

CLAS 205 : Medieval Society

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Lecture 1

What sources do we have for learning about medieval society?

We have manuscripts, buildings, statues/art/mosaics, surviving institutions, folklore and archaeological sites.

What are the two types of manuscripts?

Literary/philosophical and diplomatic.

What is codicology

The study of manuscript books on parchment as physical objects.

What is paleography?

The study of ancient writing systems, handwriting and decoding ancient manuscripts.

Why are sculptures, paintings and mosaics studied?

Their quality and quantity describes the wellness of the period. Also, their content displays the culture of the time.

What is dendochronology?

The study of dating tree rings.

What is numismatics?

The study of coins and currency.

What is paleobotany?

The study of ancient plants.

What is an aerial survey?

A survey of a specific site done by air. Used by archaeological digs.

What is the nursery rhyme, 'Ring Around the Rosie' actually about?

The Black Death in the Middle Ages.

What is the nursery rhyme London Bridge about?

TODO

Name 5 medieval institutions that survive to this day

Parliament, Charter of Rights, Universities, Monastic Houses, Catholic Church.

When was Rome at its greatest peak?

Under Emperor Trajan between 98-117CE.

Under what Emperor was Rome at its greatest peak?

Emperor Trajan.

What was the population of Rome at its peak?

Between 45-60 million people.

Name 6 things a complex society built in imperialism can have access to?

Literacy, coinage, specialization of labour, redistribution of wealth, high quality goods AND economic mobility (moving between economic classes).

Name 6 internal and external threats the Roman Empire faced?

Plague, incompetent rulers, usurpers, barbarian invasions, financial collapse and loss of civic pride.

What century marked the decline of Rome?

The third century CE.

What characterized the Barracks Emperors?

They were short lived, died violently and had seized power via their army.

How many claimants to the throne were there during the 3rd Century CE?

There were 67.

Where did invasions come from during the 3rd Century CE?

The North in Germani and from the East in Syria.

What is the word for migrations of German tribes?

Völkerwanderung.

How does Rome solve manpower needs for the army?

Germanic tribes brought into the empire are used more heavily.

What percentage of the population owned $\geq 90\%$ of the wealth?

1500 families did.

What emperor created the Tetrarchy?

Diocletian in 293 CE. This divided the Roman Empire into 2 parts.

What were the name of the 4 rulers of the tetrarchy?

There were **2 Augusti** and **2 Caesars**.

How did the number of provinces changed during the tetrarchy?

They went from 50 to 100+. Each province was divided into 12 dioceses, each controlled by a Vicar.

What were the two types of armed forces during Diocletian's military reforms?

The Comitatuses and Limitanei. The Comitatuses are mobile, well trained where the Limitanei was infantry and not as well equipped.

What did Diocletian institute in 301CE?

The "Wage and Price Controls" that dictated certain occupations as hereditary in order to control labour shortage problems.

Why did Diocletian institute the "Wage and Price Controls Act"?

To solve labour shortages for certain occupations.

What percentage of the Roman population were farmers at Diocletian's reign?

About 85-90%.

What was the name of the city members who had to pay taxes up front, and collect them from city members?

Curiales.

When did Diocletian abdicate?

305CE

When did Diocletian die?

312CE

What happened after Diocletian died?

The tetrarchy collapsed and there was civil war between 306-324CE. Constantine I was victorious.

What was the name and date of the battle where Constantine used the symbols χ , ρ ?

The battle of Milvian Ridge in 312 CE.

What does In Hoc Signo Vincas mean?

In this sign, you will conquer

What did Constantine I enact in 313 CE to legalize Christianity?
The Edict of Milan.

What did Constantine do in 321 CE regarding religious holidays?
He made Sunday a public holiday.

What two heretical Christian groups existed at the time?
Arianism and Donatism.

What city did Constantine I rename Constantinople in 324CE?
Byzantium.

What council did Constantine I create to form religious Christian standards?
The Council of Nicaea.

Was Constantine I baptized?
Yes, on his deathbed in 337 CE.

Who was the last emperor to rule a united empire?
Theodosius I, the Great from 379-395.

How did Theodosius handle paganism?
He outlawed it and made Christianity the official religion.

What barbarian group revolted in the Eastern Empire in 378-379 CE?
The Goths, who killed the Eastern Emperor Valens at Adrianople.

What group from the East pushed all other barbarian groups Westward?
The Huns.

What was an effect of the decline of the Empire?
De-urbanization, loss of grain and agriculture production.

What was the last piece of antique Latin writing?
Boethius's **Consolation of Philosophy**.

What was the name given to the ideal Roman Empire?
Rome Aeterna.

