

#### **CHAPTER 10**

# THE WORLDS OF CHRISTENDOM: CONTRACTION, EXPANSION, AND DIVISION

500-1300



#### Charlemagne

From the Psalter of Charles the Bold, 15th century/Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK/Bridgeman Images Chapter 10, Ways of the World: A Brief Global History with Sources, Third Edition Copyright © 2016 by Bedford/St. Martin's

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# I. CHRISTIAN CONTRACTION IN ASIA AND AFRICA

#### A. ASIAN CHRISTIANITY

#### 1. CHRISTIANITY ALMOST DISAPPEARS FROM ARABIA

A. WITHIN A CENTURY OR OF MUHAMMAD'S DEATH, CHRISTIANITY ALMOST DISAPPEARED FROM ARABIA.

#### 2. ISLAMIC FORCES SEIZE JERUSALEM

A. ISLAMIC FORCES SEIZED JERUSALEM AND ITS HOLY SITES

#### 3. CHRISTIANS IN SYRIA AND PERSIA

A. IN SYRIA AND PERSIA MANY CHRISTIANS CONVERTED VOLUNTARILY.
THOSE THAT DIDN'T WERE GRANTED THE RIGHT TO PRACTICE THEIR
RELIGION FOR PAYMENT OF A SPECIAL TAX. THE EXPERIENCES OF
INDIVIDUAL COMMUNITIES VARIED

### I. CHRISTIAN CONTRACTION IN ASIA AND AFRICA

4. NESTORIAN CHRISTIANS (THE CHURCH OF THE EAST)

A. NESTORIAN CHRISTIANS OR THE CHURCH OF THE EAST SURVIVED BUT SHRANK IN SIZE IN SYRIA, IRAQ, AND PERSIA. NESTORIANS HAD SOME SUCCESS IN TANG CHINA, BEFORE ULTIMATELY WITHERING. THEY HAD A BRIEF REVIVAL UNDER THE MONGOLS.



The Dome of the Rock, Jerusalem © Aaron Horowitz/Corbis

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Nestorian Stele

Nestorian Stele of the Tang Dynasty erected in 781, Xian, China/photo: Ancient Art & Architecture Collection Ltd./Kadokawa Shoten/Bridgeman Images Chapter 10, Ways of the World: A Brief Global History with Sources, Third Edition Copyright © 2016 by Bedford/St. Martin's

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# I. CHRISTIAN CONTRACTION IN ASIA AND AFRICA

#### **B. AFRICAN CHRISTIANITY**

1. COASTAL NORTH AFRICAN CHRISTIANS CONVERTED TO ISLAM

#### THE COPTIC CHURCH IN EGYPT

A. IN EGYPT THE COPTIC CHURCH SURVIVED, TOLERATED BY MUSLIM RULERS UNTIL THE CRUSADES AND MONGOL THREAT WHEN REPRESSED. MOST RURAL COPTIC CHRISTIANS CONVERT, SURVIVED IN URBAN AREAS AND REMOTE MONASTERIES. CHRISTIANITY TOOK SHAPE IN FIFTH AND SIXTH CENTURIES IN THE KINGDOMS OF NUBIA: THRIVED FOR A TIME, BUT LARGELY DISAPPEARED BY 1500 C.E.

#### 3. ETHIOPIAN CHRISTIANITY

A. RULERS OF AXUM ADOPTED CHRISTIANITY IN THE FOURTH CENTURY, GEOGRAPHICALLY PROTECTED FROM SURROUNDING MUSLIM WORLD, DEVELOPED DISTINCTIVE TRADITIONS IN ISOLATION.



The Church of St. George, Lalibela, Ethiopia
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## II. BYZANTINE CHRISTENDOM: BUILDING ON THE ROMAN PAST

#### A. THE BYZANTINE STATE

- 1. ARAB/ISLAMIC EXPANSION REDUCED SIZE OF BYZANTINE STATE
- 2. POLITICS CENTRALIZED AROUND EMPEROR IN CONSTANTINOPLE
- 3. TERRITORY SHRANK AFTER 1085, FELL IN 1452 TO OTTOMAN TURKS

A. TERRITORY SHRANK AFTER 1085, AS WESTERN EUROPEANS AND TURKS ATTACKED, FELL IN 1453 TO THE OTTOMAN TURKS



Map 10.1 The Byzantine Empire
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## II. BYZANTINE CHRISTENDOM: BUILDING ON THE ROMAN PAST

#### B. THE BYZANTINE CHURCH AND CHRISTIAN DIVERGENCE

1. CAESAROPAPISM (CHURCH TIED CLOSELY TO THE STATE)

A. . BYZANTINE EMPEROR WAS HEAD OF BOTH THE STATE AND THE CHURCH, EMPEROR APPOINTED THE PATRIARCH, SOMETIMES MADE DOCTRINAL DECISIONS, CALLED CHURCH COUNCILS.

