

# Scholasticism, Humanism, and a prelude to a revolution

## the spirit of the times Middle Ages (476 - 1450)

not much goes on until around the year 1000...

classic works rediscovered by West... translated by Christian, Jewish, and Islamic scholars

**dangerous times**

Islam starts to slip into fundamentalist theocracy

Roman influence weakens identical fate for Europe

## Logic in faith

Perception & reason should inform faith

ontological argument for God's existence

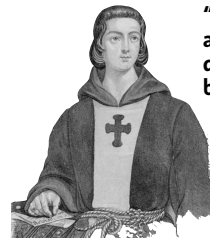


**St. Anselm**

"Faith seeking understanding"

set the stage for re-integration of Aristotle

## Realism v. nominalism



**Peter Abelard**

"The key to wisdom is this - constant and frequent questioning, for by doubting we are led to question and by questioning we arrive at the truth"

troubled by logical concept of universals  
do not apply to real referents **just names**

**nominalism:**

## Aristotle rediscovered



**"Albert the Great"**

translates Aristotle to Latin

has an effect on his outlook of scholarship:  
collects data about the natural world

**"Theology has no place in natural philosophy" and vice versa**

begins movement that separates theology from philosophy...

## impact on European scholarship

rise of the papal university... all scholars mentioned here  
connect to universities

medieval universities divided into faculties:

Universities provide a relatively safe haven for  
students and teachers for study and learning.

## St. Thomas Aquinas

Aristotelianism v. Christian doctrine

"God cannot do 3 things: sin,  
copy himself, make a triangle  
with greater than 180 degrees"



Universe is eternal v. created by God

**Aristotle's unmoved mover v Aquinas' first cause**

attempted to strengthen church by reason, but...

## Ockham's razor

knowledge based on **experience** rather  
than access to transcendent reality

**epistemology as psychological concern and not metaphysical**

philosophy cannot prove the existence of God