

WESTERN CIVILIZATION

Tenth
Edition

Jackson J. Spielvogel




Chapter 11

The Late Middle Ages: Crisis and Disintegration in the Fourteenth Century

Focus Questions

- What impact did the Black Death have on the society and economy of Europe?
- What major problems did European states face in the fourteenth century?
- How and why did the authority and prestige of the papacy decline in the fourteenth century?
- What were the major developments in literature and art in the fourteenth century?
- How did the adversities of the fourteenth century affect urban life and medical practices?



A Time of Troubles: Black Death and Social Crisis

- Famine and Population
 - “Little Ice Age”
 - The Great Famine (1315 – 1317)
 - Population outstripping resources by 1300
- The Black Death: From Asia to Europe
 - Role of the Mongols
 - Eurasian landmass under single rule
 - Spread of plague along trade routes

The Black Death in Europe

- Impact, Symptoms, and Spread of Plague
 - Most devastating natural disaster in European history
 - Bubonic
 - Rats and fleas
 - Pneumonic
 - Arrived in Europe in 1347
 - Mortality reached 50 – 60 percent in some areas
 - Wiped out between 25 – 50 percent of European population (19 – 38 million dead in four years)
 - Plague returns in 1361 – 1362 and 1369



Life and Death: Reactions to the Plague

- Attempts at Explanation
 - Plague as a punishment from God
 - The flagellants
- Attacks against Jews
- Violence and Preoccupation with Death
- Art and the Black Death
 - *Ars moriendi*, the art of dying

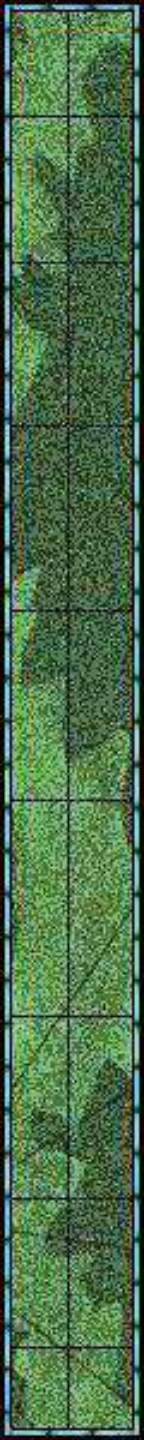
Economic Dislocation and Social Upheaval

- Noble Landlords and Peasants
 - Labor shortage + falling prices for agricultural products = drop in aristocratic incomes
 - Statute of Laborers (1351) : limit wages
 - Social mobility
- Peasant Revolt in France
 - *Jacquerie* (1358)
- An English Peasant Revolt (1381)
- Revolts in the Cities
 - *Ciompi* revolt in Florence (1378)

War and Political Instability

(Slide 1 of 2)

- Causes of the Hundred Years' War
 - The English king as vassal to the French king
 - Disputed succession to the French crown
 - The claims of Edward III of England
 - Immediate cause: French attack on English Gascony (1337)



War and Political Instability

(Slide 2 of 2)

- Conduct and Course of the War
 - Significance of the longbow
 - Early phases of the war
 - The Battles of Crécy (1346) and Poitiers (1356)
 - Intermittent war and truce
 - Renewal of the war
 - Henry V (1413 – 1422)
 - The Battle of Agincourt (1415)
 - Charles the dauphin (heir to the French throne)
 - Joan of Arc (1412 – 1431)
 - Siege of Orléans
 - Captured by allies of the English in 1430
 - Burned at the stake (1431)
 - The end of the war: French victory (1453)


CHRONOLOGY The Hundred Years' War

Outbreak of hostilities	1337
Battle of Crécy	1346
Battle of Poitiers	1356
Peace of Brétigny	1359
Death of Edward III	1377
Twenty-year truce declared	1396
Henry V (1413–1422) renews the war	1415
Battle of Agincourt	1415
Treaty of Troyes	1420
French recovery under Joan of Arc	1429–1431
End of the war	1453

Political Instability

- The Breakdown of Feudal Institutions
 - Scutage
- New Royal Dynasties
- Financial Problems
 - Parliaments gain power