2. INFLUENCE ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY

A. LEGITIMATED IMPERIAL RULE, PROVIDED CULTURAL IDENTITY, PERVASIVENESS OF CHURCHES, ICONS, EVEN COMMON PEOPLE ENGAGED IN THEOLOGICAL DISPUTES.

## II. BYZANTINE CHRISTENDOM: BUILDING ON THE ROMAN PAST

#### 3. EASTERN ORTHODOXY OPPOSED LATIN CHRISTIANITY

A. LATIN CHRISTIANITY WAS CENTERED ON THE POPE, ROME. GROWING RIFT BETWEEN THE TWO PARTS OF CHRISTENDOM, SENSE OF RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCE REFLECTED EAST/WEST POLITICAL DIFFERENCE. WITH RISE OF ISLAM, CONSTANTINOPLE AND ROME REMAINED AS SOLE HUBS OF CHRISTENDOM, IMPORTANT EAST/WEST CULTURAL DIFFERENCES (LANGUAGE, PHILOSOPHY, THEOLOGY, CHURCH PRACTICE). SCHISM IN 1054, WITH MUTUAL EXCOMMUNICATION, CRUSADES (FROM 1095 ON) WORSENED THE SITUATION. DURING FOURTH CRUSADE, WESTERNERS SACKED CONSTANTINOPLE (1204) AND RULED BYZANTIUM FOR NEXT 50 YEARS.



St. Mark's Basilica
Erich Lessing/Art Resource, NY
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## II. BYZANTINE CHRISTENDOM: BUILDING ON THE ROMAN PAST

#### C. BYZANTIUM AND THE WORLD

- 1. BYZANTIUM HAD A FOOD IN BOTH EUROPE AND ASIA
- 2. LONG ROMAN FIGHT WITH PERSIAN EMPIRE WEAKENED BOTH STATES OPEN TO ISLAMIC CONQUESTS.
- A. CONTINUATION OF A LONG ROMAN FIGHT WITH PERSIAN EMPIRE WEAKENED BOTH STATES, LEFT THEM OPEN TO ISLAMIC CONQUESTS. PERSIA WAS CONQUERED BY ISLAM; BYZANTIUM LOST TERRITORY.
- 3. CENTRAL PLAYER IN LONG-DISTANCE EURASIAN TRADE
- A. BYZANTIUM WAS A CENTRAL PLAYER IN LONG-DISTANCE EURASIAN TRADE. BYZANTINE GOLD COINS (BEZANTS) WERE A MAJOR MEDITERRANEAN CURRENCY FOR OVER 500 YEARS. BYZANTINE CRAFTS (JEWELRY, TEXTILES, PURPLE DYES, SILK) WERE IN HIGH DEMAND.
- 4. IMPORTANT CULTURAL INFLUENCE OF BYZANTIUM
- A. TRANSMITTED ANCIENT GREEK LEARNING TO ISLAMIC WORLD AND WEST, TRANSMISSION OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY TO BALKANS AND RUSSIA.

## II. BYZANTINE CHRISTENDOM: BUILDING ON THE ROMAN PAST

#### D. THE CONVERSION OF RUSSIA

- 1. THE CONVERSION OF PRINCE VLADIMIR OF KIEV
- A. MOST IMPORTANT CONVERSION WAS THAT OF PRINCE VLADIMIR OF KIEV.
- 2. ORTHODOXY BECAME CENTRAL TO RUSSIAN IDENTITY
- A. ORTHODOXY TRANSFORMED STATE OF RUS; BECAME CENTRAL TO RUSSIAN IDENTITY.
- 3. TOP-DOWN CONVERSION
- A. TOP-DOWN CONVERSION MEANT THAT MANY COMMON PEOPLE STILL PRACTICE PAGAN RITUALS AND HELD TRADITIONAL BELIEFS.
- 4. MOSCOW THE "THIRD ROME"
- A. MOSCOW FINALLY DECLARED ITSELF TO BE THE "THIRD ROME," ASSUMING ROLE OF PROTECTOR OF CHRISTIANITY AFTER FALL OF CONSTANTINOPLE.



