

Chapter 20 - Medieval Europe

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Establishment of Regional States

The Holy Roman Empire

- **Otto I of Saxony**
 - Established himself as king of northern Germany in 900s.
 - Quelled political disturbances and protected the church.
 - Pope proclaimed Otto the emperor in 962, so Holy Roman Empire was born.
 - Later emperors tried building central imperial authority with this empire.
 - Conflict with papacy prevented large and dynamic state.
 - Both pope and emperor claimed large authority to the same region.
- **Investiture Contest**
 - Popes prevented emperors from building states that would threaten the papacy as the central authority.
 - Investiture Contest - controversy over appointment of church officials.
 - Holy Roman Empires used church officials for imperial purposes as well as religious, and so appointed them.
 - Pope wanted to keep this power to the papacy.
 - If emperors crossed pope, pope would excommunicate him and tell their subjects they don't have to obey him anymore.
 - Long story short: popes ruined ability for Holy Roman Empire to consolidate and expand.
- **Frederick Barbarossa**
 - Ambitious medieval emperor who wanted to control Lombardy, a rich land.
 - Popes did not want this because it could give him the power to challenge the papacy.
 - Popes organized other European states to force Frederick to back off.
 - Holy Roman Empire was "neither holy, nor Roman, nor an Empire" because it was really a regional state ruling Germany, that conflicted with the pope, that did not restore imperial unity to Western Europe.

Regional Monarchies in France and England

- **Capetian France**
 - Hugh Capet was appointed as king by lords after Carolingian hold faded in France.
 - Not powerful enough to challenge his retainers.
 - Held only a small territory around Paris.
 - Descendants, the Capetian kings, slowly expanded this power.
 - Absorbed territories of retainers who died without heirs.
 - Established right to administer justice in the realm.
 - Gradually centralized power and authority in France.
- **The Normans**
 - Descendants of Vikings who established the English monarchy.
 - Dukes of Normandy ignored their Carolingian and later Capetian rulers and pursued their own interests.
 - Built a tightly centralized state around the dukes, in Normandy.
 - Limited rights of retainers to distribute lands to others.
 - Built disciplined armies.
 - Emerged as prominent political and military leaders throughout Europe by the 1000s.
- **Norman England**
 - 1066 - Duke William of Normandy invaded England.
 - Introduced Norman principles of government and land tenure to England.

Objective #14 - The Holy Roman Empire could not centralize due to the constant power struggle between the emperors and papacy. Additionally, Western European kings did not aim for a centralized political state but rather always sought to expand at the expense of the neighbors.

- Retained institutions of previous Anglo-Saxon rulers, but still tightly centralized their authority.
- **Comparing the Two**
 - Both Capetians and Normans were challenged by wayward retainers.
 - Both also experienced external threats, even each other.
 - Both managed to organize regional monarchies that maintained order and provided effective government.

Regional States in Italy and Iberia

- **Church Influence in Italy**
 - No single kingdom controlled all of Italy.
 - Popes provided leadership in Italy since Carolingian era.
 - Popes ruled the Papal State directly.
 - In northern Italy, church bishops organized public life in major cities.
 - In high middle ages, as cities got wealthy from trade and manufacturing, new authority displaced bishops as authorities.
- **Italian States**
 - City-states in Italy dominated urban districts and surrounding areas.
 - In southern Italy, Norman adventurers invaded pockets of land owned by Byzantium and Muslim states.
 - Originally aided cities seeking independence from Byzantium and Muslim states.
 - Later on, Normans laid the foundation for Naples.
 - Brought Southern Italy under Roman Catholic Church influence.
- **Christian and Muslim States in Iberia**
 - Regional states competed for power in Iberia just as in Italy.
 - Muslim conquerors ruled most of it in the 700s-1000s.
 - Christian adventurers from northern Iberia kicked the Muslims out, except for the small kingdom of Granada.

Economic Growth and Social Development

Growth of Agricultural Economy

- **Expansion of Arable Land**
 - Monks and serfs cleared forests, drained swamps, and ultimately increased amount of land available for agriculture.
 - Some lords opposed this expansion because it reduced area available for nobles to recreationally hunt. *Medieval Mar-a-Lago?*
 - Lords allowed it when increased agricultural yields got them higher taxes to increase their wealth.
- **Improved Agricultural Techniques**
 - Cultivators refined and improved techniques to gain higher yields, motivated by population increase.
 - Experimented with new crops and different cycles of crop rotation.
 - Increased bean production, which improved protein intake and made soil more fertile.
 - Kept more domestic animals.
 - Drove plows.
 - Provided meat.
 - Fertilized soil with their poop.
 - Dug ponds to raise fish for more variety.
 - News of new methods circulated quickly in books and treatises.
 - Written in simple language for not-so-good readers.
 - Publicized innovations, increased agricultural productivity.
- **New Tools and Technologies**
 - Expanded use of water mills and heavy plows which appeared during the early middle ages.
 - Horseshoes and horse collars allowed people to use horses more efficiently than

they did before.

