

# The Struggle Between Popes and Emperors

# The Holy Roman Empire

- ◎ Eastern half of Charlemagne's empire fell under the control of local dukes
- ◎ 936 – Dukes elect Otto as King
  - > Tried to control other Dukes
  - > Extended influence in Northern Italy
  - > Sought close ties with the Church

# The Holy Roman Empire

## ◉ King Otto I

- > Invaded Italy to protect the Pope
- > Pope name Otto “Roman Emperor” in 962
- > Claimed to be successor of Charlemagne and leader of Christendom
- > All lands ruled by Otto and his successors would become known as the Holy Roman Empire
- > Emperors often intervened on the Church’s behalf
- > Eventually, emperors and the Church had a falling out

# Sources of Conflict

## ◉ Investiture Controversy:

- > Pope Gregory VII banned the practice of lay investiture
- > Drew angry response from Emperor Henry IV who wanted to continue to appoint Church officials
- > Henry IV refused to respect Gregory VII's wishes
- > Henry IV excommunicated but begged for forgiveness

# Sources of Conflict

## ◎ Concordat of Worms:

- > Henry IV continued to name bishops, excommunicated a second time
- > Drove Gregory VII into exile
- > Dispute settled in 1166 with Concordat of Worms:
  - Church named bishops and abbots
  - Emperor granted lands and controlled any secular power of the Church

# The Struggle for Italy

- Frederick I:
  - > Spent years fighting to secure northern Italy
  - > Had his son married to the daughter of the King of Sicily
  - > Pope was concerned of threat to papal states in central Italy
  - > Would struggle against German dukes and alliances of northern Italian towns
- German and Italian states would not unify until the late 1800's.

# Church Power at its Height

- Church reached its peak in the late 1100's, early 1200's
- Pope Innocent III:
  - > Strict control over clergy, thus lower clergy
  - > Control over secular rulers:
    - John I in England
    - German emperor
- Monarchs began to see the Church as being too concerned with political issues, neglecting their spiritual duties and as an obstacle to national unity