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THE BELGIAN NATION



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PRESENTED BY

\_\_\_\_\_

To Mr. Grand Whitlock  
Ambassador to Belgium  
the author  
Julius E. DeVos



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1920

Excerpts from the author's historical work,  
"Fifteen Hundred Years of Europe"

*Page*  
*Miss Emma M. Whitehead*  
*7-2-20*



*Ms. C. 43*

7.13.11.1948-5-10

# The Belgian Nation

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## Letters of Introduction

Chicago, 10-27-19

Dear Father De Vos:

Your pamphlet "*The Belgian Nation*" strikes me as reflecting the life of the Belgians through the centuries and the remarkable part they had in all the great movements of the times.

Why have the Belgians played such an important role in history? Why have they prospered? We find the answer in your pamphlet.

The historical episodes set forth in its pages give the reader a clear conception of the Belgian nation from the times of Caesar until the present epoch.

"*Multum in parvo.*" The ingenious arrangement in episodes, chronicles and statistics offers much in a small booklet and gives enough to understand the history of the Belgians and their influence in the world. It is just what the busy Americans want as it shows in a few hours the reason why Belgium lives and is the center of attention of the world today.

To my knowledge, there are in the United States very few histories of Belgium. I commend these compact pages to the numerous friends of Belgium.

Yours truly,

The Belgian Consul; CYRIL VERMEREN, M. D.

## THE BELGIAN NATION

PRE-NOTE BY A PROFESSOR

*In the calm, following the frightful disturbances of the world during the past four years, the scholar and historian has ample opportunity to make an exhaustive study of the real causes leading to the almost inconceivable conditions of European past policy, politics, intrigue and deceit, culminating in the tragedy fresh in our memories. The inevitable consequences of unchristian international ambition, unfair competition, race and class hatred and suspicion needed only an insignificant spark of hypocritical pretence to throw the entire continent into a conflagration wherein seemed destined to perish from the earth, liberty, loyalty, love and trust. Its devastating ravages are now well known.*

*But out from this inferno there emerged one nation that before an admiring world, immortalized the ideals of centuries of its children in a baptism of blood, suffering, sorrow and heroism unparalleled in the pages of history. The Calvary of this little heroic martyr country is now past and as it rises in the glory of its true power, strength and immortality it commands the admiration of the scholar of every nation who may seek to fathom the causes of its wonderful vitality tried by the most awful tests. That country is Belgium and the causes of its victory, life and vigor today, "a passionate love of liberty, of culture and an indefatigable activity," are described in the simple, easy and convincing narrative of the author who knows so well the aims, ideals and aspirations of his noble people.*

*This, taken from a more lengthy and elaborate work of the author, should give to the scholar a clear idea of the fundamental principles and causes of the power of resistance of the Belgian nation in the late world war, causes that must ever give a lasting inspiration and confidence to her sister nations of history, martyred as was Belgium in the cause of justice, right, and loyalty to her beloved Rulers, but victorious at last in the struggle with oppression, injustice and tyranny.*

JAMES M. MURRAY, C.M. A.M. Ph.D.

*De Paul University, Chicago, Illinois.*

October 28, 1919.





# The Belgian Nation

## A Composite Nation

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A fusion of races tends to improve the composite nations resulting from them. No people are more mixed than the Belgians and none were more progressive.

**Composite Character**

Belgium is a borderland between France, Germany and England, and combines traits of these great nations. It is inhabited by two races: The Flemish and the Walloon, who speak different languages.

### *The Characteristics of a Nation.*

To excuse their unjust aggression the Prussians pretended that the Belgians are not one nation because they speak two languages, to wit: the Flemish and the Walloon, and thus seem to belong to two nationalities. But the language is not always a mark of race and in this case the Flemings and the Walloons have the same origin. Both are a mixture of Celts and Teutons; where the Celtic element predominates a French idiom is spoken; where the German element predominates, a Teutonic idiom is used. Both having the same origin, they perfectly answer the definition of a nation.

**Two Languages Are no Sign of Two Nationalities**

**Origin a Mixture of Gauls and Teutons**

Moreover, they have the same character, to-wit: a passionate love of liberty and of culture and an indefatigable activity; such traits always make a progressive people. Their folk song rings, "Flemings and Walloons are only surnames, Belgian is our family name."

**Common Traits**

### *Love of Liberty.*

The Belgians are such lovers of liberty, that they always fought any encroachment on their rights and always were a free people. Walloons and Flemings

**Fight For Liberty**

## CHARACTER

stood together for liberty. The only time that the Belgians were subdued was by the irresistible Julius Caesar, but they became one of the progressive peoples of the Roman Empire. Far from being enslaved by the Franks, they were made partners of the kingdoms, and with them compelled the nomadic tribes to respect the lands of others and to settle down on their own territories. When western Europe was parcelled out into fiefs, depending on France and Germany, the Belgian principalities enjoyed a large amount of freedom. Being far away from the central powers, they were only lightly ruled by their suzerains, and opposed an implacable resistance against any attempt on their liberties.

At the Reformation, when the Dutch attempted to destroy their churches and change their ancient faith, the Belgians fought for their liberty of worship and sacrificed their commerce to follow the dictates of their conscience. For they were shut off from the sea routes by the Hollanders, and ostracised by the northern powers who were then fanatical Protestants, and they suffered an eclipse in the commerce for conscience' sake.

When the peoples of the earth commenced to organize a real and logical democracy, the Belgians were among the first to assert their independence against the Dutch. In our days they maintained their liberty against the most powerful tyrant of any age. They fought that they and the world may be safe for democracy.

### *Love of Culture.*

The Belgians have a natural inclination to the arts—the fine arts as well as the useful. They seem to be born mechanics and when they migrate to other countries they quickly are noted for their mechanical skill in every kind of craft and secure the best of positions.

Civilized  
by the  
Romans

Break the  
Nomadic  
Tribes

Sacrifices  
For Liberty  
of  
Conscience

Democracy

Useful  
Arts

## THE BELGIAN NATION

As for the fine arts and letters, the Belgians excel in painting, music, history and science. Their museums are filled with masterpieces of their own masters, and their homes are decorated in fine taste and style. The Belgians have their quota of men great in every kind of science and they always march in the van of progress.

Fine Arts  
and  
Sciences

### *Love of Labor.*

The Belgians are animated with a devouring activity. Labor is a second nature to them. The density of the population brings up many rivals for every position. It is a difficult task to climb in the scale of society and it requires exertion to make a living. Everyone works early and late. But labor develops man and produces wealth and abundance; it creates a powerful community and a progressive people. Belgium has a man to the acre, that is, 646 people to the square mile; it is more than any other country supports.

Devouring  
Activity

### *Progressive Role in the World.*

Belgium took a lively part in the movements of the times: social, political and religious; commercial and intellectual.

Roman  
Culture  
Absorbed  
Communi-  
cated

It quickly assimilated the Roman civilization and communicated same to the Franks, who migrated on its soil, and amalgamated with its progressive inhabitants, and formed themselves into the civilizing nation of the west. In the middle ages, Belgium was the most progressive people of northern Europe in industry and commerce. It was the first to ennoble labor with the order of the Golden Fleece instituted by Philip the Good to glorify the woolen industries, so flourishing in his domains. In the wars for liberty, against threatening Moham-  
medanism and German autocracy, it furnished the great-

Industry  
Commerce



## CHARACTER

**Crusaders** est heroes of the Crusades, who became chosen rulers of the Catholic states of Jerusalem and Constantinople.

**Faithfulness to Belief At All Times** The Belgians defended the liberty of mankind against German autocracy. In reformation times, they refused to change their religion, at the command of German princes. In our own days they stopped the Kaiser on his way to the conquest of the world. The sacrifices were immense, but human liberty was saved.

### *Small Territory but Prominent Power.*

**Prominence of Belgium** Belgium is one of the smallest lands in Europe. Still it has played a big role at all times, especially in this war, and is now entirely paralyzed. What is it that gives this little nation such prominence? The high character of the people, the heroism in this war, and its spirit of independence through the ages.

### **Rich Soils and Mines**

The area of Belgium is 11,843 square miles. Its population, 7,386,466 souls. Its soil is inexhaustible and it is as intensely cultivated as a garden. It has coal and iron mines ranking fifth in importance in all Europe. Its streams, the Meuse, the Scheldt and the Yser, afford a complete drainage of the plains and form a large network of waterways which penetrates into every nook of the country. Railroads, national, provincial and vicinal, run to the very villages. The highways between these villages are kept up like our boulevards.

### **Drainage**

### **Roads**

### **Belgians Prominent in the World Affairs**

Although one of the smallest states of Europe, it is the fifth in the world trade. It comes immediately after England, Germany, the United States and France. It ranks as a great power on account of the volume and the kind of its commerce. From a business standpoint, Belgium occupies a rank altogether out of proportion with its size and its population. The area of Belgium is



## THE BELGIAN NATION

eighteen times smaller than that of Germany or France and still it competes in the markets of the world with its gigantic neighbors. The great powers are recognizing the importance of Belgium by raising their envoys at the court of Brussels to the rank of ambassadors, which implies a great power.

Industry  
Commerce

Belgium has the largest and finest colony in Africa, that of the Congo, which is eighty times larger than the mother country. That state is very fertile and practically organized and administered. The slave raids have been stopped forever. Life and property are safe and the country is being rapidly developed.

Colonization  
A Great  
Colony

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# History

## Ancient History

### I. PERIOD 57 B. C.—476 A. D.

#### ROMAN PERIOD—CULTURED

In ancient times Belgium formed the third part of Gaul, stretching from the Rhine to the Somme and the Sea. The Belgians strongly resisted the Roman conquest. Once incorporated in the World Empire, the Belgians took up the advanced culture of Rome, and became a factor in the empire and enjoyed for five centuries the blessings of the civilization of Athens and Rome.

Third Part  
of Gaul

Valiance

#### *Ambiorix and Caesar.*

Ambiorix was the personification of Northern bravery and independence. Caesar, the personification of Roman strategy and statesmanship.

Julius Caesar is easily the greatest among the Romans, who conquered all the nations of the ancient

The Greatest  
Roman

Conquers  
Gaul

world. His main achievement was the conquest of Gaul, whose people were brave and independent, and who later formed the wealthiest province of the Roman Empire. For there he found adversaries worthy of him.

Caesar  
Drives  
Germans  
Back  
Remains in  
Gaul

Caesar conquered Gaul in eight years, 58-51 B. C. Called by Gallic tribes against Helvetian and German invaders, he established his camp in Gaul and demanded hostages. The Belgians were extremely jealous of their independence. 57 B. C. they formed a league against the threatening power of Rome; 300,000 men arose for the defense of their liberty. Caesar boldly advanced in their midst before they could unite their forces and he subdued one tribe after another. The Nervii had an army of 60,000 men. They surprised the Romans when the latter were preparing their camp on the banks of the Sambre and very nearly swept Caesar and his veterans off the field by their furious and tremendous charge. But the personal influence of the one and the steady discipline of the other prevailed over the untrained valor of the Nervii and the proud nation was nearly exterminated. Their combatants were cut off, almost to a man. Only 500 fighting men remained.

Rise of the  
Belgians

They Corner  
Caesar  
Extreme  
Danger

Conquest of  
Nervians

Ambiorix  
Leagues the  
Belgians

The Belgians were subdued in 57 B. C. But they revolted. Ambiorix, the king of Eburons, organized them in a league. He besieged the Roman camp, which was saved only by the prompt action of Caesar. In 53 Ambiorix formed a new league and seriously threatened the Romans. Caesar, understanding the danger, penetrated as quick as lightning among the different tribes and ravaged their territories. He defeated Ambiorix, exterminated the Eburons and made a desert of their lands.

## THE BELGIAN NATION

Ambiorix fled to the Germans to warn them against the advancing Romans, and he aroused Hermann, the German hero, who exterminated the Roman legions. But Caesar crossed the Rhine two times and appeared in Germany; he also crossed the Channel two times and invaded Britain. Thus he struck awe of the Roman power among the fierce nations of the north. Ambiorix never bent the knee to the Romans and died a free man among the German warriors.

**Arouses  
Hermann  
of Germany**

## Medieval History

### FIFTH-SIXTEENTH CENTURIES

The Middle Ages were ages of struggle and formation full of wild disorder and vice and of noble heroism and virtue. They were the times of struggle against anarchy, fanaticism and despotism and of struggles for order, religion and liberty. The greatest champions of the rights of men were the Franco-Belgians, who at home created industry and prosperity and abroad threw themselves valiantly in the great movements for the sake of humanity.

**Ages of  
Struggle**

Whilst those world wars lasted during the whole of the Middle Ages, they are treated first; then the local events and national improvements are taken up.

## A

### WORLD WARS FOR CULTURE

The Middle Ages were the heroic ages of Christendom. Nomadism and brutality were let loose upon mankind by the fall of the Roman Empire—the power that had maintained peace in the world for centuries. The Franco-Belgians were the first to restore order in Europe and fought the longest against the powers of barbarism. The expeditions of Charlemagne to tame and settle down the barbarians of the north and the wars of Charles

**Ages of Heroes**



## CRUSADES

Martel, Godfrey de Bouillon, Baldwin IX of Flanders St. Louis IX of France and Emperor Charles V are holy wars undertaken to defend liberty, culture and religion; they all were crusades fought to establish and maintain civilization in the world.

Franco-Belgian Heroes

Without denying the part of all the Christian nations in those world wars for civilization, it is safe to say that the Franco-Belgian heroes and later the French and the Belgians had the greatest share. For them crusading began centuries before and lasted centuries after the general crusades. Their rulers became the leaders of those Christian expeditions; but most of them lost their lives in the infidel countries and their great dynasties were lost to their people. The feats of Godfrey de Bouillon, Baldwin of Flanders, equal the deeds of any heroes of the past ages and will forever redound to the glory of the Belgians.

