The Late Middle Ages: Europe in Crisis

Disease
- 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
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    - Carried by Fleas that lived on the backs of rats
- 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)
- Believed Causes for the Plague
  - God’s Vengeance
    - God punishing Europe for evil doings
      - Led to radical “cures” Flagellants
  - Jewish Plot
    - Poisoned the wells
- Dealing with the Plague
  - Many barricaded selves inside homes
    - Led to 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

Religious Upheaval
- Church unable to support people during plague
  - People question church’s authority
    - John Wycliffe
    - Jan Hus
- Avignon Papacy
Papacy forced to submit to French
Clement V moves papacy to Avignon
Power shift to Political supremacy
Led to disputed between Italians and French
Began selling of indulgences
  Also developed idea of purgatory
  Indulgences bought forgiveness for un-repentent sins
- Great Schism
  o 1378 C.E.
  o Re-establishment of Papacy in Rome leads to another Schism
    Pope Urban VI – Italian
      • Backed by English, HRE, Hungary, Bohemia, Poland
    Clement VII – French
      • Backed by France and its allies
        o Naples, Scotland, Aragon, Castile
    End of Babylonian Captivity
      • Avignon Papacy
  o Council of Pisa
    • 1409-1410
    • Both popes deposed
      • Alexander V chosen as next pope
    • Neither accept decision
  o Council of Constance
    • All contending popes either resigned or deposed
    • Martin V Elected Pope
- Inquisition
  o Started mid-13th Century
    • Continued into 16th Century
  o Charged with rooting out heretics
    • Used torture
  o Life imprisonment for repenting heretical beliefs, death for others
    • Confiscated property

War
- Scottish War of Independence
  o 1297
  o Scottish resentment over English rule turns into rebellion
    • Led by William Wallace
  o Many major victories
    • Sterling Bridge
  o Eventually captured and killed for treason
- The Hundred Years War
  o 1337 – 1453 C.E.
  o Started as a dispute of succession
    • Death of Charles IV
    • Edward III (Grandson of Phillip(Charles’ Dad))
      • French lands still technically belonged to France
    • Philip VI (First cousin of Charles)
  o England looking to keep France weak
    • Fight over Flanders
    • English scared of France
- Wealthier
- Bigger
  - Pop and size
- France weakened
  - Too Feudalistic
  - Not Centralized “Modern” state
  - Borrowing heavily
  - Kings relying on Estates General
    - Townspeople, Nobles, Clergy
  - English better army
- France looking to extend power and push England across English Channel
  - France allied with Scottish
- Both wanted control of regional Trade
  - Through Flanders
- Early English victories
  - Crecy 1346
    - Seized Calais
  - Poitiers 1356
    - Take French King John II Captive
      - Political disorder in France
      - Power handed to Estates General
  - Agincourt 1415
    - Henry V
    - French 30,000
    - English 5,000
    - Massive victory for English
      - Were able to win using mix of dismounted man-at-arms and longbow men
- 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
    - Retook city of Orleans
  - Rise of Charles VII
  - Captured by Burgundians
    - Sold to English
    - Tried as a witch
    - Sanctified 1920
- Impacts
  - Introduction of Cannon
    - Destroys vassal system (castles useless)
  - French Nationalism rises
    - French King’s power increases
  - English Parliament Gains power
    - Kings lose “Power of the Purse