

CONRAD II. no heir, and on his death the crown passed by election  
 1024-1039 to Conrad II., the founder of the great Franconian  
 dynasty. In his reign the kingdom of Burgundy was  
 added to the Empire, which now included two out of  
 BUR- the three parts into which the Carolingian Empire had  
 GUNDY been divided at the Treaty of Verdun, viz., the kingdom  
 ADDED of the East Franks and the Middle Kingdom, or  
 TO THE Lotharingia. Conrad, like his predecessor, had to wage  
 EMPIRE war with Poland, and he also had wars with Hungary.  
 1032

To strengthen his position he took the part of the smaller landowners against the great nobles, and helped to establish the custom by which their fiefs were treated as hereditary. In Italy he had difficulty with Aribert, the Archbishop of Milan, who was trying to establish the independence of his see, and was strong enough to defy the Emperor.

HENRY III. Under Conrad's son, Henry III., the Empire reached  
 1039-1056 the highwater mark of its greatness. Germany and Italy alike were ruled firmly. The great duchies were kept in the Emperor's hands or given to his friends. Bohemia, now the strongest Slavic state, was defeated: Hungary was reduced to almost complete dependence. In Rome no emperor had been so powerful. Henry was called in to settle a dispute between three rivals, each claiming to be Pope. He deposed them all and chose a worthy pope, and to the end of his reign nominated the Pope whenever a vacancy took place, using his power in such a way that the dignity of the Papacy was increased.

HENRY IV. He died suddenly in the prime of life, leaving a  
 1056-1106 child as his successor, and never again did an emperor attain to such power. The emperors, in reforming the Papacy, had raised up a serious rival to their own