Political Infrastructure: The Organization of the Space

The political structures form the framework of economic, political, legal and personal life, at times also the framework for linguistic communication and religious life.

- A fundamental component of political structures is the organization of space.
- In the 5th century and around 1800 fundamental changes took place, which not only changed the spatial order but also the internal structures.

Euregio Meuse Rhine today

Romans

- Since the Roman conquest of Gaul, completed in 58-51 BC, the area of today's Euregio Meuse Rhine belonged to the Roman Empire. The Roman province "Germania inferior" consisted of two administrative territories with the central places of Cologne and Tongeren; the capital of the province was Cologne.

- Still many centuries after the fall of the Western Roman Empire, these administrative districts remained as ecclesiastical territories, namely in the form of the Church Province of Cologne with its dioceses of Tongeren (Maastricht-Liège) and Cologne.

Roman Empire

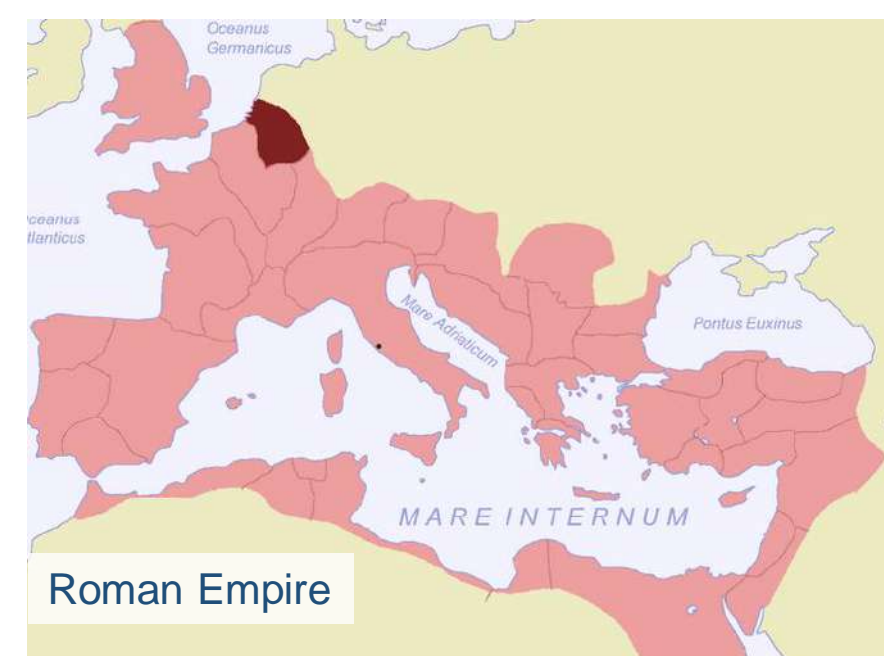## Frankish Empire Becomes "Holy Roman Empire"

- After the fall of the Western Roman Empire in the 5th century, Germanic ethnic groups coming from the other side of the Rhine created the Frankish Empire. Under the Frankish rulers Charlemagne († 814) and his son Louis the Pious († 840) the most important places of power were in the present-day Euregio.
- The Frankish empire disintegrated in the 9th century. The eastern part, the later Holy Roman Empire, to which the area of today's Euregio belonged, was divided until the end of the 18th century into more than 365 countries.