### FIRST CRUSADE

*From Three Ages of Progress by J. De Vos*

Pilgrimages  
Hampered  
by Seljuks

From the earliest ages the land sanctified by the presence of Our Lord was held in pious veneration, and was the object of many pilgrimages. In 630 the Arabs, in 907 the Khalifs of Cairo, and in 1075 the Seljukian Turks, conquered Palestine, and all molested and tormented the Christians, the last-named especially being exceedingly cruel. After subduing the East, they established five young kingdoms eager to expand, the most famous being Iconium in Asia Minor, Aleppo in Syria, and Damascus in Palestine. Constantinople was alarmed, and sent a cry of distress to Rome. The Italians were deaf to the appeal, and remained insensible to the troubles of the Greeks. But Pope Urban II (1088-1099) sent Peter the Hermit to France, the land of Charles Martel,

Who Threat-  
en Empire



## THE BELGIAN NATION

to describe the woes of the Christians of the East. He also convoked and presided at the Council of Clermont, which was attended by throngs of bishops and nobles. Peter the Hermit, a poor emaciated priest, told, with a sad countenance and a voice choked with sobs, the awful tale of Mussulman violence and sacrilege.

Urban II  
Convokes  
Council of  
Clermont

Peter the  
Hermit's Sad  
Story

"I have seen," he exclaimed, "Christians ironed and put to the yoke like beasts of burden. I have seen the ministers of the Most High dragged from the sanctuary, beaten with rods, and doomed to an ignominious death."

When the hermit had filled every heart with emotion, the Pope arose and thrilled the warriors by a most stirring speech. He told them to stop their fratricidal combats, and to atone for them by turning their swords against the enemies of Christ.

Christian  
Warriors  
Urged to  
Turn Wea-  
pons Against  
Common  
Enemy

"Soldiers of hell!" cried he, "be now the champions of God. You are not to avenge the wrongs of men, but those of the Lord of hosts. If you triumph, the blessings of Heaven and the kingdoms of Asia will be yours. If you fall, you will have the consolation of dying upon the soil crimsoned by our Savior's Blood. Break all earthly ties. Remember the words of our Lord: 'Every one that has left house, brethren and sisters, or father and mother, or wife and children for My sake shall receive a hundredfold and possess life everlasting!'"

At these words the vast multitude arose and exclaimed as with one voice: "God wills it! God wills it!"

"God Will  
It"

Three times the enthusiastic cry broke forth from thousands of breasts, and was borne away upon the breeze and resounded with lengthened echoes from the hills around. The Pope promised to protect their properties and their families during their absence, and thous-

ands pledged themselves on the spot to go to war in the Holy Land. As a sign of their vow they put a red cross on their right shoulder, whence they were called crusaders. Peter the Hermit passed on into Germany and Italy, and there also he created a general enthusiasm for the Holy War.

In the first enthusiasm numerous bands set out without leaders and perished on the road. The real crusade (1095-1099) was led by the most noble and the most renowned knights of Christendom. Six hundred thousand men were marshaled under the walls of Constantinople, and so frightened the Emperor Alexis that his daughter Ann wrote: "It seemed to us as if Europe, torn from its foundations, was hurled in its entirety upon Asia." Alexis commenced to annoy the Crusaders, and refused them ships with which to cross the Bosphorus until they promised to turn over to him all the conquests they might make in Asia Minor. The crusaders defeated the Sultan of Iconium, and the Greeks followed to take possession of the conquered country, and often betrayed their allies the crusaders. In Syria Baldwin of Bouillon and Bohemond of Tarento conquered Edessa and Antioch, and became the princes of these cities. Combats, famine and hardships thinned the ranks of the army before they reached Jerusalem, and the plague set in and carried off a great many. There remained only 50,000 men, but they were the flower of the Christian chivalry. When they arrived on the hills of Emmaus, and beheld Jerusalem afar off, glowing in the rays of the rising sun, they threw themselves upon their faces in the dust, and kissed with respect the ground sanctified by the footsteps of our Lord, shouting the watchword "God wills it!"

Cross Taken  
On the Spot

Army of  
600,000

Alexis  
Alarmed

Claims  
Asiatic Con-  
quests

Crusaders  
Conquer  
Part of  
Syria

Only 50,000  
Arrive  
Before  
Jerusalem

The infidels were prepared for a desperate resistance, and had 40,000 soldiers from Egypt besides 20,000 belonging to Jerusalem. They had filled the wells around the city, and turned the surrounding country into a desert. The crusaders suffered terribly from hunger and thirst, and from the burning sun; but they were relieved by the arrival of the Genoese fleet at Joppa, which brought plenty of supplies and a number of engineers. These cut down trees of a distant forest, and constructed moving towers which were higher than the ramparts of the enemy and furnished with drawbridges which could be lowered upon the walls. After five weeks of toil and fighting the crusaders prepared by a fast and a procession for the final assault. At early dawn the Christians moved forward their battle engines; the Mohammedans threw upon them flashing torches and Greek fire. The storming lasted until dark, and was recommenced the following morning. From their ramparts the Mussulmans did not cease throwing that unquenchable Greek fire, which devoured even the shields and corselets of the steel-clad warriors. Conspicuous upon the top of his moving tower stood Godfrey of Bouillon, dealing death and havoc among the Moslems. Surrounded by a heap of dead and dying, the hero calmly gave his orders and encouraged his men by example, voice and gesture. It was the solemn hour of three o'clock, at which our Lord died. Suddenly the report spread that several of the crusaders who had fallen in preceding battles had appeared, and planted the standard of the Cross upon the ramparts of Jerusalem. The Christians charged with renewed vigor. Godfrey's tower rolled on amid a storm of darts, stones and fiery missiles; it lowered its bridge upon the walls, whilst the Christians shot their burning darts upon

Hunger,  
Thirst,  
Heat and  
Toil

Storming of  
Jerusalem

In Face of  
Greek Fire

Godfrey of  
Bouillon  
Enters



the bales of cotton and straw which protected the inner wall of the city. The wind fanned the flames, and drove them upon the infidels, who were stifled by the fire and smoke. The city was soon taken.

And Takes  
Possession  
of City

As soon as victory was gained, the crusaders, laying aside their arms and bloodstained garments, went, bare-footed and bareheaded, weeping and striking their breasts, to the Sepulchre of Our Lord. The true cross was borne in procession through the streets. At its sight the Christians were as much moved as if they had seen the Body of Christ as it once hung upon the same cross.

Procession  
of the Cross

The chiefs met to elect a king able to defend the precious conquest of the holy places, and they unanimously chose Godfrey of Bouillon, who soon afterward gained the great battle of Ascalon against the combined forces of Egypt and Syria. The crusaders returned to Europe, and left to the king only 2,000 infantry and 300 horsemen. It was the Knights Hospitallers who formed his principal support. Unhappily he died in the year 1100.

Election of  
Godfrey to  
Kingship

## B

### NATIONAL MOVEMENTS

During the Middle Ages the Belgians progressed under every kind of government. They throve as partners of the Franco-Belgian Empire; as quasi-independent vassals and as a reunited and free nation.

### II PERIOD—476-842

#### FRANCO-BELGIAN PERIOD: FORMATIVE

From the Fourth century many Franks settled in Belgium and combined with the ancient populations and made them more Teutonic than before.

It is on Belgian soil that the two first dynasties of the Franks arose and grew, to-wit:—the Merovingians, 350-752, the Carolingians, 752-987—Clovis, Charles

Belgium  
the Cradle  
of  
Frankish  
Dynasties



## THE BELGIAN NATION

Martel and Charlemagne are Belgian princes. Clovis' capital was Tournay, Charlemagne's was Aix la Chapelle, then in the center of Belgium.

Lotharingia  
Comprehends  
Belgium  
Lorraine  
Switzerland

In 843 the Frankish Empire was partitioned in three parts:—France, Lotharingia and Germany. Lotharingia was the center, and the seat of empire, comprehending not only Belgium and Holland, but also Lorraine and Switzerland. That state soon dissolved into the above countries, which are existing until today.

### *The Franks: The Leaders of the Teutons.*

Most of the history of ancient Belgium from the fall of the old Roman Empire of the West to the restoration of the same by Charlemagne may be told in the history of the Franks. They are the one nation that grew on the confines of the Roman Empire along the right side of the Rhine from the Main river to the sea, and that occupied the left side and all of Belgium even before the fall of the Empire. They had adopted the policies and strategies of the Empire. Three Franks had been proclaimed emperors of Rome. By embracing Christianity the Franks acquired a new element of culture and progress.

Franks in  
Contact  
With Rome

Leavened  
By  
Christianity

They had become similar to the Celts of Gaul, whom they conquered, and they could at once amalgamate themselves with those Latinized Gauls—thus they represented in themselves a revival of the ancient civilization and they became the Neo-Latins of the North.

And By  
Mixture  
With Gauls  
Re-establish  
the  
Western  
Empire

The Franks became the leaders of continental Europe for three centuries; they laid the foundation of a new Empire of the west, which was gloriously established by Charlemagne who was consecrated the first Emperor by the Chief of Christendon; after a century and a half of vicissitudes it was finally established in the eastern part of

Which is  
Divided  
Into Two  
Great  
Powers

the domains—Germany, while the western part was held by the kingdom of France; the equal in power and influence to the Empire itself. There were a number of secondary powers that arose between and around those main realms, which maintained and led their own national life and never amalgamated with the main powers. There were also a great number of quasi-independent principalities which also preserved their individual existence and characteristics.

This organization was due as much to the genius of the Franks as to the policy of the church.

Not only were the Franks the leaders in the early reconstruction of Europe; but they were also its defenders.

They helped the Romans to check the invading German tribes, and to crush the triumphant hordes of the Huns at Chalons sur Marne.

When the Mohammedan Moors had passed over the prostrate Westgoths of Spain and rushed into Gaul, the Franks stopped their triumphant march at Poitiers.

This does not imply that the Franks lost their wild instincts and became meek and cultured at once. It took centuries to blot out barbarism. But it simply means that they established orderly governments and became the champions of justice and religion.

Two dynasties ruled the Franks—the Merovingian 418-638 and the Carolingian 638-843. When the descendants of Clovis gave themselves over to indolence and delivered the government to their ministers, called the Mayors of the palace, the Carolingians arose to power, and became the Monarchs of France. The deeds of a prominent prince of each dynasty are described.

And Some  
Small Ones

Defenders  
of Civiliza-  
tion and  
Religion

No Im-  
mediate  
Culture But  
Gradual

Two  
Dynasties

## THE BELGIAN NATION

### SOME LEADING PERSONAGES

#### CLOVIS

##### *Monographs.*

The Franks were divided in Riparian or River Franks (Rhine) and Salic or Sea (North Sea) Franks. **Franks United**

Clovis was only one of the Frankish kings; but he kills most of the other kings and by violence and deceit makes himself the sole ruler of the Franks, and thus unites all the Franks in one realm.

481-511, Clovis of Chlodwig was only 16 years, but he was a hero. Leader of the Salic Franks in the battle of Poitiers, 486, he conquers Syagrius, the last Roman governor in Gaul, whose rule extended from the Seine to the Garonne basin. **Conquest of Roman Gaul**

In 493 Clovis had married the Catholic Princess Clotilde of Burgundy. Called by the Riparian King of Cologne, against the Alamanni, he gives battle to them (at Tolbiac). When his soldiers were giving way, he vowed to adore the God of Clotilde if He gave him a victory. He beat his enemies, and the Rhine became a Frankish river. As a result of this battle he was baptized by St. Remi and 3,000 nobles with him. He was the first Teutonic king to accept the Catholic Faith. Hence, France is called the eldest Daughter of the Church. St. Eleutherius baptized 11,000 men. **Alamanni**  
**After Victory of Tolbiac Baptism of 3,000 Officers**

That solemn conversion to the Catholic Faith, the one professed by the Gaulic population, produced a powerful sensation. The fusion between the Gauls and the Franks became possible because both had the Catholic Faith. **Fusion Between the Franks and Gauls**

#### CHARLEMAGNE

*Character.* Charlemagne was tall and robust, commanding in face and figure, an untiring worker, temperate in food and still more in drink; cheerful in temper, **Strong Temperate**



steadfast and terrible in battle; gentle, condescending and faithful to his friends. His faculties were harmoniously developed. He was equally great as a conqueror and a lawgiver, a social organizer and a promoter of religion and culture. He loved power for the good it enabled him to do, but he was free from personal ambition. The glittering and easy price of the eastern empire was no temptation to him. He preferred to hammer away at the Saxons, Saracens, Avars in the service of Christ and His Church and never unsheathed the sword in a lower cause.

Balanced

High-minded

Defender of Christendom

*Beneficent Empire.* Greatness is embodied in the very name of Charlemagne—Magnus, “great,” forming one word with it. Charlemagne was the flower and the glory of the Carolingian dynasty. He was the worthy successor of Charles Martel who had saved Christendom from Mohammedanism and of Pepin the Short who had defended the Church against the encroachment of the Langobardians and he united the German nations under one scepter, thus finishing the work of his illustrious predecessors. But he had no successors able to take up his great work, and the glory of the house ended with him, and his dynasty disappeared within a century.

He Unites the German Nations Under One Empire

Seldom has the world seen a king more fitted by nature and virtue for ruling men, and seldom has a born ruler found similar opportunities for displaying such powers and qualities. To him Providence had assigned the task of consolidating the best results of the migration of the nations, and of welding its many discordant elements into a strong Christian commonwealth.

Charles a Born Ruler Perfected by Virtue

Charles had inherited from Pepin, his father, and Charles Martel, his grandfather, the duty of protecting Catholic Europe from the Saracens, the Slavs and the



## THE BELGIAN NATION

Saxons, to push the outer defenses of Christendom into territories still sunk in paganism and savagery, to promote the conversions of the new subjects whom he might subdue, and to continue the temporal protectorate over the Church and the Holy See, which the Franks had assumed under Pepin the Short. His most difficult task was the conquest of the Saxons.