Lecture 2

Who were the first barbarians to settle in the Roman Empire? The Visigoths in 376-378CE.

When was Britain evacuated by the Romans?
400 CE.

Which two tribes sacked Rome in the 5th Century CE?
V² aka Visigoths, Vandals

Where did the Merovingian Franks settle?
In Gaul or modern France.

Where did the Vandals settle?
In North Africa.

Where did the Ostrogoths settle?
In Italy.

Where did the Visigoths settle?
In Spain.

Where did the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes settle?
In Great Britain.

When did the Eastern Roman Empire last to?
It lasted until 1453 CE.

When did Justinian reign and what is he known for?
He reigned in 527-565CE. He is known for outlawing the Olympic games and pagan philosophy. He also created the Justinian law code. He married an actress Theodora.

Who was Justinian's best commander?
It was Belisarius.

What does "Hagia Sophia" mean?
It means "Holy Wisdom".

Where was Justinian from?
Illyricum.

When did the Eastern Roman Empire take Rome after a siege?

It was taken in 551 after destroying much of Rome's infrastructure.

Who founded Islam and when?

Mohammad of Mecca in 622

How far West did the Islamic Empire get?

They made it to Tours, France.

What two groups did the Islamic faith split into?

Into the Sunni and Shiites.

What two Islamic Empires were most powerful after the collapse?

The Fatimids in Egypt and the Al-Andalus in Spain.

What dynasty ended when the Islamic Empire collapsed?

The Abbasid Dynasty fell in 950 after existing for 200 years (750-950).

What was the last surviving Islamic state in Spain?

Granada which fell in the late 15th Century CE.

Who were the Merovingian Franks founded by?

Merovich.

Who is the first recorded King of the Merovingian Franks?"

It was Childeric.

Who succeeded Childeric?

It was Clovis when he was 15.

Who is the most important source of the period?

It was Gregory of Tours with his 'The History of the Franks'.

The Merovingian Franks were the first barbarian kingdom to become iWHAT¿?

Catholic as other groups become Aryan and other Christian sects.

What dynasty took over from the Merovingians?

The Carolingians.

How did the Carolingians take over from the Merovingians?

The Major-domos staged a palace coup in 751, deposing a child king.

At the end of the Merovingian dynasty, who did power shift to?

The major-domos or mayors of the palace.

Who founded the Carolingian Dynasty?

It was Charles Martel.

Who was Charlemagne's biographer?

It was Einhard.

Describe Charlemagne's conquest?

TODO

Describe Charlemagne's stature?

He was tall, had a belly, spoke many languages but was not literate. Lustful but pious.

Who are some of the scholars Charlemagne imported?

Einhard (his biographer), Alcuin of York, Paul the Deacon and Theodulf.

What were the two groupings of subjects in Carolingian education? What subjects belonged in each?

The Trivium (grammar, rhetoric, logic) and Quadrivium (arithmetic, astronomy, geometry, music).

What two positions did each Carolingian district have?

They each had a bishop and chief vassal called a Count.

What was the Missi Dominici?

One was a noble and the other a clergyman to balance interest. They would ensure royal and religious decree were followed. They would also collect taxes for the royal treasury. Kept an eye on the local courts (vassals and bishops). Means "those who were sent by the king".

How often was a court visited by the Missi Dominici?

At least 4x a year.

When was Charlemagne crowned Holy Roman Emperor and why?

In 800CE for capturing Northern Italy from the Lombards. The Pope favoured Charlemagne over them.

Who were Charlamagne's three grandsons?

They were Charles the Bald (got France), Lothar (Italy to North Sea) and Louis the German (HRE, Germany).

Describe Charlemagne's legacy.

Frankish law and education were important. It helped society transition from urban Roman rule to rural medieval rule. *Why did some Northmen become vikings and leave their homeland?*

If a group lost in a civil war they had to leave. The North had become overpopulated and heirs with no fortune had to retrieve land, finances somehow. Their longboats enabled them to travel.

What were favoured viking targets?

Monasteries because they were rich and not well defended.

How many people could fit on a viking longboat?

40-100 people.

Who was the first ruler of Normandy?

Rollo.

What was the treaty of Alfred and Guthrum about?

It was a treaty in the late 800s CE between the viking Guthrum and King Alfred.

When was Justinian's Law code rediscovered?

It was rediscovered in 1050CE.

Lecture 3

What two dynasties took over after the Carolingian's died out?

The Capetian's in France and the ottonian's in Germany/HRE.

Describe the Cluniac Reforms

Changes in the monastic orders of the Church attempting to restore the traditional art, monastic life and caring for the poor.

What is lay investiture?

