



The Memory of Charlemagne



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3:00-4:20 p.m. in Blum 218/219

The emperor Charlemagne (d. 814) is one of the few figures of the Middle Ages about whom most people have at least vaguely heard. He became king of the Franks when around twenty years old and ruled much of what is now France, northern Italy, and western Germany, and was crowned Roman emperor by the pope. But even more interesting than Charlemagne himself is the way he has been remembered, by later emperors, by the Nazis, and by today's European Union. Creating a suitable memory of him was indeed a process that began at his court, during his lifetime. His example is thus revelatory of how the use of memory, constructing a useful past, can be used to control the present.

Mary Boder History Speaker Series

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