

Chapter Summary Postclassical period in western Europe, Middle Ages, stretches between fall of Roman Empire and 15th century. Typical post classical themes prevailed. Civilization spread gradually beyond the Mediterranean zone. Christian missionaries converted Europeans from polytheistic faiths. Medieval Europe participated in the emerging international community. New tools and crops expanded agricultural output; advanced technologies improved manufacturing. Mathematics, science, and philosophy were stimulated by new concepts

Stage of Postclassical Development

Center of Roman Catholic Church: Rome

Center of the Postclassical West: France, the low countries, southern and Western Germany, and England.

Causes of Europe's weakness: Weak leaders, subsistence agriculture, and invasions and raids from Vikings.

Learning Institution: Church

- From 550 C.E to 900 Rome shrunk in size but continued to serve as the center of growing Catholic Church
- Italy was divided politically
- Vikings from Scandinavia disrupted life from Ireland to Sicily
- Weak rulers and little agriculture
- The few who could read and write were concentrated in the hierarchy and the monasteries of the Catholic Church
- Could only copy older manuscripts of the Great Christian thinkers of the later Roman Empire
- Inability to write good Latin

Manorial System: Obligations and Allegiances

Manorialism: System of economic and political relations between landlords and peasants (service ↔ protection)

Originated from the later Roman Empire

Life of a serf: Lived under the landlords' protection but had to give up some of the food (crops) and had to stay on the land. Work was difficult because of technological limitations and the landlord could call for labor at the manor.

Agricultural Production: Improved by the moldboard plow and three-field system

- Equipment and productivity was low

Rights of a Serf: Could own houses and land and pass it on through inheritance, can't be evicted off manor, being miserable

- Serfs had to give lords part of their crops in return for grazing animals on the land or milling their grain. Also provided many day of labor repairing the lord's castle or working the lands.
- Strengthened by the decline of trade and lack of larger political structures
- Plows were copied from Mediterranean models and were too light to work on heavy soils

of France and Germany

- Most western peasants early in the postclassical period left half their lands uncultivated each year to restore nutrients- Limited productivity
- Three-Field System- Only a third of the land was left unplanted, to regain fertility

Church: Political and Spiritual Power

Model of Roman Catholic Church: Copied Rome's government with the pope as the emperor that supervised regional bishops.

- Regional churches headed by bishops, supposed to owe allegiance to the church's central authority; in turn they appointed and to some degree supervised local priests
- Church helped develop a chain of monasteries during the Dark Ages

Blurred lines between church and state: Local lords and monarchs began to claim bishophood and vice-versa

Pope: Appointed bishops, regulated doctrine, and sponsored missionary activity, top authority

Clovis use of Christianity: Gained higher prestige over pagans of the Franks. Conversions like this strengthened beliefs by Western religious leaders, popes mainly, that they had authority to separate from and superior to the political sphere.

Purpose of monasteries: Served as an example of holy life to those who wanted to devote themselves to prayer and religious discipline, improved cultivation, provided education, and promoted literacy.

- Extensive example of social organization
- Papal missionaries converted the English to Christianity
- Most important set of monastic rules was developed by Benedict of Nursia in the 6th century; spread of Benedictine monasteries promoted Christian unity

Charlemagne and his Successors

Positive Strives of Charlemagne: Built an empire, restored Church-based education, and intellectual activity began to recover.