Alonging a non-church person to appoint bishops and Church personnel. The church considered this their power.

What is anti-simony?

The opposite of simony which was buying church offices and roles/positions.

What was the investiture controversy?

When HRE Henry IV and Gregory VII disagreed on who could control appointments of bishops.

What was the concordat of Worms?

Kings could elect bishops secularly but not holily. (1122).

Which pope claimed Universal rights over taxation?
Boniface VIII (he was in Dante's inferno).

Describe the mutual dependency of church and state?
States needed the moral authority of the Church but the Church needed protection via the states.

Describe the 3 various classes of crusade.
The ones to the East, the Reconquista of Spain and the Albigensian crusade to eliminate Catharism.

When was the first crusade called for?
In 1095.

What were some overt motivations for crusades?
Absolution from sin, liberating holy places and safeguarding pilgrimage routes.

Describe 3 hypotheses for the crusades?
Landless nobles, rescue Jerusalem from heathens and economic imperialism under the guise of religious piety.

Who called the first crusade?
Pope Urban II In Clermont, France. In 1095.

What group set out early on the first crusade? What happened?
Peter the Hermit's group. All were slaughtered. (~ 20000)

What was the most successful crusade?
The first Crusade.

Name a difference between the first and second crusade?
The second was led by Kings whereas the first by Dukes.

What prompted the second crusade?
The seizing of Edessa by Muslim Forces in 1144.

When was the definitive loss of Jerusalem?
In 1244.

What did the West get back from the crusades?

They got books, paper and luxury goods from the East.

What 3 religious orders of Knights were created?

The Templars, Hospitallers and Teutonic Knights.

Where did the Black Death originate and how did it spread to Europe?

It originated in Central Asia and spread via trade routes.

Name 4 theories of what the Black Death was.

How many people died in Europe from the Black Death?

About 25-50 million.

What percentage of Europe's population died from the Black Death?

Between 30-60%.

When did the Black Death leave?

In the 18th Century CE.

Where was a second Pope established?

In Avignon, France.

Name 5 events that mark the event of the medieval ages?

The Fall of Constantinople, Columbus, moveable type, expulsion of Muslims from Spain and the Reformation.

What word for monasticism stem from and what does it mean?

It stems from monachos == lonely one.

Describe the origins of Monasticism in the east

You had desert preachers in Syria, Anthony in Egypt.

Describe the origins of Monasticism in the West

Martin of Tours was a bishop, exorcist and destroyer of country temples.

Who was Columbanus?

He was an Irish monk with 12 companions setting up monasteries in France, Switzerland and Italy.

Describe the three types of monasteries.

There were single-gender controlled by an Abbot or Abbess. There were double monasteries where both sexes were under an Abbess. There were family monasteries with a patron family

where descendants were the abbess or abbot.

Why did people want to go to monasteries?

- Be closed to God
- Outward display of contrition
- Escape from a tumultuous world
- Orphans

Were monks/nuns members of the laity or clergy?

No. They were not ordained and were not laity as they lived ascetic lives.

Who founded the Benedictines?

St. Benedict of Nursia with his sister St. Scholastica in the 530s.

Describe the sleeping situation at a Benedictine Monastery.

They lived in rooms of 10-20 beds fully clothed. Youth and elders were mixed to prevent shenanigans.

Describe the meal situation at Benedictine monasteries.

They were mainly vegetarian unless sick or old. Meals were done in silence except for reader.

What rations did people have at the monastery per day?

A pint of wine, pound of bread. They would also have soup/porridge plus 1 fruit or vegetable.

What did the monks do other than pray?

They performed manual labour, reading of sacred texts and more manual labour.

How many sets of clothing did monks have?

They had 2 (so one could be worn while the other washed).

Describe the leadership of Benedictine monasteries.

There was an abbot or abbess (chaste, sober, merciful). Sometimes, deans/provost were elected. Meritocracy was used.

Describe the 4 levels of rule enforcement

1. 2 Private verbal warnings
2. 1 Public warning
3. Excommunication
4. Corporeal Punishment

5. Expulsion

Were monks allowed to talk during meals?

No, but guests could.

Were monks allowed to send letters?

Not without explicit permission.

Were Benedictine monks allowed to have fun?

Not really.

How were guests to be received at Benedictine Monastery?

As 'Christ himself'. Especially pilgrims.

Was a monastery self-sustaining?

Yes. They had mills, gardens, kitchens, baker and water to prevent travel. Each monastery had a doorkeeper versed in protocols.

What were some of the problems at Benedictine monasteries?

Lack of discipline, influenced by secular people and landowners interfered with the monasteries.

Who created the Benedictine Order at Cluny?

William, Duke of Aquitaine and Abbot Berno.

