



GRANHOLM GENEALOGY

GOTHS ROYAL ANCESTRY

INTRODUCTION

The Goths ancestry is unique in how it originates in Sweden and for a few hundred years was an important part of the history of Europe. It ties into our ancestors in the dynasties of the Franks and Hungarians with Attila the Hun (48th great grandfather) , see the books *Frank Royal Ancestry* and *Hungarian Royal Ancestry*.

Below is a brief description of the Goths followed by ancestry listings with **highlighted** persons, who are further described.

The historian Jordanes claims that the Goths originated in semi-legendary Scandza, believed to be located somewhere in modern Götaland (Sweden), and that a Gothic population crossed the Baltic Sea before the 2nd century. Jordanes also states that the Goths gave their name to the region they colonized, Gothiscandza, which is believed to be the lower Vistula region in Poland.

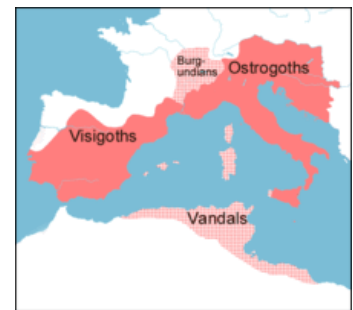
From the middle of the 2nd century onward, groups of Goths migrated to the southeast along the River Vistula. They eventually reached the Black Sea in Ukraine, Romania and Moldova, where they left their archaeological traces in the Chernyakhov culture.

The Goths are believed to have crossed the Baltic Sea sometime between the end of this period (ca 300 BC) and AD 100. Early archaeological evidence in the Swedish province of Östergötland suggests a general depopulation during this period. The settlement in today's Poland may correspond to the introduction of Scandinavian burial traditions, such as the stone circles and the stelae especially common on the island of Gotland and other parts of southern Sweden.



Götaland, South Sweden, a possible original homeland of the Goths

In the 5th and 6th centuries, the Goths separated into two tribes, the Visigoths and the Ostrogoths. Both established powerful successor states of the Western Roman Empire. In Italy the Ostrogothic Kingdom established by Theodoric the Great was defeated by the forces of the Eastern Roman Empire after the Gothic Wars. In Hispania, the Visigothic Kingdom, converted to Catholicism by the late sixth century, survived until the early eighth century, when it fell to Islam in the Muslim conquest.



Maximum extent of territories ruled by Theodoric, in 523.

The Goths' relationship with Sweden became an important part of Swedish nationalism, and the Swedes were commonly considered to be the direct descendants of the Goths. Beginning in 1278, when Magnus III of Sweden (First cousin 23 times removed) ascended to the throne, a reference to Gothic origins was included in the title of the King of Sweden: "*We N.N. by Gods Grace of the Swedes, the Goths and the Vends King.*" In 1973, with the death of King Gustaf VI Adolf, the title was changed to simply "King of Sweden." (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goths>)

Visigoth Descendants of: Athanarich King of the West Goths As Related to: Lars Erik Granholm

- 1 **Athanarich King of the West Goths** (52nd great grandfather)
 - 2 **Alaric I King of the Visigoths** (51st great grandfather)
 - 3 **Wallia King of the Visigoths** (50th great grandfather)
- 2 **Sister of Alaric** (52nd great-aunt)
m. **Ataulf King of the Visigoths**
- 3 **Theodoric I King of the Visigoths** d. 451 (first cousin, 52 times removed)
- 4 **Euric King of the Visigoths** (second cousin, 51 times removed)
m. **Ragnachildis**
- 5 **Alaric II King of the Visigoths** d. 507 (third cousin, 50 times removed)
m. **Theodegotha** b. 473 [daughter of Theodoric the Great King of the Ostrogoths and Audofleda]
- 6 **Gesalec King of the Visigoths** (4th cousin, 49 times removed)
- 6 **Amalaric II King of Visigoths** b. 502 d. 531 (4th cousin, 49 times removed)
m. **Clothilda Princess of the Franks** (46th great-aunt)
[daughter of Clovis I the Great King of the Franks and Saint Clotilde Queen of the Franks] (46th great grand-parents)
7. **Liuva I King of Visigoths and Spain** (5th cousin, 48 times removed)
- 7 **Leovigild King of Visigoths and Spain** b. 519 d. 586 (5th cousin, 48 times removed)
m. **Theodosia Princess of the Ostrogoths** (first cousin, 46 times removed)
 - 8 **Reccared I King of Galicia and Visigoths** (6th cousin, 47 times removed)
m. **Clodoswintha Princess of Austrasia**
 - 9 **Liuva II Visigothic King of Hispania** d. 603 (7th cousin, 46 times removed)
 - 9 **Swinthila King of Visigoths** d. 633 (7th cousin, 46 times removed)
 - 10 **Liubigotona Princess of Visigoths** (8th cousin, 45 times removed)
m. **Ervik King of Visigoths** d. 687 [son of Ardabast Prince of Visigoths]
 - 11 **Cixillo Princess of Visigoths** (9th cousin, 44 times removed)
m. **Egica Visigoth King of Hispania** b. 610 d. 702
 - 12 **Witica King of Galicia** (10th cousin, 43 times removed)
- 8 **Saint Hermenegild Prince of the Visigoths** b. 564 d. 585 (6th cousin, 47 times removed)
m. **Ingunda Princess of Austrasia** d. 585
- 7 **Athanagild Prince of Visigoths** (7th cousin, 46 times removed)
- 8 **Galswintha Princess of Hispania** b. 540 d. 568
m. **Chilperic I King of the Franks** b. 539 d. 584 (44th great grandfather)
- 8 **Brunhilda Queen of Austrasia** b. 543 d. 613 (8th cousin, 45 times removed)
m. **Sigebert I King of Austrasia** b. 535 d. 574 (45th great-uncle)
- 8 **Ardabast Prince of Visigoths** (8th cousin, 45 times removed)
- 9 **Ervik King of Visigoths** d. 687 (9th cousin, 44 times removed)
m. **Liubigotona Princess of Visigoths**

Direct Lineage from: Athanarich (Anthanarich) King of the West Goths to: Lars Erik Granholm

