Contents

Li	st of maps, tables, and graphs	page x
Ac	knowledgments	xi
	ote on terminology	xv
	List of abbreviations	
In	troduction	1
	Patterns of power	3
	The historiography of early medieval politics	7
	The history of the reign as context for the practice of empire	23
	Rethinking Charlemagne's political practice	38
Pa	art I Strategic rulership	
Pa	rt I introduction: tools of control and coercion	43
1	Managing royal agents Charlemagne's justice: double delegation	47
	and overlapping office	48
	Justice in practice	63
	The advantages of overlapping	77
2	Disciplining royal agents	90
	The problem of royal agents	90
	The management of counts	95
	The possibilities of discipline	99
	Losing honors or correcting bad behavior?	107
	Royal service as ministerium	118
3	Fractured control: Charlemagne's response to dissent	128
	The limits of unity: a typology of dissent	128
	Opposition to particular policies	131
	Rebellion	135
	Hrodgaud	136
	Hardrad	140

Pippin the Hunchback	149
The lessons of revolt	152
The threat of violence	157
Part I conclusion: control and its limits	165

Part II Center and region in Charlemagne's empire

Part II introduction: unity and diversity in Charlemagne's empire		169
4	An empire of regions?	175
-	Imperial and local consciousness in the so-called "minor annals"	179
	Classifying the annals: a new taxonomy	180
	Charlemagne's political world through the lens of the "minor annals"	199
	The special roles of Italian bishops	206
	Charlemagne's favorite Italian bishop: Paulinus of Aquileia	207
	Italian bishops and royal charters	215
	Charlemagne's impact on Italian bishops	229
5	The conquered regions as arenas for experimentation	239
	Case study 1: regional reform councils in Bavaria	243
	Case study 2: community-based testimony and royal power	259
	Case study 3: learning to use capitularies	278
	Experimentation as a pattern of rulership	289
6	The nature of the empire: centralization and communication	293
	The imperial system in action: a case study of communication	294
	The limits of standardization	298
	Literate administration	303
	The quest for information	305
	Literacy and governance	311
	Networks of communication	317
	Royal palaces	322
	The status of Aachen as a capital	322
	Aachen as a model palace?	325
	Aachen as political center	333

Part II conclusion: the imperial character of Charlemagne's realm 337

Part III An empire of practice

Part III introduction: continuity, change, and the building	
of an empire	
7 The chronology of the reign Ganshof's periodization of the reign <i>Rex et imperator</i> : rethinking chronology Governance at the end of the reign: Charlemagne in 813 The death of Charlemagne	347 347 350 364 377

8 Recta via: the dynamics of political change	379	
The making of Charles the Great: Charlemagne and his brother	381	
The consistency of royal goals	396	
Salvation	397	
Royal dominance	399	
Community	401	
Restructuring power networks	402	
Forces for change: the press of events, contingency, and failure	403	
Did Charlemagne have a plan?	423	
Part III conclusion: an empire of practice		
Conclusion: Charlemagne's invention of medieval rulership		
Charlemagne's rulership	431	
Europae pater: the legacy of Charlemagne	433	
Bibliography	437	
Index	522	