Charlemagne and the Carolingian Empire 768-814  Charlemagne, the son of Pepin the Short, declared himself the defender of Christianity and reinforced the Carolingian Empire. He was intelligent and very successful in expanding the Frankish Empire. The Carolingian Empire, founded by Charlemagne, was characterized by a cultural and intellectual revival that included a renaissance in literature, art, and architecture. This period is known as the Carolingian Renaissance. Charlemagne's empire spanned from 750 to 987, under the rule of Charlemagne and his family. It included much of Western Europe and was the last of the Western Roman Empire to be established. The empire was also known as the Holy Roman Empire, and it was established in the year 800 when Charlemagne was crowned Emperor of the Romans by Pope Leo III. The empire collapsed less than a century after Charlemagne's death in 814. The Carolingian Empire was a time of cultural and intellectual revival in Europe, and it was marked by the spread of knowledge through education and the arts. The Carolingian Empire was a time of great influence, and its legacy can still be seen in modern Europe.