1 Athanarich (Anthanarich) King of the West Goths

2 Alaric I King of the Visigoths

3 Wallia King of the Visigoths

4 daughter of Wallia m. Rechila (Rikimund) Prince of the Suebi

5 Ricimer King of Burgundy d. 472 m. Alypia of Burgundy

6 Caretena Queen of Burgundy d. 506 m. Chilperic II King of Burgundy b. 445 d. 491

7 Saint Clotilde Queen of the Franks b. 475 d. 545 m. Clovis I the Great King of the Franks b. 466 d. 511

8 Clotaire I King of the Franks b. 497 d. 561 m. Aregund Queen of the Franks

9 Chilperic I King of the Franks b. 539 d. 584 m. Fredegund Queen of the Franks d. 597

m. 567 Galswintha Princess of Hispania b. 540 d. 568

10 Chlothar II the Great King of the Franks b. 584 d. 629 m. Haldetrude Queen of the Franks

11 Dagobert I King of the Franks b. 603 d. 639 m. Nanthild Queen of the Franks b. 610 d. 642

12 Clovis II King of the Franks b. 637 d. 655 m. Balthild Queen of the Franks b. 626 d. 680

13 Theuderic III King of Neustria b. 654 d. 691 m. Clotilda of Heristal

14 Bertrada of Prüm b. 670 d. 721 m. Martin of Laon

15 Bertrada of Laon Queen of the Franks b. 710/27 d. 783 m. Pepin the Short King of the Franks b. 714 d. 768

16 Charlemagne Emperor of Holy Roman Empire b. 742 d. 814 m. Hildegard Empress of Holy Roman Empire b. 757 d. r 783

17 Louis I the Pious Emperor of Holy Roman Empire b. AUG 778 d. 20 Jun 840 m. Judith Princess of Bavaria b. 800 d. 843

18 Charles the Bald Emperor of Holy Roman Empire b. 828 d. 877 m. Ermentrude Empress of Holy Roman Empire b. 830

19 Louis the Stammerer Emperor of Holy Roman Empire b. 846 d. 10 Apr 879 m. Ansgard of Burgundy Queen of France

20 Charles III "the Simple" King of France b. 19 Sep 879 d. 7 Oct 929 m. Frederuna of France b. ABT 887 d. 10 Feb 917

21 Ermentrud Princess of France b. ABT 908 m. Gottfried of Lorraine

22 Gerberga of Lorraine b. ABT 925 d. 995 m. Meginoz Count of Geldern and Zütphen b. ABT 920 d. 998

23 Ermentrud of Geldern b. ABT 940 m. Herbert I Count of Gleiberg b. ABT 925 d. 992

24 Gerberga Countess of Kitzinggau b. 972 m. Henry I Margrave Count of Schweinfurt b. 975 d. 18 Sep 1017

25 Judith of Schweinfurt b. ABT 1007 d. 2 Aug 1058 m. Bretislaus I Duke of Bohemia b. 1005 d. 10 Jan 1055

26 Vratislav II King of Bohemia b. ABT 1035 d. 14 Jan 1092 m. Adelaida Princess of Hungary b. ABT 1038 d. 27 Jan 1062

27 Judith (Premyslid) I Princess of Bohemia b. 1057 d. 25 Dec 1085 m. 1080 Wladislaw I Duke of Poland b. 1042 d. 1102

28 Boleslaw III The Wrymouth Duke of Poland b. 20 Aug 1085 d. 1138 m. 1133 Salome of Berg b. 1097 d. 27 Jul 1144

29 Richia Sventoslava Princess of Poland b. 12 Apr 1116 d. aft 1156 m. Volodar of Minsk Prince of Russia b. 1123 1139

30 Sofiya Vladimirovna Princess of Russia b. 1140 d. 5 May 1198 m. Valdemar I the Great King of Denmark b. 1131 d. 1182

31 Richiza Valdemarsdotter Princess of Denmark b. 1178 d. 1220 m. Erik X Knutsson King of Sweden b. 1180 d. 10 Apr 1216

32 Märtha Eriksdotter Princess of Sweden b. ABT 1213 m. Nils Sixtensson Sparre av Tofta b. ABT 1188

33 Sixten Nilsson Sparre av Tofta d. 1310 m. Ingrid Abjörnsdotter b. Abt 1220

34 Abjörn Sixtensson Sparre av Tofta b. ABT 1240 d. 1310 m. Ingeborg Ulfssdotter Ulf b. ABT 1258 d. AFT 1307

35 Ulf Abjörnsson Sparre b. 1348 m. 1330 Kristina Sigmundsdotter Tre Klöverblad b. 1295

36 Karl Ulfsson Sparre av Tofta m. Helena Israelsdotter b. 1340 d. 1410

37 Margareta Karlsdotter Sparre av Tofta d. 1429 m. Knut Tordsson Bonde b. ABT 1377 d. 1413

38 Karl VIII Knutsson Bonde King of Sweden b. 1409 d. 15 May 1470

39 Karin Karlsdotter Bonde m. Erengisle Björnsson Djäkn d. bef 1447

40 Märta Erengisledotter Djäkn m. Johan Henriksson Fleming b. 1465 d. AFT 1514

41 Anna Johansdotter Fleming b. 1435 d. 1505 m. Olof Pedersson (Wildeman) Lille d. 1535

42 Karin Olofsdotter Wildeman b. 1465 d. 1535 m. Ludolf Boose b. 1465 d. 1535

43 Johan Ludolfsson Boose b. 1526 d. 1596 m. Ingeborg Henriksdotter

44 Kirstin Johansdotter Boose b. 1576 d. 1646 m. Bertil von Nieroht b. 1582 d. 1652

45 Maria Bertilsdotter von Nieroht b. 1612 d. 1682 m. Carl Henriksson Lindelöf b. 1605 d. 1668

46 Carl Carlsson von Lindelöf b. 1642 d. 1712 m. N.N. Laurisdatter Laurentz

47 Anna Maria Carlsdotter von Lindelöf b. 1670 d. 1 Feb 1747 m. Ericus Christierni Orenius b. ABT 1658 d. 2 Mar 1740

48 Margareta Eriksdotter Orenia b. 16 Jan 1710 d. 1804 m. Johan Urnovius b. 1706 d. 1783

49 Christina Margareta Urnovia m. 20 Dec 1781 Johan Flinck

50 Johan (Flinck) Årenius b. 12 Jan 1787 d. 6 Nov 1823 m. 15 Mar 1810 Ulrika Abrahamsdotter Sevon b. 9 Jun 1784

51 Johan Gustaf Johansson Årenius b. 5 Jun 1810 m. Johanna Carolina Röring b. 24 Jun 1802 d. ABT 1839

52 Charlotta Constantia Renlund b. 4 Jun 1830 d. 28 Jan 1905 m. 19 Mar 1854 Erik Eriksson Kåll b. 1829 d. 23 Jan 1905

53 Johanna Karolina Eriksdotter Kåll b. 9 Jan 1863 d. 8 Nov 1934 m. Karl-Johan Granholm b. 1866 d. 22 Jun 1920

54 Erik Anton Granholm b. 28 May 1906 d. 29 Jan 1959 m. 20 Aug 1933 Karin Hildegard Kasén b. 3 Jul 1914 d. 2004

55 Lars Erik Granholm b. 28 Jul 1934

Descendants of: Vandalarius of the Ostrogoths As Related to: Lars Erik Granholm

- 1 Vandalarius of the Ostrogoths #18007 (52nd great grandfather)
- 2 Valamir King of the Ostrogoths #18387 b. 420 d. 465 (52nd great-uncle)
- 2 Theodemir King of the Ostrogoths #18003 d. 474 (51st great grandfather)
m. Ereleuva Concubine of the Ostrogoths #18006 b. 440 d. 500
- 3 Amalafrida Princess of the Ostrogoths #18014 (50th great grandmother)
- 4 Theodahad King of the Ostrogoths #18379 b. 480 d. 536 (50th great-uncle)
- 4 Amalaberga Princess of the Ostrogoths #18380 (49th great grandmother)
m. Hermanfrid King of the Thuringii #18381
[son of Bisinus King of the Thuringi #18022 and Basina Queen of Thuringia #16047]
- 5 Rodelinda Queen of the Lombards #18376 (48th great grandmother)
m. Audoin King of the Lombards #18375 d. 563
- 6 Grasulf I Duke of Friuli #18374 (47th great grandfather)
- 6 Alboin King of the Lombards #18377 d. 572 (48th great-uncle)
m. Chlotsind Princess of the Franks #18378
[daughter of Clotaire I King of the Franks #16037 and Ingund Princess of Thuringia #16074]
- 3 Theodoric the Great King of the Ostrogoths #17971 b. 454 d. 526 (51st great-uncle)
m. Audofleda Princess of the Franks #17972
[daughter of Childeric I King of the Franks #16046 and Basina Queen of Thuringia #16047]
- 4 Amalasuntha Queen of the Ostrogoths #18002 b. 495 d. 535 (first cousin, 51 times removed)
m. Eutharic Cilliga Prince of the Visigoths #18388 b. 480 d. 522 [son of Widerich #18391]
- 5 Athalaric King of the Ostrogoths #18392 b. 516 d. 534 (second cousin, 50 times removed)
- 5 Matasuentha Princess of the Ostrogoths #18393 (second cousin, 50 times removed)
m. Witiges King of the Ostrogoths #18400

Alaric I

Alaric I, was likely born about 370 on an [island named Peuce](#) at the mouth of the [Danube](#) in present day [Romania](#). He was king of the [Visigoths](#) from 395–410 and the first [Germanic](#) leader to take the city of [Rome](#). Having originally desired to settle his people in the Roman Empire, he finally sacked the city, marking the decline of imperial power in the west.

An 1894 photogravure of Alaric I taken from a painting by Ludwig Thiersch



Alaric, whose name means literally "king of all" was well-born, his father kindred to the [Balti](#), a tribe competing with the [Amali](#) among Gothic fighters. He belonged to the western Gothic branch, the [Visigoths](#). At the time of his birth the Visigoths dwelt in [Bulgaria](#), having fled beyond the wide estuary marshes of the [Danube](#) to its southern shore so as not to be followed by their foes from the [steppe](#), the [Huns](#).

In Roman service

In 394 Alaric served as a leader of *foederati* under [Theodosius I](#) in the campaign in which the usurper [Eugenius](#) was crushed. As the [Battle of the Frigidus](#), which terminated this campaign, was fought at the passes of the [Julian Alps](#), Alaric probably learned the weakness of [Italy's](#) natural defences on its northeastern frontier at the head of the [Adriatic](#).

Theodosius died in 395, leaving the empire to be divided between his two sons [Arcadius](#) and [Honorius](#), the former taking the eastern and the latter the western portion of the empire. Arcadius showed little interest in ruling, leaving most of the actual power to his [Praetorian Prefect Rufinus](#). Honorius was still a minor; as his guardian, Theodosius had appointed the [magister militum Stilicho](#). Stilicho also claimed to be the guardian of Arcadius, causing much rivalry between the western and eastern courts.

Invasion of Italy

Alaric became the friend and ally of his late opponent Stilicho. The estrangement between the eastern and western courts had in 407 become so bitter as to threaten civil war, and Stilicho was actually proposing to use the forces of Alaric to enforce the claims of Honorius to the [prefecture](#) of Illyricum. The death of Arcadius in May 408 caused milder counsels to prevail in the western court, but Alaric, who had actually entered Epirus, demanded in a somewhat threatening manner

that if he were thus suddenly bidden to desist from war, he should be paid handsomely for what in modern language would be called the expenses of mobilization. The sum which he named was a large one, 4,000 pounds of gold. Under strong pressure from Stilicho the Roman senate consented to promise its payment.

But three months later Stilicho himself and the chief ministers of his party were treacherously slain on the orders of Honorius. In the disturbances that followed, throughout Italy the wives and children of the foederati were slain. The natural consequence of all this was that these men, to the number of 30,000, flocked to the camp of Alaric, clamouring to be led against their cowardly enemies. He accordingly led them across the Julian Alps and, in September 408, stood before the walls of [Rome](#) (now with no capable general like Stilicho as a defender) and began a strict blockade.

No blood was shed this time; hunger was the weapon on which Alaric relied. When the ambassadors of the [Senate](#), in treating for peace, tried to terrify him with their hints of what the despairing citizens might accomplish, he gave with a laugh his celebrated answer: "The thicker the hay, the easier mowed!" After much bargaining, the famine-stricken citizens agreed to pay a ransom of 5,000 pounds of gold, 30,000 pounds of silver, 4,000 silken tunics, 3,000 hides dyed scarlet, and 3,000 pounds of pepper. Thus ended Alaric's first siege of Rome.

The siege of Rome

[Sack of Rome](#) by the Visigoths on 24 August 410, by J.N. Sylvestre, 1890.



Alaric therefore cashiered his puppet emperor, after the latter's eleven months of ineffectual rule, and once more tried to reopen negotiations with Honorius. These negotiations would probably have succeeded but for the malign influence of another Goth, [Sarus](#), an Amali and therefore a hereditary enemy of Alaric and his house. When Alaric found himself once more outwitted by the machinations of such a foe, he marched southward and began in deadly earnest his third siege of Rome. No defence apparently was possible; there are hints, not well substantiated, of treachery; there is greater probability of surprise. However, this may be—for our information at this point of the story is meagre—on August 24 410, Alaric and his Visigoths burst in by the [Porta Salaria](#) on the northeast of the city. Rome, which had for so long defeated its enemies, now lay at the feet of foreign enemies.

The contemporary ecclesiastics recorded with wonder many instances of the Visigoths' clemency: Christian churches saved from ravage; protection granted to vast multitudes both of pagans and Christians who took refuge therein; vessels of gold and silver which were found in a private dwelling, spared because they "belonged to St. Peter"; at least one case in which a beautiful Roman matron appealed, not in vain, to the better feelings of the Gothic soldier who attempted her dishonor. But even these exceptional instances show that Rome was not entirely spared those scenes of horror which usually accompany the storming of a besieged city. Nonetheless, the written sources do not tell of any damage wrought by fire, save in the case of the [Gardens of Sallust](#), which were situated close to the gate by which the Goths had made their entrance; nor is there any reason to attribute any extensive destruction of the buildings of the city to Alaric and his followers. The [Basilica Aemilia](#) in the [Roman Forum](#) did burn down, which perhaps can be attributed to Alaric: the archaeological evidence was provided by coins dating from 410 found melted in the floor. The pagan emperors tombs of the [Mausoleum of Augustus](#) and [Castel Sant'Angelo](#) were rifled and the ashes scattered.

Death and funeral

The burial of Alaric in the bed of the [Buzita River](#). 1895 lithograph



Alaric, having penetrated to the city, marched southwards into [Calabria](#). He desired to invade Africa, which on account of its grain was now the key to holding Italy firmly, but his ships were dashed to pieces by a storm in which many of his soldiers perished. He died soon afterward in [Cosenza](#), probably of fever, at the early age of about forty (assuming again, a birth around 375), and his body was, according to legend, buried under the riverbed of the [Busento](#). The stream was temporarily turned aside from its course while the grave was dug wherein the Gothic chief and some of his most precious spoils were interred; when the work was finished the river was turned back

into its usual channel and the captives by whose hands the labor had been accomplished were put to death that none might learn their secret.

Alaric was succeeded in the command of the Gothic army by his brother-in-law, [Ataulf](#), who three years later married Honorius' sister [Galla Placidia](#).

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~jamesdow/s046/f342230.htm>
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wallia>

Wallia

Wallia or **Valia** (in [Spanish](#) *Walia*, in [Portuguese](#) *Vália*) was king of the [Visigoths](#) from 415 to 419, earning a reputation as a great warrior and prudent ruler. He was elected to the throne after [Athaulf](#) and then [Sigeric](#) were assassinated in 415.

History

Early on, Wallia made peace with Emperor [Honorius](#) and accepted a treaty with the [Roman Empire](#). He also returned Honorius' sister [Galla Placidia](#) to him. As gains from these arrangements, Wallia was granted [Aquitaine](#) in 417 as a region where the Visigoths would be based as official allies or *foederati*. He established his court in [Toulouse](#), which became the Visigothic capital for the rest of the fifth century.

In 418 he honored the alliance by invading [Hispania](#), where his army destroyed the Siling [Vandals](#) and so reduced the numbers of [Alans](#) living there that the survivors placed themselves under the rule of [Gunderic](#), king of the Asding Vandals.

Some historical sources say that he was related to [Alaric](#) only by marriage. He was succeeded by Alaric's illegitimate son or son in law [Theodoric](#). Wallia's daughter married [Rechila](#), King of the [Suevi](#), and was the mother of [Ricimer](#) and the mother in law of [Gundowech](#), King of the [Burgundians](#).

Ataulf

Statue in Madrid, by Felipe de Castro, 1750-53



Ataulf (sometimes *Athavulf*, *Atawulf*, or *Athaulf* — "noble wolf" — Latinized as Ataulphus or Adolphus; in [Spanish](#), [Portuguese](#) and [Galician](#) *Ataúlfo*) was king of the [Visigoths](#) from 410 to 415. The modern historian of the [Goths](#), Herwig Wolfram, summarizes the last seven years of his life, the only ones that we can follow: "within that period he developed from a tribal chief to a late antique statesman."

Life

He was unanimously elected to the throne to succeed his **brother-in-law Alaric**, who had been struck down by a fever suddenly in [Calabria](#). King Ataulf's first act was to halt Alaric's southward expansion of the Goths in [Italy](#).