His Work  
Welds the  
Migrated  
Nations  
Together

### *Data in the work of Charlemagne.*

In the course of fifty-three military expeditions Charles the Great firmly established his power over Southern Gaul and Celtic Brittany, reached Sicily, Corsica and the Balearic Islands in his warfare against the Arab pirates of Africa, gained the countries around the head of the Adriatic from the Eastern Empire, secured the independence of Venice by a treaty with Constantinople, destroyed the kingdom of the Avars, reduced the Slavonic tribes on the eastern front from the Baltic to the Adriatic, and united into one Frankish monarchy, within the Eider, the Ebro, the Garigliano and the Raab, all the German nations that had remained in their ancient seats, with all the Teutonic tribes on the Continent that had settled on Roman soil. Yet what made him still greater was that he labored untiringly every year of his reign with resolution and deliberate purpose for the benefit of all classes in his vast dominions.

Fifty-Three  
Expeditions

Subdues  
Aquitani-  
ans  
Slavs

Reaches  
Greeks

Unites All  
the German  
Nations

He attacked the Lombard King Desiderius, 773-787, who was conspiring with his enemies, and was molesting the Pope of Rome, and he conquered Longobarda, and annexed it to France 787. He warred with the Saxons for twenty years and ten years longer with the Danes, among whom he advanced as far as the Eider. He reduced Thassilo, duke of Bavaria, who had revolted, and

Langobar-  
dians

had enlisted the neighboring princes in his revolt, and he abolished the Dukedom, and divided it in counties.

**Avars** The Avars had aided the enemies of Charles who attacked them from 791-799 and established the Avaric March, which later became Austria.

**Slavs** To secure a boundary line in the rear of the Saxons against the advancing Slavs, who penetrated wherever the shifting of nations offered them a chance, he pushed as far as the Oder, conquered the Slavic tribes of the Elbe, and established a Sorbian March.

**Border of Margravates** Charles created a borderbelt of German Margravates from the Baltic to the Adriatic, among the Slavic tribes to keep same in awe and prevent further migrations.

**Expedition into Spain** Charlemagne undertook an expedition into Spain, 778, against Abderrhaman the new Omniad Caliph. Charles crossed the Pyrenees, subdued the country as far as the Erbo, and received the temporary homage of Moslems, Navarese and Basques. A Spanish march was established. But on his march back the Basques surprised the rearguard of the Frankish army in the passes of Roncevalles. Here fell the hero Roland, a Frankish Margrave of the Breton coast celebrated in many medieval romances.

**Roland of Roncevalles**

*Wars with the Saxons, 772-864.*

**Centuries of Hostility** The Saxons were the hereditary foes both of the Franks and of Christianity. For three hundred years they had defied the power of the Franks and made incursions into their territory. In the Mayfield and general review of the army at Worms, 772, the conquest and conversion of the Saxons was resolved upon as necessary for the safety of the Frankish kingdom.

## THE BELGIAN NATION

Warfare with the Saxons was most difficult on account of the wildness of the country, the bravery of the Saxons and the desperate tenacity with which they clung to their liberty, religion and customary laws.

Compared with the Saxon wars the other expeditions of Charles have the character of episodes. Whilst Charles invaded their territory, built fortresses and manned them with Frankish garrisons, introduced the military and judicial system of the Franks, built churches and founded missionary stations, the Saxons rose as soon as he turned his back upon their country, destroyed his institutions and carried their raids into Frankish territory. Nine times they shook off the foreign yoke and taxed the energy of the inflexible conqueror for twenty years before he had the satisfaction of seeing Saxony submissive and Christian.

The North Albigenses resisted ten years more.

### III PERIOD. 843-1400, FEUDAL PERIOD

#### *Feudal System*

##### *Military System of Feudalism.*

Europe was organized under the feudal system from the IX to the XIV century.

As a political unity the name of Belgium disappeared and there arose a number of small principalities, with local names, but the Belgian spirit of independence remained alive.

Lower Lotharingia covered most of Belgium and Holland and soon was divided into several fiefs or provinces, of which Brabant and Luxemburg were the principal ones. It was often disputed between France and Germany and its major part was incorporated in the German empire. But it retained its independent spirit.

The western part of ancient Belgium, called Flan-

The Life  
Work of  
Charle-  
magne

What He  
Built Up,  
They  
Destroyed

Rose Nine  
Times  
Resisted 20  
Years

Many Fiefs  
One Spirit



ders, was apportioned to France in the Carolingian division. But it remained more Belgian than French. It extended to the Somme and comprehended Artois besides Belgian and French Flanders.

During the Middle Ages under the feudal system, there arose seventeen well known states upon the soil of ancient Belgium of which today Belgium contains nine, France one (Artois) and Holland seven. All had their strifes for liberty and made strides in progress.

Only some episodes of Belgian history are given here, and convey a fair idea of the free life of the Belgians during the Middle Ages, and of their struggles for liberty.

*Prosperity of Flanders.*

Flanders was for 800 years the most independent and the most progressive state of northern Europe. It was the communes or towns, which means the people, that possessed valuable franchises, and defended same against all autocrats and tyrants that would curtail them. In England it was the nobility that wrenched the Great Charter of liberties from King John. In Belgium the guilds acquired franchises for their towns and allowed no one to infringe upon them.

*The Baldwins, Flanders, Enlightened Counts.*

The first count of Flanders, Baldwin the Iron Arm (862-878), laid the foundation of the greatness of his fief by two feats of daring and of bravery; the expulsion of the Normans, who were the terror of Europe; and the capture and marriage of Judith, the daughter of Charles the Bald, King of France.

By driving from his coasts the pirates of the North who infested all the rest of Europe, Baldwin secured for his land that peace that is necessary for any prog-

Seventeen  
Principalities

Some  
Episodes

Democracy  
Has and  
Defends  
Its Rights

Baldwin,  
Iron Arm,  
Drives Away  
the Normans

Marries  
Royal  
Princess

## THE BELGIAN NATION

ress. If they returned sometimes, they never got a foothold in Flanders, as they did in Normandy, England, and Naples—lands which they conquered and ruled as masters. That alone put Flanders at the head of progress in northern Europe.

The marriage of the count to a Carolingian princess, a descendant of the Great Emperor who had restored the Western Empire, assured the counts of Flanders a princely rank. At first there was a strenuous resistance to the union, but soon the opposition subsided and the king granted Baldwin the rich territories between the Scheldt and the Channel, thus making him one of the most powerful princes of the West.

The counts of Flanders were worthy of the Iron Baldwin, the terror of the Normans, and of Charlemagne, the civilizer of barbarian Europe. They were men of foresight, who developed the resources of the country, especially the wool industry, and thus laid the foundation of the manufacturing and trading that made Flanders for 800 years the first land of northern Europe. Innumerable flocks of sheep covered the marshy seacoasts and the rich valleys of Flanders. Their breed was perfected so that the finest wool grew in the land ready for the manufacturer. Weaving was brought to perfection. All the trades pertaining to the manufacture of wool were in honor. Flanders became the seat of the wool industry—the basin of the Scheldt was the land of the broadcloth, while the valleys of the Rhine, the Moselle, the Garonne, produced wines for the world. Broadcloth was brought to such perfection that it rivaled the silks of India.

**Worthy  
Successors  
Develop**

**Industry**

**Broad  
Cloth**

## FLANDERS

Beside wool, the Flemings cultivated flax, and became famous for their linen, and they are until today. The Englishmen come and buy the white flax of Flanders, which remains the best paying crop up to our own times.

Envious of the prosperity of the Flemish factories, the kings of England offered fabulous sums to the Belgian weavers to draw those gold producers to their land, and they succeeded in transplanting the cream of the woolen industries into their land; first equaling, then eclipsing the Flemings. It was the foundation of English supremacy in manufacturing and trading.

Such products would naturally find markets. But the enlightened counts of Flanders did everything to promote commerce and to draw the trade of Europe to the great seaport of Bruges.

Far from exploiting the merchants, they gave them security and privileges, and thus they drew to their harbor the trade of the world.

Mostly all the neighboring lands were still merely agricultural, without industries, when Flanders was renowned all over the world for her textures of wool and flax. Large cities sprang up on all sides and covered the land.

Bruges was a Hanseatic metropolis open to the trade of Europe. She was the northern port of entry for long journey wares of the South.

“Thither came for exchange the produce of the North and the South, the riches collected in the pilgrimages to Novgorod, and those brought over by the caravans from Samerkand and Bagdad, the pitch of Norway and the oils of Andalusia, the furs of Russia and the dates from the Atlas; the metals of

Masters  
Brought to  
England

Commerce

World-wide  
Trade  
Lively Port



Hungary and Bohemia, the figs of Granada, the honey of Portugal and the wax of Morocco and the spices of Egypt; 'whereby,' says an ancient manuscript, 'no land is to be compared in merchandise to the land of Flanders.' "

Factories or privileged trading companies from seventeen kingdoms had settled there; twenty foreign ministers resided within the walls, and traders visited the fairs of Bruges from the remotest parts of the world. In a single day of 1486, one hundred and fifty vessels arrived at Bruges from foreign lands.

But the gradual silting up of the harbors on the adjacent coast began to undermine the prosperity of the town towards the close of the fifteenth century, and its fall was accentuated by the rise of Antwerp and several inland cities in Belgium. Siltng Up  
of Port

Although for centuries Flanders was far ahead of the other principalities of the Netherlands, there were several other important states living their own individual life and growing in the development of their natural resources. Such were Brabant, Hainault, Liege, Luxemburg, Limburg, Holland and Gueldren. Other  
States

*Struggles for Liberty*

*Panorama.*

The industry and commerce of the Flemings was naturally carried on in towns; and Flanders was covered with cities. The manufacturing population were the makers and the masters of the cities, and they enjoyed home rule. Charters were granted by their rulers, who were obliged to respect their rights and privileges. The town was called a commune or city; it had its own seal, a bell to convoke the citizens or burghers, and a belfrey to preserve the charter and to serve as watch- Commune  
Rights

## FLANDERS

tower and prison. It had the right to maintain troops and to build walls of defense.

In opposition to the democracy stood the nobility and the rich merchants, who formed a patriciate.

The fourteenth century saw the struggles of the common people, the manufacturing classes, against the aristocrats, composed of merchants, magnates and nobles, and led by the kings of France. The former followed the banner of Flanders; a black lion upon a golden field; and prided themselves on the name of Klauwaert, from the claws of the lion. The latter followed the French banner of the lilies, and they were called Lilliards and regarded as traitors by the patriotic Flemings. It was a national struggle for existence, for the kings of France were determined to confiscate Flanders to their crown. It was also a social struggle, for their followers in Flanders were the nobility and the aristocracy of wealth, who wished to rule and exploit Flanders as their fellows ruled and exploited France. The citizens of the towns arose in their numbers to vindicate their political independence and their social rights. They fought for a century against the kings of France and their allies in Flanders. It is due to their struggles that the independence of the Belgian provinces has been maintained against the French cupidity; and that the rights of labor have been asserted and vindicated against the powerful kings of France.

Philip the Fair, King of France, was one of the most faithless, tyrannical, revengeful and irreligious kings that ever reigned. It was he who, out of spite, broke up the temporary power of the Popes and covered the great Pope Boniface VIII (1305) with such

Class  
Privileges

Two  
Camps:  
Klauwaerts  
and  
Lilliards

Citizens  
Defend Their  
Privileges

Philip  
the Fair  
Tyrant

brutal violence that it killed him. He imprisoned Guy of Dampiere, the Count of Flanders, on several occasions; he aroused his subjects against the count, and tried to enslave the Flemish. But they resisted his wiles and his violence and curbed his pride. He had fomented trouble between Count Guy and his people; he cast in jail Guy's daughter to prevent her from marrying Edward I, the King of England. Finally, the Count was driven to despair and joined the forces of England, but he was betrayed by his ally and abandoned by the aristocracy among his subjects and was compelled to constitute himself a prisoner of the implacable Philip the Fair.

Undermines  
Count of  
Flanders

Confiscates  
Imprisons

The aged count was cast in jail and his estates were declared forfeited for the crime of felony and annexed to the crown of France. Philip proclaimed himself as count and lord of Flanders, 1301. When he made his solemn entry into Bruges, with his haughty queen, Joan of Navarre, she found herself eclipsed by the sumptuous customs of the ladies, and she exclaimed, full of spite: "I imagined myself alone to be queen, but I see hundreds of ladies more queenly than myself."

The haughty Jacques de Chatillon was appointed governor and was supported by the Lilliards. Exactions and oppressions soon commenced; the walls of Bruges were blown up and a citadel built to keep the burghers in awe. The tyranny became so intolerable that the Bruggelings burst out in a furious revolt, under Jan Breydel and Peter Deconinck. The former was a man of Herculean strength, the dean of the Butchers' guild; the latter a man of penetrating mind. The former was the brawn, the latter the brains of the insurrection. On May 17, 1302, all the

Revolt of  
Bruges—  
Breydel and  
Deconinck



Lilliards  
Executed

French and the Lilliards were massacred and the city was rid of its enemies.

In the silence of the night Breydel crept with his butchers to the sentinels and cut them down as cattle. The motto, "Schild and Vriend," which a Frenchman could not pronounce without betraying his origin, was adopted to recognize the foreign oppressors. Soon the motto echoed all through the city, the people arose from their slumbers and all those with a foreign accent were hacked down. Many of the Lilliards were dragged out of their homes and executed by the indignant population. This terrible night was the beginning of liberation and it is called the Matins of Bruges, because the massacre continued till daybreak as long as enemies were discovered. Four thousand five hundred enemies fell on that glorious day of national revenge. But Chatillon escaped with a few followers. The guilds of the towns and the sturdy peasantry stood up against the patricians and the French. All Flanders was soon in revolt, only a few cities remained in the hands of the enemy.