- Horseshoes allowed horses to travel more without softening their hooves.
- Horse collars moved the load from the horse's neck to the chest and shoulders to move heavy plows without choking.

- **New Crops**

- Europeans expanded their diet drastically.
 - In the early middle ages, Europeans mostly ate grain products.
 - From 1000-1300, meat, dairy products, fish, vegetables, and legumes became more common alongside grains.
- Spain and Italy benefitted from Islamic-world crops too.

- **Population Growth**

- Population boomed in Europe during this time period.
- Due to increased order and agricultural production.
- Simulated huge revival of towns and trade in medieval Europe.

Revival of Towns and Trade

- **Urbanization**

- European society supported large numbers of urban residents.
 - Could sustain artisans, crafts workers, merchants, and professionals.
- Peasants and serfs flocked to established cities and founded new towns.
- Cities present since the Roman Empire became government and business centers.
- Other cities sprung up as merchant hubs.
- Cities became a major rule in European economic and social development for the first time since the Roman Empire.

- **Textile Production**

- City population influx caused dramatic expansion of manufacturing and trade.
- Some cities became centers for spinning, weaving, and dying wool.
- Fueled economic development throughout Europe.

- **Mediterranean Trade**

- Italy had the strongest benefits from urbanization.
- Cities of Amalfi and Venice became ports for merchants trading with Byzantines and Muslims in the Mediterranean.
- Italian exports: salt, olive oil, wine, wool fabrics, leather products, and glass.
- Italian imports: luxury goods such as gems, spices, silk, etc.
- Direct and indirect trade with India, southeast Asia, and China (thanks Muslims!)
- Italians also established trading posts in foreign cities.

- **The Hanseatic League**

- Commerce also grew in the northern seas.
- Hansa, or Hanseatic League, was in the Baltic and North Seas.
- Association of trading cities from Novgorod to London.
- Dominated trade of grain, fish, furs, timber, and pitch.

- **Improved Business Techniques**

- Rapidly increasing volume of trade encouraged development of credit and banking.
- Bankers issued letters of credit. Sound familiar?
- Merchants found new ways of spreading and pooling investment risks.
 - Partnerships with other merchants.
 - Limited liability of partners to extend of per-person investments.
 - Further simulated the European economy.

Objective #15 - Towns sustained skilled workers and professionals, promoted manufacturing, and expanded trade in western Europe.

Social Change

- **The Three Estates**

- Commentators hold it that there are three estates or classes: "those who pray, those who fight, and those who work."
 - Those who prayed - clergy of the Roman Catholic Church, spanning from lowly parish priests to bishops, cardinals, and popes.
 - Those who fight - came from the ranks of nobles. Inherited their positions, and received education on horsemanship and military arts.

Objective #16 - See this section here.

- Those who worked (vast majority) - cultivated land as peasants in exchange for protection from lords (those who fought).
 - Europe had a clear social hierarchy.
 - Those who prayed enjoyed more rights than those who worked.
 - Those who fought had everything handled for them (food, shelter).
- **Chivalry**
 - Nobility and church emphasized courtly and chivalrous behavior towards each other.
 - Helped to maintain order in society.
 - Those pledged to the chivalric code owed loyalty to God; to order, piety, and Christianity.
- **Troubadours**
 - Aristocratic women liked the chivalric code because it promoted respectful relations between the sexes.
 - Went to some lengths to spread these values using poetry and songs to spread them - these were troubadours.
- **Eleanor of Aquitaine**
 - Troubadours traveled between aristocratic courts.
 - Sang songs about passionate love between man and women.
 - Eleanor of Aquitaine supported romantic poets and entertainers.
 - Most celebrated woman of the time period.
 - Used her influence to promote good manners, refinement, and romantic love.
 - Troubadours played a large part in softening the manners of the nobility.
- **Independent Cities**
 - Ranks of workers began to include merchants, artisans, crafts workers, and professionals (physicians, lawyers), as well as peasants.
 - Promoted development of towns and cities.
 - They fit awkwardly in framework of medieval political order.
 - Lords could dominate small towns to collect taxes due to their military power.
 - As towns grew, they could resist the demands of nobles.
 - Cities eventually demanded independence from lords to manage their own affairs.
 - Cities sometimes created leagues to strengthen their commercial interests (Hansa).
- **Guilds**
 - Guilds established standards of quality for manufactured goods and determined prices for members to sell their products.
 - Regulated supply and demand to ensure industries remained profitable.
 - Provided friendship and mutual support, in addition to work.
 - Provided financial support for ill families and funeral services for deceased.
 - Significant because they provided social infrastructure for cities to function.
- **Urban Women**
 - Countryside women continued performing the same tasks as their foremothers: chores, weaving, and caring for animals.
 - Medieval towns-womenfolk could work alongside men in a variety of jobs.
 - Could work in the marketplace as butchers, bakers, and shoemakers.
 - Could work as professionals as physicians and pharmacists.
 - Could work as merchants and bankers, too.
 - Most guilds admitted women into them, and some were even women-only.
 - Demonstrates role of towns and cities as agents of social change in medieval Europe.