Meanwhile, [Gaul](#) had been separated from the western [Roman Empire](#) by the usurper [Constantine III](#). So in 411 [Constantius](#), the *magister militum* (master of military) of the western emperor, [Flavius Augustus Honorius](#), with Gothic auxiliaries under [Ulfilas](#), crushed the Gallic rebellion with a siege of [Arles](#). There Constantine and his son were offered an honorable capitulation— but were beheaded in September on their way to pay homage to Honorius at [Ravenna](#).

In the spring of 412 Constantius pressed Ataulf. Taking the advice of [Priscus Attalus](#)—the former emperor whom Alaric had set up at Rome in opposition to Honorius at [Ravenna](#), and who had remained with the Visigoths after he'd been deposed—Ataulf led his followers out of Italy. Moving north into a momentarily pacified Gaul, the Visigoths lived off the countryside in the usual way. Ataulf may have received some additional encouragement in the form of payments in gold from the Emperor Honorius—since Ataulf carried with him as a respected hostage the emperor's half-sister [Galla Placidia](#), who had long been his captive.

Once in Gaul, Ataulf opened negotiations with a new usurper, the Gallic [Jovinus](#). But when the latter ended up instead preferring Sarus, Ataulf's blood enemy among the Gothic nobles, Ataulf broke negotiations off and attacked and killed Sarus. Jovinus then named his brother [Sebastianus](#) (Sebastian) as Augustus (co-emperor). This further offended Ataulf, who hadn't been consulted. So he allied his Visigoths with Honorius. Jovinus' troops were defeated in battle, Sebastianus was captured, and Jovinus fled for his life. Ataulf then turned Sebastianus over for execution to Honorius' Gallic praetorian prefect (provincial governor), Postumus Dardanus. After this, Ataulf

besieged and captured Jovinus at Valentia ([Valence](#)) in 413, sending him to Narbo ([Narbonne](#)), where he was executed by Dardanus.

After the heads of Sebastianus and Jovinus arrived at Honorius' court in Ravenna in late August, to be forwarded for display among other usurpers on the walls of Carthage, relations between Ataulf and Honorius improved sufficiently for Ataulf to cement them by marrying Galla Placidia at Narbo in early 414. The nuptials were celebrated with high Roman festivities and magnificent gifts from the Gothic booty. Priscus Attalus gave the wedding speech, a classical [epithalamium](#).

Under Ataulf's rule, the Visigoths couldn't be said to be masters of a settled kingdom until Ataulf took possession of [Narbonne](#) and [Toulouse](#) in 413. Still, the Visigoths sustained an uneasy client relationship with the western empire. Although Ataulf remained an [Arian Christian](#), his relationship with Roman culture was summed up, from a Catholic Roman perspective, by the words that the contemporary Christian apologist [Orosius](#) put into his mouth, Ataulf's Declaration:

At first I wanted to erase the Roman name and convert all Roman territory into a Gothic empire: I longed for Romania to become Gothia, and Athaulf to be what Caesar Augustus had been. But long experience has taught me that the ungoverned wildness of the Goths will never submit to laws, and that without law a state is not a state. Therefore I have more prudently chosen the different glory of reviving the Roman name with Gothic vigour, and I hope to be acknowledged by posterity as the initiator of a Roman restoration, since it is impossible for me to alter the character of this Empire. ^[4]

Honorius's general Constantius (who would later become Emperor Constantius III), poisoned official relations with Ataulf and gained permission to blockade the Mediterranean ports of [Gaul](#). In reply, Ataulf acclaimed Priscus Attalus as Augustus in [Bordeaux](#) in 414. But Constantius' naval blockade was successful and, in 415, Ataulf withdrew with his people into northern [Hispania](#). Attalus fled, fell into the hands of Constantius, and came to a bad end.

Galla Placidia traveled with Ataulf. The infant son, Theodosius, she bore him died in infancy and was buried in Hispania in a silver-plated coffin, thus eliminating an opportunity for a Romano-Visigothic line.

In Hispania, Ataulf imprudently accepted into his service one of the late Sarus' followers, unaware that the man harbored a secret desire to avenge the death of his beloved patron. And so, in the palace at [Barcelona](#), the man brought Ataulf's reign to a sudden end by killing him while he bathed.

[Sigeric](#), the brother of Sarus, immediately became king—for a mere seven days, when he was also murdered and succeeded by [Wallia](#). Under the latter's reign, Galla Placidia was returned to Ravenna where, in 417, at the urging of Honorius, she remarried, her new husband being the implacable enemy of the Goths, Constantius.

Theodoric I

Theodoric I, by [Fabrizio Castello](#) (1560-1617).



Theodoric I, sometimes called *Theodorid* and in Spanish, Portuguese and Italian *Teodorico*, was the King of the [Visigoths](#) from 418–451. He was either the [illegitimate](#) son of [Alaric](#) or his son-in-law.

Early career

In 418 he succeeded King [Wallia](#). The Romans had ordered King Wallia to move his people from the [Iberia](#) to [Gaul](#). As king, Theodoric completed the settlements of the Visigoths in [Gallia Aquitania II](#), [Novempopulana](#) and [Gallia Narbonensis](#), and then used the declining power of the [Roman Empire](#)

to extend his territory to the south.

After the death of Emperor [Honorius](#) and the usurpation of [Joannes](#) in 423 internal power struggles broke out in the Roman Empire. Theodoric used this situation and tried to capture the important road junction [Arelate](#), but the Magister [Aëtius](#), who was assisted by the [Huns](#), was able to save the city.

The Visigoths concluded a treaty and were given Gallic noblemen as hostages. The later Emperor [Avitus](#) visited Theodoric, lived at his court and taught his sons.

Enmity with Vandals

A daughter of Theodoric had been married to [Huneric](#), a son of the Vandal ruler [Geiseric](#) (in 429?), but Huneric later had ambitions to wed [Eudocia](#), a daughter of the Emperor [Valentinian III](#). He therefore accused the daughter of Theodoric of planning to kill him, and in 444 had her mutilated and sent back to her father. This action caused an enmity between the Visigoths and the Vandals.

An enemy of Aëtius, the former Magister militum Sebastianus, came in 444 to Tolosa. There could have emerged strained relations to Aëtius, but Theodoric soon sent his unwelcome guest away who captured [Barcelona](#) and was later (in 450) executed at the orders of Geiseric.

Theodoric was also an enemy of the [Suevic](#) king [Rechila](#) in Iberia, because Visigoth troops assisted the imperial commander Vitus at his campaign against the Suevi in 446. But the ability of this people to conduct a strong defence and the better relations between Geiseric and the Roman Empire led Theodoric to change his foreign policy. He therefore married in February 449 one of his daughters to the new Suevic king [Rechiar](#), who visited his father-in-law at Tolosa in July 449. At the return Rechiar devastated – according to the author [Isidore of Seville](#) with the assistance of Visigoth troops – the surrounding area of the city [Caesaraugusta](#) and could take [Ilerda](#) with a cunning.

Alliance against the Huns

When [Attila the Hun](#) advanced with his large army to Western Europe and invaded finally Gaul, Avitus arranged an alliance between Theodoric and his long-standing enemy Aëtius against the Huns. Probably Theodoric accepted this coalition because he recognized the danger of the Huns to his own realm. With his whole army and his sons [Thorismund](#) and [Theodoric](#) he joined Aëtius.

The Visigoth and Roman troops then saved the [civitas Aurelianorum](#) and forced Attila to withdraw (June 451).

Battle of Châlons

Then Aëtius and Theodoric followed the Huns and fought against them at the [Battle of Châlons](#) near [Troyes](#) in about September 451. Most Visigoths fought at the right wing under the command of Theodoric but a smaller force fought at the left under the command of Thorismund.



The Huns at the Battle of Chalons
by Alphonse de Neuville (1836-85)

Theodoric's forces contributed decisively to the victory of the Romans, but he himself was killed during the battle. [Jordanes](#) records two different accounts of his death: one was that Theodoric was thrown from his horse and trampled to death; the second was that Theodoric was slain by the spear of the Ostrogoth Andag, who was the father of Jordanes's patron Gunthigis.

The body of Theodoric was only found at the next day. According to Gothic tradition he was mourned and buried by his warriors on the battlefield. Immediately Thorismund was elected as successor of his father. Other sons of Theodoric were Theodoric II, Frederic, [Euric](#), Retimer and Himmerith.

Euric

Statue in Madrid, (J. Porcel, 1750-53).



Euric, also known as **Evaric**, **Erwig**, or **Eurico** in [Spanish](#) and [Portuguese](#) (c. 415–484), was the younger brother of [Theodoric II](#) and ruled as king of the [Visigoths](#), with his capital at [Toulouse](#), from [466](#) until his death in [484](#).

Upon becoming king, Euric defeated several other Visigothic kings and chieftains in a series of civil wars and soon became the first ruler of a truly unified Visigothic nation. Taking advantage of the Romans' problems, he extended Visigothic power in Hispania, driving the Suevi into the northwest of Iberia. By the time the [Western Roman Empire](#) ended in [476](#) he controlled nearly the entire [Iberian peninsula](#).

Previous Visigothic kings had officially ruled only as legates of the Roman Emperor but Euric was the first to declare his complete independence from the puppet emperors. In [475](#) he forced the western emperor [Julius Nepos](#) to recognize his full independence in exchange for the return of the [Provence](#) region of Gaul. The Roman citizens of Hispania then pledged their allegiance to

Euric, recognizing him as their king. In the same year [Clermont\(-Ferrand\)](#) surrendered to him after a long siege, and its bishop, [Sidonius Apollinaris](#), sued for peace. He divided the [Western Roman Empire](#) with [Odoacer](#).



Illustration of Euric at [Biblioteca Nacional de España](#)

Euric was one of the more learned of the great Visigothic kings and was the first German to formally codify his people's laws. The [Code of Euric](#) of [471](#) codified the traditional laws that had been entrusted to the memory of designated specialists who had learned each article by heart.

At Euric's death in 484 the Kingdom of the Visigoths encompassed all of Iberia except for the region of [Galicia](#) (ruled by the [Suebi](#)) and more than two-thirds of modern [France](#). [Edward Gibbon](#), in Chapter 38 of the [History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire](#), remarks:

The fortune of nations has often depended on accidents; and France may ascribe her greatness to the premature death of the Gothic king, at a time when his son by his wife Ragnachildis, [Alaric II](#) was a helpless infant, and his adversary [Clovis](#) an ambitious and valiant youth.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alaric_II

Alaric II

Alaric II, also known as Alarik, Alarich, and *Alarico* in [Spanish](#) and [Portuguese](#) or *Alaricus* in [Latin](#) (d. 507) succeeded his father [Euric](#) in 485 and became eighth king of the [Visigoths](#). He established his capital at [Aire-sur-l'Adour](#) (*Vicus Julii*). His dominions included not only the whole of [Hispania](#) except its north-western corner but also [Gallia Aquitania](#) and the greater part of an as-yet undivided [Gallia Narbonensis](#).

In 486 Alaric II denied refuge to [Afranius Syagrius](#), the former ruler of the [Domain of Soissons](#) who was defeated by [Clovis I](#). Alarmed by a summons from Clovis, Alaric imprisoned and repatriated Syagrius back to Clovis I, where he was beheaded.

Illustration of Alaric II at Biblioteca Nacional de España



Reverse of a coin of Alaric II, gold 1.47g



In 506, the Visigoths captured the city of [Dertosa](#) in the [Ebro valley](#). There they captured the [Roman usurper Peter](#) and had him executed.

In religion Alaric was an [Arian](#), like all the early Visigothic nobles, but he greatly mitigated the persecuting policy of his father Euric toward the [Catholics](#) and authorized them to hold in 506 the council of [Agde](#). He was on uneasy terms with the Catholic bishops of Arles as epitomized in the career of the Frankish [Caesarius, bishop of Arles](#), born at [Châlons](#) and appointed bishop in 503. Caesarius was suspected of conspiring with the [Burgundians](#) to turn over the Arelate to Burgundy, whose king had married the sister of [Clovis](#), so Alaric exiled him for a year safely at [Bordeaux](#) in Aquitania before allowing him to return unharmed when the crisis had passed.