Humiliated in his pride, Philip the Fair prepared a signal vengeance and called to arms the flower of his chivalry. Fifty thousand men entered Flanders to put down the revolt. First came the nobility of Artois, Champagne and Picardy; then a contingent sent by John of Avesnes, Count of Hainault, and a multitude of Lilliards; finally the mercenary troops formed by German horsemen, and Genoese cross-bowmen. That brilliant army was placed under the skillful Robert of Artois, the brother of the King. Courtrai was the object of attack and the Flemings, anxious for its defense, ranged themselves on the

Army Enters  
Flanders

plain of Groeninghe, which was covered by a canal. They were led by young Guy and William, the grandsons of the old count, and a few knights who dismounted to fight on equal terms with their fellows. It was a bold stand to take, for a small and unarmed crowd against the flower of French chivalry. About 20,000, armed only with piques, which they had employed also as implements of husbandry, resolved to abide the contest with 8,000 knights of gentle blood, 10,000 archers and 30,000 foot soldiers. But they were standing for home, for life and liberty and they conquered against all expectation. The intrepid French general, impatient to conquer, launched his knights against the Flemish bands, but they plunged and perished into the canals—horses and riders together, in one inextricable mass; and in their helplessness they were slain without pity by the Flemings. When the canals were filled with corpses, the horsemen sank into the marshy soil and when that was finally covered, they met a solid iron line of the Flemish pikes. No Fleming quit his place, none made any prisoner. They cut all down without mercy. It had never been seen before that the victors refused ransom from the dismounted knights. Panic seized the French, who fled in disorder, and in the evening reached Tournay hungry and frightened, and sold their arms to the citizens for a morsel of bread.

Upwards of 1,200 knights and 18,000 soldiers fell. Robert of Artois and Chatillon fell in the battle. The victors collected 700 golden spurs, whence the famous battle has been known as the battle of the Golden Spurs.

Battle of the  
Golden Spurs

Philip had lost his most experienced generals and the flower of his troops, but he would not give up

Warfare  
Continued  
by Philip  
and Suc-  
cessors

The  
Flemish

his idea of enslaving the Flamings. During the next two years he strove hard to repair the disaster of Courtrai. He finally gained the upper hand in small engagements, but new armies of Flemings were formed and hastened to the relief of Lille, which the king was besieging. Seeing the obstinacy of these patriots, he exclaimed: "Does it, then, rain Flamings?" He concluded a treaty granting independence to Flanders and restoring the old dynasty, 1305. The aged count had died in prison and his son Robert of Bethune ascended the throne of Flanders. But Philip imposed onerous war indemnities and refused to restore the cities he had captured. New wars broke out under him and his sons, and were repeated under Philip of Valois, but Flanders remained free.

During the whole century the French continued their war against the Belgians to subdue and enslave them, and they interfered in the quarrels between the counts and their subjects.

*Ghent: The Van Artevelde.*

Side  
With  
England  
Against  
France

During the hundred years' war between England and France, Belgium sided mostly with the English, from whom they received the wool for their factories. Moreover the French kings had not ceased to attack Flanders, which was glad to have an ally against the insatiable neighbors of the south. The count of Flanders, Louis of Nevers, was a French sympathizer and took the side of the new Valois Dynasty.

*From L. Van der Essen: A Short History of Belgium*

Jacob Van  
Artevelde

"At this juncture appeared Jacques Van Artevelde, a man great in Belgian history. He was a member of one of the patrician families, wealthy, and much re-



## THE BELGIAN NATION

spected. In 1338 he became captain of the municipal army of Flanders and soon found himself even more powerful than the Count. When the English delegates, sent by Edward III to win Flanders to his cause, arrived in the country, they visited Artevelde as the real leader of public opinion.

“Although sympathetic to the English cause, Artevelde partly fearing the resentment of the French King and partly wishing to prevent his country from becoming the battlefield of the hostile armies, first tried the policy of neutrality. He confined himself to assuring England of his friendship, thinking that this would suffice to win for Flanders the commercial advantage it needed. Neutral

“But he could not remain neutral; he had to choose between the belligerents. That was a delicate and dangerous task, for the Flemings faced a conflict between their commercial interest and their duty toward their feudal lord, the King of France. Artevelde, ‘the wise man of Ghent,’ acted cleverly. On his suggestion, Edward III declared himself to be the true king of France, for he was the grandson of Philip the Fair through his mother, whereas Philip of Valois was only the nephew of the former ruler. The Flemings, easily convinced by these claims, put their scruples aside, and accepted the idea of the Anglo-Flemish alliance. The French fleet was destroyed by the English at L’Ecluse (1340), but Tournai was vainly besieged by the Anglo-Flemish forces. Artevelde became more and more the confidant of the English King, who called him ‘his fellow’ and highly appreciated his shrewd diplomacy. Sides With  
England

“The power of the ‘wise man of Ghent’ soon aroused the jealousy of many, and was greatly endangered when the English King, annoyed by the reluctance of the Calumniated

Killed

Flemings to conclude with him a complete treaty of alliance, suddenly abandoned his claims and left his allies in the lurch. A sudden outburst of hostility put an end to Artevelde's career. His enemies informed the people that he had favored England too much, that he had given the treasure of Flanders to the English King, and that he intended to offer the crown to the Prince of Wales. Only the last charge was true. But the people, stirred up by demagogues who had planned the fall of the 'wise man,' believed what they were told. A furious mob attacked the house of Artevelde. While he was trying to persuade them that he was falsely accused, he was overpowered and ignominiously slain (1345). 'The poor exalted him, the wicked killed him,' that is the epitaph written by Froissart, his political adversary, in honor of the greatest Fleming of all times."

Philip Van  
Artevelde  
Fights  
Louis of  
Maele

The Ghentenaers aroused most all of Flanders against Louis III of Maele, the new count, who called the king of France to his rescue. They chose as their leader Philip von Artevelde, son of Jacob, who, however, was beaten and perished at the battle of Roosebeke.

Thus the Van Artevelde, Jacob and Philip, father and son, made treaties with England, where most of their trading was done. They undertook fierce struggles against the French kings and saved their land from France and their liberties from the encroachments of the nobles.

*Franchises of the People All Over Belgium*  
*Joyeuse Entrée in Brabant.*

"The consequences of the battle of the Golden Spurs cannot be overestimated. . . . The victory saved the national independence of Flanders and practically prevented the political absorption of the other Belgian

principalities by Philip the Fair. . . . It also confirmed the victory of the democratic elements over the Patricians in Flanders. . . . The craftsmen of Liege in the same year, and under the influence of the defeat of the Flemish Patricians . . . inaugurated a revolt against the Patricians of their own city. After many years of bloody struggle, they succeeded in wresting from the Bishop, Prince Adolph de la Marck, the Peace of Fexhe, that practically founded the liberties of Liege, . . . which was safeguarded by the tribunal of the XXII."

Charters of  
Liberties  
of Liege

All through Belgium the craftsmen made successful revolts and secured forever valuable franchises and privileges.

Brabant

"One of the most famous privileges, won by the people during the communal struggles of the fourteenth century, is that called the joyeuse entrée of Brabant (1354-56). According to the stipulations of that charter of liberty, the territory of the Duchy was to remain undivided and undiminished; the seven important cities of Brabant were to keep in their common possession the documents containing the municipal liberties; no offensive war was to be waged, no treaty concluded, no inch of territory ceded, no coin made, without the consent of the subjects. Commerce was to be free and only legal taxes were to be imposed. The Duke undertook to care for the safety of the roads, to protect his people from arrest in foreign countries, to keep peace between the Rhine and the Meuse and to respect the treaties concluded with Flanders and Liege. No native of Brabant might prosecute a fellow-countryman before a foreign court. The Duke himself was to be subject to the laws of the Duchy."

Stipulations  
of the  
Joyeuse  
Entree



## WALLOONS

Before any Duke could enter a city, he had to swear to observe every stipulation of the joyeuse entrée.

Progress Not  
Uniform

“The development of civic freedom and the spirit of democracy” existed mostly in industrial centers. . . .

“In the more agricultural regions of the country, they were less in evidence or were introduced much later and they did not make such an impression on the life of the people.”

Luxemburg  
People  
Backward  
But Dukes  
Prominent

In the mountains and woods of Luxemburg, there was little political progress among the people. However the Dukes were conspicuous enough to be elected emperors of Germany for about a century.

Namur and  
Hainault

The countries of Namur and Hainault were in close contact with Flanders and shared in its développement. Moreover, the counts of Hainault were also counts of Holland. That made a great southwestern group of Belgium, which was most subject to French influence.

Southwestern  
Group

Brabant  
Controls  
Central  
Belgium

The Dukes of Brabant were the power of Central Belgium; their domains comprehending Dutch and Belgian Brabant and the marquisat of Antwerp.

Expands  
to Rhine

When the dynasty of Limburg became extinct, Brabant claimed it, so did Prince Henry of Luxemburg, who won several allies. But the Duke of Brabant routed them at Woeringen on the Rhine, 1288; took possession of Limburg and thus got control of the countries between the Meuse and the Rhine. They reached the Scheldt on the west. Louvain was their capital, whilst Bruxelles was made the capital by the Dukes of Burgundy.

Struggle  
for Self  
Government  
Kept Up

The Belgians continued their fight for self-government under all subsequent regimes, even those of the glorious dukes of Burgundy and the illustrious Hapsburg, Kaiser Karl. On account of the great works and

endeavors for the building up of a powerful Netherland, those princes put heavy taxes upon their subjects without consulting them, and every time they violently rebelled against such encroachments; as an example of these uprisings the story of the Franchimontois is here given.

LIEGE THE CAPITAL OF THE WALLOON COUNTRY

*Larned-Willert.*

“Liege lies on the borderland of the French and German speaking races. It was the capital of an ecclesiastical principality, whose territory extended some distance up the river and over the wooded ridges and green valleys of the Ardennes. The town had originally sprung up round the tomb of St. Lambert—a shrine much frequented by pilgrims. The Prince-Bishop of Liege was the vassal of the emperor, but his subjects had long considered the kings of France their natural protectors. It was in France that they found a market for their manufactures, from France that pilgrims came to the tomb of St. Lambert or to the sylvan shrine of St. Hubert. Difference of language and rivalry in trade separated them from their Dutch speaking neighbors. We hear, as early as the 10th century, of successful attempts on the part of the people of Liege, supported and directed by their bishops, to subdue the lords of the castles in their neighborhood. A population of traders, artizans, and miners were unlikely to submit to the pretensions of a feudal aristocracy. Nor was there a burgher oligarchy, as in many of the Flemish and German towns. Every citizen was eligible to office if he could obtain a majority of the votes of the whole male population. Constitutional limits were imposed on the power of the bishop; but he was the sole fountain of law and justice. By suspend-

Episcopal  
Principality

Democracy

Struggles for  
Liberty

ing their administration he could paralyse the social life of the State, and by his interdicts annihilate its religious life. Yet the burghers were involved in perpetual disputes with their bishop. When the power of the Dukes of Burgundy was established in the Low Countries, it was to them the latter naturally applied for assistance against their unruly flock. John the Fearless defeated the citizens with great slaughter in 1408. He himself reckoned the number of slain at 25,000. In 1431 Liege was compelled to pay a fine of 200,000 crowns to the Duke of Burgundy."

*Heroic Death of the Franchimontois at Liege.*

The Walloons were as zealous of their liberties as the Flemings, and fought for same every time these were attacked. An example of their incomparable spirit is shown in the heroic stand that 600 Franchimontois made against their powerful Duke Charles the Reckless, at Liege, October 29, 1468. A revolt had been fomented in Liege by the perfidious king of France, Louis XI, against his benefactor and his guest, Duke of Burgundy, Charles the Reckless. Liege was the city of the Meuse, which had grown up under the prince-bishops and carried on a thriving metallurgical and manufacturing industry, spreading into the picturesque valley, studded with magnificent buildings, among which the towers of the Cathedral of St. Lambert reached the height of the surrounding bluffs.

The powerful duke hastened to Liege with two large armies, dragging with him the perfidious Louis XI. He camped at the gate of St. Walburge upon the bluffs that command the city from the north, and below at the gates of St. Leonard. Resistance with hope of success was out of question. Charles could destroy the town

The Franchi-  
montois Wal-  
loon  
defenders  
of Liberty

Liege the  
Capital of  
Meuse



and exterminate the people. He was furious on account of the treacherous action of the French king. The fortifications had been razed. The citizens had neither ammunition nor weapons, and were at the mercy of the exasperated monarch.

City at  
Mercy  
of Duke

*G. Kurth. Abregé Hist. Belgique, p. 60. Translation.*

“Moved by a sublime despair, one of the Liegeois chiefs, the valiant Josse de Strouille, planned a last and daring attempt. The scheme was to take advantage of the darkness of the night to penetrate stealthily into the Burgundian camp and to ravish the duke (with his guest) or to kill him in the midst of his army. Meanwhile the few remaining defenders of the city of Liege would fall upon the two camps of St. Walburge and St. Leonard. There was hope that the enemy army, surprised in its sleep, and deprived of its leader and attacked on all sides, might be easily stampeded into a rout.

Daring  
Scheme

To Surprise  
the Duke  
at Night

“To execute the boldest part of this plan, men were required who could not be frightened by anything. Six hundred men of the country of Franchimont offered themselves. Gliding from the heights of St. Margaret to the gulch of Fond Girette, they scaled afterwards the abrupt rocks, upon which the ducal army was camping. As they expected, they found on this side the enemy army, in complete rest. Preceded by their scouts they penetrated from the rear into the Burgundian camp; and arrived near the quarters occupied by the duke and the king. They were reaching their goal; within a few moments they were to realize their bold stroke.

Penetrate  
the Enemy  
Headquarters

“But the washerwomen, who were grouped around a fire, recognized by their Liegeois accent, the scouts, who had slipped among them and pretended to be Burgundian sentinels, that were just relieved of duty. They gave

Too Slow  
Discovered

the alarm instead of making straight for the ducal quarter; the assailants lost time hesitating between that and those of French Duke of Alencon. That saved Charles the Reckless. His guards awoke and had time to arm themselves, and likewise those of the king of France.