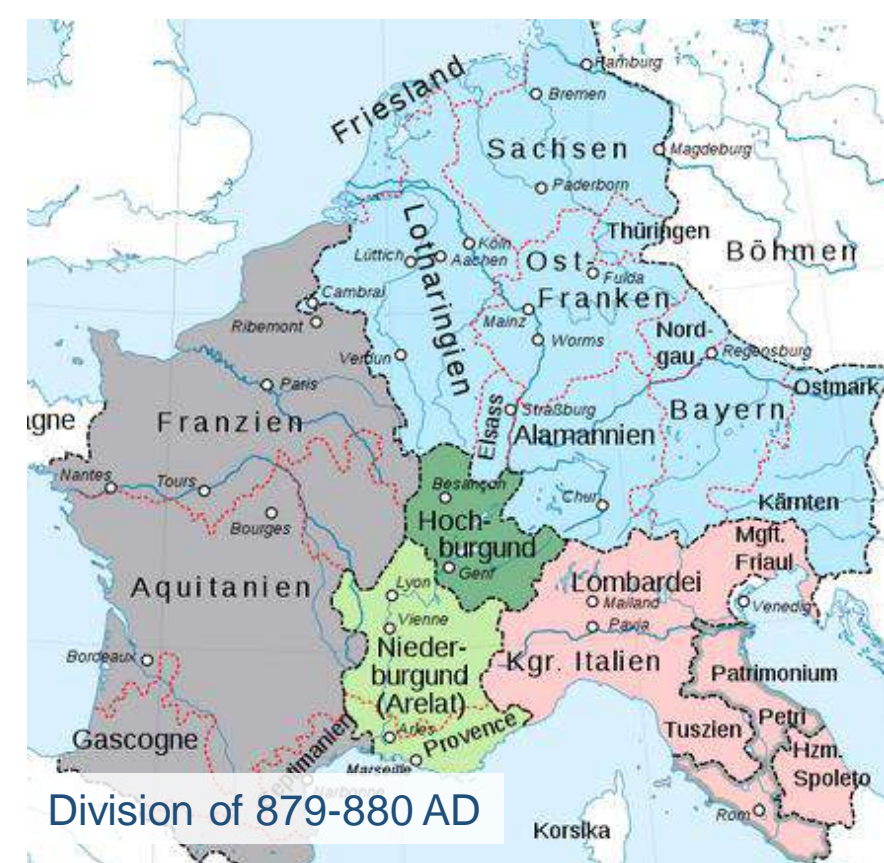Division of 879-880 AD

Revolutions and New Countries

- 1789: Beginning of the French Revolution.
- 1795: Annexation of the left bank of the Rhine by revolutionary France.
- 1814-1815: Reorganization of Europe after the defeat of Napoleon. The United Kingdom of the Netherlands was created.
- 1830: Belgian Revolution, the southern part of the Netherlands became independent under the name of "Belgium".
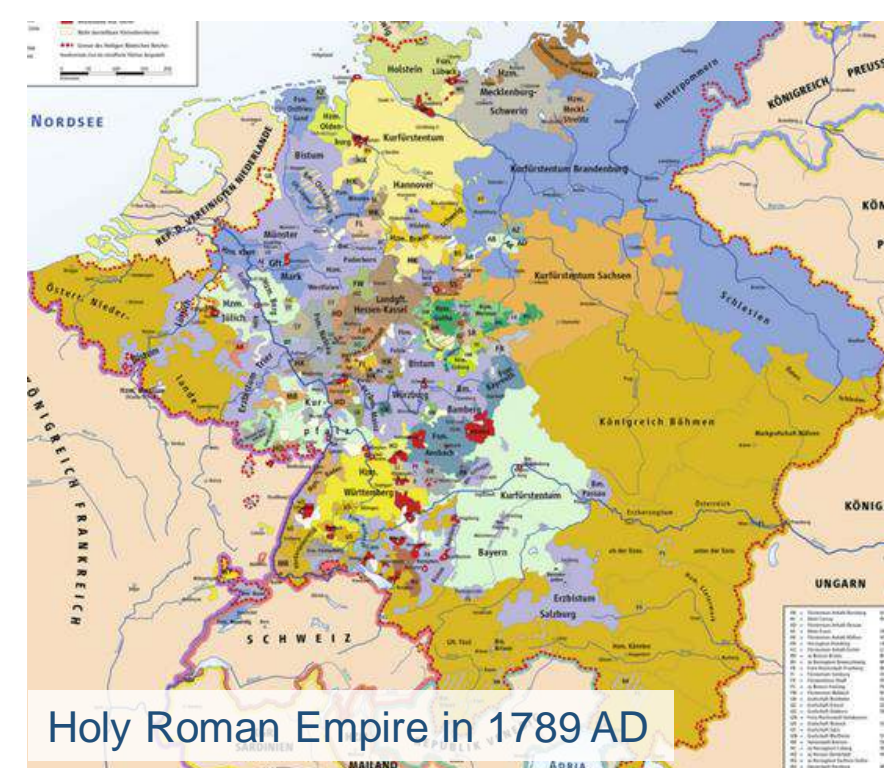

Holy Roman Empire in 1789 AD