Battle of Vouillé and aftermath

Alaric endeavoured strictly to maintain the treaty which his father had concluded with the [Franks](#). The Frankish king [Clovis I](#), however, desired to obtain the Gothic province in Gaul and he found a pretext for war in the Arianism of Alaric. The intervention of [Theodoric](#), king of the [Ostrogoths](#) and father-in-law of Alaric, proved unavailing. The two armies met in 507 at the [Battle of Vouillé](#), near Poitiers, where the Goths were defeated and their king, who took to flight, was overtaken and slain, it is said, by Clovis himself. As a consequence of their defeat the Visigoths lost all their possessions in [Gaul](#) to the Franks, except [Septimania](#) (i.e. the western region of Gallia Narbonensis, which includes [Arles](#) and the [Provence](#)). Alaric was succeeded by his illegitimate son, [Gesalec](#), because his legitimate son [Amalaric](#) was still a child.

Gesalec



Illustration of Gesalec at Biblioteca Nacional de España, Madrid

Gesalic was king of the [Visigoths](#) from 507 through 511. He was the illegitimate son of [Alaric II](#). When Alaric was killed in battle by the [Franks](#), his only legitimate son, [Amalaric](#), was a child. The Visigoths, who didn't use a system of [primogeniture](#), elected Gesalec to reign. Although he pursued the war against the Franks, he wasn't successful and the Franks burned his capital at [Toulouse](#). After [Narbonne](#) fell to the [Burgundians](#), Gesalic's Visigoths fell back to [Iberia](#) and the [Ostrogothic](#) king [Theodoric](#) came to his assistance.

In 511, Gesalic was driven from the throne by [Ibbas](#) and fled to [Africa](#). He attempted to get aid from the [Vandals](#) and the Ostrogoths, but failed. Eventually he launched an invasion of [Iberia](#) from [Gallia Aquitania](#) but was defeated by Ibbas's army and killed at the end of the year. Theodoric acted as [regent](#) for Gesalic's half-brother, Amalaric, until Amalaric was old enough to take the throne.

Amalaric



Illustration of **Amalaric**

Amalaric, or in [Spanish](#) and [Portuguese](#), *Amalarico*, (502^[1] – 531) was a son of king [Alaric II](#) and of Theodegotho, daughter of [Theodoric the Great](#) and his first wife. Amalaric was himself king of the [Visigoths](#) from 526 till he was assassinated in 531.

He was a child when his father fell in battle against [Clovis I](#), king of the [Franks](#), in 507. [Gesalec](#) was chosen king and the child Amalaric was carried for safety into [Hispania](#). After Gesalec was killed in 511, the country and [Provence](#) was thenceforth ruled by Amalaric's maternal grandfather, [Theodoric](#) the Ostrogoth, acting through his vice regent, [Theudis](#), an Ostrogothic nobleman. In 522 the young Amalaric was proclaimed king, and four years later, on Theodoric's death, he assumed full royal power in Hispania and that part of [Languedoc](#) called [Septimania](#), relinquishing [Provence](#) to his cousin [Athalaric](#). He married [Chrotilda](#), daughter of [Clovis I](#); but his disputes with her, he being an [Arian](#) and she a [Catholic](#), brought on him the penalty of a Frankish invasion by [Childebert I](#), king of [Paris](#). Amalaric was defeated at [Narbonne](#) in 531 and retreated behind the walls of [Barcelona](#), where he was assassinated by his own troops

Liuva I



Liuva I

Liuva I (Leova; d. 572 or 573), jointly with his brother [Liuvigild](#), succeeded [Athanagild](#) in 568 on the throne of the [Visigoths](#). Both were [Arian Christians](#). Liuva, who was favored by the Visigoth nobles, ruled the Visigothic lands north of the Pyrenees, until his death.

Led by Liuvigild, the brothers banished the imperial civil servants and worked to unify the [Iberian Peninsula](#). Their efforts were more or less successful, except in the north, where the [Basques](#), [Cantabrians](#), and [Asturians](#) managed to hold out against them.

They maintained trade connections with the [Byzantine empire](#), thus maintaining Hispania's urban culture as well as its commercial and cultural connections within the [Mediterranean](#) area.

By this time the language of the Visigoths was no longer Germanic. They had corrupted the Latin of Hispania into what would become [Catalan](#), [Portuguese](#), and [Spanish](#).

Liuvigild 16984

Statue in Madrid (F. Corral, 1750-53).



Liuvigild, Leuvigild, Leovigild, or Leogild was [Visigothic King](#) of [Hispania](#) and [Septimania](#) from 569 to April 21, [586](#) and from [585](#) of [Galicia](#) too. His kingdom covered most of modern Spain down to [Toledo](#).^[1] He was born circa 525.

Ascension to the throne

Liuvigild was declared co-king with his brother [Liuva I](#) on the throne of the Visigoths after a short period of anarchy which followed the death of King [Athanagild](#), who was a brother of them both. Both were [Arian Christians](#). Liuva, who was favored by the Visigoth nobles, came to rule the Visigothic lands north of the Pyrenees, while Liuvigild ruled in [Hispania](#).

Liuvigild was married twice: first to Theodosia, who bore him the sons [Hermenegild](#) and [Reccared](#), and after her death to Athanagild's widow Goisvintha.

In 572 or 573 Liuva died and Liuvigild began his sole reign of the reunited Visigothic territories by seizing [Córdoba](#) from the [Byzantine Empire](#). Liuvigild further secured a peaceful succession, a perennial Visigothic issue, by associating his two sons, [Hermenegild](#) and [Reccared](#), with himself in the kingly office and placing certain regions under their regencies. Hermenegild, the elder, was married to Inguthis, daughter of the Frankish King [Sigibert I](#).

Until Liuvigild's reign, the Visigoths minted [coins](#) that imitated the imperial coinage of [Byzantium](#) which circulated from [Byzantine](#) possessions in [Baetica](#). From the reign of Liuvigild onwards, however, the Visigothic kingdom issued coarse coinage of its own designs.

A coin of Liuvigild.



He was succeeded by his second son [Reccared](#), who had converted to Orthodox Christianity in 589 and brought religious and political unity between the Visigoths and their subjects.

Reccared I

Coin of Reccared



Reccared (or **Recared**) **I** (reigned 586—601) was [Visigothic King](#) of [Hispania](#), [Septimania](#) and [Galicia](#). His reign marked a climactic shift in history, with the king's renunciation of traditional [Arianism](#) in favour of [Catholic Christianity](#) in 587.

Reccared was the younger son of [King Liuvigild](#) by his first wife. Like his father, Reccared had his capital at [Toledo](#). The Visigothic kings and nobles were traditionally [Arian Christians](#), while the Hispano-Roman population were [Trinitarian Catholics](#). The Catholic bishop [Leander of Seville](#) was instrumental in converting the elder son and heir of Liuvigild, [Hermenegild](#), to Trinitarian Christianity. Leander supported him in a war of rebellion and was exiled for his role.

When King Liuvigild died, within a few weeks of April 21, 586, [St. Leander](#) was swift to return to Toledo. The new king had been associated with his father in ruling the kingdom and was acclaimed king by the Visigothic nobles without opposition. Guided by his [Merovingian](#) kinship connections and by his Arian stepmother [Goiswinth](#), he sent ambassadors to greet her grandson [Childebert II](#) and to his uncle [Guntram](#), the [Frankish](#) king of [Burgundy](#), proposing peace and a defensive alliance. Guntram refused to see them.

The information for the rest of Reccared's reign is scanty. [St. Isidore of Seville](#), bishop Leander's brother, praises his peaceful government, clemency, and generosity: standard encomia. He returned various properties, even some private ones, that had been confiscated by his father, and founded many churches and monasteries. [St. Gregory the Great](#), writing to Reccared in Aug. 599 (Epp. ix. 61, 121), extols him for embracing the true faith and inducing his people to do so, and notably for refusing the bribes offered by Jews to procure the repeal of a law against them. He sends him a piece of the [True Cross](#), some fragments of the chains of [St. Peter](#), and some hairs of [St. John the Baptist](#).

Reccared was succeeded by his youthful son [Liuva II](#).

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liuva_II

Liuva II

A fanciful image of Liuva II on the facade of the Royal Palace of Madrid expresses the claim of the Spanish monarchy to represent Visigoth antecedents



Liuva II, youthful son of [Reccared](#), was [Visigothic King](#) of [Hispania](#), [Septimania](#) and [Galicia](#) from 601 to 603. He succeeded [Reccared](#) at only eighteen years of age.

In the spring of 602, the [Goth Witteric](#), one of the conspirators with [Sunna de Mérida](#) to reestablish [Arianism](#) in 589, was given command of the army to repulse the [Byzantines](#). From his position of power at the head of the army, he surrounded himself with people in his confidence. When it came time to expel the Byzantines, Witteric instead used his troops to strike at the king (Spring 603). Invading the royal palace, and deposing the young king, he counted on the support of a faction of nobles in opposition to the dynasty of [Leovigild](#). Witteric cut off the king's right hand and later had him condemned and executed (Summer 603).

Wittiza



A golden triente minted at Braga during the reign of Wittiza and bearing his (rough) effigy

Wittiza (Witiza, Witica, Witicha, Vitiza, or Witiges; c. 687 – probably 710) was the [Visigothic King of Hispania](#) from 694 until his death, co-ruling with his father, [Ergica](#), until 702 or 703.

Joint rule

Early in his reign, Ergica made it clear that his intention was to secure his family in a position of power from which they could not be removed. Based on a charter dated to Ergica's seventh year (November 693 to November 694) which mentions Wittiza as co-king, it is probable that Wittiza was made co-ruler in 694, even though the [Chronicle of 754](#) places the event in 698.^[1] [Numismatic](#) analysis of coinage types also supports the thesis that Wittiza ruled from 694.^{[1][2]} The raising of Wittiza to the kingship coincided with the revolt of [Sunifred](#) and may have been either its cause or effect.

In 700, Wittiza was anointed king; this forms the last entry in the *Chronica Regum Visigothorum*, a Visigothic regnal list. The delay between his appointment as co-regent and his unction, to which much importance was ascribed, is most probably explained by his coming of age, likely fourteen, in that year. Wittiza was Ergica's son by Cixilo daughter of the previous king [Erwig](#), who was dismissed by her husband in late 687 after a short marriage and thus puts a limit on the possible date of birth of Wittiza.

Hermenegild

Saint **Hermenegild** or **Ermengild** (ca. 564 - April 13, 586, was a member of the [Visigothic Royal Family](#) in [Hispania](#). His martyrdom was a catalyst in the Visigoths' conversion from [Arianism](#) to the [Nicene Creed](#) ("Catholicism").

Triunfo de San Hermenegildo by Francisco de Herrera (1654)



Hermenegild was the son of King [Leovigild](#) and brother to [Reccared](#). He was brought up in the [Arian belief](#), but married Ingund (the daughter of the [Frankish King Sigebert I](#) of [Austrasia](#)), who was a Catholic. Ingund was pressured by Hermenegild's mother Goiswinth to abjure her beliefs, but she would not abandon her faith. Under Ingund's influence, and that of [Leander of Seville](#), Hermenegild was converted to Catholicism. His family demanded that he return to the Arian faith, but he refused. As a result, he led a revolt against Leovigild. He asked for the aid of the [Byzantines](#), but he was left without aid. After some time he sought sanctuary in a church. Leovigild would not violate the sanctuary, but sent Reccared instead inside to speak with Hermenegild and to offer peace. This was accepted, and peace was made for some time.

Imprisonment and Death

Goiswinth, however, brought about another alienation within the family. Hermenegild was imprisoned in [Tarragona](#) or [Toledo](#). He subjected himself to mortifications, and asked [God](#) to aid him in his struggles.