Describe a Mendicant Order and how it differs from a Benedictine one.

Rather than live in a monastery having no fun and not talking to Laity, they preached to communities and went abroad. They lived a life of poverty and were present in all communities.

What does "Mendicant" mean?

Begging.

Who founded the Franciscan Mendicant order?

St. Francis of Assisi in 1209.

Lecture 4

Who called for the 4th Crusade?

Pope Innocent III.

What was silly about the 4th Crusade?

Crusaders were excommunicated when attacking a Christian port but absolved them when it is taken. When they attack Constantinople, they were excommunicated again. Then, the crusader king of Constantinople creates Latin states in Greece. Makes the patriarcha subservient to the Pope. Now they are absolved again.

What did crusaders return with from the 4th crusade?

Lots of religious relics.

Who were the two leaders involved with the investiture controversy?

Pope Gregory VII and King Henry IV of the Holy Roman Empire.

What did King Henry IV do after being excommunicated?

He went barefoot to Pope's castle at Canossa.

Who founded the Mendicant Order of the Dominicans?

St. Dominic in 1215. (around the same time as the Franciscans in 1209).

Describe the Dominican order.

Church's intellectual shock troops. Conversion via rational argument.

Why were the Dominicans created?

To deal with the Cathar Heresy.

What was the difference between Carthusians and Cistercians?

The Carthusians were hermit communities while the Cistercians focussed on manual labour rather than prayer (unlike the Benedictines.)

Why were certain military orders established?

To protect pilgrims, ensure access to holy places and propagate/defend the faith.

Name the 6 military-religious orders established

The Templars, Hospitallers, Teutonic Knights, Order of Lazarus Knights of St. Thomas of Canterbury and the Knights of Montjoie.

Describe Hospitallers

Their aim is to help poor and sick pilgrims. Roots of modern St. John's ambulance.

Describe the Templars.

Founded in 1118 by Bernard of Clairvaux. Disbanded in 1307-1314. Possessions transferred to hospitallers.

Describe the Teutonic Knights

German order founded in Palestine but moved to Hungary in 1211. Engaged in Baltic crusades against eastern-european tribes. Suffered defeat in 1410 and dissolved in 1525.

What is the name for the universal Christian commonwealth?

Christendom.

What was the main principle of Christianity and Christendom?

Eternal salvation & bodily prosperity.

When was the codifying of sacraments performed?

4th Lateran Council by Pope Innocent III in 1215.

Describe the church hierarchy

Pope -& Archbishops -& Bishops -& Priests.

Define a pilgrimage

A trip to a Holy site.

What define a place as holy?

A relic or a given event.

Did pilgrims start with Christianity?

No, pagans did them as well.

Who went on pilgrimages?

Everyone who could afford to.

What were the two types of pilgrim badges?

Holy and secular.

What were the first badges sold to pilgrims?

Scallop shells at Santiago di Compostela.

What is the name of a hearty, non-perishable bread eaten by pilgrims?

Panforte.

What were 3 main pilgrimage sites?

Jerusalem, Rome, Santiago di Compostela, Canterbury England.

Lecture 5

What story gives us a good depiction of what a pilgrimage was like?
Chaucer's Canterbury tales.

Why were relics in high demand?
They healed people, people were holier in their presence AND they were mandatory for consecrating an altar in any Church from 787+ CE.

Briefly describe the two types of relics
One type were ordinary objects that had come into contact with another person. The second were actual physical body parts of a saint.

When were type-A relics common?
They were popular up until the 6th century CE.

When did type-B relics become popular?
In the 8th Century. This was a direct result from the order in 787. Relics were needed more than ever and these were easiest to produce from the remains of Saints.

Relics related to what figures were the most common?
Christ and Mary.

What event flooded the market with relics and caused the legitimacy of some to be questioned?
The looting of Constantinople during the 4th Crusade.

What is a good indicator of the popularity of pilgrimages?
The cemeteries constructed along pilgrimage routes with varied names.

What were the 3 types of literature for early Germanic tribes?
Prose, epic/heroic poetry and sermons.

What is the earliest dated vernacular literature?
8th Century CE, with the exception of the Anglo-Saxons (6th-11th). Most of our records come from 12th Century CE.

What is the earliest extant-secular text from the Anglo-Saxons?
Beowulf.

What is the name for the 'Sagas of the Norwegian Kings'?
Heimskringla.

Who wrote the Heimskringla?

Snorri Sturluson.

Who was the first European to develop printing by moveable type?
Johannes Gutenberg.

What is papyrus made from?
Overlapping layers of an Egyptian Reed plant. Used until 11th CE.