Royal House of the Franks: Grew in strength during the 8th century-Took over monarchy

Western Europe united: By Catholic Church

Hindrance in Western Europe's complete unification: Lingual and political differences

Area of the "Holy Roman Empire" and its True Nature: Germany and Northern Italy but had weak rulers. Their rule had become hollow, because they relied too much on their imperial claims and did not build a solid monarchy from regional foundations

- Founder of Carolingian line, Charles Martel defeated the Muslims in the battle of Tours in 732, although his victory had more to do with Arabs exhaustion and an overextended invasion force than his strength. Defeat helped confine the Muslims to Spain and preserved Europe for Christianity
- Charlemagne death resulted in the split empire to split into three

New Economic and Urban Vigor

Economic Gains with the East: Agricultural techniques such as moldboard, three-field system,

and horse collars developed from contact with Eastern Europe and with Asian raiders into central Europe

Innovation for landlords military dominance: Stirrup

Vikings in the 10th century:began to settle down

Result of fewer raids and new agriculture technology: Regional governments became stronger, population growth, an important part from 10th-13th Century

New economic vitality of Europe:-more areas were being taken by farmers and more towns emerged from population growth, more markets

- Areas where trade and urban manufacturer occurred[Italy] were swift, population soared

Comparison of economic vitality and urban center to China: China had 52 cities with more than 100,000 people.

Purpose and Development of universities: Teach students [law, medicine Italy] [theology, and philosophy Paris]

- Literacy spread in the urban atmosphere, spurring the languages, entertainers introduced new music and urban interest spurred new forms of religious life[city- based monastic orders dedicated to teaching or hospital work]
- Schools formed around important cathedrals, training children who were destined for church careers
- Faulcates profited from the revival of Roman knowledge and the new learnings from Arabs and from revived Greek and Hellenistic science.
- Educational institutions supported the increasingly diverse and sophisticated efforts in philosophy and theology. Medieval art and architecture spurred from the same prosperity
- Whole Regions [Northern Germany] became colonized by farmers
- To attract labor to new farms, landlords had to loosen bonds between serfs and require less outright labor service, like charging money rent
- harsh serfdom existed, most serfs gained more independence and some free peasants occurred
- Contact with other countries brought knowledge of new crops[durum,wheat Africa][ingredients from pasta and alfalfa Persia] Pace of economic life created a less rigid social structure, and more commercial, market oriented economic motives began to exist with earlier military and Christian ideals.
- Rise of modest regional centers was an important development
- Economic and urban surge helped feed formal cultural life

FEUDAL MONARCHIES AND POLITICAL ADVANCES

Feudalism: Political and social system in which a king offers military protection to vassals in return for goods and soldiers. The vassals in turn did this to landlords who did this to peasants.

- Early feudalism after Rome's fall was local, feudal relationships could be extended to cover large regions

- Charlemagne empire boosted the more stable version of feudalism as he could not afford to pay his own bureaucracy
- Inhibited the development of strong central states, gradually reduced local warfare
- Kings could use it to build power

Loyalty of merchants and professionals compared to nobles-nobles might have wanted to abuse their position or rebel against the king.

- Kings often chose urban business or professional people to staff their bureaucracies, would be loyal to the ruler who appointed them
- Government function expanded modestly, as kings tried to tax subjects directly and hire a small professional army to supplement feudal forces
- Many German duchies were created by powerful lords with their own army of vassals, apparently deferring to the Holy Roman emperor
- Kings of France began to win growing authority under the Capetian royal family. At first they mainly exploited their position as regional feudal lords in the area around Paris. Controlled many serf-stocked manors and held most other local landlords as vassals. More attentive administrations of this regional base produced better revenues and armies.
- Kings also formed feudal links with great lords in other parts of France [marriage alliances] gradually bringing more territory
- Experimented with the beginning of bureaucratic administration by separating their personal accounts from government account, developing a small degree of specialization among officials who served them. Later Capetian kings sent officials to aid in regional administration
- Growth of strong feudal monarchy in France took several centuries
- Early 14th century, process of cautious centralization had gone far in France where a king could claim rights to make the church pay taxes
- Kings could print money and employ some professional soldiers apart from the feudal armies that still did most of the fighting
- Feudal monarchy in England was introduced suddenly.
- Duke of Normandy [William the Conqueror], Viking descent, had built strong feudal domain in his French province invaded England in 1066. Tied great lords of England to his royal court by bonds of loyalty, giving them estates in return of military service. Used some royal officials [sheriffs] to help supervise the administration of justice throughout the kingdom. He and his successors had merged feudal principles with a more centralized approach—more standardized national law codes issued by royal courts.
- Growth of feudal monarchy unknowingly duplicated measures taken earlier in other centralized societies [China] “developing an explicit bureaucracy, with some specialized functions, sending emissaries to outlying provinces