During his captivity in the tower of [Seville](#), an Arian bishop was sent to St. Hermenegild during the [Easter](#) Season, but he would not accept [Holy Communion](#) from the hands of that [prelate](#). King Leovigild ordered him to be killed, and the axemen found him to be resigned to this end. He was [martyred](#) on April 13, 586.

Descendants

Athanagild, his son with **Ingund**, born ca 585, went to exile in the [Byzantine Empire](#). There he married **Flavia Juliana**, born ca 590, daughter of '[Peter Curopalates](#)' (ca 550 - 602), and niece of [Emperor Maurice](#). They had an only son **Artabastos**, born circa 611, who married **Goda**, Glasvinda or Galesvinda, born ca 610, a niece or a daughter of [Chindasuinth](#), King of the Visigoths. Their son [Erwig](#) became King of the Visigoths.

Athanagild

Illustration of Athanagild at Biblioteca Nacional de España, Madrid



Athanagild (died 567) was [Visigothic King](#) of [Hispania](#) and [Septimania](#). With the help of a [Roman](#) force, including a fleet to watch the coasts, sent from [Gaul](#) in 551 by the emperor of the eastern Roman empire, [Justinian](#), Athanagild defeated and killed his predecessor, King [Agila](#), near [Seville](#) in 554. Athanagild then became king.

But the ports and coastal fortifications taken in the name of Athanagild weren't swiftly turned over by his [Byzantine](#) allies. Athanagild was able to recover a few cities but was forced to cede a large portion of [Hispania Baetica](#) (Andalusia) to a Byzantine governor of high standing but advanced years named [Liberius](#). Liberius set about enlarging the gift.

Athanagild then endeavoured to drive his Roman allies out of [Iberia](#) but was unsuccessful. He had invited the establishment of a [Byzantine exclave](#) in the south, that would last for a further seventy years. It seems clear that the Roman population of [Baetica](#) was solidly behind this orthodox patrician Roman governor.

There are few details about this far western extension of Byzantine power, which is overlooked by Justinian's historians [Procopius](#) and [Agathius](#). It straddled the Straits of Gades and included major cities: New Carthage ([Cartagena](#)), Corduba ([Córdoba](#)), and Assionia.

Although throughout his rule he had to fight the Byzantines, the [Franks](#), and the [Suevi](#), and was harassed in the [Pyrenees](#) by the [Basques](#), Athanagild strengthened his kingdom internally by conciliating the [Catholics](#), whom his [Arian](#) predecessors had oppressed. When the king of the Suevi declared for Catholic [Christianity](#) about 560, Athanagild and the Visigothic nobility found themselves isolated in their [Arianism](#).

Athanagild's court at [Toledo](#), was famed for its splendor. His queen was [Goiswintha](#), who gave him two daughters: [Brunhilda](#) and the tragically murdered [Galswintha](#), who married the Frankish brother-kings [Sigebert I](#) of Austrasia and [Chilperic](#), king of the [Neustrian](#) Franks, who set aside his first wife in favor of Galswintha, then had her strangled.

Athanagild died peacefully in his bed, a fact his chronicler didn't overlook, and was succeeded by his brothers [Liuvia I](#) and the powerful restorer of Visigothic unity, [Liuvigild](#), last of the Arian Visigoths.

Galswintha



The strangling of Galswintha by Chilperic I



Chilperic I and Fredegund

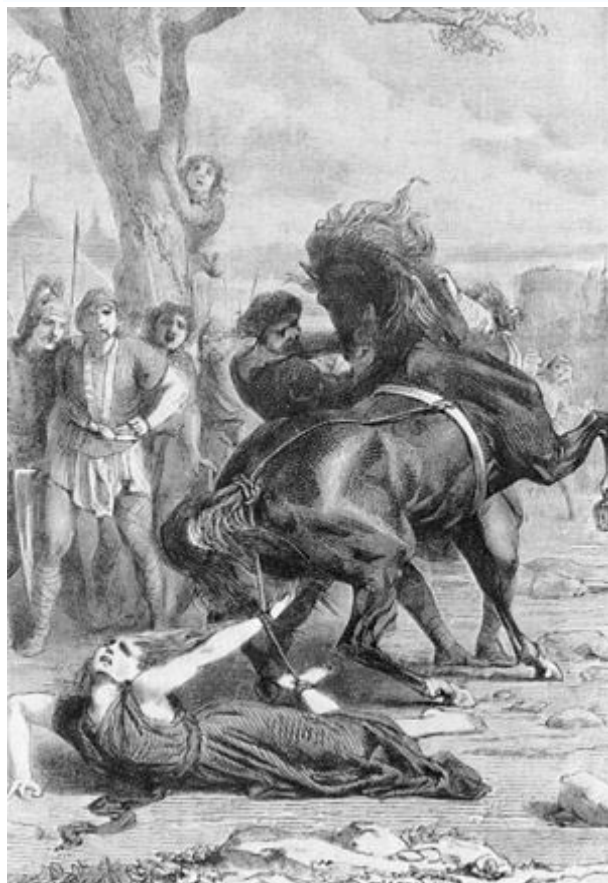
Galswintha (540-568) was the daughter of [Athanagild](#), [Visigothic](#) king of [Hispania](#) (the [Iberian Peninsula](#), comprising modern [Spain](#) and [Portugal](#)), and [Goiswintha](#). Galswintha was the sister of [Brunhilda](#), queen of [Austrasia](#); and the wife of [Chilperic I](#), the [Merovingian](#) king of [Neustria](#).

Galswintha and Chilperic were married at [Rouen](#) in 567, but soon afterwards she was murdered at the instigation of Chilperic's mistress [Fredegund](#), who then married him. Chilperic in turn was murdered by Fredegund in 584.

Galswintha's death aroused the enmity of her sister Brunhilda against Chilperic, bringing about 40 years of warfare between the [Frankish](#) kingdoms of Austrasia and [Neustria](#).

Brunhilda of Austrasia

Philippoteaux and Girardet, *The death of Brunhilda*.



Brunhilda (c. 543 – 613) was a [Visigothic](#) princess, married to king [Sigebert I](#) of Austrasia who ruled the eastern kingdoms of [Austrasia](#) and [Burgundy](#) in the names of her sons and grandsons. Initially known as a liberal ruler of great political acumen, she became notorious for her cruelty and avarice.

She was possibly born about 543 in [Toledo](#), the Visigothic capital, the daughter of the [Visigoth](#) king [Athanagild](#) and [Goiswintha](#), his queen. She was the younger of his two daughters. She was only eleven years old when her father was elevated to the kingship (554).

First marriage

In 567, she was married to king [Sigebert I](#) of Austrasia (a grandson of [Clovis I](#)) who had sent an embassy to Toledo loaded with gifts. She joined him at [Metz](#). Upon her marriage, she abjured [Arianism](#) and converted to orthodox [Roman Catholicism](#).

In response to Sigebert's noble marriage, his brother King [Chilperic](#) of [Soissons](#) sent to Spain for Brunhilda's sister, [Galswintha](#). Gregory of Tours suggests that he proposed because he envied his brother's marriage to Brunhilda. However, Galswintha ordered him to purge his court of prostitutes and mistresses and he soon grew tired of her. He and his favourite mistress, one [Fredegund](#), conspired to murder her within the year. He then married Fredegund.

Brunhilda so detested Fredegund for the death of her sister—and this hatred was so fiercely reciprocated—that the two queens persuaded their husbands to go to war. Sigebert persuaded their other brother, the elder [Guntram](#) of [Burgundy](#), to mediate the dispute between the queens. He decided that Galswintha's [dower](#) of [Bordeaux](#), [Limoges](#), [Cahors](#), [Béarn](#), and [Bigorre](#) should be turned over to Brunhilda in restitution. However, Chilperic did not easily give up the cities and Brunhilda did not forget the murder. [Germanus](#), [Bishop of Paris](#), negotiated a brief peace between them. Between 567 and 570, Brunhilda bore Sigebert three children: Ingund, Chlodosind, and [Childebert](#).

First regency

Brunhilda now tried to seize the regency of Austrasia in the name of her son [Childebert II](#), but she was resisted fiercely by her nobles and had to retire briefly to the court of Guntram of Burgundy before obtaining her goal. At that time, she ruled Austrasia as queen. Not being a fighter, she was primarily an administrative reformer, with a Visigothic education. She repaired the old Roman roads, built many churches and abbeys, constructed the necessary fortresses, reorganised the royal finances, and restructured the royal army. However, she antagonised the nobles by her continued imposition of royal authority wherever it was lax. To reinforce her positions and the crown's prestige and power, she convinced Guntram, newly heirless, to adopt Childebert as his own son and heir. This he did in 577. In 579, she married her daughter Ingunda, then only thirteen, to the Visigothic prince [Hermenegild](#), allying her house to that of the king of her native land. However, Hermenegild converted to Catholicism and he and his wife both died in the ensuing religious wars which tore apart the Visigothic kingdom in Spain.

Second regency

Upon Childebert's death in September or October 595, Brunhilda attempted to govern Austrasia and Burgundy in the name of her grandsons [Theudebert II](#) and [Theuderic II](#), respectively. Though she attributed the death of Childebert to Fredegund, the latter died in 597 and the direct conflict between her and Brunhilda ended. Peace would elude the Franks, however, for many years more as the conflict raged between the two queens' descendants.

In 599, Brunhilda's eldest grandson, Theudebert, at whose court she was staying, exiled her. She was found wandering near [Arcis](#) in [Champagne](#) by a peasant, who brought her to Theuderic. The peasant was rewarded with the [bishopric of Auxerre](#), as the legend goes. Theuderic welcomed her and readily fell under her influence, which was now inclined to vengeance against Theudebert. Soon the brothers were at war.

It is at this point that Brunhilda, now in her later 50's and having survived all the previous tribulations, begins to display that ruthlessness which led to her especially violent demise. Brunhilda first took herself [Protadius](#) as lover and, desiring to promote him to high office, conspired to have [Berthoald](#), the [mayor of the palace](#), killed. In 604, she convinced Theuderic to send Berthoald to inspect the royal [villae](#) along the [Seine](#). Clotaire, probably alerted by men of Brunhilda's bidding, sent his own mayor [Landric](#) (ironically, a former paramour of Fredegund) to meet Berthoald, who had only a small contingent of men with him. Realising that he had been the victim of courtly plotting, Berthoald, in the ensuing confrontation, overchased the enemy until he was surrounded and killed. Protadius was promptly put in his place.

Brunhilda and Protadius soon persuaded Theuderic to return to war with Theudebert, but the mayor was murdered by his warriors, who did not wish to fight to assuage the ego of queen. The man who ordered Protadius' execution, Duke [Uncelen](#), was soon arrested by Brunhilda and tortured and executed. He was not the first ducal victim of the queen's revenges.

It was also during these later regencies that [Desiderius](#), [Bishop of Vienne](#) (later Saint Didier) publicly accused her of incest and cruelty. Desiderius finally enraged her with a pointed sermon

on chastity preached in 612 before her and Theuderic, with whom she then hired three assassins to murder the bishop at the village now-called [Saint-Didier-sur-Chalaronne](#).

The murder of Brunhilda, from De Casibus Virorum Illustrium, attributed to Maître François, Paris, c. 1475



Third regency

The successor of Theuderic II was his bastard son [Sigebert](#), a child. The mayor of the palace of Austrasia, [Warnachar](#), fearing that at his young age he would fall under the influence of his great-grandmother, brought him before a national assembly, where he was proclaimed king by the nobles, who then did homage to him ruling over both his father's kingdoms. Nonetheless, he could not be kept out of the influence of Brunhilda. Thus, for the last time in a long life (now in her 70's), she was regent

of the Franks, this time for her own great-grandson.

But Warnachar and [Rado](#), mayor of the palace of Burgundy, along with [Pepin of Landen](#) and [Arnulf of Metz](#), resentful of her regency, abandoned the cause of Brunhilda over the young king and joined with her old antagonist Clotaire II, promising not to rise in defence of the queen-regent and recognising Clotaire as rightful regent and guardian of Sigebert.

