

Crises in the Late Medieval Church

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What is going on?

- During the 13th -14th centuries everything seemed to go wrong
- Christendom is disintegrated
 - Nations are fighting nations
 - Church and state do not function together anymore
- The black death
 - Aka the bubonic plague
 - One third of the population in Europe died



- Late in the 13th century, rulers started to see themselves as solely responsible for what happened in their respective countries
 - The King of France and England decided that members of the clergy were obligated to pay taxes to the crown
 - The English king said the clergy would have no protection of law until they paid taxes



The church's response

- Pope Boniface VIII
- issued a papal bull
 - Meaning one holy
 - A formal decree stating that all rulers are subject to the pope
 - It was necessary for salvation for every human to be subject to the pope
 - The pope's authority is greater than the king's



What caused the decline of the papacy in the 14th century and what were the results? -Read primary source 1-



Boniface VIII's Defense of Papal Supremacy

One of the most important documents of the late medieval church was the papal bull Unam Sanctam issued by Pope Boniface VIII in 1302. It was a formal decree stating that all rulers are subject to the pope.

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Decline in the Medieval Church



- Taxing the clergy [clericis laicos] - 1296
- Royal courts vs. Church courts
- Papal Bull [Unam Sanctam] - 1302
- Marsilius of Padua [Defensor Pacis] - 1324



The King's response

- King Philip IV
 - Taxed clergy members
 - kept churches in France from sending money to Rome
 - Ignored Canon Law's
 - Forced the French clergy to write a letter stating that they no longer obey Rome
- Ignore the Papal Bull
 - Sent an army to Rome to imprison Pope Boniface VIII

The arrest

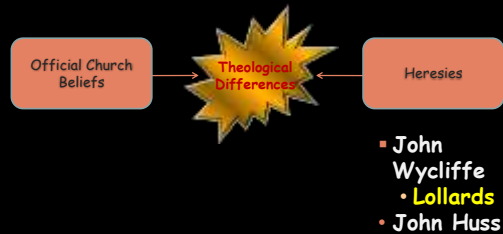
- Boniface was arrested and died a month later
- Pope Boniface's successor served as a pope for only 8 months and then no one was chosen for almost a year
 - Of the 16 cardinals at the time, none of them wanted to elect someone who would continue the conflicts with the French and English Kings.



Specific Crises

1. New Heresies.
2. Schism.
3. Lay Reform.
4. Conciliarism.

Decline in the Medieval Church



John Wycliffe



- Wycliffe was an Oxford Theologian
- Advocated the rights of kings against the popes/clergy
- Church = Spiritual / King = Temporal
- Followers called Lollards and preached in the vernacular, favored reforms
- Donatism- efficacy of rituals depended upon the personal worthiness of the clergy



Jan Huss

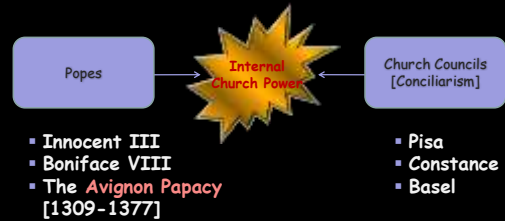


- Rector of University of Prague
- Inspired by Wycliffe of Oxford
- Denied the Miracle of Transubstantiation
- Concurred with Donatism
- Burned at the stake by the Council of Constance in 1414
- Later militant Hussites (Taborites) won concessions from the Council of Basel

The Hussite Wars [1420-1436]



Decline in the Medieval Church



Conciliar Movement

- Theory- Church Councils are superior to the Pope
- Councils Pisa, Constance & Basel sought to end the Great Schism and clarify doctrine



The Avignon Papal Complex



Papacy at Avignon (72 years)-What issues will this present?

Positive outcomes for ruling in Avignon

- It was a more peaceful place than the bustling city of Rome
- Avignon was papal territory
- It was closer than Rome was to many of the major centers of Catholicism in Western Europe



Protests

- Not everyone agreed with the idea of the papacy headquarters being in Avignon
- People began protesting this move away from the papacy's historical home of Rome
- Eventually those protesting won
- It was not church officials or secular rulers who got the papacy moved back to Rome
- Two women did: Catherine of Siena and Bridget of Sweden



Catherine of Siena: her background



- She was one of 24 (25) children of the Benincasa family
- She was from Italy
- She was 5 years old when she had her first spiritual experience
- She struggled with doubts and demonic visions
- She experienced a profound sense of union with God
- She worked with those who were sick, including plague victims and condemned prisoners
- She wrote hundreds of letters to the pope and other religious and secular leaders offering them advice
- She also wrote about her religious experience
- She became to be known for her holiness