LIMITED GOVERNMENT

1215— Magna Carta continued power of aristocrats: showed that king needed aristocratic

consent for new taxes. Confirmed feudal rights against monarchical claims

- English King John faced opposition to his taxation measures from an alliance of nobles, townspeople, and church officials. Defeated in war with France and forced down by leading English lords compelled him to sign

Power in the newly developed parliaments: Held by nobles, church officials, and wealthy

- 1265- House of Lords representing the nobles and church hierarchy, and the commons made up of elected representatives from wealthy citizens of the towns.
- Institutionalized that monarchs should consult with vassals
- Became strongest in England similar institutions [France, Spain, Scandinavia, Germany]

Key issue parliaments ruled on: Taxes

Determination of a person's rights: Estate upon which they were born

Europe's version of **representative government:** Unique as little progress in central authority.

- Stronger monarchies did not develop
- Remained politically divided and diverse [Low Countries] Limitations over the most successful feudal monarchies
- Germany and Italy controlled by the Holy Roman Emperor were split into regional states run by feudal lords and city states
- Power of church continued to limit political claims, for the state was not to intrude on matters of faith except carrying out decisions of popes or bishops
- Feudalism had a 2nd limitation, aristocrats had a powerful independent voice and often own military forces. Growth of monarchy cut their power
- Rulers saw war as a key purpose. Local battles gave way to larger wars[Conflict between rulers of France and England] 14th century Hundred Year War- Over territories the English king controlled in France and over feudal rights versus the emerging claims of national states

THE WEST'S EXPANSIONIST IMPULSE

Effect of Population Growth and their motivation: expansionist impulse to re-establish Rome and establish Christianity.

Reconquest: Christian invasion of Spain from the 11th to 15th centuries.

- Germanic knights and agricultural settlers poured into Germany and Poland. Small states in Spain gradually attacked Muslim government that held most of the peninsula.
- Feudal Warriors conquered the Muslim center of Toledo. Full expulsion of Muslim rulers occurred at the end of the Middle Ages.
- Vikings established settlements in Ireland

1st Crusade: Called for by Pope Urban II in 1095

- Internal wars were declining and military values of feudalism sought elsewhere
- Three great armies of tens of thousands of crusaders moved to Jerusalem winning it from Turkish armies.

Method of Recruitment: Atonement for all sins and money

Victorious Crusade: 1st

Turk that won back the lost land from the Christians: Muslim general Saladin in 12th century

- Crusades attempted to win it back

Motivation of 4th Crusade: attack commercial rivals of Venetian merchants in Constantinople

West's benefit from Crusades: exposure to new cultural and economic influences

- 3rd Crusade resulted in death of German Emperor and imprisonment of English king.
- 4th Crusade was manipulated by merchants in Venice, who turned into an attack on commercial rivals in Constantinople

RELIGIOUS REFORM AND EVOLUTION

Secular Problems of the Church: priests and monks sought power.

- Church went through periods of decline and renewal

Reformation: Fought secularism orders were created [Franciscans devoted to poverty and service in cities

- St. Clare of Assisi exemplified the spirit of purity and dedication to the church. Influenced by St. Francis who had converted to a life of piety and preaching in 1205 and founded a new monastic order around him. People believed her prayers turned away two invasions and other miracles in life and after death

Institution of Pope Gregory VII to try to uphold the purity of the church: Priests could not marry and the state could not appoint bishops.

Pope Gregory VII ending state interference in the church-excommunicated Holy Roman Emperor Henry IV.