Awful Con-  
fusion, Des-  
perate Fight

Terrible  
Havoc

“When the Liegeois made the assault of the two headquarters, it was too late. The fray, however, was a terrible combat, carried on in torch light, with extreme confusion. The enemy did not know against whom they were fighting; the Burgundians were afraid of a new treason plot of the French king and the Liegeois heroes purposely kept up the illusion crying, Vive the king, Vive la France! Meanwhile the enemy discovered how few were their assailants. Surrounded on all sides, the brave defenders continued to fight with an indomitable courage, but finally all of them perished. If they did not have the pleasure to save their city, they had the glory to die for it.”

*Splendor and Decline of the Communes.*

Prosperity

Internal  
and External  
Struggles

The communes had reached the apogee of power and wealth in the fourteenth century, but their very prosperity brought quarrels between the aristocratic and the laboring class of the cities and also among the neighboring cities.

As In  
Ancient  
Greece

Neglect of  
Waterways

It was the case of the mighty Greek cities of old who warred among themselves and fought those great wars of the Peloponnesus, of which the Greek historians give us so splendid an account. While Bruges and Ghent and other cities were quarrelling among themselves, instead of keeping open the great waterways to the sea they allowed them to be silted up, and they lost their

commerce and industry, which were eagerly seized by England and by Antwerp.

Thus Bruges, the great Belgian seaport of the Middle Ages, was cut off from her ocean canal communication. Antwerp on the deep Scheldt took its place.

The statesmanship of the Burgundian dynasty put an end to these local rivalries, and inaugurated a national policy, wherein the interests of the ancient cities were not only safeguarded but also promoted and not only maritime Flanders, but the whole of Belgium became a world power and the richest country of the times.

Eclipse of  
Bruges

Burgundian  
Dukes  
Unite the  
Big Cities

Make  
Belgium a  
Very Rich  
Country

IV PERIOD—REUNION OF PRINCIPALITIES

*Burgundy-Netherlands 1363*

*Reunion of Belgian and Holland Principalities.*

During the Middle Ages, particularism was the rule in Europe; i. e., the division in many fiefs. It was especially pronounced where the people had made more progress, as in the ancient territory of Belgium; which had no less than seventeen principalities.

Feudal  
Particular-  
ism

National  
Spirit of  
Unity  
Persists

However, those political divisions did not destroy the spirit of national unity that animated those countries at all times. That helped the Burgundian Dukes to unite under their sceptre the many states, that had belonged to different houses, and to reconstruct ancient Belgium.

*Addition of Burgundian Domains.*

These Lords possessed moreover some of the Burgundian countries, which formed a part of ancient Lotharingia, or the Middle Kingdom that lay between France and Germany in the ninth century.

Burgundians  
Added

Restores  
Lotharingia

The French people being united into a compact kingdom eager to expand, the Netherland principalities would be absorbed unless they were united into one vigorous state able to resist the attacks of a

Unification  
Necessary  
Before  
Aggressive  
France



powerful aggressive neighbor. The unification of seventeen states separated for many centuries would require skillful diplomacy rarely found in the course of history. But it was found in the gifted dukes of Burgundy uniting the distinguished houses of Flanders and Valois. Through a series of marriages, negotiations and campaigns they succeeded in bringing together principalities which for centuries had been rivals of one another. It was especially through peaceful diplomacy that these great statesmen succeeded in uniting the provinces that in ancient times had been one, and that naturally go together. Philip the Good was the most successful among all of them; his son Charles the Fearless was the only one that had recourse to arms to round off his domains and he perished by the sword.

The dukes of Burgundy through their own rights were the equals of the great monarchs of the times and their male descendants might have been elected as emperors of Germany if they had lived long enough. Their female descendants married into the noble royal family of Spain and into the imperial house of the Hapsburgs and their descendants ruled Germany for five centuries.

Such master rulers would naturally establish a strong government and they concentrated many powers in their hands; following the policy of the times which was one of centralization. In this they met with unyielding opposition from the peoples that had enjoyed valuable franchises for centuries and they learned how to respect those cherished rights and obtained all the more the sincere cooperation of subjects, who being left free in their local affairs made the greatest of sacrifices to build up the power of their progressive dukes.

Effected  
Through  
States-  
men

Mostly by  
Peaceful  
Diplomacy

Philip  
the Good

Dynasty  
Allied to  
Royal and  
Imperial  
Houses

Centralizing  
Policy  
Resisted

Franchises  
Respected  
Generous Co-  
operation  
from a Free  
People

## THE BELGIAN NATION

*Data in the Reunion of All the Netherlands.*

*Phillip the Bold*, 1364-1404, of the French house of Valois, Duke of Burgundy, marries Margaret of Flanders, who held the Burgundies and Artois from her former husband, 1384, and inherits Flanders from her father. Philip purchases Charolais from the Armagnacs, i. e., Bernard, the father-in-law of the Duke of Orleans, regent for the mad king of France. *John the Fearless*, 1404-19, opposed by duke of Orleans, murders him, 1407, is proclaimed an enemy of the state, occupies Paris, supported by Henry IV of England. In the second period of hundred years' war, he liberates the queen of France, Isabella of Bavaria; coalesces with her and conquers a great part of France, 1417, obtains possession of king's person, is murdered at Montereau by Orleanists, 1419.

**Philip  
the Bold**

**Marries  
Heiress of  
Flanders**

*Philip the Good*, 1419-1467. 1430, marries Isabella of Portugal. He is called "the founder of Belgium" by Juste Lips because he did the most for the unification of the Belgian provinces.

**Philip  
the Good**

**The  
Founder**

To avenge his father, who was murdered by the French, Philip concludes the treaty of Troy with the English, 1420. Henry V of England married Catherine, daughter of Charles VI, and became regent and heir to France; his brother married Philip's sister. 1423, siege of Orleans, raised by Joan of Arc, who is captured by Burgundians at Compiègne, 1430, and burnt by English, 1431. 1424, marriage Jacoba of Hainault to Gloucester of England. Philip the Good withdraws from English. 1432, treaty with Charles VI. Philip receives Auxerre, Macon, Peronne, Montdidier, and towns of Somme, is released from feudal homage, besieges Calais. Philip buys Namur, 1421-29, inherits Brabant and Lim-

**Alliance  
with  
English**

## UNION PERIOD

burg after first cousins, John IV and Philip, 1430. Jacoba of Hainault had left John IV and married Gloucester, 1424, who invades Hainault, Jacoba is captured by Burgundians, escapes, fights till 1428; cedes states in 1433, after remarriage surrenders Holland, Zealand, Friesland and Hainault. Philip purchases Luxembourg from Elizabeth Gorlitz, 1444. Son Charles heads League of Public Weal in France against overbearing Louis XI.

Fickle  
Jacoba of  
Hainault

Heavy Taxes  
Anger  
Subjects

All those great works and enterprises, those political unions, required a vast amount of capital, and heavy taxes were levied, without due considerations of the local franchises, which aroused the people to rebellion.

Revolts  
Quelled

Revolt of Bruges, 1437, of Ghent, 1448-53 on account of tax on salt—conquered.

*Charles the Rash*, 1467-77, last great figure of the Middle Ages: physical strength and energy, lofty ambition, terrible passion, indomitable obstinacy, insatiable vengeance.

Treachery  
of Louis XI

Object 1—To fight absolutism of Louis XI of France, royal trickster, universal spider. As Dauphin or crown prince Louis, unbearable at home, had been received at the Burgundian court, but he turned against his host. He aroused the cities of Liege and Dinant against him, and created all kinds of trouble. Object 2—To consolidate his countless and opulent estates into a middle monarchy that would keep France and Germany apart. In 1465 as Count of Charolais, he headed League of Public Weal, with duke of Brittany and 500 nobles, to resist encroachments of Louis XI—battle of Monterey, siege of Paris; treaty of Conflans gives Normandy to king's brother, gives Somme towns and

Established  
Powerful  
Monarchy



Guienne to Charles, 1468. But declaration of states general, that it is illegal for the crown to dismember the realm. Marriage of Charles to Margaret, sister of Edward IV of England. Louis XI excites Liege and Dinant to revolt, and meets Charles at Perrone who compels him to accompany him to witness the destruction of those cities, 1469. Ghent had also revolted and was awed into submission. Treaty of Perrone declared invalid by assembly of notables—war 1471-72; peace of Senlis.

1472, rescue and occupation of Guelderland. 1473, negotiations with Frederic IV, for royal crown, broken off—intends an attack on Cologne to help Bishop ruler—besieges Neuss.

1469, Sigismund of Tyrol pawns Alsace Breisgau, Rhenish towns in Switzerland, to Charles: strong and severe Peter Von Hagenbach made governor of Alsace, is killed but revenged by slaughter and devastation. Sigismund joins confederates and Louis XI.

Alsace  
Breisgau  
Bought

The Swiss rout Charles' army, and ravage Franche Comté. The Lorraines (Rene) devastate Luxemburg. Imperialists war with him. 1476; Charles conquers Lorraine from Rene, he rashly invades Switzerland, is beaten at Granson and Morat by Swiss and Rene of Lorraine; 1477, slain in battle at Nancy.

War  
Against  
Swiss

*Mary of Burgundy, 1477-82, Maximilian of Austria.* Mary grants confirmation of franchises or Grote privilege to Holland. No man shall fill two offices; no foreigner shall hold office. No foreign language used. Diets are free. Empty treasury—invasion of duchy of Burgundy, threatening the counties of Artois and Picardy by Louis XI, as lapsed fiefs. The spirited duchess of a

Privileges to  
Holland  
Confirmed

## UNION PERIOD

Louis XI  
Attacks  
Maximilian  
Defends

masculine character marries the "last knight," Maximilian, 1477, who beats French at Guinegate.

Duchy of Burgundy given up to France. Mary falls off a horse, dies, leaves Philip and Margaret.

*Philip the Handsome*, 1482-1506. Regency of *Maximilian*, 1482-93. Wealth and refinement of Flanders contrasted with German poverty, restlessness, etc.

Revolts of  
Flemings

The Flemings seize the person of the archduke, but they are forced to yield by campaigns of 1484-85. He is confided to Margaret of York, Dowager of Burgundy. In 1486, Maximilian becomes king of the Romans. Bruges, fearing the interference of German garrisons, arrests Maximilian and keeps him in jail for three months. Emperor Frederic brings army, and grants amnesty.

French  
Intrigues

The Dauphin was betrothed to a princess of Burgundy, but marries Ann of Brittany. As she was affianced to Maximilian, he leagues with Henry VII of England 1491: Artois and Franche-Comté restored. In Italy Maximilian joins the Sforza; he invests Ludovico Sforza with dukedom of Milan; Emperor in 1493. 1495, league with Ferdinand, Italy and Pope to expel Charles VIII, king of France, out of Naples.

Italian  
Wars

Spanish  
Marriages

In 1496 and 1497 Spanish marriages: Philip and Joanna. Margaret and Juan. Philip refuses the Great Privilege, but recognizes other franchises.

Regent  
Aunt Makes  
Peace

*Charles V*, 1506-1555. Maximilian regent, appoints Aunt Margaret, who concludes peace with France. He enters Holy Alliance against French conquerors of Italy, with Henry VIII puts French to flight at battle of the spurs at Guinegate.

1512, Netherlands are formed in Burgundian circle of empire.

*Glory and Wealth of the Whole Country.*

Under the Dukes of Burgundy, 1384-1479, and the Hapsburgs, 1479-1555, Belgium was the first land of Europe. Philip the Bold, the brother of Charles V, king of France, became duke of Burgundy after the extinction of the Capetian dynasty in Philip of Rouvre, who was married to Margaret of Male. By his marriage to the same Margaret of Male, the daughter of Louis II, last count of Flanders, Philip became also the lord of Flanders.

Royal  
Marriages  
Unite  
Belgium

The dukes of Burgundy formed, after the kings of France, the most distinguished branch of the royal house of the Valois. They soon reunited the provinces of ancient Belgium. It was the sagacity of the third duke of Burgundy that mostly effected that restoration.

Philip the Good, 1419-1467, was the most opulent prince of his time. He was the patron of arts and letters. He held his court at Bruges and supported a colony of artists which made of Bruges the museum of the Nord. Gorgeous styles prevailed; gold, silver and jewels abounded on all sides. The woolen industries were so important that Philip established the Order of the Golden Fleece on the occasion of his marriage with Isabella of Portugal, thus honoring the great woolen industries, the source of Belgian greatness. It was the first official recognition of the power and rights of labor. The great order of the rising state had for emblem not some powerful fierce animal in threat, but the meek lamb, and its valuable wool—the source of Belgium's wealth and industry.

Splendor of  
Bruges

Order of  
Golden  
Fleece

Recognition  
of Labor

Mary of Burgundy, the granddaughter of Philip the Good, married the scion of the Hapsburgs, Maximilian, who became emperor of Germany. Their



## DIVISION OF NETHERLANDS

Imperial  
Marriages

Charles V  
Emperor  
Of Old and  
New World

children married to the children of the great Isabella the Catholic, who, with Ferdinand the Catholic, united Spain in one monarchy, drove the Mohammedan Moors into Africa and made possible to Columbus the discovery of America. Emperor Charles V was the grandson of Isabella and the son of Philip of Burgundy and Joanna of Spain, and he seemed to unite in his blood the noble qualities of the counts of Flanders, the Hapsburg rulers and the Spanish warriors. He was born in Ghent and loved to call himself a burgher of that opulent commonwealth. He was proud of his city of Ghent and he used to say jokingly of the capital of France, that he could put her in his grand Gant, which means glove in French: "Je mettrai Paris dans mon Gant!" In spite of the pride they had in their fellow citizen, Kaiser Karl, the Ghen-tenaers refused to pay the heavy taxes laid upon them and rebelled against him. But he hastened from Spain to reduce the rebels and did not hesitate to punish his fellow citizens, 1539. Charles was the world ruler of his day. It was under him that America was conquered and added to the dominions of his house. He was the first white man who ruled America. So there was a time that the ruler of Belgium, a Belgian born prince, was also the ruler of the new world. He confided important positions of his empire to the sturdy sons of Belgium. Charles V is the national hero of the Belgians. The memory of "Kaiser Karl" lives until today among the people more than that of any other prince of past centuries.

