was eventually overthrown by the Mongols under Kublai Khan.



Hugh Capet

940-996 A.D. French king whose election as ruler permanently removed the Carolingians from power. This founded a Capetian line of rulers through intrigue and use of power against rivals that centralized their power and expanded the territory, moving toward a unified France.



Leif Eriksson

1000 A.D. Norwegian son of Erik the Red who continued the legacy of navigation. According to Norse sagas, while in search of land to the west, his ship was blown off course, thereby discovering North America and naming it "Vinland" due to its vines of grapes.