Clotaire then accused Brunhilda of the death of ten kings of the Franks. The identity of the ten kings comes from the Fourth Book of the [Chronicle of Fredegar](#). It is usually said to include Sigebert I, Chilperic I, Theudebert II, Theuderic II, Sigebert II, Merovech (Chilperic's son), Merovech (Theuderic's son), Corbo (Theuderic's son), and Childebert (Theuderic's son) and the sons of Theudebert. along with many churchmen:

"Then the army of the Franks and Burgundians joined into one, all shouted together that death would be most fitting for the very wicked Brunhilda. Then King Clotaire ordered that she be lifted on to a camel and led through the entire army. Then she was tied to the feet of wild horses and torn apart limb from limb. Finally she died. Her final grave was the fire. Her bones were burnt."

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erwig>

Erwig

A tremissis minted at Mérida during Erwig's reign shows the face of Christ and precedes this type of representation in Byzantine coinage, which first occurred under Justinian II (see here).



Erwig or **Ervig** (died 687) was a king of the [Visigoths](#) in [Hispania](#) (680–687). He was the only Visigothic king to be a complete puppet of the bishops and palatine nobility.

According to the ninth-century [Chronicle of Alfonso III](#), Erwig was the son of Ardabast, who had journeyed from [Constantinople](#) to [Hispania](#) during the time of [Chindasuinth](#), and married Chindasuinth's niece Goda. Erwig had Visigothic, Hispano-Roman, Frankish, Armenian, Greek, and Roman ancestry.

Succession

After his predecessor [Wamba](#) had taken the monastic habit while on the verge of death, he was forced to retire from the kingship, even though he recovered, and enter a monastery. He appointed Erwig his successor on and the latter was anointed in [Toledo](#) on 31 October [680](#). Later, ninth-century legends attributed to Erwig the poisoning of the king, who was made a penitent by his supporters while Erwig's supporters raised him to the throne. After falling seriously ill, Erwig proclaimed his son-in-law [Ergica](#), the husband of his daughter Cixilo, as his heir on 14 November [687](#) and retired to a monastery as a penitent the next day, after giving leave to his court to return to Toledo with Egica for the anointing and crowning.

Legislation

Erwig issued twenty eight laws condemning [Jews](#) with the support of the Twelfth Council. He himself stated to the council his desire to return to the legislation of the reign of [Sisebut](#), though he was a little more lenient, dispensing with the [death penalty](#). These laws were part of a revised and expanded version of the [Liber Iudiciorum](#) which is attached to Erwig's name. All of the laws, dealing with Jews, have been attributed to the influence of [Julian of Toledo](#), the fanatically anti-Jewish [archbishop of Toledo](#).

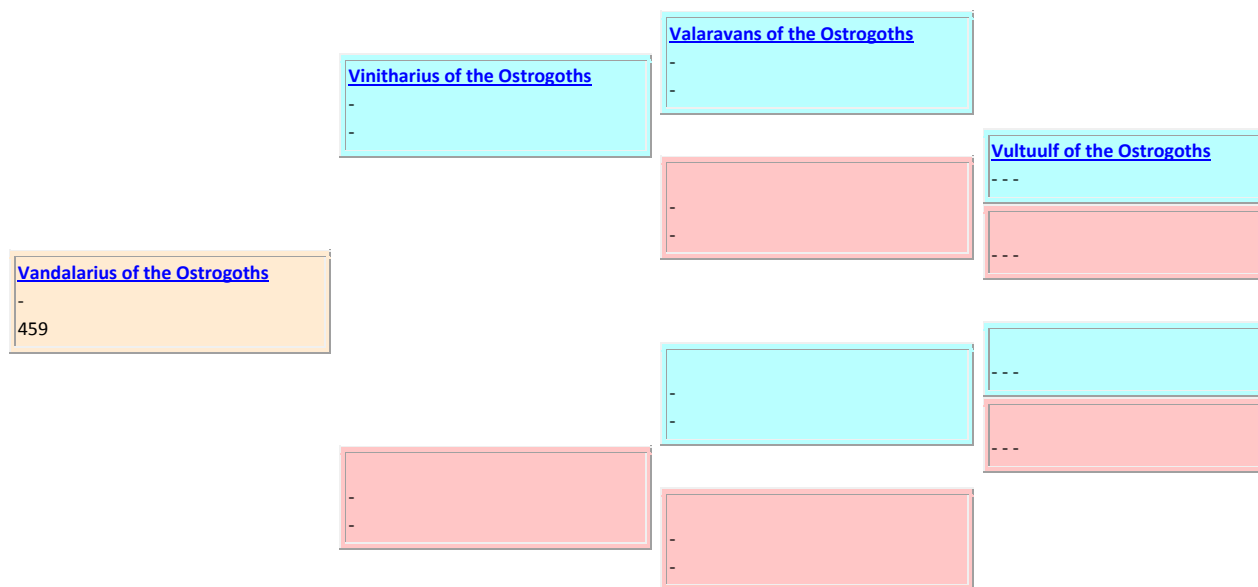
Declaring them a plague on the kingdom, he called for their total removal from the kingdom. Such a decree had been issued by Erwig's predecessor Wamba and much as that one Erwig's also failed. So in 681 he issued another decree, this time requiring that all Jews become Christians or leave the kingdom. Jews were officially discriminated against from henceforth as the monarchy attempted to restrict Jewish commercial activities.

Vandalarius of the Ostrogoths

	Date	Place	Source
Died :	459	"Conqueror of the Vandals"	-

Ref. :	2875
--------	------

Father	Mother
Vinitharius of the Ostrogoths	
Marriage	Children
?	-- Thiudimir King of the Ostrogoths -- Valamir King of the Ostrogoths -- Vidimir the Elder of the Ostrogoths



<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valamir>

Valamir

Valamir (c. 420 - c. 465) was an [Ostrogothic](#) king in the ancient country of [Pannonia](#) from 447 AD until his death. During his reign, he fought alongside the [Huns](#) against the [Roman Empire](#) and then, after [Attila the Hun](#)'s death, fought against the Huns to regain Ostrogothic independence.

Valamir was the son of [Vandalarius](#) and cousin to king [Thorismund](#). A [vassal](#) under the overlordship of the Huns, Valamir helped Attila raid the provinces of the Danube (447), and commanded the Ostrogothic contingent of Attila's force at the [Battle of Chalons](#). With Attila's death (453), Valamir became the leader of the Goths settled in Pannonia. In the ensuing fight for independence from the Huns from 456-457 AD, he defeated and routed the sons of Attila.

A dispute concerning annual tribute caused Valamir to lead the Goths against the Romans at [Constantinople](#) from 459 - 462, when the emperor [Leo I](#) agreed to pay the Goths a gold subsidy annually. During a [Scirian](#) raid, Valamir was thrown from his horse and killed.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodemir>

Theodemir

Theodemir was king of the [Ostrogoths](#) of the [Amal Dynasty](#), and father of [Theodoric the Great](#). He had two "brothers" actually brothers-in-law named [Walamir](#) and [Widimir](#). Theodemir was [Arian](#), while his wife [Erelieva](#) was [Catholic](#). He took over the three [Pannonian Goth](#) empires after the death of Widimir, ruled jointly with his brothers-in-law [Walamir](#) and [Widimir](#), and was a vassal of [Attila the Hun](#). The reason is probably that this relatively long reign of the Ostrogoths in Pannonia, while his elder brother Thiudimir only for four years on the throne, followed by Theodoric, and the first in which erbenlosen Walamir part beerbte kingdom. He was married to [Erelieva](#), with whom he had two children: [Theodoric](#) (454-526) and [Amalafrida](#). When Theodemir died in 474, Theodoric succeeded him as king.

Preceded by

[Vidimir](#)

[King of the Ostrogoths](#)

470-474

Succeeded by

[Theodoric the Great](#)

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erelieva>

Ereleuva

Ereleuva (born before AD [440](#), died ca. [500](#)) was the mother of the [Ostrogothic](#) king [Theodoric the Great](#). She is often referred to as the concubine of Theodoric's father, [Theodemir](#), although historian Thomas Hodgkin notes "this word of reproach hardly does justice to her position. In many of the Teutonic nations, as among the Norsemen of a later century, there seems to have been a certain laxity as to the marriage rite..." That Gelasius refers to her as *regina* ("queen") suggests that she had a prominent social position despite the informality of her union with Theodemir.

Ereleuva was [Catholic](#), and was baptised with the name Eusebia. She had probably converted from [Arianism](#) as an adult, but the details are unclear in the historical record. Ereleuva is regarded as having taken to Catholicism quite seriously, as indicated by her correspondence with [Pope Gelasius](#) and mention of her in [Ennodius's](#) *Panegyric of Theodoric*.

Her name was variously spelled by historians in antiquity as Ereliva (by the fragmentary chronicle of [Anonymus Valesianus](#), ca. 527) and Erelieva, and is now largely known to modern historians as Ereleuva, as she was addressed most frequently by [Pope Gelasius I](#).

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amalafrida>

Amalafrida

Amalafrida was the daughter of [Theodemir](#), king of the [Ostrogoths](#), and his wife [Ereleiva](#). She was the sister of [Theodoric the Great](#), and mother of [Theodahad](#), both of whom also were kings of the Ostrogoths.

In 500, to further cement his authority over the Vandals, Theodoric arranged a marriage alliance with [Thrasamund](#), king of the [Vandals](#), who became her second husband. She brought a very large dowry, but also 5,000 Gothic troops. In [523](#), [Hilderic](#), successor to Thrasamund, had her arrested and imprisoned in a successful bid to overthrow Ostrogothic hegemony; he also had her Gothic troops killed. She died in prison, exact date unknown.

Amalafrida had two children, the aforementioned Theodahad and [Amalaberga](#), who married [Hermanfrid](#), king of the [Thuringii](#). It is not known who the father of these children was.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodahad>

Theodahad

Coin of Theodahad (534-536), minted in Rome. He wears the barbaric moustache.



Theodahad (born c. 480 – died 536) was the King of the [Ostrogoths](#) from 534 to 536 and a nephew of [Theodoric the Great](#) through his sister. He might have arrived in [Italy](#) with Theodoric and was an elderly man at the time of his succession. He arrested [Amalaswintha](#), queen of the Ostrogoths from 526 to 534, and imprisoned her on an island in [Lake Bolsena](#).

[Witiges](#) ordered him killed, and succeeded him as king.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amalaberga>

Amalaberga

Amalaberga was the daughter of [Amalafrida](#), daughter of [Theodemir](#), king of the [Ostrogoths](#). Her father is unknown, her uncle was [Theodoric the Great](#). She married [Hermanfrid](#), king of the [Thuringii](#). They had a son named [Amalafrid](#) and a daughter [Rodelinda](#), who married the [Lombard](#) king [Audoin](#). According to Procopius (History of the Wars V, 13), after Hermanfrid's death, she fled with her children to her brother [Theodahad](#) who was at that time (534-36) King of the [Ostrogoths](#).

Hermanafrid

Hermanfrid (also **Hermanifrid** or **Hermanafrid**; **Latin**: *Hermenfredus*) was the last independent king of the [Thuringii](#). He was one of three sons of King [Bessinus](#) (or Bisinus) and the [Lombard Menia](#) (or Basina). His siblings were [Baderic](#); [Radegund](#) (the elder), married to the Lombard king [Wacho](#); and [Bertachar](#).

Hermanfrid married [Amalaberga](#), daughter of [Amalafrida](#) who was the daughter of [Theodemir](#), between 507 and 511. Amalberga was also the niece of [Theodoric the Great](#). It is unclear when Hermanfrid became king, but he is called king (*rex thoringorum*) in a letter by Theodoric dated to 507. He first shared the rule with his brothers Baderic and Bertachar, but later killed Bertachar in a battle in 529, leaving the young [Radegund](#) an orphan.

