The Late Middle Ages

The Crisis Years 14th-16th Centuries
The Black Death

• Named the Bubonic Plague
• In 5 years it killed 1/3 of Europe
  – About 25 million people (worldwide 100 million)
• Originated in Mongolia or China
  – Spread to Europe along trade routes 1347
  – Carried by Fleas that lived on the backs of rats
Spread of the Plague

1346

Stockholm
Copenhagen
Kiev
London
Cologne
Cracow
Paris
Milan
Vienna
Constantinople
Marsailles
Barcelona
Rome
Symptoms

- Fever
- Swelling of lymph gland (Near armpits, groin, or neck usually)
- Vomiting
- Red Rash that turned Black
- Internal Bleeding
- Death could come in matter of hours or days (50% chance of survival)
Causes for the Plague: Or so they thought

• God’s Vengeance
  – Flagellants
• Jewish Plot
  – Poisoned the wells
Dealing with the Plague

• Many barricaded selves inside homes
  – Social Decay
• Plague Doctors
• Mass burials
  – “Bring out your dead”
Impacts

• Labor Shortages
  – Workers demanded higher wages and rioted
  – Wages drastically went up spurring economic development

• Plague lasted on and off till 17th century

• People questioned church’s effectiveness
Problems in the Church

• Church unable to support people during plague
  – 1378 – Re-establishment of Papacy in Rome leads to another Schism

• People question church’s authority
  – John Wycliffe
  – Jan Hus
Problems in England

- 1297 – Scottish resentment over English rule turns into rebellion
- Led by William Wallace
- Many major victories
  - Sterling Bridge
- Eventually captured and killed for treason
The Hundred Years War

• 1337 – 1353
• England looking to keep France weak
• France looking to extend power and push England across English Channel
• Both wanted control of regional Trade
Early English Victories

- Crecy 1346
- Poitiers 1356
- Agincourt 1415
- Were able to win using mix of dismounted man-at-arms and longbowmen
Joan of Arc

- In 1429 French king Charles VII gives command of army to peasant girl named Joan
- Turned tide of war in favor of French
- Captured by English
  - Tried as a witch
  - Became Martyr
  - Sanctified
Impacts of Hundred Years War

• Introduction of Cannon
  – Destroys vassal system (castles useless)

• French Nationalism rises
  – French King’s power increases

• English Parliament Gains power
  – “Power of the Purse”
  – English King’s Power Decreases