European Christianity during the High Middle Ages

- Roman Catholic Christianity guided European thought on religion, morals, and ethics.
 - Church officials administered birth, marriage, and death rituals.
 - Christian doctrines and stories influenced art, literature, and music.
 - Churches were ubiquitous.
- Western Christianity changed significantly from 1000 to 1300.

- Acquainted Christianity with the work of Aristotle.
- Popular movements challenged some aspects of Roman Catholicism.

Schools, Universities, and Scholastic Theology

- **Cathedral Schools**
 - Economic development sharply increased the wealth of Europe.
 - Increasingly complex society required educational persons to take care of it.
 - Dealt with political and theological issues.
 - Professions such as doctors and bankers were needed.
 - Both factors led French and northern Italian bishops to organize cathedral schools.
 - Invited well-known scholars to be master teachers.
 - Schools in Paris, Chartres, and Bologna attracted students from across Europe.
 - By 1100s, they established formal curricula based on Latin.
 - Taught liberal arts, such as literature and philosophy.
 - Included Bible-study.
 - Included Classical Latin literature (Plato, Aristotle).
 - Some also taught law, medicine, and theology.
- **Universities**
 - Academic guilds were formed to demand government officials to protect rights of students.
 - Cities recognized academic degrees as a license to teach in them and influence their curricula.
 - These changes led to formation of universities.
- **Influence of Aristotle**
 - Byzantines knew Aristotle's works well but had little contact with Roman Catholics.
 - Trade increased between the two groups, so they exchanged works of literature.
 - Muslim philosophers also contributed to this exchange with Arabic translations.
 - Less accurate, filtered from Greek to Arabic to Latin.
 - Aristotle's thought was accessible to European Christian scholars.
- **Scholasticism**
 - Scholasticism sought to synthesize beliefs of Christianity with logical rigor of Greek philosophy.
 - St. Thomas Aquinas - believed that Aristotle understood and explained universe better than anyone else ever.
 - Published works using Aristotle's logic to support Christian beliefs.
 - Scholasticism only appealed to the elite, not the common people.

Popular Religion

- **Sacraments**
 - Holy rituals that bring spiritual blessings on the observants.
 - Church recognized seven sacraments.
 - Church promised benefits to sacrament observants.
 - Protected individual from sudden death.
 - Advanced their worldly interests.
 - Prepared individuals for salvation.
 - Kept them in good standings with the Church.
- **Devotion to Saints**
 - Took the form of devotion to saints.
 - Saints were people that led very good Christian lives so God held them in high regard.
 - Able to intervene on behalf of living individuals.
 - People invoked saints to answer supplications.
 - Cured diseases.
 - Guide sailors in storms to a port.
 - Ensure their admission to heaven.
- **The Virgin Mary**
 - Personified Christian ideal of womanhood, love, and sympathy.

- Most popularly called-upon saint.
- Europeans dedicated hundreds of churches and cathedrals to her.
- **Saints' Relics**
 - Churches collected relics from saints such as clothes, hair, and bones.
 - Especially preferred relics from Jesus and Mary.
 - Opened the door to fraud for some, but medieval Europeans admired and venerated relics nonetheless.
- **Pilgrimage**
 - People traveled far to honor the saints at the sites of their relics.
 - Rome was a popular destination.
 - Spiritual center of Western Christian society.
 - Held the popes and central administration, but also relics of St. Peter and St. Paul, the most prominent apostles.
 - The takeaway? Commercial, as well as spiritual interests got Europeans traveling around.
 - Inns were built around routes to popular churches, and tour guides and brochures showed pilgrims around.

Reform Movements and Popular Heresies

- **Dominicans and Franciscans**
 - Roman Catholic Church seemed tainted with materialism.
 - Some monasteries became comfortable retreats.
 - Central administration sought ways to increase its wealth.
 - St. Dominic and St. Francis organized movements to advertise spiritual over material values by working within the church.
 - Founded groups of mendicants (beggars) who had to beg for necessities.
 - Especially active in towns and cities, to capture the attention of the overflow of migrants.
 - Tried to persuade heretics to return to the Roman Catholic church.
 - Adherents called friars.
- **Popular Heresy**
 - Some organized alternative religious movements that did not work within the church.
 - 1100s and 1200s - Popular movements protested increasing materialism in society.
 - Waldensians, active in southern France and northern Italy.
 - Despised the clergy as corrupt.
 - Advocated modest, simple lives.
 - Supported right of non-clergy to preach and administer sacraments.
 - Church wrote them off as heretics.
- **The Cathars**
 - Influenced by Eastern ideas.
 - Saw the material world as an evil place and promoted ascetic, pure, spiritual lifestyle.
 - Renounced wealth, marriage, and adopted vegetarian diet.
 - Rejected Roman Catholic church, so the church ended up killing them all.