According to [Gregory of Tours](#), Amalaberga now stirred up Hermanfrid against his remaining brother. Once she laid out only half the table for a meal, and when questioned about the reason, she told him "A king who owns only of half of his kingdom deserved to have half of his table bare." Thus roused, Hermanfrid made a pact with the king of [Metz](#), [Theuderic I](#), to march against Baderic. Baderic was overcome by the [Franks](#) and beheaded, but Hermanfrid refused to fulfill his obligations to Theuderic, which led to enmity between the two kings.

In 531 or 532, Theuderic, his son [Theudebert I](#), and his brother King [Clotaire I](#) of [Soissons](#) attacked the Thuringii. The Franks won a battle near the river [Unstrut](#) and took the royal seat at Scithingi (modern [Burgscheidungen](#)). Hermanfrid managed to flee, but the Franks captured his niece Radegund (see [Venantius Fortunatus](#), *De excidio Thoringae*) and his nephews.

Theuderic gave Hermanfrid safe conduct, ordered him to come to [Zülrich](#), and gave him many gifts. While Hermanfrid talked with Theuderic, somebody pushed him from the town walls of Zülrich and he died. Gregory mentions that certain people had ventured to suggest that Theuderic *might* have had something to do with it.

Radegund was then forced to marry King Clotaire, while Hermanfrid's wife Amalaberga fled to the [Ostrogoths](#) with her children [Amalafrid](#) and [Rodelinda](#). She was later captured by the [Byzantine](#) general [Belisarius](#) and sent to [Constantinople](#), where Amalafrid later became an imperial general and Rodelinda was married to the Lombard king [Aduin](#).

The Thuringian kingdom ended with Hermanfrid. The area east of the [Saale](#) river was taken over by [Slavic](#) tribes, north Thuringia by the [Saxons](#).

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rodelinda_\(6th_century\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rodelinda_(6th_century))

Rodelinda (6th century)

Rodelinda was a [Lombard queen](#) who lived in the 6th century. She was the wife of king [Audoin](#) and mother of king [Alboin](#).

She was the first wife of [Audoin](#), [regent](#) for the infant [king of the Lombards Walthari](#) from 540 to 546/547 and king in his own right from 546/547 to an uncertain date after 552, and gave him a son, his successor [Alboin](#).

When the marriage took place is unclear. the contemporary [Procopius](#) speaks of a marriage arrangement between Audoin and an unnamed sister of [Amalafrid](#), a prince of mixed royal [Ostrogothic](#) and [Thuringian](#) stock. The betrothment had been organized by the [Byzantine Emperor Justinian](#) at a date spanning from c.540 to 552, and this unnamed female may be the Rodelinda named by [Paul the Deacon](#); but it has been objected by the *[Prosopography of the Later Roman Empire](#)* that it is not certain that the marriage Procopius speaks of eventually took place. A major difficulty added to this is that in 552 Alboin was already a warrior. The *PLRE* believes the marriage between Audoin and Rodelinda took place in the 530s

Other scholars instead tend to accept the identification, observing its importance in linking the Lombard kings with the bloodline of the [Amali](#), the royal house of the Ostrogoths. Such a marriage would have made Audoin a legitimate heir to both the Ostrogothic and Thuringian thrones, the latter in particular as Audoin was already half-brother of the last king of the Thuringians, thus putting him in opposition to the [Franks](#) who had took over most of the Thuringian lands

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audoin>

Audoin

Alduin, **Auduin**, or **Audoin** was king of the [Lombards](#) from 546 to 565. The Lombards became, under him, [foederati](#) of the [Byzantines](#) (541), signing a treaty with [Justinian I](#) which gave them power in [Pannonia](#) and the north. Beginning in 551, he was obliged to send troops to serve [Narses](#) in [Italy](#) against the [Ostrogoths](#). The next year (552), he sent over 5,000 men to defeat the Goths on the sides of [Vesuvius](#). He died in 563 or 565 and was succeeded by his son, [Alboin](#), who brought the Lombards into Italia.

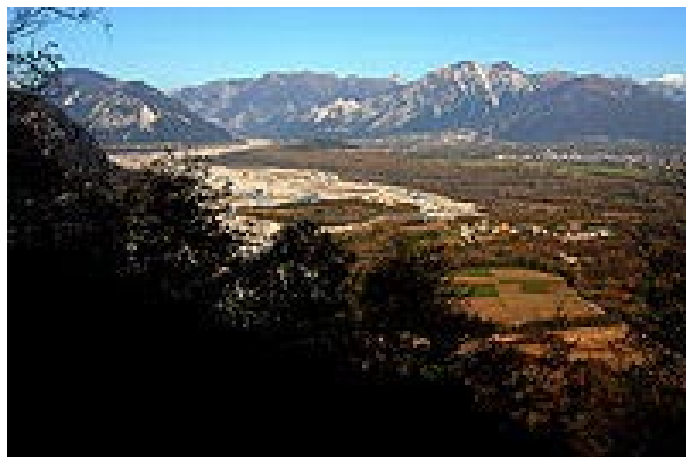
He married [Rodelinda](#), the daughter of [Amalaberga](#) and [Hermanfrid](#), king of the [Thuringii](#).

Grasulf I of Friuli

Grasulf I (died after 571) was a brother of [Alboin](#), the first [Lombard King of Italy](#), and possibly the first [Duke of Friuli](#). Grasulf's son, [Gisulf](#), is the other candidate for first Duke of Friuli. [Paul the Deacon](#) names Gisulf, but some scholars have favoured Grasulf based on a diplomatic letter which refers to him as duke.

This letter was written by [Gogo](#), [Frankish mayor of the palace](#) of [Austrasia](#) under [Sigebert I](#) and [Childebert II](#), sometime between Gogo's rise to power in 571 and his death in 581. Sadly it is undated and unattached to the name of either king he served. It has traditionally been assigned to around the year of his death (581), but an alternative solution put forward by [Walter Goffart](#) places it as early as 571–572 around the time of Sigebert's embassy to [Constantinople](#). In it Gogo urges Grasulf to ally himself with the Franks to oust the *infestantes* (presumably the Lombards) from Italy in league with the [Byzantine Empire](#) and the [Papacy](#). Ambassadors were waiting in Austrasia for Grasulf's reply in case he wished to delay his response to the emperor.

While the exact location of Grasulf's seat of power is unknown, if he did rule, the letter from Gogo is evidence that the "Friulian court" was capable of handling sophisticated imperial correspondence less than a decade after the Lombard arrival on Italian soil.



The Tagliamento river at Gemona del Friuli.

Friuli is an area of northeastern Italy with its own particular cultural and historical identity. Friuli is bordered on the west by the Livenza river, on the north by the [Carnic Alps](#), on the east by the [Julian Alps](#) and the [Timavo](#) river, and on the south by the [Adriatic Sea](#).

Alboin

Alboin (530s – June 28, 572) was king of the [Lombards](#) from circa 560 to 572. During his reign the Lombards ended their [migrations](#) by definitively settling in Italy, the northern part of which was conquered by Alboin between 569 and 572. His actions had a lasting impact on both Italy and the [Pannonian Basin](#); in the former his invasion signalled the beginning of centuries of Lombard rule in Italy, while in the latter his defeat of the [Gepids](#) and his departure from [Pannonia](#) put an end to the [Germanic peoples'](#) age of dominance.

He succeeded [Audoin](#), his father, as king in Pannonia in an age of confrontation with the Lombards' main neighbours, the Gepids. In the first war the Gepids had the upper hand, but in 567, thanks to an alliance with the [Avars](#), Alboin was able to crush his enemies once and for all, and their lands were taken over by the Avars. Feeling uneasy with the increasing power of his new neighbours, Alboin decided to leave Pannonia, and put together a large motley group of peoples to migrate to Italy, then held by the [Byzantine Empire](#). The occasion appeared propitious as Italy's capacity to defend itself had been weakened by the [Gothic War](#).

Alboin began his trek in 568, entering an almost undefended Italy by passing the [Julian Alps](#). He rapidly took control over most of [Venetia](#) and [Liguria](#), and took over [Milan](#), the main city in northern Italy, without opposition in 569. He met serious resistance from [Pavia](#), which was only taken after three years of siege, during which Alboin started to occupy [Tuscany](#). In these years, signs of disintegration and loss of control over the army started to manifest themselves.

Alboin was assassinated on June 28, 572, in a [coup d'état](#) instigated by the Byzantines, and put in action by [Helmegis](#) with the support of Alboin's wife, [Rosamund](#), daughter of the Gepid king [Cunimund](#) that Alboin had killed in battle. The coup failed due to the opposition of most of the Lombards, who elected [Cleph](#) as successor to Alboin, and forced Helmegis and Rosamund to flee to [Ravenna](#) under imperial protection

Skull cup

The fatal banquet as painted by Peter Paul Rubens in 1615.



Elements present in Marius' account are echoed in Paul's [Historia gentis Langobardorum](#), which also contains distinctive features. One of the best known aspects unavailable in any other source is that of the [skull cup](#). In Paul the events that will lead to Alboin's downfall unfold in Verona. During a great feast Alboin gets drunk and orders his wife Rosamund to drink from his cup, made from the skull of his father-in-law Cunimund after he had

slain him in 567 and married Rosamund. Alboin "invited her to drink merrily with her father", and this reignited the queen's determination to avenge her father.

The tale has been often dismissed as a fable, and Paul was conscious of the risk of disbelief. For this reason he insists that he saw the skull cup personally during the 740s in the royal palace of Ticinum in the hands of king [Ratchis](#). The use of skull cups has been noticed among nomadic peoples, and in particular among the Lombards' neighbours, the Avars. Skull cups are believed to be part of a [shamanistic](#) ritual, where drinking from the cup was considered a way to assume the dead man's powers.

Death

Alboin is killed by Peredeo while Rosamund steals his sword, in a 19th painting by Charles Landseer.



In her plan to kill her husband she found an ally in Helmegis, the king's foster brother and [spatharius](#) (arms bearer). According to Paul the queen then pulled in the plot the king's [cubicularius](#) (bedchamberlain) [Peredeo](#) after having seduced him. The latter then played his part in the drama: when Alboin retired for his midday rest on June 28, care was taken to leave the door open and unguarded, and his personal sword was taken from him, leaving him defenseless when Peredeo entered his room and killed him. As for his remains, they were allegedly buried beneath the palace steps.

Theodoric the Great

Bronze statue of Theodoric the Great (Peter Vischer, 1512-13), from the monument of Emperor Maximilian I in the Court Church at Innsbruck.

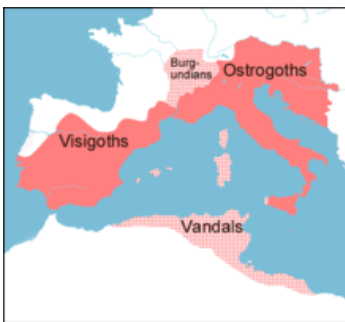


Theodoric the Great (454 – August 30, 526), was king of the [Ostrogoths](#) (471-526) ruler of [Italy](#) (493–526), [regent](#) of the [Visigoths](#) (511–526), and a [vicero](#)y of the [Eastern Roman Empire](#). His Gothic name "Þiuda reiks" translates into "people's king". He became a [hero of Germanic legend](#).

The man who ruled under the name of Theodoric was born in 454 AD on the [banks](#) of the [Neusiedler See](#) near [Carnuntum](#), a year after the Ostrogoths had thrown off nearly a century of domination by the [Huns](#). The son of the King [Theodemir](#) and [Erelieva](#), Theodoric went to [Constantinople](#) as a young boy, as a [hostage](#) to secure the Ostrogoths' compliance with a treaty Theodemir had concluded with the [Byzantine Emperor Leo](#).

