

APWH

Chapter 10 Notes

Middle Ages in Europe

- Usually considered period from 500 CE to 1500 CE
- Starts with fall of western Roman Empire & collapse of cities
- Another name for period is “Medieval”
- Catholic Church will survive & be a linking institution- gains political power
- Establishes the regional Kingdoms of the West

Early Middle Ages

- From 500 CE to 900 CE
- Outside invasions leads to power vacuum in West- example would be Huns, Vandals, Vikings, etc.
- Political organization goes entirely local- leads to development of feudalism
- Economic organization is characterized by manorialism

Manorialism

- System of relationships b/t landlords and peasants (AKA serfs)
- Landlords (AKA Lords) provided protection & land
- Serfs gave labor & part of crops, serfs were allowed to farm part of land for their families
- Serfs went with land, could not move but could own house. Children stayed on land
- Serfdom is not slavery- Serfs did have some rights

Feudalism

- A political arrangement that develops in the Middle Ages between nobles and kings-
- Kings provide land to nobles
- Nobles provide warriors for King
- Hierarchy established with Knights on bottom and ending with Kings
- A knight can swear allegiance (be a vassal) to more than one lord (oath of fealty)

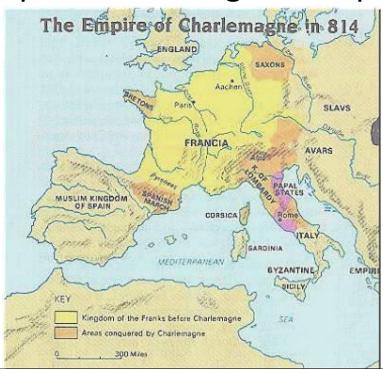
Rise of the Franks

- Early leader is Clovis who converts to RCC around 496 CE- they become known as Merovingians- They will be replaced by Carolingians (Mayors of the Palace)- best known is Charles Martel who defeats Muslims at Battle of Tours in 732
- RC will recognize Franks as legitimate heirs to the Roman Empire (HRE)

Charlemagne

- Period: 9th century
- Creates a small Empire in Central/Western Europe
- Restores power of RCC- helps to establish schools for nobility (schools controlled by RCC)
- Empire does not last long, will be divided between three grandsons
- Leads to a Europe with many regional kingdoms in West and Italy under RC control

Map of Charlemagne's Empire



Role of the RCC

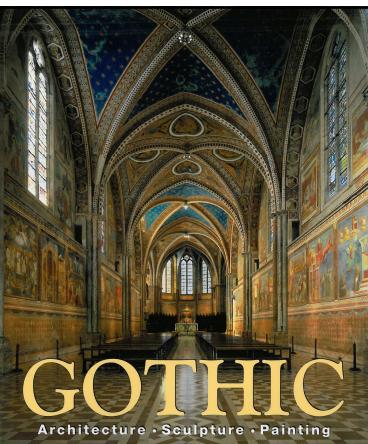
- Will hold both political and “spiritual” power
- Will establish their own legal system which can control the “soul”- state is responsible for the “body”
- Control “time”- ringing of Church bells for prayers, etc.
- Church Theology- started with use of Greek-Roman ideas- legitimized by St Augustine

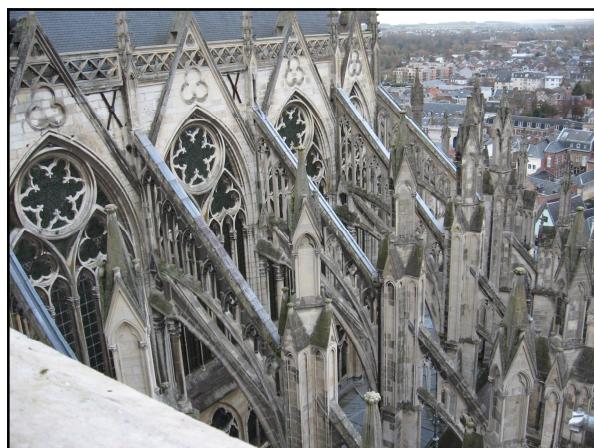
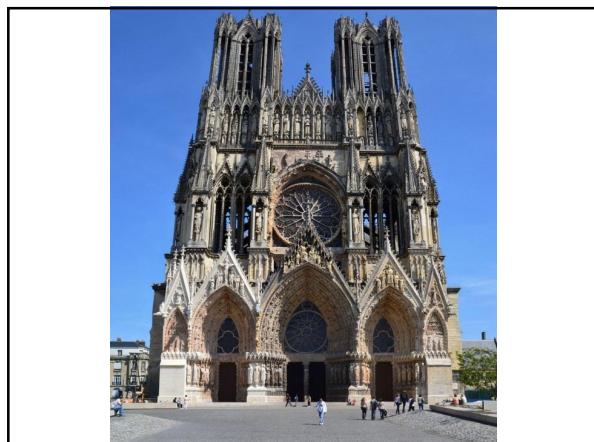
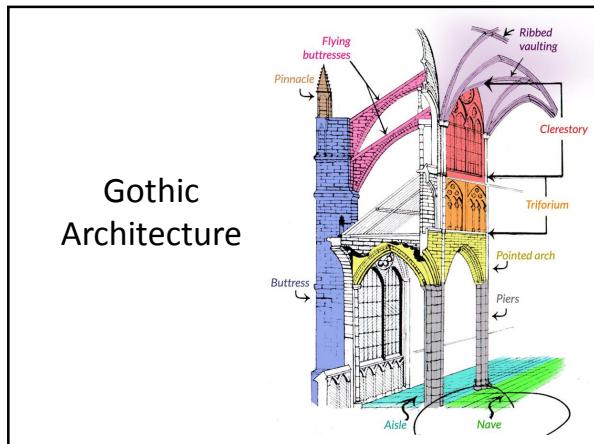
Role of the RCC (cont.)