Under Charles V Antwerp was perhaps the most prosperous and wealthy city of Europe, surpassing even Venice itself. The broad and deep Scheldt makes

Native City  
Rebels—Is  
Punished

National  
Hero

one of the best soft water harbors in the world, where, without expense, the sea-going vessels are cleansed from the barnacles that grow on them in the ocean. It penetrates sixty miles into the continent and forms the natural seaport of the best part of western Europe. Napoleon understood so well its importance that he constructed there the finest docks of the times, which excite admiration until today.

Antwerp:  
Sea Port  
Metropolis

## Modern History

### FOURTEENTH-TWENTIETH CENTURIES

In modern ages the Belgians, who for centuries had enjoyed a monopoly of trade in Northern Europe, suffered a commercial eclipse under foreign regimes, to rise again a free nation and to retake their ancient rank among the progressive peoples of Europe.

In Northern continental Europe, Belgium alone remained faithful to the ancient church. But it paid dearly for its adhering to its own conviction and refusing to side in with the violent reformers. It was persecuted and injured for the faith that it professed, but it remained unshaken in its religion and finally obtained its freedom of worship.

Sacrifices  
for Con-  
science' Sake

But the material loss was sustained for the noblest of causes; for the liberty of conscience. It was to assert their belief in their ancient religion that the Belgians separated from the rest of Northern Europe, which took a new form of Christianity and boycotted them because they followed the dictates of their conscience and stood firm in the midst of changing beliefs. Whatever a man may think of the different forms of Christianity, he must give credit to those who have the courage to sacrifice their material interests for what they deem their spiritual good.

Commercial  
Eclipse

## FOREIGN REGIMES

In 1830 the Belgians fought themselves free and they prospered again and they soon took back their ancient place in the commerce of the world; before two generations of independence had passed, they were the fifth nation in the volume of world trade.

Struggles in  
1830

When the modern militarists were on their way to the conquest of the world, the Belgians again became crusaders for liberty. They sacrificed their land that "the world might be a fit place to live in." It is true they are paralyzed for a generation to come—the Yzer country is in worse condition than Caesar found it—because it is a desert and the sea water is covering the fat meadows of its valley. But the Belgians are free and so is the world.

1914-18

FIFTH PERIOD: 1556-1830. FOREIGN REGIME,

COMMERCIAL ECLIPSE

### *Spanish Domination.*

The Burgundian princes had shown real statesmanship by uniting the Netherlands together in one powerful state able to defend itself against aggressive neighbors. William of Orange showed himself their enemy by dividing them in two, mostly to satisfy his own ambition. If William was astute in his plans he was unscrupulous in the execution and sowed religious dissensions in the country, in order to work out his own aggrandizement.

Belgium was the special victim of Holland, which closed her rivers and stopped her sea trade, and she suffered a commercial eclipse that lasted over two hundred years.

Belgium became the prey of the French King Louis XIV, who sliced off her southern domains and made no less than five wars of conquest on her territory.

Contrast  
Between  
Statesmen

Victim of  
Holland



## THE BELGIAN NATION

### *Principal Causes of the Division of Belgium and Holland*

#### I. *Absenteeism.*

*Philip II.* It is with Philip II that commences that inefficient government of the Belgian provinces by absentee rulers, who did not understand the situation. However able and practical the governors appointed might be, they were only deputies or substitutes lacking the personal authority of a sovereign who never visited his distant subjects. The country remained open to the machinations of its enemies whether inside or outside. Ambitious princes found it possible to sow dissensions in the land, and even detach parts of it from the sovereign. Hostile neighbors could invade and subjugate whole provinces before the main power found time to send defenders to the hitherto abandoned country.

Absentee  
Rulers  
Uninformed  
Belated

Leave Land  
Open to  
Revolts and  
Attacks

#### 2. *Intrigues and Violence.*

William of Orange cut off the tie that united Holland to Spain, and organized an aggressive republic which became powerful and proved itself an enemy of the Belgians by closing their rivers, and shutting them out of the sea trade. The Belgian provinces were treated as a dependency of Holland, to be exploited by the Hollanders, until they could be dismembered and annexed without provoking European wars. However, the Belgian people concentrated as it were within their narrow boundaries, developed their fields and their mines and grew in numbers and in wealth.

Intrigues  
of William  
the Silent

Belgium  
Used as a  
Subject  
Country

#### *Data in Division and Wars.*

*Philip II, 1556-1598, Absentee Ruler.* Withdraws to Spain, appointing his sister Margaret of Parma as

Chronicles

governess, Cardinal Granvelle, archbishop of Mechelin, and new bishoprics to defend the faith.

Plots of  
William the  
Silent  
Great  
Generals:  
Alva

Requesens  
Farnese  
Victories

*Plots of William the Silent*: petitions against the Cardinal—violence and vandalism of fanatical Calvinists. Duke of Alva, 1567-73, comes with army, establishes a tribunal of troubles against the agitators. Requesens, 1573—conquers, but unpaid soldiers pillage and retaliate. Pact or pacification of Ghent to drive away the foreigners—1578-92. Farnese takes the cities, conquers all enemies, fights English (Armada) and Huguenots. Violences of Protestants provoke the Walloons, who form with the Flamings the confederation of Arras for the defense of their faith. The northern provinces form the union of Utrecht under William of Orange, feigned offer of sovereignty to foreign princes—Belgian Protestants and merchants are drawn to move to Holland, which thus acquired the restless and aggressive population of the south and drained the resources of Belgium.

Confedera-  
tion of  
Arras Union  
of Utrecht

Permanent  
Division

Republic of the United Provinces of Holland, 1579; Belgian Provinces under Spain, 1579-1713.

*Farnese*, 1578-92, was an invincible general, who beat all the disturbers of the peace, and all the enemies of the state.

Independ-  
ence

*Albert*, 1598-1621, and *Isabella*, 1633, *Sovereigns*. Loss: Nieupoort, and gain: Ostend—truce; 1624. Holland and France make a partition treaty about Belgium and attack same.

Belgium was the cockpit of Europe at all times, but especially in the long struggle between the Hapsburgs and the Bourbons for the possession of fertile Belgium. In 50 years, ten great battles were fought on its soil.

*Five wars of conquest by Louis XIV*. During his minority the thirty years' war was continued against

## THE BELGIAN NATION

Spain and prolonged till 1657. The victory at the Dunes secured Artois, etc. Louis XIV himself carried on five wars of conquest against the coalitions of Europe.

Insatiable  
Louis XIV  
Five Wars  
of Conquest

I. 1661-64, Devolution war, twelve Belgian cities captured. II. 1671-72, Holland invaded, digues broken, inundation, Belgium the theater of war. Coalition. Franche Comté allowed. III. War, 1680. Chamber of réunion claim historical dependencies, Strasburg, Lorraine.

IV. War. 1688. Grand Alliance organized by William II—French win at Fleurus, Steenkerke, but William beats the Irish at the Boyne. To gain the good will of Charles the king of Spain, Louis signs the treaty of Peace of Ryswick, 1679, keeping only Alsace Franche Comté, and eighty-two reunited places. Holland garrisons in Belgian cities.

V. Spanish succession war against Austria, 1701-13. 1st period: Philip seizes Spain, French beaten at Hoeschtadt and Audenarde by Eugene of Savoy and Marlborough. Louis negotiates for peace. 2nd period: 1708, routed at Malplaquet Louis signs treaty of Utrecht, 1713. Belgium given to Austria. Barrier cities in south Belgium. Garrisoned by Hollanders.

*Austrian Domination, 1713-1794.*

Belgium is completely shut off from all international relations. A special treaty between Holland and Austria was added to the treaty of Utrecht, granting the Dutch the right to garrison Belgian cities as a protection against France, whence it was called the Barrier Treaty. Garrisoned in the south by Holland troops as a defense against French aggression, shut in from the north by the Holland frontiers which closed the navigation of the rivers, Belgium was excluded from all commerce with

Belgium  
Isolated



## KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

the outside world. But she went developing her national resources, and growing in population.

Locked in within her own borders, Belgium concentrated her efforts in the development of her own resources.

After a century she was strong enough to shake off the Holland yoke and to establish her own independence.

In 1723 a general company of commerce was founded to develop Belgian trade, but it was suppressed at the reclamation of England and Holland; the latter paying for the suppression of a competing company.

General  
Company  
Suppressed

*Mary Theresa*, 1740-80. The Belgians remained attached to the Hapsburg, during the Austrian succession war. Mary Theresa and her brother Charles of Lorraine the governor were very popular among the Belgians. Her son, Joseph II, 1780-90, was very unpopular on account of his meddling in ecclesiastical affairs. The suppression of the diocesan seminaries and the erection of a general seminary, to be taught by philosophical professors, provoked a revolution which proclaimed the independence of the United Belgian States, 1790. Joseph's brother Leopold II, 1790, won the Belgians back by returning their franchises.

Mary  
Theresa  
Popular

Son  
Unpopular

Revolution

### *French Domination 1794-1814.*

The farmers resisted the devastating hordes of the French infidels in Flanders, the Kempen and Luxemburg and they preserved most of their churches from desecration.

Defense of  
Religion

Belgium was again the battlefield of Europe, during the revolutionary and Napoleonic wars.

## THE BELGIAN NATION

It is on her soil that the first, the greatest number and the last battles were fought.

A Battle-field

The Scheldt was opened to commerce. Napoleon made of Antwerp the most commodious seaport of Europe as a rival to Hamburg or London.

Port of Antwerp

*Dutch Domination—1815-30.*

In order to give the Orange dynasty a share in the redistribution of European lands and to oppose a firm barrier to new French invasions, Belgium was united to Holland in one kingdom without having been consulted in the matter.

Barrier Kingdom Against France

*William I*, 1815-30, king of Holland, was a narrow and stubborn autocrat, who treated the Belgians as a conquered people, and lost them through his persecutions. He imposed enormous taxes on the Belgians to pay Holland's debts; he made the knowledge of Dutch obligatory to all governmental officials, which excluded the Walloons from holding governmental offices. He persecuted the clergy (Bishop deBroglie) and attacked the liberty of the press. In the year 1828, a union was formed between the Walloons and the Flemings to defend their liberty; petitions were made to the king for the redress of grievances, which received no answer.

Over Taxation Ostracising of Walloons

In September, 1830, Bruxelles barricaded itself against the Holland troops and drove them to the Park, then away from the city.

Attack on Liberty of Worship Education Press Petitions Revolution

VI PERIOD. INDEPENDENT KINGDOM OF BELGIUM,  
1830-1918

*Independent But Mutilated Belgium, 1830.*

The London conference recognized the independence of Belgium as an accomplished fact. King William stubbornly refused to recognize it, his armies

Peace

invaded Belgium, and advanced until they were repelled by the French; the following year General Chassé was driven out of Antwerp. It was only in 1838 that William agreed to recognize the independence of Belgium, on condition to give up to him the half of Limburg and the half of Luxemburg. What right did he ever possess over any part of Belgium, but the favor of the autocratic congress of Vienna, which sacrificed the interests of nations to the interests of dynasties?

1838  
Cession of  
Two Half  
Provinces

Accustomed from the past centuries to hold rivers and territories from their southern neighbors, the Hollanders refused to give up Limburg and Luxemburg, which were in Belgian hands and which are evident Belgian territory. To arrive at a temporary peace and settlement, the Belgians gave up for a time those territories, thinking that some day, time and circumstances will restore their lands.

Belgium, a Catholic people, had expelled a Protestant king, who tyrannized over conscience, now elected another Protestant king, who was a champion of religious liberty, to-wit: Leopold of Saxe-Coburg. It inscribed liberty as the corner stone of its constitution. After centuries of foreign rule, it was finally allowed to rule itself, and it gave to all its citizens the fullest right of self-development: it grew and prospered and took a remarkable place among the nations of the world.

Liberty of  
Conscience  
in Catholic  
Belgium

Two political parties arose in Belgium—the Catholic and the Liberal, the former being conservative, the other fluctuating. Both are progressive and their strife is often lively. The king forms a useful bal-

Strife of  
Political  
Parties



## THE BELGIAN NATION

ance of power between the parties. Of late the Socialists have taken the lead among the Liberals.

Bruxelles, the bilingual capital, soon became a center of arts and finances.

### *Superior Dynasty.*

Belgium was happy in the choice of a dynasty, that was to raise it in less than a century to a prosperity equaling that of the great powers.

Progressive  
Dynasty

Leopold I, the wise founder, solidly established the kingdom.

Leopold II, the keen statesman, developed the resources of the country and found an outlet for its produce in the Congo, the only unexplored and unoccupied part of the world.

Development

Albert I was the heroic defender of his little land against the colossus of the north.

Belgium the  
Rampart of  
Civilization

When driven by sheer numbers from his country, he took a stand on the Yzer River, and for four years he held the invader from crossing into England. As Baldwin 1,000 years before had stood as the sentinel of Europe against the savage Normans, so Albert the Brave stopped the advancing Teutonic hordes on that very sea coast. At his side stood Queen Elizabeth as nurse of the wounded and mother of the people: an angel of consolation in the dire trials of the Belgians.

Against  
Brute Force

Queen  
Elizabeth

## BELGIAN HEROISM IN WORLD'S WAR

### *Monograph*

On the night of the 3rd of August, 1914, Belgium was served an ultimatum by powerful Germany requesting passage through its territory. It had to choose between dishonor or destruction. Only twelve hours were granted for an answer. It was suddenly surprised, hav-

Heroic  
Stands  
Against  
Germany

ing been assured that there was no thought of violating its neutrality. It did not hesitate. The answer was: "We cannot break our international obligations. We will defend ourselves with all the means in our power." It was the struggle of David and Goliath.