Medieval Expansion of Europe

Atlantic and Baltic Colonization

- **Vinland**
 - Regional states protected western Europe from nomadic invaders.
 - Scandinavian sailors turned attention to the islands in North Atlantic Ocean.
 - Occupied Iceland and Greenland by the 10th century.
 - In the 11th century, Greenlanders found Newfoundland, Canada.
 - Failed to establish a permanent settlement in North America.
 - However, this did demonstrate European capacity to expand.
- **Christianity in Scandinavia**
 - Roman Catholic Church pulled Scandinavia into their area of influence.

- Kings of Denmark and Norway converted to Christianity in 900s.
 - Sweden, Finland, and Norwegians in Iceland converted by 1000.
- **Crusading Orders and Baltic Expansion**
 - Christian authority established by military conquest in Prussia, Livonia, and Lithuania.
 - Templars, Hospitallers, and Teutonic Knights devoted themselves to promoting Christianity and killing Muslims and pagans.
 - Attacked the pagan Slavic peoples.
 - Helped Church establish presence in the Baltic region, causing it to be absorbed into larger society of Christian Europe.

Reconquest of Sicily and Spain

- **Reconquest of Sicily**
 - Muslims had conquered Sicily in 800s.
 - Norman warriors returned to take back Sicily in the 1000s.
 - Took over by 1090 and established Christianity as the official faith.
 - Muslims still practiced privately.
 - Introduced Europeans to translations of Aristotle.
 - Islam left the island either by conversion or migration.
- **Reconquista of Spain**
 - Muslims held most of Spain before the late 1000s.
 - In 1060, the reconquista began.
 - Christian forces gained reinforcements from France and England.
 - By the 1300s, the Muslims were gone from the Iberian peninsula save the small kingdom of Granada.
 - Granada got reconquista-ed in 1492.
- **The Takeaway**
 - Reconquest of Sicily and Spain demonstrated that religion was a contributing factor to European military ventures.
 - Supplemented with political, economic, and demographic strength of Christian Europe, Europeans fostered the spread of Christianity.

The Crusades

- Holy wars declared by the pope.
- Generally refers to the huge military expeditions Christians launched to recapture Palestine and Jerusalem from Muslims.
- **Urban II**
 - Launched the crusades in 1095.
 - Called upon Christian knights to seize the holy lands, promising salvation to those who died.
 - Priests traveled around attracting support from the peasantry.
 - Set out to Palestine without any training, discipline, weapons, supplies, or plans.
 - This failed miserably, obviously.
 - Fought against Greeks and Turks along the road, and amongst themselves.
 - Yet, it indicated high level of interest that crusading generated among the public.
- **First Crusade**
 - French and Norman nobles organized a better military expedition to the holy land.
 - By 1099, they had captured Jerusalem and started to carve out and expand Christian states.
 - Defeat was due to disarray of Muslim forces at the time, and encouraged them to recuperate.
 - Saladin recaptured Jerusalem in 1187.
- **Later Crusades**
 - Europeans launched five more crusades afterwards, none of which got them Palestine.
 - Fourth crusade did result in the taking and sacking of Constantinople.

Objective #17 - Just read this section... there's too much in this objective for a column blurb.

- Installed Roman Catholic regime that ruled until 1261.
 - Byzantines never fully recovered from this, declined until the Ottoman Turks killed them in 1453.
- Crusades fueled European dreams of conquest in eastern Mediterranean until late 16th century.
- **Consequences of the Crusades**
 - Exchanges of ideas between European and Muslim philosophers.
 - European merchants traded eagerly with Muslim counterparts.
 - Resulted in large-scale exchange of ideas, technologies, and trade goods.
 - Profoundly influenced European development.
 - Christians became acquainted with Aristotle, Islamic science and astronomy, Arabic numerals, and paper production.
 - New agricultural products: spices, granulated sugar, coffee, dates, silk, textiles, carpets, and tapestries.
 - Italian merchants developed luxury products in response to rising European demand.
 - Gems, jewelry, wooden textiles, glassware.
 - Circumvented Muslims to trade directly with China, India, and southeast Asia.
 - Crusades did not succeed as military ventures, did integrate western Europe into the large eastern hemisphere economy.