

Chapter 9

The Late Middle Ages
(1300- 1527):

Centuries of Crisis

Hundred Years' War

(May 1337-October 1453)

- Causes:
 - King Edward III (England) asserts claim to French throne
 - French barons choose Philip VI of Valois
 - Emerging Territorial Powers
 - Edward held sizable French territories
 - French turned their noses to this
 - Flanders-(cloth industry needed English wool)
 - Prejudice and animosity

French Weaknesses



- Internal disunity
- Financial policies (depreciating the currency and borrowing)
- Estates General 1355
- Military=less disciplined
- Mediocre leadership

Progress of War

- Edward embargoed wool to Flanders
- Flemish cities revolt
- 1340 Bay of Sluys
- 1356 John II The Good captured by England (Estates Gen. Now has power)
- France increased taxes
- Jacquerie 1358
- 1360 Peace of Bretigny
- Edward died=Richard II became king
- John Ball and Wat Tyler 1381
- Henry V



- Treaty of Troyes – Henry V proclaimed as successor to French throne
- Joan of Arc – called by the King of Heaven to deliver Orleans from the English
- Joan inspired French troops
- Executed on May 30, 1431
- Sainthood in 1920

The Black Death

- More people than food
- 1315-1317 crop failures
- 1348 full force of plague
- Followed trade routes
- Europe lost 2/5 of population
- Social response to the plague?



‘Dance of Death’ by Hans Holbein, 1491

Social and Economic Consequences

- Farms Decline – prices drop, while manufactured goods went up; landholders lose power
- Peasants revolt – land taxes, inability to leave their land for better work, frozen wages
- Cities rebound – people wanted the best when life wasn't good
 - Prices of goods rose; people migrated to cities

New Conflicts and Opportunities

- Guilds gain power and conflict within themselves
- Landed nobility and the Church were becoming weak
- Kings took advantage to centralize their governments and economies

Ecclesiastical Breakdown & Revival: the Late Medieval Church

- By the 13th century the Papacy evolved into a ‘Papal monarchy’ with great secular powers.
- Growth in secular power diminished spiritual power.
- Urban IV (1261-1264) papacy established its own law courts, *Rota Romana* & clerical
- By the end of the 13th century the papal centralization lead to the church becoming a powerful political organization with its own laws, courts, taxes and secular goals.

Ecclesiastical Breakdown & Revival: the Late Medieval Church contd.

- The church's position became undermined by a weak & fragmented Holy Roman Empire. German princes who sought the imperial crown no-longer bothered to heed Papal bulls or rulings.
- European families and Roman nobles vied for the Papal throne causing corruption and intrigue.

Boniface VIII & Philip the Fair

- Boniface VIII became involved in a power struggle with both Edward I ‘Longshanks’ of England & France’s Philip IV ‘the Fair’
- As England went to war with France & Scotland, both England & France taxed the clergy.
- 1296 Boniface issued *Clericis Laicos* forbidding lay taxation of clergy
- Edward I retaliated by denying clerics the right to be heard in courts.
- Philip struck back by blocking the exportation of all money to Rome.
- Boniface recognized Scottish independence and enraged Edward I while also using the Jubilee celebration as a way to make money & avoid Philip’s embargo

Boniface VIII & Philip the Fair contd.

- 1301 Boniface VIII issued the bull, *Ausculata Fili* ‘Listen my son’ that asserted “God has set popes over kings and kingdoms.”
- Philip IV used propaganda to attack Boniface.
- 1302 Boniface VIII miscalculated & issued the *Unam Sanctam* which asserted that “temporal power was subject to the spiritual power of the Church.”
- Philip IV’s army crushed a papal force in 1303 & Boniface was himself badly beaten & assaulted and died a short time later.
- Popes never against seriously threatened kings & emperors.