THE "HIGH" MIDDLE AGES

High Middle Ages: 12th and 13th centuries and did exist because it was the turning point from decline to ascent in Europe.

Political, cultural and social tension: Feudal structures were balanced by central monarchies, opportunities began to open for serfs that were abused by manorialism, and intellectual vitality and diversity was created by the Church.

WESTERN CULTURE IN THE POSTCLASSICAL ERA THEOLOGY: ASSIMILATING FAITH AND REASON

Focus of intellectual thought: Religion, clergy continued the effort of preserving and interpreting past wisdom {Church fathers like Augustine}

Contribution of Peter Abelard to conversation: Used logic to show contradictions in doctrine

- His defiant attitude may have drawn more attacks

Engagement of the average person in debate over reason and religion: knew nothing of the debates and fully believed in the religion.

View St. Bernard of Clairvaux advocated: God's truth was received only through true faith, stressed the importance of unity with God

Comparisons of schools in the West to China: Schools in Europe taught a mix of rational and spiritual understandings that were not tied to a bureaucracy.

Thomas Aquinas link to reason and faith: Faith comes first but human reason lets us understand natural order, moral law, and the nature of god.

Scholasticism: dominant medieval philosophical approach made by Aquinas.

Christian view of Scientific Research: not encouraged but still conducted by few

- Emphasis on mastering past learnings rather than empirical research. Stressed memorization of Galen, Hellenistic authority rather than systematic practical experience.

POPULAR RELIGION

Examples of syncretism as Christianity was adopted in Europe: Lay groups developed spirituality and expressed their love to god, enthusiasm grew for Mary and the Saints, and Pagan rituals were merged with Christianity.

- Raoul de Cambrai, hero of a French epic wrote down in the late 12th century sets fire to a convent filled with nuns, then asks servants to bring him some food. The servant berates him for bringing the convent, then reminds him that it is a time of fasting and repentance before Easter, Raoul denies that his deed was unjust for the nuns deserved it for insulting his knights but admits that he had forgotten Lent and goes off to distract himself from his hunger by playing chess.

RELIGIOUS THEMES IN ART AND LITERATURE

Purpose of Medieval Art: To serve the glory of god. and lives of saints

- Painting made on wooden panels mainly
- By 14-15th century they improved their ability to render natural scenes realistically and portrayed a host of images of medieval life as backdrops to their religious subjects.

Popular Architectural Form: Gothic (tall church spires and arched windows)

Subject of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales: Human tragedies, Christian hypocrisy, and bawdy behavior; great knights and mythic figures in the past

Change in formal language used in literature and plays: Switch from Latin to vernacular languages-showed development separate cultures.

- Medieval literature and music reflected strong religious interests
- Most Latin writing dealt with philosophy, law or political theory. Developments of a growing literature in the spoken languages [vernaculars] Vernacular literature helped develop separate languages and focused on secular themes
- Much works were performed in the growing cities, reflecting the tension between Christian values and a desire to portray the richness of Earth
- Religion was the centerpiece

CHANGING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FORMS IN POSTCLASSICAL CENTURIES

Products that helped lay the foundation of a commercial zone for the West: Agricultural products and cloth helped lay down foundation. Italian merchants sought cloth in Low countries and merchants traded for wool grown in England or timber supplies and furs bought from Scandinavia and the Baltic lands. Great ports and trading fairs served as centers for Western exchanges and market for exotic products like spices

NEW STRAINS IN RURAL LIFE

Change in Serf's economic standing: Serfs able to remove most of obligations to landlords

Effect of interaction between Aristocrats and Peasants: Peasants became violent with aristocrats in their search for equality

- A more complex economy brought new social strains, similar to the unrest in China where religion helped prompt equality sentiments as well.

Comparison of Europe's technology To other areas: technology improved but still lacking compared to East Asia.