What was a roll of papyrus called?
A volumen.

What was parchment made from?
Animal skin.

When was paper invented?
2nd Century CE by the Chinese.

When was paper introduced to Europe?
12th Century CE.

Reading 1 : The Grandeur of Rome

Overview

Notes

Question

Reading 7 : The Raids of the Northmen

Overview

- In the 9th, 10th centuries, Arabs from the South, Northmen from Scandinavia and Magyars from the Eastern Steppe plagued the towns of Europe (England, France, Low Countries)

Notes

The Early Raids of the Northmen, 834 -859

- Northmen pillaged Nantes in 834, killing the bishop and clergy

- Northmen pillaged along the Garonne until Toulouse
- With 100 ships, the Northmen assailed Paris after being unopposed. Charles the Bald gave them 7000lbs of (coin, resources) for them to leave. They did, but pillaged all the way to the coast
- Danish pirates pillaged Nantes in 853-854 pillaged the city of Nantes, chateau of Blois before being routed at Orleans. Routed by the bishop of Orleans and Chartres
- Tried to pillage Poitiers in 855 but were defeated by Aquitanians
- Pillaged Orleans in 856
- Pillaged along the Rhone in 859, settling on the island of Camargue. Ravaged up until Valence. Travelled to Italy afterward

The Siege of Paris, 885

- Sigfred, leader of the Danes, assailed Paris with 700 ships in 885
- Count Odo led the defence of Paris
- After the first day of fighting, the town's tower was damaged and repaired
- There was a plague inside the city. Count Odo went to seek Charles, the Frankish Emperor for help
- Count Odo came back with Emperor Charles the Fat. Charles allowed the Northmen to have Sens and gave them 700lbs of silver.

Question

Did the cities meet the Viking raids with any type of resistance? Who led the resistance in Paris? What role did ordinary townspeople play in the defense of Paris? How did Emperor Charles the Fat choose to deal with the attackers?

- Certain cities did, but the reading seems to suggest they pillaged most towns unopposed.
- Count Odo was the leader of the Parisian resistance during the Siege
- Ordinary townspeople helped repair the tower that was consistently damaged by the Northmen
- Emperor Charles fought them, but also used bargaining, giving them coinage and land.

Reading 8 : The Magyar Raids

Overview

- The attacks of the Magyars/Hungarians were the last barbarian raids on Europe
- Passage written by Flodoard, a canon of Reims, France

Notes

- King Berengar led the Magyars to pillage the Italian city of Pavia in 924
- Only 200 souls remained. 44 churches and 2 bishops were killed
- The invaders were paid off with 8 measures of silver
- The Magyars then crossed the Alps, were routed by Rudolf II so they entered Gothia. A plague in Gothia killed many
- In 933, the Magyars divided into three with one attacking Italy and another attacking Henry's Germany. With help of Bavaria, Saxony, Henry cut almost 36000 down
- In 955, King Otto went to fight the Magyars and won. Via alliances with the Sarma-tians, Bohemians, Lotharingians, they were almost annihilated.

Question

How far-ranging were the Hungarian incursions and what impact did they have on towns? Why did towns act as magnets for the invaders? Did towns or townspeople have anything to do with their defeat?

- The incursions reached into France, Germany and Italy.
- Towns act as magnets because they were not as well defended as cities while also containing vast resources to support the local population.
- TODO

Reading 11 : The Origins of the Saxon Towns

Overview

- Henry 1 was the first German King of the Saxon family/house
- After defeating the Magyars, Henry focused on taking territory from the Slavs to the East and fortifying new towns.

Notes

- After King Henry defeated the Magyars, he focused on defending his existing kingdom
- One out of 9 peasants moved into and helped build fortifications.
- One third of all produce was brought to these fortifications
- While these new fortified towns were being constructed, Henry attacked the Slavs in Havel (Heveldi)
- He then took Dalmatia, Jahna and took Prague from the Bohemians

Question

Which places did King Henry choose to make into cities and what steps did he take to accomplish this end? How do the origins of these Saxon towns compare to the town origins related in docs 9, 10?

- Allocating human resources in the form of $\frac{1}{9}$ peasants helped him fortify the new towns
- The allocation of one third of all crops to go to these towns made people flock to them
- TODO

Reading 13 - Granted of Privileges to the Castilians, Mozarabs and Franks of Toledo

Overview

- Charter made in 1118 after King Alfonso II seized Toledo from the Moslems
- Describe 5 different groups residing in Toledo at the time : Castilians, Mozarabs, Franks, Galicians and Jews.

