**Early Middle Ages -- 476-~1000 ce/4**

**751**

*Largitio Astolfina:* formally an unilateral act, in fact an international agreement by which the *Venetici* obtain from the Langobard king Astulf confirmation of the boundaries set with *Terminatio Liutprandina.*

**774**

A new bishopric is instituted in Olivolo (San Pietro di Castello)

The king of the Franks, Charles, defeats Desiderius and Adelchis and conquers the Langobard kingdom of Italy; reorganisation of the territory in Frankish fiefs.

<http://www.arielcaliban.org/PX_feudal_system.pdf>

**800**

***Renovatio imperii***(reinstitution of a Roman Empire in the West): Charles king of the Franks and conqueror of the Langobards is crowned by pope Leo III as (Western) Roman emperor. Thus the pope makes the newly-appointed emperor, the most powerful leader in the West, his supporter against the heretic Byzantine emperors in the East, who do not acknowledge the primacy of the bishop of Rome.

<http://www.arielcaliban.org/PX_charles_the_great.pdf>

<http://www.arielcaliban.org/PX_holy_roman_empire.pdf>

**804**

Doge Mauritius Galbaius, supporter of close links with the Byzantine Empire, is deposed in favour of Obelerius and his son and prospective successor, Beatus, supporters of Charles.

**Coregents**, often (but not always) sons or other relatives of the doge, had a chance to practice politics and gain favour in view of the next election, thus hopefully limiting riot and bloodshed between factions. However, they still had to be elected by the *placitum*.

**809**

Charles plans to redirect the economy of the kingdom, based on agriculture and cattle breeding, toward sea trade, in order to compete against the economical power of the Byzantines from a basis in the **Venetia**.

**Pepin,** son of Charles, attacks Metamauco, but his borrowed ships get stranded during the low tide and his men are massacred by the *Venetici* who counter-attack on flat-bottomed boats*.*

<http://www.arielcaliban.org/PX_pipin.pdf>

Obelerius and Beatus, Frankish supporters, are exiled as traitors and Agnellus Parteciacus elected as doge.

At the presence of a Byzantine envoy, Arsafius, as witness, the capital is officially moved to **Rialto**, an area of solid ground next to a deep canal, fit for a trading port. Moreover, Rialto is located in the very centre of a labyrinth of canals which only locals can navigate safely; any foreign comers must be piloted in and out of the lagoon to and from the mouths of the rivers along the coastline or to anf from the open sea. This makes Rialto relatively safe from attacks both from the mainland and the Adriatic sea.

The area of the new seat of the government is nowadays the lowest above sea level, not anymore the highest, because of centuries of pressure from thousands of tons of bricks and stone.

**812**

***Pax Nicefori****:* after difficult negotiations, in which the *Venetici* have no part, the Western emperor Charles and the Eastern emperor Niceforus I Logothetes set the boundaries between the two Empires; the pact is ratified in 814 by the latter's successor, Michael I Rangabes.

Charles abandons his plans to make his Empire a sea power.

The area around the lagoons is marked according to the boundaries set by *Terminatio Liutprandina* and *Largitio Astolfina,* given that Charles is the successor of the Langobard kings.

During the IX, X and XI centuries, political life in the *Venetia* is unstable and often violent; doges are deposed, blinded, exiled or murdered and elections depend on fights between factions.

**National customs** develop and are established. Women do not have political rights, but enjoy full civil capacity. Not dowry but *repromissa*; the widow who solemnly swears to not remarry can be *domna et domina* of the deceased husband's patrimony; last wills valis with no *heredis institutio* = nomination of an heir, but as a series of bequests; *proprietates* or *allodia* are land property within the territory *(potestas habendi, tenendi, donandi, vendendi, commutandi vel quidquid sibi placuerit faciendi nullo sibi homine contradiciente);* *possessiones* are land rights elsewhere, subject to the foreign law system

<http://www.arielcaliban.org/PX_prestatutory-customs.pdf>

**~829**

The alleged relics of St. Mark are brought to Rialto from Alexandria. The new saint, with his prestige as an evangelist, becomes the protector of the *Venetia* and of its capital Rialto, replacing the earlier, Byzantine saints George and Theodore.

<http://www.arielcaliban.org/PX_san-marco.pdf>

**840**

***Pactum Lotharii****:* Lothar I, designated heir of the Western Empire,confirms the *Pax Nicefori*, also with regard to the *Venetia.*

It is the first in the series of *Pacta Veneta*, the restatements of the boundaries of the *Venetia*, due by each successive Western emperor to the doge in charge. No restatement is due by the newly elected doges, as they do not take any personal obligation: while the emperors are parties in the agreement in their own name, the doges represent the abstract Venetian State, and their identity is not relevant.

<http://www.arielcaliban.org/PX_pacta_veneta.pdf>

**843**

Treaty of Verdun: the Carolingian Empire is part of the patrimony of the deceased, and as such it is divided among his heirs.

This feudal concept that powers of government are part of their holder's patrimony is never adopted by the *Venetici.*

**864-881**

Under doge Ursus Parteciacus, the mention appears of ***iudices*** (judges) = a number of members of the *placitum* whose function is to approve the proposals which the doge intends to make to the *placitum* in judicial matters, so as to prevent his bestowing undue favour on his political supporters.

The move of the capital to Rialto begins a process of decadence on the *placitum*, given that it is less easily reached from the furthest parts of the Ducatus. The *placitum* in Rialto now usually gathers only those who live nearby and/or have a long-term interest in political matters: the doge and coregent, the *iudices*, the bishops, the *gastaldi* (civil servants, tax collectors) and the *tribuni* of the *vici*, who come to live in Rialto as representatives of their villages.

However, routine matters are now often managed by the doge, coregent and *iudices* alone, while the full assembly is only gathered for important questions and the ratification of the deliberations taken by the doge, coregent and *iudices*.

<http://www.arielcaliban.org/PX_iudices.pdf>