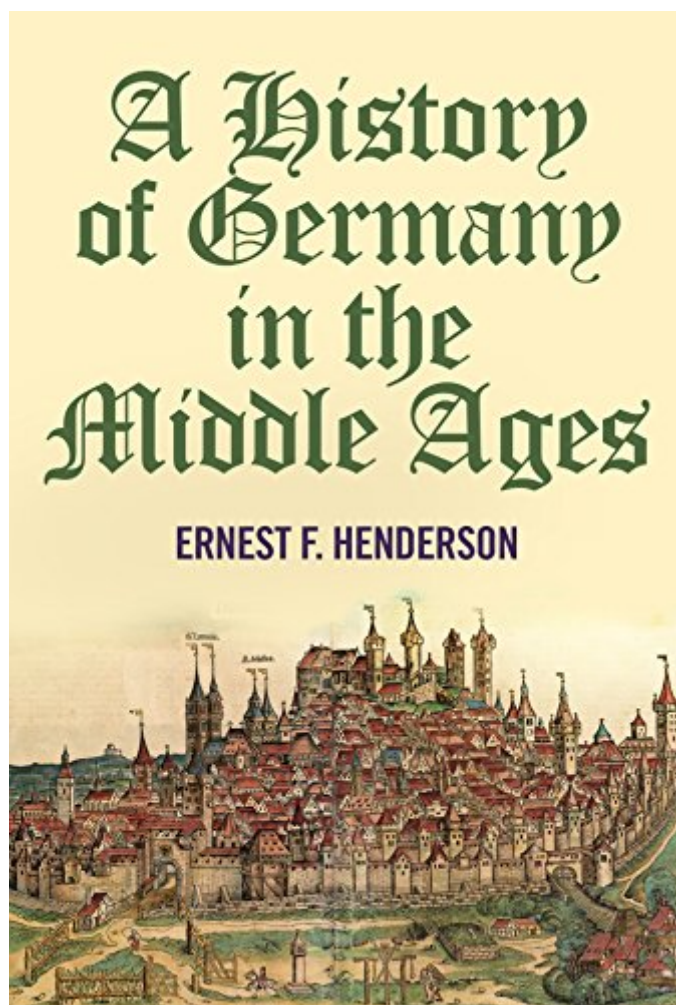


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# A History Of Germany In The Middle Ages



## Synopsis

Charlemagne, Frederick Barbarossa, Emperor Frederick II. The history of Germany is full of famous figures who defined the history of Europe throughout the Middle Ages. Yet, apart from a few well-known leaders, little is often known about medieval Germany. Ernest F. Henderson's *A History of Germany in the Middle Ages* aimed to rectify this by bringing to the fore a full history of Germany from the fourth century to the thirteenth century. Henderson explains how the power vacuum left in the wake of the Romans the Frankish kingdom, which became centred in Aachen under Charlemagne, emerged. Drawing upon a wide variety of sources Henderson is able to detail how the loose collection of states in what we would now call Germany were able to come together and form the Holy Roman Empire. Rather than focusing solely on the more famous and successful leaders of the Germanic states, Henderson also uncovers less powerful rulers such as Henry IV, who was in constant conflict with Pope Gregory VII and had to fight numerous civil wars to remain in control. Henderson places the German states within the context of medieval Europe and explains how various Emperors fought back invaders from the East, led wars against France and the northern Italian states, struggled against the influence of the popes and kept order within their borders. *A History of Germany in the Middle Ages* is essential reading for anyone interested in medieval Europe and the role of the Germanic states and leaders within it. Ernest F. Henderson was an American historian who focused mainly on the history of Germany. *A History of Germany in the Middle Ages* was first published in 1894. His other works include: *Blücher and the uprising of Prussia against Napoleon, 1806-1815*, *Select historical documents of the middle ages* and *Germany's fighting machine; her army, her navy, her air-ships, and why she arrayed them against the allied powers of Europe*. Henderson died in 1928.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Provides a historical background of the geographic areas that have been part of Germany at various times during the middle ages. The interactions between the Pope, the Holy Roman Empire, France, England and Denmark with Germany are described in a very readable form. Germany was one of the first countries in Europe to have elections.

Book started out OK. Early history and lineage threads were interesting, but as the book transitioned into later years, it went into too much detail regarding the disagreements between the popes, bishops, emperors, and territorial rulers. Truthfully, it became very boring because it sounded so repetitious. While it may have been factually accurate, it was too sterile and did not make for interesting reading.

This book filled a gap in my knowledge of history, a rather obscure period spanning ~AD 800-1300. Up front, the author acknowledges the difficulty in knowing what actually happened then because the sources are incomplete and often biased. Throughout the book, he identifies those periods where the record is obscure, and where the original sources still exist. The writing style is old-fashioned -- after all the book was written in 1894 or thereabouts -- but elegant and clear. Most of the story is about German royalty and their struggles with popes and dukes and other elite. I wish I could have learned more about the daily lives of those who were not in the upper crust. But no regrets. The epic struggles and shifting alliances make for a fascinating story.

The book concentrates on the relation, often antagonistic, between the German emperors and popes and mostly ignores the other political events in the same period and almost nothing about the social and economic life of German people. Otherwise, an interesting history book.

I loved this book. It's so fun to see history through the eyes of a man writing more than 100 years ago. Henderson is a great story-teller. I wish I could have known this man who has such a wry, intelligent, at times skeptical, and always enlightening point of view.

This starts with the Roman Empire's expansion into northern Europe. Once Rome has fallen, it really skims the top of European events as they involve what became Germany. It is sort of a "Headlines of Medieval Germany." Many individuals and events are referenced by name, but exactly who/what they are is not explained. If you have no background in European history, much of the references will go over your head. But...the book is well enough written and it gives you a definite sense of the times and the socio-political evolution from the fall of Rome to the Renaissance. I am presently at 93% and certainly will finish the book, but it is becoming somewhat tiresome. I want the information, but the writing does not draw me along to the next page. If you want detail, read a multi-volume history; if you just want a general sense of the Middle Ages in Europe (e.g. the Holy Roman Empire, Italy, France, Germany) then this will fill the bill.

To find a reprint of a definitive history copyrighted in 1894 is like finding a goldmine!!

Fantastic read, as a history buff, I fully enjoyed it. Some of the references were a little shaky for my comprehension, but that can be forgiven. Good source material, great for research projects or just a quiet, introspective read.

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