- Improvements in agriculture after 800C.E brought new ingredients
- Noble landlords served mainly military functions. Most shunned most commerce as they found too much money rummage demeaning. Used trade to improve their standard of living and adopt more polished habits.
- Lords were tempted to raise rent and taxes for serfs

GROWTH OF TRADE AND BANKING

Opposition of the Use of Money: Christian thinkers

Examples of the first capitalist ventures: Banks invested in trading ships and the goods they carried in hopes of making profit.

Group of people that benefited from the rejuvenated Mediterranean trade post: Italian merchants. Bankers valued for service in lending money to monarchs and the papacy

Sought commodities: luxury goods, spices, and cloth of Asia

Example of formed commercial alliances: Hanseatic league-Northern Germany and Southern Scandinavia- Encouraged Trade

Where it was best to be a Merchant: India because of relatively high status

- Jacques Coeur an excellent merchant demonstrated the opportunities and risk of new forms of trade Married the daughter of a royal official and served as a tax official until he was caught minting coins with less valuable metals. Then founded a trading company competing with Italians and Spaniards, Visited Damascus to buy spices, Chinese silk Indonesian spices and sugars Became financial advisor and supplier to the French king and was ennobled. Surrounded himself with splendor having his son become an archbishop. Had enemies of nobles in debt to him and turned the king against him. Tortured, admitted to crimes like supplying weapons to Muslims.

Purpose of a Guild: Create security and mutual control to discourage monopolies, group people in the same business or trade in a single city. Stressed security and mutual control.

- Artisan Guilds made up of people in the city who made good. Tried to limit membership so people would work. Regulated apprenticeships to guarantee good training but also to prevent too many with the member receiving undue wealth.
- Discouraged new methods because security and a rough equality were the goals and not individual profit.
- Tried to guarantee quality, played an important political and social role in cities, giving

members recognized status and a voice

Area of specialized technology that Europe lead the world: clockmaking

- Not as advanced as Asia's ironmaking and textile manufacturing
- Urban growth allowed more specialized manufacturing and commercial activities, promoting trade. Italian businesspeople introduced banking to facilitate long distance exchange of money and goods. Money spread, many Christian moralists and ordinary people preferred the ways of traditional society. Banking Operations[Italy,Germany,Low Countries,France and Britain]
- Growth of banking served as the origin of capitalism. Greater Italian and German bankers, long distance merchants if the Hanseatic cities were willing to invest in trading ventures expecting profit[capitalist]
- Dangers of trade by land and sea
- Cities like London banded together to invest in international trade, each buying shares in the venture and profiting and losing accordingly

LIMITED SPHERE FOR WOMEN

Change in women's lives after advanced agriculture: limited women's roles by keeping their work to families

- Veneration of Mary and other religious figures gave women rela cultural prestige,counterbalancing the biblical emphasis on Ever as the source of human sin

Conflict with the original ideals of Christianity: emphasis on equality of all souls despite lesser status of women

New institution that valued women's contribution: women's monastic groups

Women in Christianity and Islam: less segregated in religion and less confined to the household and could work in local commerce or craft guilds.

THE DECLINE OF THE MEDIEVAL SYNTHESIS

European conflict weakened and strained their governments and treasuries:100 Year War

Military turning points during the Hundred Years' War: devastation and anti-feudal innovations employed. Ended with French victory

- New military methods challenged the key monopoly of the feudal lords, as ordinary paid archers learned how to unseat armored knights with powerful crossbows

Signs of decline: Devastating plagues and social disputes between landlords and peasants

- New lands were used up and no major technological gains to compensate
- Decline in population
- Black Death 1348- Challenged political and social structure

SIGNS OF STRAIN

Role of aristocrats challenged at the end of the medieval period: professional armies and new weaponry eliminated the need for noble's military abilities and made traditional fighting methods and fortified castles irrelevant

Combat of the declining role: They switched to a rich ceremonial life where ,military expertise

could be turned into competitive games. Idea of controlled, polite behavior to even women[chivalry]

Upper class became more cultivated, Similar transformation in Chinese and Muslim aristocracy

Loss of church influence: People began to go heretic after church leaders tried to become secular authorities instead of spiritual authorities.

