

МИНИСТЕРСТВО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ И НАУКИ РФ  
ФЕДЕРАЛЬНОЕ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОЕ БЮДЖЕТНОЕ  
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«ВОРОНЕЖСКИЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ  
УНИВЕРСИТЕТ»

## **EARLY MIDDLE AGES**

Учебно-методическое пособие для вузов

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. The Fall of Rome .....	4
2. Visigoths .....	7
3. Ostrogoths and Lombards .....	9
a) Ostrogoths .....	9
b) Lombards .....	10
REVISION WORK ( <i>Texts 1-3</i> ) .....	11
4. Medieval Italy .....	13
5. Other tribes .....	16
a) Vandals .....	16
b) Franks and Merovingians .....	16
c) Carolingians .....	17
REVISION WORK ( <i>Texts 4-5</i> ) .....	20
6. d) Capetians .....	22
7. e) Huns .....	24
8. Charlemagne .....	26
9. Byzantine Empire: Arcadius to Zeno .....	28
10. a) Early Medieval Britain and King Arthur .....	30
b) Holy Roman Empire – Germany .....	30
REVISION WORK ( <i>Texts 7-10</i> ) .....	32
Final Reading Comprehension Test .....	34
Final Vocabulary Test .....	38
<i>APPENDIX 1 Active Glossary</i> .....	40
<i>APPENDIX 2 Topical Vocabulary</i> .....	45

4. Give the derivatives of the following, using the text:

- 1) advice
- 2) empire
- 3) invasion
- 4) angry
- 5) collect
- 6) remove
- 7) settle

5. Give the Russian equivalents for the following:

- 1) brought up at court
- 2) rise through the ranks
- 3) good-sized army
- 4) this left...much open... to take over
- 5) get wiped out
- 6) the Straits of Gibraltar
- 7) they were on their own

### **COMPREHENSION CHECK**

6. True or False? (If it is false, say why it is so and correct the factual errors)

1. Constantine III declared himself a commander of Gaul.
2. Theodosius had three sons.
3. Most of Honorius' and Arcadius' work was done by their advisors.
4. A lot of Alans, Vandals, and Sueves were able to cross the Danube because it was solid frozen.
5. The Visigoths had been living inside the Roman Empire since the battle of Adrianople in 387 AD.
6. It was Visigoths who managed to attack the Eternal City and even sack it.
7. In the end the Visigoths marched up to southern Gaul and settled there.
8. The Romans were so weak that they weren't able even to help the Angles and Saxons against the Celtic invaders.
9. In 476 AD, the last Roman Emperor in the West was removed by Romulus Augustulus.

## Text 2.

### READING

1. Read and translate the following:

### VISIGOTHS

The Visigoths established a kingdom for themselves within the collapsing Roman Empire in 418 AD. They took over most of Gaul Aquitania, a very fertile area which had been thickly settled by the Romans. The Visigoths at first acted more or less as representatives of the Roman government, keeping order for Rome in Aquitaine, but as time went on and Rome got weaker, the Visigoths began to act more on their own account. When the Vandals left Spain for Africa in 429 AD, the Visigoths began to take over Spain as well. They were better administrators than the Vandals had been.

In 509 AD, a catastrophe struck the Visigothic kingdom in southern Gaul (which is known as the Kingdom of Toulouse). The Franks, who had taken over northern Gaul, made an effort to break through to the Mediterranean under their young king Clovis. One reason that the Visigoths and the Franks did not get along was that the Visigoths were Arian Christians while the Franks were Catholics.

After a big battle at Vouillé, the Franks won, and the Visigoths lost, and their king was killed. The Franks took over most of southern Gaul, and most of the Visigoths moved to Spain, where they founded a new capital city at Toledo (so this kingdom is known as the Kingdom of Toledo).

In Spain the Visigoths fell under the control of the Ostrogoths, because the Visigoths' new king, Amalaric, was only a baby, and his powerful grandfather, Theodoric the Ostrogoth, offered to act as a regent for him (to rule for Amalaric until he grew up).

Then soon after Amalaric grew up he was killed, and there was soon a civil war between two men who wanted to be a king, Athanagild and Agila. Athanagild, who was losing, asked the Roman Emperor Justinian to help him, and Justinian sent troops right away, who put Athanagild on the throne and killed Agila. But when Athanagild thanked the Romans and said they could go home now, the Romans said no, they were going to stay. For the next seventy years and more, the Visigoths were almost always fighting to try to get the Romans out of Spain.

By 600 AD the Visigoths were the only Arians left in the Mediterranean area (or anywhere else) and finally they too converted to Catholicism, under their king Reccared.

From 600 to 700 AD, the Visigothic kings got weaker and weaker. Even though they did finally manage to get rid of the Romans, they didn't have much power themselves. They gave away a lot of their land to reward their supporters, and they weren't strong enough to collect much in taxes.

Finally in 711 AD the Arabs and Moors invaded from Africa, across the Straits of Gibraltar. They took over Spain and made it a province of the Islamic empire.

## **VOCABULARY**

2. *Give the antonyms for the following:*

1. prosperous, flourishing
2. fruitless
3. to be defeated, lose
4. to break free from

3. *Give the synonyms for the following:*

1. to set up
2. densely populated
3. to continue
4. in their own way, independently
5. to manager, ruler
6. to make somebody a king
7. to struggle

4. *Find the English equivalents for the following:*

1. захватывать
2. прорваться к
3. уживаться с кем-либо
4. выгнать кого-л. откуда-л.
5. обратить(ся) в какую-л. веру
6. сторонник, последователь
7. империя
8. вестгот, вестготский

## **COMPREHENSION CHECK**

5. *Answer the following questions:*

1. When did the Visigoths establish their kingdom?
2. Enumerate the areas they took over.