Catherine of Siena (female mystic) and Pope Gregory XI

- *"Because God has given you authority and because you have accepted it, you ought to use your virtue and power; if you do not wish to use it, it might be better for you to resign what you have accepted; it would give more honor to God and health to your soul"* - **Catherine of Siena**



The Great Schism: 1378-1417



Back to Rome



- Catherine wrote for years to Pope Gregory IX telling him that God commanded 3 things
 1. Reform the church
 2. Return to Rome
 3. Assemble a new crusade to the Holy Land
- Gregory moved back to Rome,
 - just four years before Catherine's early death at age 33

More troubles: the Great schism

- Gregory died within two years of the move
- Since they were back in Rome, the clergy elected a Roman pope- Urban VI
- But the French cardinals disagree with the election and elected a new Pope- of French origin- Clement VII
 - Who moved back to Avignon
- Urban was not going to give up his title of Pope and now the church had two popes, who set up to colleges of cardinal, two sets of papal administration, and two centers of power.
- This situation, in which two men claimed to be the pope at the same time, lasted 38 years and became known as the Great Schism



Great Schism 1378-1437

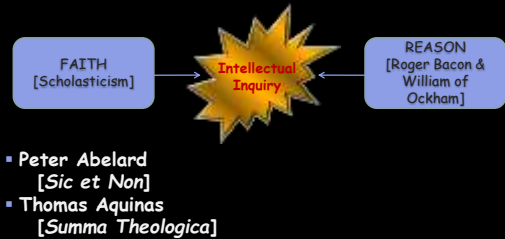
- TWO popes have different allies
- Roman Pope vs. Avignon Pope
- Council of Pisa: Asks popes to resign and elects its own pope
- THREE popes!!!
- Council of Constance 1414: Gets rid of all three and elects Martin V



The Great Schism

- ✦ Papacy returns to Rome in 1378
- ✦ Rival popes elected
 - ✦ Pope Urban VI
 - ✦ Pope Clement VII
- ✦ The Great Schism divides Europe
- ✦ Calls for systematic reform
 - ✦ Marsiglio of Padua (c. 1270 – 1342), *Defender of the Peace*
- ✦ Conciliarism
 - ✦ Council of Pisa (1409)
 - Deposed both popes and elected a new pope
 - Popes refuse to step down
 - Results in three popes
 - ✦ Council of Constance (1414 – 1418)
 - ✦ End of the Schism
 - ✦ Pope Martin V (1417 – 1431)

Decline in the Medieval Church



Decline in the Medieval Church



Christianity

Declining in prestige

- Popes preoccupation with finances and power
- Boniface VIII
- Avignonese papacy
- Great Schism
- Black Death

Mechanical path to salvation

- Stressing the performance of good works
- Purgatory
- Chalking up good deeds
- Indulgences
- Mysticism

How do art and literature reflect the new thinking of the 14th Century? How are Dante, Petrarch, and Boccaccio both medieval and new in the works they produced?/ Read Dante's *Vision of Hell*



Vernacular Literature

- Dante
 - *The Divine Comedy*
- Petrarch
 - Great European lyric poet
 - Inspired by Laura
 - Strong sense of individuality
- Boccaccio
 - Known for his prose
 - *Decameron* (reflected the immediate easygoing, cynical postplague viewpoint)
- Chaucer
 - *Canterbury Tales* (showed all of English society)

What happened to the role of women in the 14th century? Why? –Read *The Legal Rights of Women*:



Role of Women

- Prostitution
- Marriage
- Sex roles
- Job opportunities
- Education
- *Who was Christine de Pizan?*



Role of Women

Christine de Pizan

- Educated (father was in Charles V of France's court)
- *The Book of the City of Ladies*
- *What does she explain in her book?*



Change & Invention

- ✱ Changes in Urban Life
 - ◆ Greater Regulation
 - ◆ Marriage
 - ◆ Gender Roles
 - Male: active and domineering
 - Women: passive and submissive
 - ◆ Medieval children
- ✱ New Directions in Medicine
 - ◆ Hierarchy
 - ◆ Trends
- ✱ Inventions and New Patterns
 - ◆ The mechanical clock
 - New conception of time
 - ◆ Gunpowder and cannons

A Medical Textbook



How might the Black Death be said to be good for medicine?/What was pre-plague medicine grounded on?



Inventions of the Renaissance

Take notes as you view the slides.

Clocks

- The oldest surviving mechanical clock were made in the 1300's.
- Italian scientist Galileo discovered the pendulum.
- This made for better time keeping.



Water clocks and hourglasses

- Water clocks and hourglasses were widely using in the 1500's.



The Watch (portable timepiece)

- The portable watch was invented by German Peter Henlein in 1505
- He created his watch to be spring powered making it much smaller.
- This watch was a pocket watch. The wrist watch didn't come into widespread use until the 1800's.



