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.