The baptism of Prince Vladimir
Detail from the Radziwill Chronicle, Library of the Academy of Sciences of Russia, St. Petersburg, Russia/Photo by Fine Art Images/Heritage Images/Getty Images

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#### A. POLITICAL LIFE IN WESTERN EUROPE

- 1. FALL OF WESTERN ROMAN EMPIRE: 476 C.E.
- A. TRADITIONAL DATE FOR FALL OF WESTERN ROMAN EMPIRE IS 476 C.E.
- IMPACT OF ROMAN COLLAPSE

A. LARGE-SCALE CENTRALIZED RULE VANISHED, EUROPE'S POPULATION FELL BY 25 PERCENT BECAUSE OF WAR AND DISEASE, CONTRACTION OF LAND UNDER CULTIVATION, GREAT DIMINUTION OF URBAN LIFE, LONG-DISTANCE TRADE OUTSIDE OF ITALY SHRIVELED UP, GREAT DECLINE IN LITERACY, GERMANIC PEOPLES EMERGED AS THE DOMINANT PEOPLES IN WEST, SHIFT IN CENTER OF GRAVITY FROM MEDITERRANEAN TO NORTH AND WEST.

3. SURVIVAL OF MUCH OF CLASSICAL AND ROMAN HERITAGE:

A. GERMANIC PEOPLES WHO ESTABLISHED NEW KINGDOMS HAD BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY ROMANIZED ALREADY. HIGH PRESTIGE OF THINGS ROMAN, GERMANIC RULERS ADOPTED ROMAN-STYLE WRITTEN LAW.

4. SEVERAL GERMANIC KINGDOMS TRIED TO RECREATE ROMAN-STYLE UNITY:

A. CHARLEMAGNE (R. 768–814) ACTED "IMPERIAL," REVIVAL OF ROMAN EMPIRE ON CHRISTMAS DAY 800 (CORONATION OF CHARLEMAGNE); SOON FRAGMENTED, ANOTHER REVIVAL OF ROMAN EMPIRE WITH IMPERIAL CORONATION OF OTTO I OF SAXONY (R. 936–973).



Map 10.2 Western Europe in the Ninth Century
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#### **B. SOCIETY AND THE CHURCH**

FRAGMENTED, DECENTRALIZED SOCIETY

A. WITHIN THESE NEW KINGDOMS, HIGHLY FRAGMENTED, DECENTRALIZED SOCIETY, GREAT LOCAL VARIATION, LANDOWNING WARRIOR ELITE EXERCISED POWER.

#### SOCIAL HIERARCHIES

A. LESSER LORDS AND KNIGHTS BECAME VASSALS OF KINGS OR GREAT LORDS, SERFDOM DISPLACED SLAVERY.

#### 3. CATHOLIC CHURCH BRINGS STABILITY

A. CATHOLIC CHURCH WAS A MAJOR ELEMENT OF STABILITY: HIERARCHY MODELED ON THAT OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE, BECAME VERY RICH, CONVERSION OF EUROPE'S NON-CHRISTIANS, MOST OF EUROPE WAS CHRISTIAN (WITH PAGAN ELEMENTS) BY 1100.

#### 4. CHURCH AND RULING CLASS REINFORCED EACH OTHER

A. ALSO AN ELEMENT OF COMPETITION AS RIVAL CENTERS OF POWER, RIGHT TO APPOINT BISHOPS AND THE POPE WAS CONTROVERSIAL (THE INVESTITURE CONFLICT)

#### C. ACCELERATING CHANGE IN THE WEST

1. INVASIONS, 700 – 1000

A. A SERIES OF INVASIONS IN 700–1000 HINDERED EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT: GERMANIC TRIBES AND CENTRAL ASIAN HUNS HAD INVADED THE ROMAN EMPIRE (MUSLIMS, MAGYARS, VIKINGS); LARGELY ENDED BY 1000 AS INVADERS REPELLED OR ABSORBED INTO SOCIETY.