Notes

- Wants to re-establish a pact with the Franks, Mozarabs and Castilians still residing in the city
- All knights are exempted from tolls at the gates on horses, mules
- Clergy, Christian keep hereditary goods which are exempt from tithes
- Any gifts given from the King should be divided evenly among the Knights of Toledo, Castilians, Galicians and Mozarabs
- If a Moor or Jew has a legal case against a Christian, they use a Christian judge

Question

Who were the "knights" of Toledo and what privileges did they receive? What were they expected to do in exchange for these privileges? Did the different religious and ethnic groups in Toledo enjoy the same privileges and responsibilities? To what extent does this charter illustrate harmony or tension between the different ethnic and religious groups of Toledo?

- Knights were expected to go on Abnudba (guarding of animal herds on the frontier) or Fossatum (military conquest into muslim territory) in exchange for the benefits they received
- Not everyone had the same privileges or responsibilities. For example, the Franks and Jews were excluded from receiving benefits from the King while the other citizen groups did

Reading 15 - Archaeological Excavations in Tenth-Century York

Overview

- York was initially a Roman Town but was captured by Vikings in 866.
- Viking maintained it until 954
- Archaeological finds at Coppergate in York shed light on York when the Northmen resided there

Notes

- One find was buildings with Wattle walls, a central hearth and benches
- Wattle paths
- Woodrunner/carpenter workshop
- Silver brooches. Also copper or lead alloys. Most were lead
- Amber/Jet beads
- Forgery of Islamic coins

Question

None

Reading 16 : The People of Cologne Rebel against their Archbishop : 1074

Overview

Describes how when the archbishop of Cologne abuses his power, a rebellion is started by an influential merchant's son. The revolt was inspired by that of other ones, including one in Worms. This revolt was typical of ones of the time period where influential/wealthy citizens felt no need for a local unelected ruler.

Notes

Question

What provoked the revolt?

The archbishop wanted a boat to take the Bishop home and commandeered the merchant's boat without his permission. He dumped all items on the boat and demanded it for the archbishop's use.

Is there any indication of the reasons why the revolt drew such support from the townspeople?

The townspeople realized something similar had been done in the town of Worms. They also believed they were wealthier, more powerful, more numerous and more courageous than those in Worms. This gave them confidence to continue the revolt.

Who were the leaders of the revolt?

The leader was the son of the wealthy merchant whose boat was being commandeered.

Reading 17 : The Formation of a Commune at Laon, 1116

Overview

- Describes the formation of a commune by townspeople fed up with their local ruler, the Bishop
- The first commune that was formed by clergy, nobles and townspeople was disbanded after 3 years
- The second commune that arose of mainly townspeople, grew tired of constant taxes/fees by the Bishop and revolted

Notes

Question

How does Guibert of Nogent define a "commune"? Did the interest groups involved in the formation of the commune fit with Guibert's definition? What role did oaths play in the formation of the commune and the revolt against Laon's lord, the bishop? What tactics did townspeople employ to secure their commune after the bishop revokes it? What did the bishop fear about the formation of the commune? How does this revolt compare with that in Cologne in terms of motivation, leadership, aims?

- A **commune** is a community where members only pay the annual customary head tax to their ruler, fees for breaking the law with no other financial burdens imposed.
- Essentially. It was the regular townspeople forming the commune, for the purpose of foregoing other financial fees throughout the year. The sum paid to form the commune went to the ruling/upper class of nobles and clergy.
- Establishing the commune involved the nobles to profess oaths, stating they would maintain their end of the agreement. The beginning of the revolt stems from the Bishop forcing the King and all parties involved in the creation of the commune, to break their oaths.
- After the bishop revoked the commune, the townspeople left their jobs and positions. They did not expect to have much wealth left after the ruling class was to tax them.
- TODO
- TODO

Reading 19 : The Lombard Communes as Viewed by a German Bishop

Overview

It discusses how a German bishop "Otto of Freising" thought about the structure of towns in Lombardy/Northern Italy. The Lombard towns were part of the HRE but their independence of the cities made it difficult for the emperor to exercise his control over them.

Notes

Question

What does the writer find unique about the Lombard cities?

He finds it unique they would rather be governed by consuls than princes. He finds it unique they like laws but do not obey the ancient laws (obeying a king/monarchy).

How were these cities governed?

They were governed by a consul, 1 from each order of captains, vassals and commons for equal representation. The cities are organized into provinces as well.

What was their relationship to their overlord, the prince (emperor of Germany)?

They do not receive the prince reverently, unless he is accompanied by soldiers.

What are Otto's views about the proper relationship between the Lombard cities and the emperor, and what does his explanation of the current situation tell us about his political views?