King Albert  
Stops the  
Powerful  
Kaiser

With an army ten times smaller and weaker than her enemy's, Belgium withstood long enough the German advance to give France and Fngland time to mobilize their forces and to oppose an effectual barrier to the German hordes. It was little Belgium, animated by its valiant king, Albert, who stopped the most powerful conqueror in the first pride and exultation of his victory.

The Fortified  
Cities  
Delay the  
Germans

There were only three fortified cities in the land, Liege, Namur and Antwerp, and they made a heroic defense, and kept the invaders busy while the allies prepared their armies. The two former cities delayed the Teutonic forces a month while Joffre formed the French troops into resistless armies. Antwerp delayed them for two months. Three sorties were made from its forts and forced the enemy to bring back troops from the French battlefront, thus materially helping the great victory of the Marne, which stemmed the German avalanche rushing toward Paris. It was the first defeat of the Germans.

Who Are  
Beaten on  
the Marne

#### *Stubborn Defense of Liege.*

New  
Thermopylæ

The defense of Liege by General Leman was the first episode of the war and a presage of what the whole conflict would be. It was a repetition of the stand of the Franchimontois against Charles the Reckless.

It is a fact that recalls the famous deed of the three hundred Greeks at Thermopylæ, who stopped the millions of Persian soldiers rushing to the conquest of Greece.

## THE BELGIAN NATION

Liege may be called the modern Thermopylæ, for she was the first to stop the German avalanche advancing upon Paris and London and she did it regardless of the wreck and ruin that was sure to come. She fought for Belgian liberty.

In spite of the enormous inequality of forces (eighteen to one) Liege resisted from August the fourth to August the seventeenth.

Monstrous  
Cannons

Nothing could resist the gigantic cannons which pulverized the forts. General Leman never yielded; finally he was captured. The last fort held out till August seventeenth. The women themselves who were left alone in the metallurgical factories of the country, would not let the Teutons pass, nor enter their establishment, and poured boiling metal upon the advancing Germans.

Woman  
Amazons

### *Battle of Haelen.*

The Gette-Meuse line was seized to oppose the advancing Germans. The retreating army made a stand at Haelen, and the fortifications of Namur seemed to defend the south. A battle was fought at Haelen, wherein the Belgians were victorious despite their enormous inferiority in numbers and in weapons. But the Germans had gone into Belgium in such numbers that they threatened to envelop the Belgian army, which retired into Antwerp.

Victory of  
Haelen

Belgium  
Flooded  
with  
Teutons

### *Defence of Namur and Walloon Country.*

There were heavy fights in the Meuse and Sambre region. Namur was taken, Dinant and many towns were destroyed. Charleroi and Mons, where the French and English had time to arrive, were taken and retaken several times by the contending armies.

Defeats on  
Sambre and  
Meuse

Open towns offered no resistance; the Germans entered Louvain on the 19th and Brussels on the 20th.

Towns  
Open



*Defense of Antwerp.*

Siege of  
Antwerp

The three sorties from Antwerp had hampered the advance of the Germans and kept troops busy in Belgium, preventing same from fighting at the Marne. The Germans decided to besiege Antwerp, and to capture it. The superiority of their monster cannons made the fall of the city only a question of time, the Scheldt being closed to the English ships. The siege lasted from September 28 to October 9, when the city surrendered. While the invaders were kept busy, the Belgian army was able to make safely its retreat upon the Yzer where the enemy was definitely stopped in October, 1914.

*Masterly Retreat of the Belgian Army*

Orderly  
Retreat  
Belgian  
Army  
In Face of  
Enemy

One of the great feats of the Belgian army was its retreat through a country that was infested with enemies without losing many troops. It was only at the siege of Antwerp that 30,000 men passed the frontier and were interned in Holland.

90 Miles in  
the Midst  
of the  
Germans

Belgium had only 131,000 soldiers, while it was attacked by millions of men. Still the king managed to protect their retreat, so that little losses were sustained in a long march of ninety miles, pressed and harassed by numerous bodies of German troops. At every cross water of the land where there was any chance to join the allies, the Belgian troops made a stand and stopped the Germans in their advance but the only place where the allied troops were still the masters, and could join them, was the Yzer country, and thither the Belgians retired.

*The Flanders Front: Three Armies Fighting.*

The Belgians entrenched themselves from Nieuport to Dixmude along the Yzer river, while the English

## THE BELGIAN NATION

occupied the canals of the Yperlee and the city of Ypers and the French operated in the hills, south of them, reaching them from their Arras front. It is here that the longest and most stubborn fight of the war took place.

Baffled in his advance upon Paris, the enemy now turned his face to London, and wanted to force a passage to the channel ports, whence he could attack England. He brought all his powerful machines of destruction upon the new western front. But General Foch had command of the whole western front and planned to turn the German offensive by an allied counter offensive. The Belgians were to make a sally from the Yzer proper, the English from the Yperlee and the French from the hills in the south, and then altogether they were to drive the invaders to the east. If the offensive did not succeed, the defensive fully succeeded, and closed the northern road of invasion to England. From October to November there were two formidable assaults—one at the Yzer and another at Ypres. Furious battles of artillery and hand-to-hand struggle took place but the road to London remained barred. It was the second defeat of the Germans and it broke their power of advance. It presaged their final debacle.

The danger was extreme on account of the unshaken determination to win prevailing on both sides, and hardly stopped during the winter. The military operations recommenced with renewed force in the spring of 1915. The fights raged mostly around Ypres, therefore, they are called the second battle of Ypres. Despairing of winning by ordinary military means the Germans had recourse to the hellish device of poisoned gas at Boesinghe, which at first paralyzed the sturdy English

German  
Offensive  
Opposed by  
Allied  
Offensive

The Ger-  
mans Are  
Shut Off  
the North-  
ern Road  
to London

The Second  
Defeat

In a Second  
Battle at  
Ypres  
Poisonous  
Gas Fails

and Canadians but was soon eluded by gas masks that rendered the soldiers immune.

Ypres was not taken, nor the road to London forced open.

Such fighting lasted unabated four long years.

*Yzer Section. Fierce and Interminable Fights.*

Heroic  
Resistance  
of the  
Belgians

It is here that the Belgians showed their most sturdy qualities, and the king proved his solid leadership. His army was reduced to 84,000 men who were exterminated by a continual fight and a risky retreat of ninety miles. It was without shoes and clothes, without arms and provisions. It was attacked with all the force of the German army for twelve days and for these days it was alone to defend itself. But the king knew how to animate his soldiers and to brace them up with the certitude of the coming of the great allies. Every soldier became a hero; he disputed every inch of ground till his last breath. Finally the tremendous overpower of the enemy effected a crossing to the west bank at the Yzer bend and the Germans swarmed across the river.

The Re-  
lentless  
Machines  
Allow a  
Crossing at  
the Yzer  
Bend

*The Sea to the Rescue.*

The  
Belgians  
Were Saved  
Through  
the Flood-  
ing of the  
Yzer Valley

The Belgians had no other shelter than the embankment of the railway which runs parallel to the Yzer river. The situation was hopeless. But the last resource was put in operation. The sluices of Nieupoort were opened and the sea water which, during the high tide, stood above the level of the Yzer valley, flooded same, drowned the Germans and submerged their machinery and opposed an impassable barrier to the German advance. But the fat meadows were ruined for many years to come.

*Exceptional Difficulties in the Yzer Country.*

The extreme moisture of the country filled the



## THE BELGIAN NATION

trenches with water as soon as they were dug. The soldiers were standing in the mud and the water to their knees while they were harassed by the fire of the relentless foe. Still they held out and they are the ones that closed the maritime road to the invaders. It was only the tenth day that the French could reach that dangerous spot and they soon cleared the western bank of the stubborn Germans who held on to every place they had captured.

No Shelter

Watery  
Trenches

10 Days of  
Solitary  
Fighting

### *Shelter Created and Made Impregnable.*

The Belgians lost no time in improving their defenses; they built up shelters above the ground with sacks of dirt, they constructed plank or branch walks over the marshy places, and they were able to withstand the relentless and furious attacks of the Germans for four years and to strengthen themselves for the next offensive.

Shelter  
Improved

4 Years of  
Defensive

Not only did the Belgians defend the lower Yzer, but they made several sorties to sustain the allies in their struggle with the stubborn enemy of the country.

Several  
Sorties

When in July, 1918, Foch started his offensive the Belgians bounded like liberated lions against their cruel oppressors and regardless of any danger they carried the crest of Flanders, from which the hated enemy had so long harassed their land. They had a full share in driving them out of West Flanders and in hurrying and hastening the debacle that forced the proud invaders to sue for peace. The armistice was granted them November 11th on harsh conditions which were imperative in dealing with treacherous and cruel enemies.

In 1918 the  
Belgians  
Pounce  
Upon Their  
Enemy

King Albert made heroes of a handful of exhausted and unarmed men who withstood four years of ceaseless attacks of the Northern Colossus, and finally bounded

Albert  
Leader of  
Heroes

from their shelter to pounce upon the oppressors of their lands.

*System of Atrocities and Terrorism.*

System of  
Atrocities  
to Terrorize  
People and  
Ruin the  
Country

The Germans brought in a new system of warfare full of atrocities that was to strike awe in the civilians and destroy the resources of the land for generations. All was done systematically on a preconcerted plan and was calculated to break down the spirit of the people, to starve them to inaction, and to prevent their rehabilitation. When the Bishop of Liege asked them to stop those barbarous crimes, that cried for vengeance to heaven and for the reprobation of the civilized world in the verdict of history, they answered that they "would win and write history." But their victims and the free nations are writing the history of the shameful deeds of those tormentors of mankind, and it is in vain that the Prussians try to deny them. The half has not been told.

Fire

Many towns were burnt and the inhabitants shot for the trumped-up crime of one of them. The library of Louvain was burnt. Absurd prohibitions were multiplied in order to arouse the people to outbreaks, and to be able to fine them heavily and often.

Fines

Exhausting war contributions were exacted and provisions commandeered, in such a systematic way, that anything that could be extracted from the people was done.

War Con-  
tributions

Enslavement  
and  
Starvation

The climax was reached when the Belgians were deported to Germany, and made slaves to work for their enemies. Transported in cattle cars, they were burdened with such heavy tasks to perform without any human food at all that within a few weeks those modern slaves were afflicted with consumption; most of them died in the

hands of their cruel masters and those who returned were like living skeletons.

*Belgians Not Demoralized.*

Did the Germans advance to break the morale of the Belgians? On the contrary, they succeeded only in one thing; to-wit—to render their victims more decided to resist such inhuman masters. Every week under their very eyes at Brussels, there appeared a paper, called “La Libre Belgique” which exposed all their crimes and caricatured the tormentors of the Belgian nation. In spite of the heavy sums placed upon the head of the editor and publisher of that biting sheet, they were never able to find traitors to deliver that audacious Belgian into their hands.

Awe Does  
Not  
Break Spirit  
of Belgians

But  
Hardens It  
La Libre  
Belgique

*No Traitors.*

Unable to subdue the Belgian spirit, the Prussians looked for traitors and spies to divide them but they found very few that would accept their bribes.

Treason  
None

There was not a single leading man that betrayed his country, nor even were there many of the starving laboring men that would listen to the hated invader.

*No Division.*

They struck one last scheme, that of splitting the people into Walloon and Flemish elements. The Flemings, whose language is akin to the German, were not given satisfaction, in regard to their language. It was for the enemy an excellent wedge to split the nation. There were many patriots that grieved over such discriminations, and demanded the rightful use of the Flemish language. They were called Flamingants. Among them were extremists, called activists, who put the language above anything else, and would resort to any means and even combine with outside powers to obtain redress. Those

Split  
Bewteen  
Flemings and  
Walloons

Revolution

Language  
Difficulties



fanatics became the tools of the enemy, to cut up and divide the land, officially branded as such. At the instigation of the Prussians the extreme Flamingsants demanded a political separation in two parts: Flanders and Wallonia. Belgium was divided into two states by the German authorities and a Flemish ministry of agitators and upstarts was formed. But the Belgians are no traitors; the activists were regarded as tools of the Germans and traitors to their country.

Activists  
Would  
Split  
Country

*Magistrates Not Afraid.*

It is here that Belgian judges showed their integrity and their fearlessness. The courts unanimously condemned them for treason and cast them in jail, to be executed as traitors. They were released by the Germans, and the judges were exiled into Germany; that judgment branded them forever as traitors and rendered their stay in Belgium intolerable, even during the German occupation. But when the enemies were driven out, most of the activists fled the country they had betrayed and those that faced the contempt of their fellow citizens were cast into jail, to be executed as common traitors. Belgium was more united than ever.

Condemned  
as  
Traitors

Judges  
Exiled

Culprits  
Executed

*The Saviors of the Civilians.*

What became of the whole country downtrodden and robbed by the occupying power? Who kept up the patriotic spirit? Who kept the people alive? It was a saintly cardinal, an able diplomat and two humane Americans.

Bleeding  
Belgian  
Nation

The Germans did everything to terrorize the people and to provoke revenge or riot which would give a new pretext for plunder and for murder. Cardinal Mercier did not fear to raise his voice to protest against every

crime. He called the war of defence a crusade and called the fallen soldiers martyrs of liberty worthy of heaven. His pastoral letters aroused the courage of the whole nation to an invincible strength, and instilled a calm resignation to the suffering citizens.

Encouraged  
by Cardinal  
Mercier

Baron Cartier de Marchienne, minister at Washington, was a providence for Belgium. During the war he knew how to win the good will of America for the Belgians; during the peace conference he powerfully helped to secure the rights of his little country. He was made the first Ambassador of Belgium to the United States.