2. ECOLOGICAL CHANGES, 1000 – 1300

A. WARMING TREND THAT STARTED AFTER 750, MARSHES DRAINED AND LAND RECLAIMED FROM THE SEAS, FORESTS REDUCED TO 20% OF LAND AREA (DEFORESTATION), FRESH WATER SOURCES START TO SEE SIGNS OF POLLUTION.

HIGH MIDDLE AGES

A. TIME OF CLEAR GROWTH AND EXPANSION. EUROPEAN POPULATION IN 1000 WAS ABOUT 35 MILLION; ABOUT 80 MILLION IN 1340. OPENING OF NEW LAND FOR CULTIVATION.

## III. WESTERN CHRISTENDOM: REBUILDING IN THE WAKE OF ROMAN C. ACCELERATING CHANGE IN THE WEST

#### LONG-DISTANCE TRADE

A. GROWTH OF LONG-DISTANCE TRADE, FROM TWO MAJOR CENTERS. NORTHERN EUROPE, NORTHERN ITALIAN TOWNS, GREAT TRADING FAIRS (ESPECIALLY IN CHAMPAGNE AREA OF FRANCE) ENABLED EXCHANGE BETWEEN NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN MERCHANTS.

#### RISING POPULATIONS

A. EUROPEAN TOWN AND CITY POPULATIONS ROSE. VENICE BY 1400 HAD AROUND 150,000 PEOPLE; STILL SMALLER THAN GREAT CITIES ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD; NEW SPECIALIZATIONS, ORGANIZED INTO GUILDS.

6. TERRITORIAL STATES

A. GROWTH OF TERRITORIAL STATES WITH BETTER-ORGANIZED GOVERNMENTS: KINGS CONSOLIDATED THEIR AUTHORITY IN ELEVENTH-THIRTEENTH CENTURIES; APPEARANCE OF PROFESSIONAL ADMINISTRATORS; SOME AREAS DID NOT DEVELOP TERRITORIAL KINGDOMS (ITALIAN CITY-STATES, SMALL GERMAN PRINCIPALITIES).

NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

A. A NUMBER OF URBAN PROFESSIONS WERE OPEN TO WOMEN, WIDOWS OF GREAT MERCHANTS COULD CONTINUE HUSBANDS' BUSINESS, OPPORTUNITIES DECLINED BY THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY. RELIGIOUS LIFE: NUNS, BEGUINES, ANCHORESSES (E.G., HILDEGARD OF BINGEN AND JULIAN OF NORWICH), BUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR RELIGIOUS WOMEN WERE ALSO CURTAILED.

8. NEW IDEAS ABOUT MASCULINITY

A. FROM WARRIOR TO "PROVIDER."



Map 10.3 Europe in the High Middle Ages
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A European peasant woman such as Cecilia Penifader

August, from a series of labors of the month, ca. 1450. English stained glass roundel/Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK/V & A Images/Art Resource, NY

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#### D. EUROPE OUTWARD BOUND: THE CRUSADING TRADITION

MEDIEVAL EXPANSION OF CHRISTENDOM AFTER 1000

A. OCCURRED AT THE SAME TIME THAT BYZANTIUM DECLINED. CLEARANCE OF LAND, ESPECIALLY ON EASTERN FRINGE OF EUROPE. SCANDINAVIAN COLONIES IN NEWFOUNDLAND, GREENLAND, ICELAND. EUROPE HAD DIRECT, THOUGH LIMITED, CONTACT WITH EAST AND SOUTH ASIA BY THIRTEENTH—FOURTEENTH CENTURIES.

2. CRUSADE MOVEMENT, 1095

A. WARS AT GOD'S COMMAND, AUTHORIZED BY THE POPE, FOR WHICH PARTICIPANTS RECEIVED AN INDULGENCE (RELEASE FROM PENALTY FOR CONFESSED SINS). AMAZINGLY POPULAR; WERE RELIGIOUS WARS AT THEIR CORE.