He lived at the court of Constantinople for many years and learned a great deal about Roman government and military tactics, which served him well when he became the Gothic ruler of a mixed but largely Romanized "barbarian people". Treated with favor by the Emperors [Leo I](#) and [Zeno](#), he became [magister militum](#) (Master of Soldiers) in 483, and one year later he became [consul](#). Afterwards, he returned to live among the Ostrogoths when he was 31 years old and became their king in 488.

Maximum extent of territories ruled by Theodoric, in 523.



At the time, the Ostrogoths were settled in Byzantine territory as [foederati](#) (allies) of the Romans, but were becoming restless and increasingly difficult for [Zeno](#) to manage. Not long after Theodoric became king, the two men worked out an arrangement beneficial to both sides. The Ostrogoths needed a place to live, and Zeno was having serious problems with [Odoacer](#), the King of Italy who had overthrown the [Western Roman Empire](#) in 476. Ostensibly a viceroy for Zeno, Odoacer was menacing Byzantine territory and not respecting the rights of Roman citizens in Italy. At Zeno's encouragement, Theodoric invaded Odoacer's kingdom.

Theodoric came with his army to Italy in 488, where he won the battles of [Isonzo](#) and [Verona](#) in 489 and at the [Adda](#) in 490. In 493 he took [Ravenna](#). On February 2, 493, Theodoric and Odoacer signed a treaty that assured both parties would rule over Italy. A banquet was organised in order to celebrate this treaty. It was at this banquet that Theodoric, after making a toast, killed Odoacer with his own hands.

Theodoric the Great sought alliances with, or hegemony over, the other Germanic kingdoms in the west. He allied with the [Franks](#) by his marriage to [Audofleda](#), sister of [Clovis I](#), and married his own female relatives to princes or kings of the [Visigoths](#), [Vandals](#) and [Burgundian](#). He stopped the [Vandals](#) from raiding his territories by threatening the weak Vandal king [Thrasamund](#) with invasion, and sent a guard of 5,000 troops with his sister [Amalafrida](#) when she married Thrasamund in 500. For much of his reign, Theodoric was the *de facto* king of the Visigoths as well, becoming regent for the infant Visigothic king, his grandson [Amalric](#), following the defeat of [Alaric II](#) by the Franks under Clovis in 507. The Franks were able to wrest control of [Aquitaine](#) from the Visigoths, but otherwise Theodoric was able to defeat their incursions.

Theodoric was married once.

He had a concubine in [Moesia](#), name unknown, and had two daughters:

- Theodegotha (ca. 473 – ?). In 494, she was married to [Alaric II](#) as a part of her father's alliance with the Visigoths.
- Ostrogotha or Arevagni (ca. 475 – ?). In 494 or 496, she was married to the king [Sigismund of Burgundy](#) (17966, first cousin, 47 times rem.) as a part of her father's alliance with the Burgundians.

Married to [Audofleda](#) in 493 and had one daughter:

- [Amalasuntha](#), Queen of the Goths. She was married to Eutharic and had two children: [Athalaric](#) and [Matasuentha](#) (the latter being married to [Witiges](#) first, then, after Witiges' death, married to [Germanus Justinus](#), neither had children). Any hope for a reconciliation between the Goths and the Romans in the person of a Gotho-Roman Emperor from this family lineage was shattered.



Battle on the slopes of the Vesuvius

After his death in Ravenna in 526, Theodoric was succeeded by his grandson [Athalaric](#). Athalaric was at first represented by his mother Amalasuntha, who was a regent queen from 526 until 534. The kingdom of the Ostrogoths, however, began to wane and was conquered by [Justinian I](#) starting after the rebellion of 535 and finally ending in 553 with the [Battle of the Vesuvius](#).

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audofleda>

Audofleda

Audofleda was the sister of [Clovis I, King of the Franks](#). She married [Theodoric the Great, King of the Ostrogoths](#) (471-526), around 493 AD. Theodoric sent an embassy to Clovis to request the marriage. This political move allied Theodoric with the [Franks](#), and by marrying his daughters off to the kings of the [Burgundians](#), the [Vandals](#), and the [Visigoths](#), he allied himself with every major 'Barbarian' kingdom in the West. Theodoric and Audofleda had one daughter,

[Amalasuntha](#), who was married to [Eutharic](#) and had one daughter and one son; Amalasuntha then ruled as Regent/Queen of the [Ostrogoths](#) from 526-34.

Audofleda was a pagan prior to her marriage, and was baptised at the time of her wedding by an Arian bishop.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amalasuntha>

Amalasuntha

Amalasuntha (ca 495 - 30 April 534/535) was a queen of the [Ostrogoths](#) from 526 to 534.

A daughter of Ostrogothic king [Theodoric the Great](#), she secretly married a slave named [Traguilla](#). When her mother [Audofleda](#) found them together, Traguilla was killed.

She was married in 515 to [Eutharic](#) (b. ca 480 - 522), an Ostrogoth noble of the old [Amal](#) line, who had previously been living in [Visigothic Iberia](#), son of Widerich (18391) (b. ca 450), grandson of Berismund (b. ca 410), and great-grandson of [Thorismund](#) (d. aft. 400), [King of the Ostrogoths](#) ca 400. (<http://www.american-pictures.com/genealogy/persons/per02078.htm>)

Her husband died, apparently in the early years of her marriage, leaving her with two children, [Athalaric](#) and [Matasuentha](#), wife ca 550 of [Germanus](#). On the death of her father in 526, her son succeeded him, but she held the power as [regent](#) for her son. Conscious of her unpopularity she banished, and afterwards put to death, three Gothic nobles whom she suspected of intriguing against her rule, and at the same time opened negotiations with the emperor [Justinian I](#) with the view of removing herself and the Gothic treasure to [Constantinople](#).

Now queen, Amalasuntha made her cousin [Theodahad](#) partner of her throne, with the intent of strengthening her position. The choice was unfortunate, for Theodahad fostered the disaffection of the Goths, and either by his orders or with his permission, Amalasuntha was imprisoned in the island of Martana in the Tuscan lake of Bolsena, where on 30 April in the spring of 534/535 she was murdered in her bath.

Eutharic

Eutharic Cilliga (*Latin: Flavius Eutharicus Cillica*) was a [Visigothic](#) prince from [Iberia](#) (modern day [Spain](#)) who, during the early [6th century](#), served as [Roman Consul](#) and "son in arms" (*filius per arma*) alongside the [Byzantine emperor Justin I](#). He was the son-in-law and presumptive heir of the [Ostrogoth](#) king [Theodoric the Great](#) but died in AD 522 at the age of 42 before he could inherit Theodoric's title. Theodoric claimed that Eutharic was a descendant of the [Gothic](#) royal house of [Amali](#) and it was intended that his marriage to Theodoric's daughter [Amalasuintha](#) would unite the Gothic kingdoms, establish Theodoric's [dynasty](#) and further strengthen the Gothic hold over Italy.

Following the death of Eutharic, his son [Athalaric](#) briefly held the Ostrogothic throne but died at the age of 18. After Athalaric's death, Eutharic's widow moved to [Constantinople](#) where further attempts at establishing a dynasty failed.

Eutharic was born around AD 480 to a noble Visigoth family of the [Amali](#) line. Eutharic's ancestry has been traced back through his father Veteric and grandfather Berismund to [Thorismund](#) who was king of the Visigoths from 451–453. Eutharic's status in both the Gothic and Roman world was elevated by the attentions of [Theodoric the Great](#) who he was related to distantly through their mutual connection with [Hermanric](#). Hermanric was an Ostrogoth chief who ruled much of the territory north of the [Black Sea](#).

By the late [5th century](#) Theodoric was king of the [Ostrogoths](#), ruling from [Ravenna](#) in Italy and a close ally of the Byzantine [Emperor Zeno](#). Theodoric was keen to establish a [dynasty](#). His marriage to [Audofleda](#) however had produced only a daughter, [Amalasuintha](#). Therefore, to achieve his ambitions Theodoric would have to ensure he chose a son-in-law with an ancestry equal in strength to his own. His investigations into the Gothic royal lines, which were by this time widely distributed across Europe, led him to Iberia. Here he discovered Eutharic, the last heir of a related branch of the Amali, who had recently assumed the regency of Spain.

Eutharic died in 522 at the age of 42, less than three years after his consulship. His death caused problems for Theodoric who never succeeded in his desire to establish a strong Gothic dynasty. Though Eutharic and Amalasuintha had a son, [Athalaric](#) born in 518, and a daughter, [Matasuentha](#), (18393) the dynasty was never established convincingly. Theodoric outlived both Eutharic and Eutharic's son Athalaric, who Theodoric had named his heir in 526. Athalaric's mother Amalasuintha acted as [regent](#) for her son following Theodoric's death that year, but Athalaric died in October 534 at the age of 18. To maintain her power, Amalasuintha brought her cousin, and a nephew of Theodoric, named [Theodahad](#) to the throne. Though he was made to swear fealty to Amalasuintha, Theodahad felt insecure and in December 534 had her imprisoned on an island in [Lake Bolsena](#) where she was eventually murdered on 30 April 535.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Athalaric>

Athalaric

Athalaric (516 - 2 October 534) was the King of the [Ostrogoths](#) in [Italy](#). He was a son of [Eutharic](#) and [Amalasuntha](#). His maternal grandfather was [Theodoric the Great](#). He succeeded his grandfather as king in 526.

As Athalaric was only ten years old, the regency was assumed by his mother, [Amalasuntha](#). His mother attempted to provide for him an education in the Roman tradition, but the Gothic nobles pressured her to allow them to raise him as they saw fit. As a result, Athalaric drank heavily and indulged in vicious excesses, which ruined his constitution.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matasuentha>

Matasuentha

Matasuentha or **Matasuntha** was a daughter of [Eutharic](#) and [Amalasuntha](#). She was a sister of [Athalaric](#), King of the [Ostrogoths](#). Their maternal grandparents were [Theodoric the Great](#) and [Audofleda](#).

[Getica](#) by [Jordanes](#) records "Eutharic, who married Amalasuentha and begat Athalaric and Mathesuentha. Athalaric died in the years of his childhood, and Mathesuentha married [Vitiges](#), to whom she bore no child. Both of them were taken together by [Belisarius](#) to [Constantinople](#). When Vitiges passed from human affairs, [Germanus](#) the patrician, a cousin of the Emperor [Justinian](#), took Mathesuentha in marriage and made her a Patrician Ordinary. And of her he begat a son, also called Germanus. But upon the death of Germanus, she determined to remain a widow."

Her son Germanus, was following the death of his father (late 550/early 551). Nothing further is known of him with certainty, although he can possibly be identified with the *patricius* [Germanus](#), a leading senator in the reign of Emperor [Maurice](#) (r. 582–602) whose daughter married Maurice's eldest son Theodosius Michael Whitby identifies the younger Germanus with [Germanus](#), a son-in-law of [Tiberius II Constantine](#) (18268, 47th ggf) and [Ino Anastasia](#).

Witiges

Witiges or **Vitiges** (died 540) was King of the [Ostrogoths](#) in Italy from 536 to 540.

He succeeded to the throne of [Italy](#) in the early stages of the [Gothic War](#), as [Belisarius](#) had quickly captured [Sicily](#) the previous year and was currently in [southern Italy](#) at the head of the forces of [Justinian I](#), the [Eastern Roman Emperor](#). Witiges was the husband of [Amalasuntha](#)'s only surviving child, [Matasuentha](#), a marriage designed to bolster his claim to kingship. The [panegyric](#) upon the wedding in 536 was delivered by [Cassiodorus](#), the [praetorian prefect](#), and survives, a traditionally Roman form of rhetoric that set the Gothic dynasty in a flatteringly Roman light. Witiges had [Theodahad](#) murdered after the imprisonment and death of his mother-in-law. Justinian's general Belisarius took both Witiges and Matasuntha as captives to [Constantinople](#), and Witiges died there, without any children. After his death Matasuntha married the patrician [Germanus Justinus](#), a nephew of Justinian I by