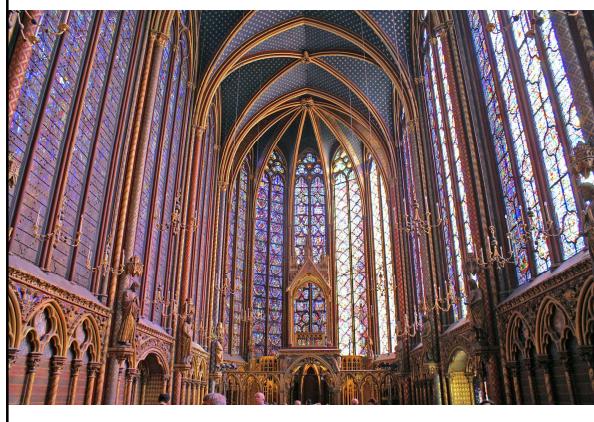
- Introduction of Logic into religious beliefs- in addition to “faith”, you can also use tools of logic analysis- used by Bernard, later Thomas Aquinas- known as “Scholasticism”- taught at universities- lead to an emphasis on Greek/Roman thought- not creative

High Middle Ages

- 1100 to 1300s
- Growing economy and beginning of banking and insurance, Trade is strong- rise of Guilds. Trading leagues such as Hanseatic
- Cities are starting to play a role- city-states in Italy
- Building of great cathedrals- Gothic style
- Strong western monarchies: France, England- a lot of fighting- Hundred Years War for example, also Struggle of power b/t nobility & kings







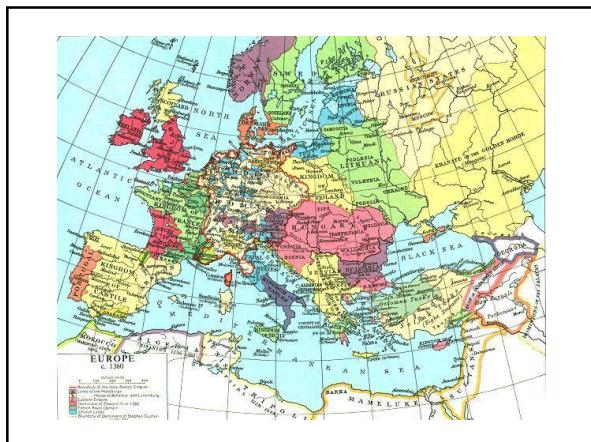
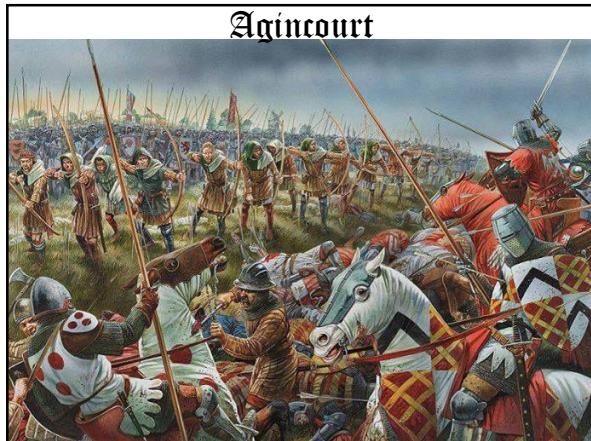


Gothic (and Super Catholic!) Art



Political Developments

- Strong western monarchies: France, England - a lot of fighting- Hundred Years War for example, also Struggle of power between nobility & kings
 - Battle of Agincourt, English victory over France, but Henry V dies in battle; Welsh longbow a key factor – longer range than French archers



Black Death



During the Bubonic Plague, doctors wore these bird-like masks to avoid becoming sick. They would fill the beaks with spices and rose petals, so they wouldn't have to smell the rotting bodies. A theory during the Bubonic Plague was that the plague was caused by evil spirits. To scare the spirits away, the masks were intentionally designed to be creepy.

Affected all levels of European society – rich and powerful to poor and weak, reflected in artwork (even tombstones – with skulls a common theme).

Viewed by many as divine judgment of sorts, characteristic of the theocentric thinking of the time.

Crisis in the Church

- Two popes! Conflict between church and state – especially over taxation – leads French to set up a counter-papacy in Avignon.
 - Pope vs. Antipope
 - By the time it is resolved and back to one Pope in Rome, church had lost much power and influence to secular rulers.

Feudal System Threatened

- Rise of new military technology meant kings no longer depended as heavily on their vassals (knights). They could train commoners – even peasants – in the use of crossbows and later firearms.
 - Crossbow a “great equalizer” – feared by the ruling class, banned by Pope Urban II as an “abomination” in Christian-on-Christian warfare!
 - Would eventually lead to stronger monarchies and more centralized states.