

Dear scholars,

Welcome to AP European History! The course, in a sense, begins in the middle of the European story. To give us a better starting place, please read *The Song of Roland*, an epic poem on the heroic deeds of Charlemagne's cousin. Please obtain a copy that has the introduction by Dorothy L. Sayers. Here is a link to copies available on Amazon:

https://www.amazon.com/Song-Roland-Dorothy-L-Sayers/dp/0140440755/ref=sr_1_1?crid=3N489QFNE9H4D&dchild=1&keywords=the+song+of+roland+dorothy+sayers&qid=1619987310&s_prefix=song+of+roland+doro%2Caps%2C185&sr=8-1

I prefer you get a hard copy, but if you cannot, an electronic version is available here:

<https://www.fadedpage.com/books/20130224/html.php>

Come to class the first day with notes for a discussion on the following questions:

- 1.) What characteristics of European identity *in general* can you observe in the text?
- 2.) What characteristics of European identity in the text *are specific to the Middle Ages*?
- 2.) With reference to the Sayers introduction, trace what changes you see between Europe in the Middle Ages versus Europe today.
- 3.) Bonus opportunity! Read *The Lord of the Rings* by J. R. R. Tolkien.

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Enjoy the reading! I will be praying for all of you as we approach the new school year!

God bless,
Sr. Maria Canisius, OP