3. ATTEMPTS TO REGAIN JERUSALEM

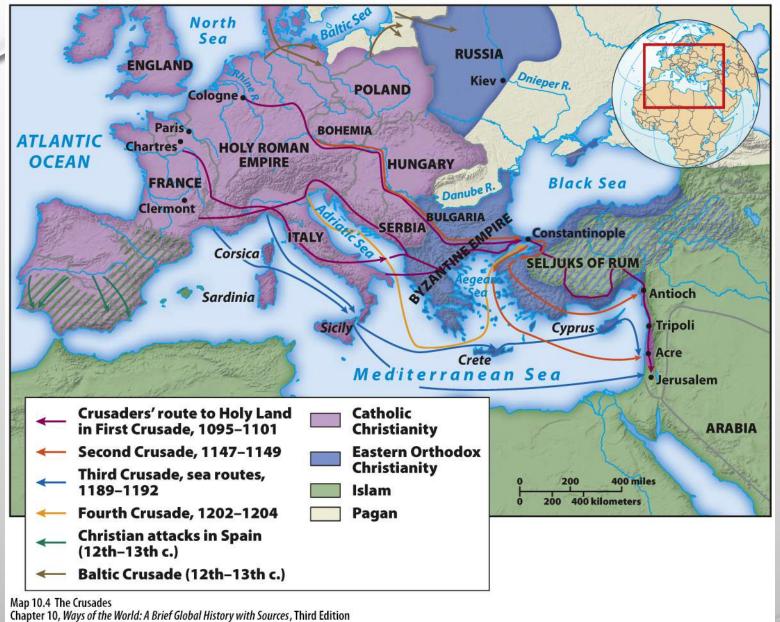
A. MOST FAMOUS CRUSADES AIMED TO REGAIN JERUSALEM AND HOLY PLACES. MANY WAVES OF CRUSADERS TO THE NEAR EAST, CREATION OF FOUR SMALL CHRISTIAN STATES (LAST FELL IN 1291), SHOWED EUROPE'S GROWING ORGANIZATIONAL ABILITY.

- 4. IBERIAN PENINSULA CRUSADE (RECONQUISTA), BALTIC CRUSADE (NORTHERN CRUSADES)
- 5. ATTACKS ON BYZANTINE EMPIRE AND RUSSIA

A. CRUSADES HAD LITTLE LASTING POLITICAL OR RELIGIOUS IMPACT IN THE MIDDLE EAST

#### SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON EUROPE

A. CONQUEST OF SPAIN, SICILY, BALTIC REGION, CRUSADERS WEAKENED BYZANTIUM, POPES STRENGTHENED THEIR POSITION FOR A TIME, TENS OF THOUSANDS OF EUROPEANS MADE CONTACT WITH THE ISLAMIC WORLD, EUROPEANS DEVELOPED TASTE FOR LUXURY GOODS OF THE EAST, MUSLIM SCHOLARSHIP AND GREEK LEARNING FLOWED INTO EUROPE, HARDENED CULTURAL BARRIERS BETWEEN PEOPLES.



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The Crusades
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#### A. CATCHING UP

HYBRID CIVILIZATION: WESTERN EUROPE

A. THE HYBRID CIVILIZATION OF WESTERN EUROPE WAS LESS DEVELOPED THAN BYZANTIUM, CHINA, INDIA, OR THE ISLAMIC WORLD. MUSLIMS REGARDED EUROPEANS AS BARBARIANS, EUROPEANS RECOGNIZED THEIR OWN BACKWARDNESS.

2. EURASIAN TRADING SYSTEM

A. EUROPEANS WERE HAPPY TO EXCHANGE WITH/BORROW FROM MORE ADVANCED CIVILIZATIONS TO THE EAST. EUROPEAN ECONOMIES RECONNECTED WITH THE EURASIAN TRADING SYSTEM; EUROPEANS WELCOMED SCIENTIFIC, PHILOSOPHICAL, AND MATHEMATICAL CONCEPTS FROM ARABS, CLASSICAL GREEKS, AND INDIA; THE MOST SIGNIFICANT BORROWING WAS EROM CHINA.

3. CAUGHT UP WITH CHINA AND THE ISLAMIC WORLD BY 1500

A. EUROPE WAS A DEVELOPING CIVILIZATION LIKE OTHERS OF THE ERA. BY 1500, EUROPE HAD CAUGHT UP WITH CHINA AND THE ISLAMIC WORLD; SURPASSED THEM IN SOME AREAS.

4. 500-1300: PERIOD OF GREAT INNOVATION

A. AGRICULTURE, NEW RELIANCE ON NONANIMAL SOURCES OF ENERGY, TECHNOLOGICAL BORROWING FOR WARFARE, WITH FURTHER DEVELOPMENT, EUROPE DEVELOPED A PASSION FOR TECHNOLOGY.