He believes the Lombard cities should be more respectful to the monarchy ruling them. His explanation of the independent cities shows he firmly believes in the power of the monarchy and that it should be respected. A parallel can be seen with the Church and how it should also be respected as independent cities become more common.

Reading 21 : Lubeck is made an Imperial City - 1226

Overview

Describes how the Germany city of Lubeck was made an imperial city to strengthen its bond with the Holy Roman Empire.

Notes

Question

What new privileges did the status of imperial city bring to Lubeck?

Territory was added to the city (described in detail in the reading). There is a toll in Oldeslo that does not apply to burgesses in Lubeck. They can make and mint their own imperial coin now. They also have the right to pay the court 60 silver marks a year for this honour :P. They are given an island called Priwalc. The merchants of the city are given added security along the rivers and roads as long as they pay their dues.

How did these privileges differ from the usual rights granted by rulers to towns as evident in Lorris (doc. 18) or Dublin (doc.19)?

Reading 22 : The German Emperor Annuls all City Charters

Overview

As towns and their citizens became more wealthy and powerful, Lords needed help from the Kings to quell the aspirations of citizens. Thus, the German Emperor Frederick II responded by revoking the rights of communes in an attempt to re-establish the monarchical rule.

Notes

Question

What are the bad customs to which the emperor is referring?

Commune governments - All city councils, burgomasters, mayors, alderman and city officials are removed unless appointed by the archbishop or bishop.

All fraternities and societies are dissolved.

For towns with mints, only the coinage minted there can be used.

All previous documents, letters and privileges to societies, communes or councils are gone.

How would the decrees of the emperor here help the lords?

These decrees removed citizens from positions of power and also dissolved communes where citizens could gather and discuss. They decreased trade as well by only allowing local coinage to be used in certain shops. Also, the revocation of all documents in favour of these independent societies made these towns lose legitimacy. This loss of legitimacy weakened their power.

How would the decrees affect the German communes?

It attempted to make them less independent and tried to force dependence on the state.

Reading 30 : The Struggle between the Guelpfs and Ghibellines

Reading 96 : Problems among the Clergy at Rouen Cathedral : 1248

Overview

- Bishops regularly visited churches, cathedrals and monasteries to ensure proper religious conduct was followed.
- This reading describes a bishop's visit to a Cathedral in Rouen

Notes

Question

What impression does this inquiry give us of the activities of the cathedral clergy within the town of Rouen?

- The cathedral clergy in Rouen did not practice church conduct with proper rigour
- The clergy also engaged with the local townspeople often, mostly when performing activities forbidden by the church
- Certain cathedral members talked to women during choir, left choir without reason, said Psalms too fast etc.
- Many of the Masters and Sirs were incontinent, thieves, murderers, drunkenness, dicing and trading.

What were considered the right relations between the clergy and townspeople?

- It appears that the interactions between the clergy and townspeople should be limited to the basics (food, water etc.) and items related to the church. This can be seen because of the bishop's anger towards clergy trading, engaging with merchants and being drunkards.

Reading 97 : The Beguines of Ghent, 1328

Overview

- Beguine is a name for women devoting themselves to God but who were not nuns. Unlike Nuns, they were able to go about normal lives.

- Beguines lived in Beguinages
- This reading is from an inquiry into the Beguinage in Ghent.

Notes

Question

Is there any evidence of why so many urban women were drawn to the Beguine movement?

- There were many women who did not have husbands and could not enter a monastery because of capacity.
- Women were drawn to beguinages because they could remain chaste but have food, shelter and community
- Were there more women at this time because of a war and the men were gone?

To what extent did Beguines participate in town life?

- The principal mistress of the Beguinage ensured beguines did not stay in town for a night without permission and could not leave for an hour.
- They are not intended to meet suspect people when they do go into town
- The passage paints a lack of involvement in town life

Is there any evidence of how the townspeople might have viewed these religious women who lived in the world, rather than a convent?

- TODO

Reading 98 - The Good Canon of Cologne

Overview

- Describes the virtue of a Canon in order to guide and train novices becoming monks

Question

What types of social, religious and charitable interactions did the canon have with the townspeople of Cologne?

- He consistently gave away food, coin and others to the impoverished
- He brought the people to feasts as guests

- TODO

What does the passage tell us about attitudes towards the poor?

- It tells us that most were not really cared for by the Church, making what the Canon did exceptional.
- The meeting with Abbess confirms that certain clergy were opulent and not pious like the canon

Why does the canon criticize the abbess and how does his concern compare to the complaints of the reforming bishop of Rouen in doc. 96?

