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Charlemagne

Words count: 850

Charlemagne or Charles the great was the King of the Frankish Empire and one of the great emperors which had great effects to the world even that he was not as famous as many others. His great works were making the education, writing and religion reform. He became important for humanities in liberal arts as he reformed writing system which being used nowadays and made mass effects to Christianity and Islam as he was the protector of the Cartholic Church.

Among all his works, one of his most outstanding works was about religion as he made a lot of religious reforms. Since his family, the Carlolingian, had duties to protect the Pope of the Church and do as the Church command,¹ he conquered the land of Muslim and forced them to the Baptism which is the Christian activity. In the other word, it means that they had to convert to Christian, or else they would be executed. This event was later known as Massacre of Verdun as he executed 4,500 Muslims in 3 years.² His action was cruel but it was his duty to make progresses for Christianity by increasing Christian and decreasing the population of other religions. He became the important person for Cartholic Church at that time that he saved and helped Pope Leo III, who was the person with the greatest power in Christianity, when he was mistreated and going to be tortured by the Roman. After

¹ Wikipedia contributor. "Charlemagne" Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. 31 Jan. 2013. <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charlemagne>>

² New Advent contributor. "Charlemagne" Catholic Encyclopedia. 31 Jan. 2013. <<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/03610c.htm>>

this, he was crowned by the Pope himself as the *Imperator Romanorum* or “Emperor of the Romans”.³

Another important thing he did was reforming writing systems which had been effected worldwide until present days. All of his works made massive changes to people’s culture and history in many ways. At that time, the Roman writing system was uncial script and using only majuscule, in other word, the letters were joined together using only capital letters. Charlemagne then, combined features of insular scripts and minuscule together, or, left spaces between words and allowed small letters in writing systems.⁴ These changes were used in Irish and English monasteries at that time and continued to the present days. He found many rare works as he accessed to library of the town he conquered, so he collected and copied many of the classical Latin works and preserved it for his people including bibles which he made it easier to understand. He also made change in economic as he changed the trading system from using gold coins to silver coins because he lost a lot of gold from making peace with Byzantium, the empire he fought with for long time. These changes effected all over Europe as most territories in the continent belonged to him and every town must followed. Moreover, he made the cultural revival as he and his government patronized many of activities that caused renovation or known as restoration and later called the Carolingian Renaissance. His prime goal was to extend and improve the Latin literacy so he improved the education system and produced books that contain Christian Latin culture.

³ BBC contributor. “Charlemagne (c. 747 - c. 814)” BBC 5 Feb.2013.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/charlemagne.shtml>

⁴ Richard E. Sullivan “Charlemagne Global Britannia ,Facts Matter 31 Jan. 2013
<<http://global.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/106546/Charlemagne/106546main/Article> >

He was not only great in cultural and organization improvement but he was also a great warrior king as he got in to many wars since he was young. His Frankish empire became German people after his time and major part that made Germany became a great nation in old times came from his influences. His first campaign was the war with the Lombardy kingdom which is a region in Italy nowadays. After that he was given Tuscany, Emilia, Venice and Corsica, which are parts of France and Italy in present days, from the Pope. From these two events, he had almost all of Italy. After that , he move further to other empires as he conquest Catalan, Barcelona and Valencia which were the important towns of the Spanish. He fought for 30 years and 18 battles in total, conquered most of Central Europe such as parts of Russia, Ukraine and many more. From these wars, he made Frankish empire which became Germany later on glorious for many centuries.⁵

Even though Charlemagne was not as famous as other important people in history, he was very important as he had much influences and made numerous great works in various ways. In Cultural way, he made extension and improvement for Latin literacy and changes in writing system which being used nowadays. In religion, he made progress for Christianity as he increased the number of Christian and reworked the Bible so that people can understand it easier. In military way, he conquered almost all territories in Europe and made prosperity for Germany that lasted for many more centuries. Without him, we may write every word with capital letters and stick together, many of ancient knowledge may lost forever and Christianity may not be as mighty as today.

⁵History Contributor. "Charlemagne"History.9 Feb. 2103.
<http://www.history.com/topics/charlemagne#a1>