European Technology From the *Bible Moralisée*, mid-13th century/Oesterreichische Nationalbibliothek, Vienna, Austria/Erich Lessing/Art Resource, NY Chapter 10, Ways of the World: A Brief Global History with Sources , Third Edition Copyright © 2016 by Bedford/St. Martin's
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#### **B. PLURALISM IN POLITICS**

- 1. EUROPE, SYSTEM OF COMPETING STATES
- A. EUROPE CRYSTALLIZED INTO A SYSTEM OF COMPETING STATES.
- 2. POLITICAL PLURALISM
- A. POLITICAL PLURALISM SHAPED WESTERN EUROPEAN CIVILIZATION: LED TO FREQUENT WARS AND MILITARIZATION, STIMULATED TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT. STATES STILL WERE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE ECONOMICALLY AND INTELLECTUALLY.
- 3. PARLIAMENTS
- A. RULERS WERE GENERALLY WEAKER THAN THOSE TO THE EAST. ROYAL-NOBLE-ECCLESIASTICAL POWER STRUGGLE ALLOWED URBAN MERCHANTS TO WIN GREAT INDEPENDENCE, PERHAPS PAVED THE WAY FOR CAPITALISM. DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE INSTITUTIONS (PARLIAMENTS).

#### C. REASON AND FAITH

- 1. INTELLECTUAL TENSION
- A. DISTINCTIVE INTELLECTUAL TENSION BETWEEN FAITH AND REASON DEVELOPED.
- 2. UNIVERSITIES, "NATURAL PHILOSOPHY"

A. INTELLECTUAL LIFE FLOURISHED IN THE CENTURIES AFTER 1000; CREATION OF UNIVERSITIES FROM EARLIER CATHEDRAL SCHOOLS; SCHOLARS HAD SOME INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM AT UNIVERSITIES. IN THE UNIVERSITIES, SOME SCHOLARS BEGAN TO EMPHASIZE THE ABILITY OF HUMAN REASON TO UNDERSTAND DIVINE MYSTERIES. ALSO APPLIED REASON TO LAW, MEDICINE, AND WORLD OF NATURE. DEVELOPMENT OF "NATURAL PHILOSOPHY" (SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF NATURE).

#### C. REASON AND FAITH

3. ACCESS TO ANCIENT GREEK AND ARAB SCHOLARSHIP

A. SEARCH FOR CLASSICAL GREEK TEXTS (ESPECIALLY ARISTOTLE); WERE FOUND IN BYZANTIUM AND THE ISLAMIC WORLD; TWELFTH-THIRTEENTH CENTURIES: ACCESS TO ANCIENT GREEK AND ARAB SCHOLARSHIP.

4. DEEP IMPACT OF ARISTOTLE

A. HIS WRITINGS WERE THE BASIS OF UNIVERSITY EDUCATION, DOMINATED WESTERN EUROPEAN THOUGHT BETWEEN 1200 AND 1700.

5. EDUCATION IN THE BYZANTINE EMPIRE

A. NO SIMILAR DEVELOPMENT OCCURRED IN THE BYZANTINE EMPIRE: FOCUS OF EDUCATION WAS THE HUMANITIES, SUSPICION OF CLASSICAL GREEK THOUGHT.

6. ISLAMIC WORLD AND CLASSICAL GREEK THOUGHT:

A. ISLAMIC WORLD HAD DEEP INTERACTION WITH CLASSICAL GREEK THOUGHT: MASSIVE AMOUNT OF TRANSLATION IN NINTH-TENTH CENTURIES, ENCOURAGED A FLOWERING OF ARAB SCHOLARSHIP BETWEEN 800 AND 1200, CAUSED A DEBATE AMONG MUSLIM THINKERS ON FAITH AND REASON, ISLAMIC WORLD EVENTUALLY TURNED AGAINST NATURAL PHILOSOPHY.



European University Life in the Middle Ages
From the Liber ethicorum, by Fra Henricus de Allemania, illuminated manuscript page by Laurentius de Voltolina, ca. 1360–1390/bpk, Berlin/Kupferstichkabinett,
Staatliche Museen, Berlin, Germany/Photo: Joerg P. Anders/Art Resource, NY

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