- He criticizes her because she and her group are dressed nicely whereas he is surrounded by the poor. The money she used on clothing and luxury, could have been given to the poor
- The complaints are similar but also different. The Bishop of Rouen complained about the rigour of church practice and how certain members traded, were incontinent, and drunkards. However, he never commented on their morality, like the Canon does to the Abbess. The canon's complaints are moral complaints and align themselves with the teachings of the Church. The Bishop's complaints were about Church policy and conduct, but not the specific teachings in the Bible.

Reading 99 : A Popular Franciscan Preacher in Paris : 1429

Overview

- Describes the charismatic nature of a Franciscan preacher during the Hundred Years

Notes

Question

What does this passage tell us about sermonizing and its impact in medieval towns?

- It tells us that it was able to have a large impact when the preacher was charismatic and consistently preached. Brother Richard was very frequent with his preaching and as a result, was able to talk to a large audience.

Why were people compelled to attend these long sermons?

- People may have felt compelled to attend because he travelled to Paris specifically for the purpose of preaching. He may have been known and respected as well, making people more inclined to hear him talk.

- As well, the writer wrote this during the tumultuous years of the Hundred Year's War. Perhaps this caused people to want to be more pious in order to end the suffering the conflict caused?

How did those most influenced by the sermons react and why did they take the actions they did?

- People destroyed games deemed covetous like dice, cards, balls and sick that could cause anger or swearing.
- Women removed fine clothing, head-geat, stuffing and other items for pure purpose of vanity. This affected women of all social classes
- People were sad and cried when he announced he had to leave.
- Over 6000 people wished to attend his final sermon, although he did not arrive to give it.

Reading 102 : The Religious Fraternity of St.Katherine at Norwich, 1389

- Religious guilds/groups like that dedicated to St.Katherine in Norwich provided benefits to members
- In exchange for money, candles were provided for prayer and sermons for recently deceased humans were provided

Notes

Question

Why would people join this guild?

- For the services it offers, especially in times of misfortune. This includes the death of a family member, being struck with poverty.

What services or benefits did it have to offer?

- They offered mass for a deceased family member
- They offered to carry the dead, if permitted, to Norwich for a ceremony. If not, they buried the dead in place and still celebrated mass.
- They offered welfare if a family was struck with poverty

- They offered community. Members ate together on their guild day, wore the same clothing and were together often as a result of the above offered services

How did the guild help ensure a sense of solidarity among its members

- Solidarity was created as a result of the common clothing, consistent gatherings and the services provided.
- Being a member of the guild helped out a person in their time of need, giving a sense of community.

Reading 105 : A Maison-Dieu in Pontoise

Overview

Maison-Dieu means house of God in French. These establishments took in the poor, ill and pregnant who had nowhere else to go. This reading describes the statutes and regulations of how the hospital should be run.

Notes

Questions

What types of patients entered this "hospital"?

People who were ill with both surface and serious maladies. Pregnant women were also said to come to the House.

What rules did the statutes impose on the patients and upon the hospital administration?

Very strict rules regarding haircuts, types of skills, going into town to eat or drink and more.

Why is there such an emphasis on the religious and moral behaviour of the brothers and sisters of the hospital order, as well as of the patients?

The existence of the establishment is owed to the Church, so it must rigorously uphold the teachings of the Church. Also, the importance of baptism for newborns and confessions for those about to die were important also. One could argue that if the discipline of the people servicing the house waned, they may receive less funding and financial support.

Reading 106 : The Distribution of Alms in Florence

Overview

This page describes the Orsanmichele which was the richest charity in Florence. It gives insight into how charitable resources were distributed. Note that unskilled labour were to

make 7-10 shillings a day.

Notes

Question

Who – in terms of gender, marital status, and age – was most likely to receive help from this private charity?

To women who are pregnant or caring for a family. Those who were married or widowed were treated well. The younger you were, the more you received as well. Older women were also treated very well it appears, especially if they cannot take care of themselves.

What were the circumstances of most recipients of charity?

Most were to help support a family for a lone wife with many children or who was pregnant. Most people given charity could not support themselves. This included the old/infirm as well as the young.

Reading 107 : Charitable Bequests in Siena

Overview

Notes

Question

What were the types of religious orders, institutions, and individuals who were included in the bequests of these four Siennese citizens?

What differences and similarities do you see between the choices made by the testators in deciding who the beneficiaries of their charity would be and how much they received?

What do the testators' choices of burial tell you about their religious affiliations?

Which religious groups tended to receive larger or smaller amounts of money?

What do the nature of these legacies – some in cash, and some not – indicate about medieval urban religiosity?

Reading 129 : The Black Death in Florence - 1348

Overview

Notes

Question

What were the reactions of the townspeople to this great plague?

What impact did the Black Death have on urban society and economy?

Did disease and death come to be particularly associated with towns?