- In the early 14th century, French kings wielded great influence on the papacy, which they relocated from Rome to Avignon, a town surrounded by French territory. Ultimately a single pope was returned to Rome.
- Church leaders began to neglect spiritual side and were preoccupied with political involvement
- Series of popular heresies in the 14th with leaders placed in England and Czech Republic [Bohemia] preached against the hierarchical apparatus of the church in favor of a direct popular experience with God,
- Mystics claimed direct, highly emotional contact with God

THE POSTCLASSICAL WEST AND ITS HERITAGE

Period in European history “backward”: Not as much as previously thought

Developments that demonstrated the dynamism of medieval Europe: gains in population, trades, cities, gothic art, universities, political ideas, Christian tradition, and foreign relations.

Medieval Period imitation: imitating an expansionist spirit, divided political rule, technology, science, trade, and consumption.

Uniqueness of Medieval Europe: created universities, used gothic art, had distinctive ideas about government, and built on feudal and Christian traditions.

Other peoples that weren't interested in Europe during this period: It was weak and imitated other civilizations.

1. Effect of the spread of Christianity on the polytheistic religions already extant in northern Europe Conversion produced a religious amalgam of Christianity and beliefs in magic and supernatural spirits

2. Following the fall of Rome, center of the postclassical west: In the central plain of Europe

3. Manorialism was the system that: Described economic and political relations between landlords and their peasant laborers

4. What is not true of the manorial system : It was technologically sophisticated

5. Vassals: Members of the military elite who received land in return for military service

6. Clovis was the Frankish king responsible for the: Conversion of his people to Christianity

7. Monk responsible for the creation of a set of rules for Western monasteries in the 6th century: Benedict of Nursia

8. Frankish monarch that was able to establish a substantial empire in 800: Charlemagne

9. Political unit that attempted to retain the title of emperor following the disintegration of the Carolingian empire by the tenth century: Holy Roman Empire

10. Institutions responsible for the regulation of apprenticeship, guarantee of good workmanship, and limitation of admission to various occupations: Guilds

1. An architectural style developed during the Middle Ages in Western Europe, **Gothic**, architecture featured pointed arches and flying buttresses
4. The **Carolingian** were the royal house of the Franks from the 8th to 10th century
5. The Frankish monarch **Charles Martel** was responsible for defeating the Muslims of Spain in the Battle of Tours in 732
6. The system of agricultural cultivation by the ninth century in Western Europe was the **three-field system** utilizing one-third fallow, one-third spring grains, and one third winter grains.
7. **William the conqueror** invaded England from Normandy in 1066 and implemented a feudal system in England
8. The **100 Years War** between England and France was fought between 1337 and 1453 to establish the emerging claims of national states
9. An organization of cities in northern Germany for the purpose of establishing a commercial alliance was called the **Hanseatic League**
10. Sworn associations of people in the same business or trade in a single city, **guilds** stressed security and guaranteed good workmanship.

1. In the manorial system, serfs were not slaves that could be bought and sold.
2. Frankish ruler Charlemagne created an empire in the West in the year 800
3. Pope Gregory VII wished to free the Church from secular interference by banning the practice of investiture
4. Peter Abelard of the University of Paris rejected the use of scholasticism and insisted on the primacy of faith in obtaining knowledge
5. The Medieval west did **not** establish some commercial headway, but fall short of capitalism
6. Parliaments representing not individual voters but privileged groups intent on counterbalancing the powers of the monarchy, grew up in England, Spain, France and other countries
7. The dominant medieval teaching and philosophical approach, humanism, was **not** based on the use of logic to resolve theological problems
8. Emperors in northern Italy and Germany following the split of Charlemagne's empire claimed the title of the Holy Roman Empire
9. The early Frankish king who converted the Franks to Christianity **was not** Charles Martel