

Roman Empire until finally they overran it and changed the racial complexion of the Roman Empire. Now it not simply a matter of racial complexion, but a matter that great numbers of people without cultural background of their own came to be the overwhelming mass of the people within the Roman Empire. And consequently, you had a tremendous change in life, a change in language, a change in culture, and a change in usage. And you had a sinking of ~~the~~ civilization far below what it had been before, not because these people were the least bit inferior to those who preceed them, but because too many of them at once were to be assimilated. ~~And~~ And so the old civilization was pretty well swallowed up.. It did not disappear, it cast a veneer over the people, they were trmendously affected by it, but yet there was suffticient numbers of them to cause that there should be an overwhelming change in the face of life in Eurape. And so that introduces the medieval civilization, the Middle Ages. We think of the first ages of the Middles Ages, sometimes, as the Dark Ages. They are dark ages becasue the great amount of literacy of the Roman world was blanketed under great masses of peple who could not read and write. In the Roman Empire most people could read and write, writing was very prominent, but great masses of people who could not read and write, came to make up the greater part of the population. And we have much less material to enable us to knwo what happened, and many important events of that time we have very littel knowledge about, so we call it the Dark Ages.

We have less knowledge about that civilization, so that we cannot go and compare it to the great ~~Rom~~ Roman Emprrie. ~~Out~~ Out of this, the civilization gradually immerges, as these people gradually take over more and more of the old Roman civilization, and make more advances in culture, themselves, but it finds it great step forward when the old claslsical civilization comes forward again...(end of record)

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....Until 1450, but that is outside of our main interest, it is very important, but for us ~~there is a question involved as to its~~ ^{the Western Empire is of greatest} ~~great~~ importance.