The Germans plundered the country, requisitioned the stock and crops, carried away or destroyed the machinery and wrecked every factory; they deprived the population of the necessaries of life, and tried to starve to despair or to death a nation that they had treacherously attacked. Many people were without food and looked like walking skeletons. A fearful mortality set in. But there were two generous Americans, Hoover and Whitlock, like angels of charity sent among a hungry people. They procured many shiploads of goods from the good American people and they kept alive the Belgian nation. Hunger did not enslave the liberty loving Belgians who would never submit to their barbarous oppressors. The knowledge that their people were still alive and more hostile than ever to the German tyranny gave new life and courage to the soldiers in their muddy trenches of the Yzer.

Kept Alive  
by the  
Americans

The Nation  
Was Alive  
the Soldiers  
Fought for  
Somebody

*The Champions of Human Liberty.*

What steeled the Belgians in their stubborn resistance was the knowledge that the great democratic powers were fighting with them and for them and for all the op-

pressed nations of the world. The valor of France, the sacrifice of England, the courage of Italy, Roumania and Serbia and the weight of the United States were a guarantee of final victory and made them hope during the gloomiest tragedies of the war.

Every ally had his share in the triumph; but there is one sagacious statemant who broke the chains wherewith the Hohenzollerns had bound to their war chariot the Germanic and Slavonic kingdoms. It is Woodrow Wilson, the President of the United States whose fourteen articles overthrew the iron wall that kept Central Europe in the Prussian camp. His principle of the freedom of nations restored the claim of liberty to the down-trodden peoples and the triumph of Foch gave that liberty to the slaves of Prussian militarism.

It was a war measure as was Lincoln's proclamation of the liberty of the slaves in the United States; which ended by freeing every slave in the world. So, before our century is over, Wilson's principle will procure liberty to every nation of the globe.

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## Chronicles

FIRST PERIOD: ROMAN REGIME, 57 b.c.-476 a.d.

Struggle. Ambiorix and Caesar. Culture, prosperity.

SECOND PERIOD: FRANKO-BELGIAN 476-843

Formation of Frankish character in Belgium. Clovis and Charlemagne Belgian princes.

Although the name of Belgium disappeared and was replaced by the Frankish name of its new masters, such as Lotharingia; still Belgium remained the pivotal country of the West, and on its soil two Frankish Dynasties arose—the Chronology of the Merovingians and Carolingians belongs as much to Belgium as to France.

Wilson's  
Statesman-  
ship Breaks  
Up German  
Combina-  
tion

Eclipse of  
Name



## THE BELGIAN NATION

### *Third Period: Feudal Regime 843-1364*

Under the feudal system the Belgian countries were divided into seventeen provinces, each having its local name — but they remained quasi-independent, and never became part and parcel of the big monarchies either of France or Germany. They were so much one people in spirit and in custom that these numerous provinces were united into one nation during the reign of the Great Duke, Philip the Good, towards the close of the Middle Ages.

Persistency  
of Spirit

There were nine Belgian states and seven Dutch ones.

### *Belgian Principalities*

#### FLANDERS 862-1384.

Originally a fief of France—lying between the Scheldt and the Manche, got imperial territories, 1050, such as Zealand, and it struggled against Holland for same.

863-78. *Baldwin Iron Arm* repels the Normans, obtains the daughter of Charles the Bald, the king of France, with an immense territory.

The counts introduce the wool industry—the source of the wealth of Flanders.

Progressive  
Valiant  
Counts

The counts were great crusaders.

*Baldwin VI* of Flanders marries Richilde of Hainault, 1050-73. 1191-1271 Countess Margaret marries Baldwin of Hainault. Their son, *Baldwin IX, Emperor of Constantinople*. Leaves two daughters. Margaret's sons: Dampierre gets Flanders, D'Avesnes Hainault.

From the thirteenth to the seventeenth century the kings of France took all French Flanders, which was more than half of the country.

*Encroachments of the Kings of France* and struggles of the communes for their franchises—alliance with England—Count Ferrand and Guy of Dampierre were cast in jail. Revolt against Philip the Fair, who was beaten at the battle of the Golden Spurs. Two last counts side with France. Revolt of the Van Artevelde of Ghent. Saves the independence of Belgium.

Struggle  
Against  
Conquest and  
Autocracy

#### LOTHARINGIA KINGDOM OF THE CENTER

840-55. Lothaire I misbehaves—must abdicate. Division between his three sons: Louis II, Italy; Lothaire II, 855-69, Lotharingia proper; Charles, 855-63, south of Vosges. At his

## CHRONICLES

Divided in  
Upper and  
Lower  
Lotharingia

death part is divided between his two brothers. Lothaire's divorce. After him Lotharingia is divided between his uncles, the kings of France and Germany. It is disputed between their successors and mostly incorporated in Deutschland. Anarchy, 956, St. Bruno, brother of Otto the Great, divides it in *Upper* Lorraine on the Moselle at the foot of the Vosges—and *Lower* Lorraine on the Middle Meuse—which were separated by the Ardennes forest.

### LOWER LOTHARINGIA—IN BELGIUM

Provinces

The Belgian part was divided in the different provinces that persist until today. That country was not any more cut up than the other countries of Europe at that epoch, nor was it extinguished. It did not divide the common spirit and love of liberty that animated the Belgians of the Middle Ages and that has continued to animate them until today.

Have Regu-  
lar Male  
Descendants  
for Six  
Centuries  
Dukes of  
Burgundy  
Unite 17  
Provinces

Strong dynasties arose and had valiant male descendants for about six centuries. Then the throne went to female descendants married to foreign princes of considerable power. The dukes of Burgundy gathered up seventeen states that cover about Belgium and Holland of today. *Philip the Good*, 1419-67, inherits or purchases Namur, 21; Hainault and Holland, 33; Brabant, 30; Luxemburg, 43. Charles the Reckless buys Guelders and Alsace. The Burgundian princes lead Belgium into prosperity; besides Artois, now part of France.

### BRABANT AND ANTWERP

967-1005. Carolingian Dynasty. Charles of France fights Hugh Capet, son Otto dies childless—daughters marry the counts of Louvain and Namur. Louvain capital.

1005-1106. Godfrey Dynasty. *Godfrey V of Bouillon*, 1076-1106, kills the adversary of Emperor Henry IV, who makes him Duke. I. Crusade: King of Jerusalem.

Louvain Dynasty, 1106-1406: Three Godfries, three Henries, three Johns.

Burgundian D. 1400, Brussels capital, Antony. John IV erects the University of Louvain, 1426.

### HAINAULT 875-1433

Union with  
Flanders

I. Dynasty 875-1315. Reginald Long Neck.

II. 1192-1279 Flemish. Union with Flanders. Countess Richilde marries Baldwin (v). Baldwin (ix) Crusader emperor of Constantinople.

## THE BELGIAN NATION

- III. Dynasty Avesnes 1299-1356. Gets Holland and Zealand. **Holland**  
IV. Dynasty Bavarian 1356-1433. Jaqueline contracts four marriages—cedes counties to Philip the Good.

### NAMUR 908-1418

- I. Dynasty Albert I.=Ermengard Carolingian.  
II. House of Fladners 1196-1418. Yolanda.=Peter of Courtenoy, Emperor Constantinople. Sold to Guy Dampiere 1263.

### LUXEMBURG 963-1433

- I. Dynasty 963.  
II. Dynasty Ermesinda 1214=Waleran of Limburg. Union till defeat of Woeringen by Brabant 1280. **Limburg Dynasty**

Henry V becomes Emperor Henry VII 1308-1433. Son John the Blind marries Elizabeth of Bohemia: *Emperors of Germany*: Charles IV, 1347. Wenceslaus II. Sigismund who cedes Luxemburg to niece, Elizabeth de Gorlitz, and she marries Burgundian and cedes to Philip the Good. **Bohemia Empire**

By congress of Vienna it was made a grand duchy under the king of Holland 1815. In 1830 it fought with Belgians for independence, 1830-39; ceased to hang to Germany, 1866. 1890 passes to Nassau house. **Grand Duchy 1815**

For five centuries Luxemburg was united to the Belgian provinces. In 1815 it was made a Grand Duchy under the rule of the king of the Netherlands and became a member of the German Confederation. It joined the Belgian revolt against the Netherlands and continued in Belgian hands until 1839, when part of it was ceded to Belgium, the king of the Netherlands ruling as grand duke over the remainder. It was again in the Zolverein 1842-62. In 1867 the International conference of London and the treaty of London made it a neutral independent state under the Orange Dynasty. In 1890 by the Salic law it passed to Adophe of Nassau—whose daughter, Adelaid, reigned since 1890 till 1919. **Appanage of Netherlands**

The Begian Province: Area 1706 sq. m.; population 219,210. The Grand Duchy: Area 998 sq. m.; population 245,888. Iron deposits. Catholic religion. **Football of Powers**

*Luxemburg* and *Limburg* joined the Belgian Revolution 1830—were divided in two between Belgium and Holland 1839.

### LIMBURG 1064-1288

Waleran the Old, of Arlon, builds Castle of Limburg. Wale-



## CHRONICLES

ran III marries Ermesinda,, heiress of Luxemburg 1190. Limburg is conquered by Brabant by battle of Woeringen 1288.

### LIEGE, ECCLESIASTICAL PRINCIPALITY, VIII—1795

The see of Tongres was transferred to Maestricht—then to Liege. Charles Martel and Charlemagne invested the bishops with temporal jurisdiction. Their domain was extended mostly along the left basin of the Meuse. In actual Belgium it would occupy as much territory as a province. It was stretching from Holland to France. The industries were highly developed—there raged wars with neighboring powers—and struggles between the archbishop, the nobility and the people.

### *Fourth Period: Union of Ancient Belgium*

#### NETHERLANDS—BURGUNDY 1364-1555

*Union of the Belgian Principalities under the Dukes of Burgundy.*

Necessity of union against united France. Middle kingdom revived. Empire reached by descendants.

Centralizing policy resisted by Flemings.

*Philip the Bold*, 1364. *Margaret, Heiress of Flanders*, 1304-19. John the Fearless. Rivalry: Orleans and Burgundy murders.

*Philip the Good*, 1419-67. Splendid court. Order of Golden Fleece instituted to glorify the woolworkers. Against the French kings. Inherits or buys provinces of ancient Belgium. 1421, Norman. 1433, Hainault (Jacoba had married Burgundian; marries three others). 1430 Brabant. 1443, Luxemburg. Taxes. Result of heavy taxes revolt subjects; Bruges 1437, Ghent 1448-53; who are subdued. 1467-77 *Charles the Rash*, Gueldren. Treachery Louis XI. Alsace bought. War against the Swiss. *Mary of Burgundy* 1477=*Maximilian of Austria*. Privileges defended. Revolt of Flemish and capture of Maximilian. French intrigues. Attack by Louis XI, defense by Maximilian. Spanish marriages. 1505-55 Charles V, born in Ghent, world ruler.

Belgium central force and beneficiary of world empire. Commerce with old and new world. Antwerp. Agitators sow religious divisions under mild rule of Charles' aunt and sister.

Domain  
Equal to a  
Province of  
Actual  
Belgium  
Progressive

Philip The  
Good

Reunites  
Belgium

## THE BELGIAN NATION

### *Fifth Period: Foreign Regimes*

#### DOMINATION OF SPAIN, 1555-1713

*Secession of Netherlands Caused by Absentee Rulers and Plots of William the Silent.*

1555-89. *Philip II* withdraws to Spain and governs by aunt and sister, secret propagandism. Plots of *William The Silent*. Great generals of Spain win victories. 1579 confederation of Arras by Catholics—union of Utrecht by Protestants; north independent and preying upon south; commercial eclipse of Belgium. **World Separates South**

*Belgian Provinces under Spain.*

Distant lands united by inheritances are seldom well administered.

Invincible generals could not relieve Belgium.

1598-1624. *Independence Under Albert. Isabella* (1633). Holland and France make a partition treaty about Belgium. Wars between Spain and France. Artois lost.

1661-1713. *Five Wars of Louis XIV to Subdue Belgium.*

First, devolution war 1661-64; twelve Belgian cities. Second war against Holland, Franche Comté allowed. Third war 1680. Historical dependencies: Strasburg, Lorraine. Fourth war 1698-97. Grande alliance; fortunes change. Peace of Ryswick, half of conquests returned to get the will of Spanish king. Fifth war. Spanish succession. *Philip V* seizes Spain, Louis XIV suffers defeat, asks for peace 1708, routs. Bourbons keep Spain only. **Struggles Against France**

#### 1713-94. DOMINATION OF AUSTRIA

Belgium isolated from the world. Rivers closed in the north, limits guarded in the south. General Indian company suppressed.

*Mary Theresa* 1740-80. Belgians faithful in Austrian succession war. Mary and her brother, Charles de Lorraine, beneficent, popular. Joseph II, 1780, unpopular reformer. General seminary under his professors condemned. Revolution 1782. Brother Leopold II wins back the Belgian people.

#### DOMINATION OF THE FRENCH 1794-1814

Farmers war against infidels. Belgium, the battlefield. Antwerp made a big port.

## CHRONICLES

### DOMINATION OF THE NETHERLANDS 1815-30

Barrier against France.

*William I* stubborn. Overtaxation. Attacks on liberties of language, worship, education and press. Revolution.

### *Sixth Period: National*

### INDEPENDENT KINGDOM OF BELGIUM 1830-1918

*Leopold I Saxe Coburg-Gotha. Superior Dynasty.*

**Wisdom**

Sudden invasion of Dutch; repelled by French. No peace before half of Limburg and Luxemburg are sacrificed 1838. Catholic university of Louvain opened. Leopold, a wise man, develops the resources of the country, forms balance of power between the contending parties.

**Statesman-**

1865-1909. *Leopold II, 1870.* Liberals want monopoly of education and tyrannize their opponents until they are overthrown. 1893, universal suffrage with system of plural vote. Congo discovered and colonized, is recognized by powers as a Free State. Slowness of people to prepare for war leaves Belgium at the mercy of the Prussians.

**Heroism**

1909. *Albert I. Elizabeth of Bavaria.* The heroic defender of his little land against the colossus of the north in the world war, 1914-18.



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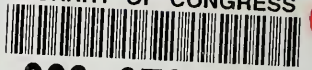








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