Printing

- The Chinese were the first to invent printing in 868.
- In the mid-1400's, Johan Gutenberg of Germany invented a printing press using moveable type.
- Now books could be printed with greater speed and less effort.
- The Gutenberg Bible is considered one of the first books ever printed.



Eyeglasses

- Eyeglasses were invented in the 1300's.
- With the invention of the printing press in the 1400's, the demand for eyeglasses increased.
- Far-sighted glasses (for reading) were developed first.
- Later on near-sightedness was able to be corrected.



Lenses

- Lenses were used for more than just eyeglasses.
- Galileo used lenses to make an astronomical telescope to look at the stars and planets in 1606.
- Isaac Newton made the first reflecting telescope in 1668.



The Musket

- The musket was the first usable rifle that soldiers could carry into battle.
- It was developed in Spain in the 1500's.
- It could fire a metal ball that could seriously kill or hurt someone.
- The first muskets were very large weighing 40 pounds and being over 6 feet long.
- They were very hard to use.



The Rudder

- The invention of the rudder in the 1200's greatly increased the control over steering a ship.



The Flush Toilet

- The flush toilet, or water closet as it was called dates back to 1589 when it was invented by Sir John Harington.
- Harington invented a valve that when pulled would release water from a water closet. Sir John recommended flushing the toilet once or twice a day, although with our modern technology, we know that is probably not sufficient. (Rumor has it that, in Robin Hood's day, King Arthur - angry with how his brother ruled the country while the King was gone, named the toilet, 'the john' - aka as 'the jon' to you folks.)



Adding Machine

- The French scientist, Blaise Pascal has been credited with inventing the very first digital calculator. In 1642, the 18-year-old Pascal, the son of a French tax collector, invented his numerical wheel calculator called the Pascaline, to help his father count taxes.



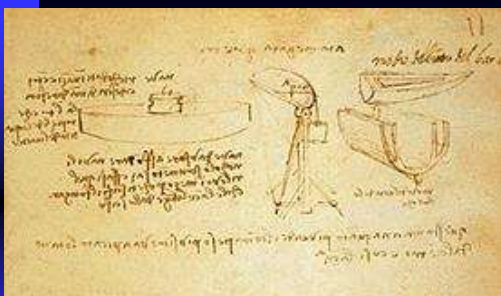
Thermometer

- The Thermometer was invented by Galileo in 1593 which, for the first time, allowed temperature variations to be measured. In 1714, Gabriel Fahrenheit invented the first mercury thermometer, the modern thermometer.
- Thermometers measure temperature, by using materials that change in some way when they are heated or cooled.



Submarine

- The submarine was invented in 1624 by a man named Cornelius van Drebbel.
- Leonardo da Vinci drew out the basic concept of a submarine over one hundred years before.
- Drebbel, a Dutch inventor and engineer employed by the British navy constructed a leather-covered rowboat from which oars protruded through watertight seals.
- Drebbel's ship could stay underwater for a few hours, but it only went about fifteen feet under the surface.



The Match

- Fire - our worst enemy, our best friend - was difficult to create until Robert Boyle invented the match in 1680.
- Although fire could be made by rubbing sticks together or by striking flint to steel, this was a time consuming process. Boyle discovered that when phosphorus and sulfur were rubbed together, they would burst into flame.
- Although convenient, Boyle's matches were not very safe, because sometimes they accidentally went up in flames while in a pocket. (Warm surprise!)
- With some improvements and a little fine tuning, this invention led to your modern safety match many years later.



What is the significance of the development of mechanical clocks, eyeglasses, and gunpowder and cannons, in the 14th century?



Mechanical Clock in the Prague Town Hall



Discussion Questions

- ❏ What impact did the Black Death have on medieval European society?
- ❏ What were the causes of the Hundred Years' War?
- ❏ Who was Joan of Arc and what role did she play in the Hundred Years' War?
- ❏ How did the Hundred Years' War impact the relations between the English King and his Parliament?
- ❏ Why did the stay at Avignon lead to a decline in papal prestige?
- ❏ How was the Great Schism finally ended?
- ❏ How did Dante, Chaucer and Christine de Pisan reflect the values of their respective societies?
- ❏ How did the Black Death affect urban and family life?

Web Links

- ❏ [ORB – Online Reference Book for Medieval Studies](#)
- ❏ [The End of Europe's Middle Ages](#)
- ❏ [The Black Death, 1347 – 1350](#)
- ❏ [Medieval Dance of Death](#)
- ❏ [De Re Militari – Society for Medieval Military History](#)
- ❏ [The Age of King Charles V](#)
- ❏ [The World of Dante](#)
- ❏ [Geoffrey Chaucer](#)