Western Europe: England and France

- The Growth of England's Political Institutions
 - Edward III (1327 – 1377)
 - Parliament
 - House of Lords
 - House of Commons
 - Aristocratic factionalism
- The Problems of the French Kings
 - Basic lack of unity and financial troubles
 - Civil war
 - Burgundy and Orléans

Germany & Italy

- The German Monarchy
 - Breakup of the Holy Roman Empire
 - Hundreds of states
 - Electoral nature of the German monarchy
 - The Golden Bull (1356)
 - Weak kings
- The States of Italy
 - Lack of centralized authority
 - Republicanism to tyranny
 - Duchy of Milan
 - Republic of Florence
 - Republic of Venice

CHRONOLOGY The States of Western and Central Europe: England

People	Dates
Edward III	1327–1377
Richard II	1377–1399
Henry IV	1399–1413

CHRONOLOGY The States of Western and Central Europe: France

People	Dates
Philip IV	1328–1350
John II	1350–1364
Capture at Poitiers	1356
Charles V	1364–1380
Charles VI	1380–1422

CHRONOLOGY The States of Western and Central Europe: German Monarchy

People	Dates
Golden Bull	1356

CHRONOLOGY The States of Western and Central Europe: Italy

People	Dates
Florence – Ordinances of Justice	1293
Venice – Closing of Great Council	1297
Milan – Visconti establish themselves as rulers of Milan	1322

The Decline of the Church

- Boniface VIII (1294 – 1303) and the Conflict with the State
- Conflict with Philip IV of France
 - *Unam Sanctam* (1302)
 - Captured by French at Anagni
- Clement V (1305 – 1314)
- The Papacy at Avignon (1305 – 1377)
- Decline in papal prestige
 - “Babylonian Captivity”
 - Supposed captives of the French monarchy
 - Turning point in church history; specialized bureaucracy
 - New sources of revenue
- Catherine of Siena (c. 1347 – 1380)

The Great Schism (1378-1417)

- The Papacy's Return to Rome (1378)
 - Rival popes elected
 - Pope Urban VI and Pope Clement VII
- The Great Schism Divides Europe
 - France, Spain, Scotland and southern Italy supported Clement
 - England, Germany, Scandinavia and most of Italy supported Urban
- Impact
 - Heightened financial abuses
 - Damage to the faith of believers



New Thoughts on Church and State and the Rise of Conciliarism

- Marsiglio of Padua (c. 1270 – 1342)
 - *Defender of the Peace*
 - Questions of authority
- The Conciliar Movement
 - Council of Pisa (1409)
 - Deposed both popes and elected a new pope
 - Popes refuse to step down
 - Results in three popes
 - Council of Constance (1414 – 1418)
 - End of the Schism
 - Pope Martin V (1417 – 1431)

CHRONOLOGY The Decline of the Church

Event	Dates
Pope Boniface VII	1294–1303
<i>Unam Sanctam</i>	1302
Papacy at Avignon	1305–1377
Pope Gregory XI returns to Rome	1377
Great Schism begins	1378
Pope Urban VI	1378–1389
Failure of Council of Pisa to end schism; election of Alexander V	1409
Council of Constance	1414–1418
End of schism; election of Martin V	1417

Religion in an Age of Adversity

- The Variety of Responses to Crisis
 - New trends concerning salvation
 - Good works and charitable bequests
 - Purgatory
- Popular Religion in an Age of Adversity
 - Mysticism and lay piety
 - Meister Eckhart (1260 – 1327)
 - Modern Devotion
 - Founder, Gerard Groote (1340 – 1384)
 - Unique female mystical experiences
- Changes in Theology
 - William of Occam (1285 – 1329)

The Cultural World of the Fourteenth Century

- The Development of Vernacular Literature
 - Dante Alighieri (1265 – 1321)
 - *The Divine Comedy* (1313 – 1321)
 - Francesco Petarca (Petrarch, 1304 – 1374)
 - Sonnets
 - Giovanni Boccaccio (1313 – 1375)
 - *Decameron*
 - Geoffrey Chaucer (c. 1340 – 1400)
 - *The Canterbury Tales*
 - Christine de Pizan (c. 1364 – 1400)
 - *The Book of the City of Ladies* (1404)
- A New Art: Giotto (1266 – 1337)



Society in an Age of Adversity

- Changes in Urban Life
 - Family life and gender roles in late medieval cities
 - Medieval children
- New Directions in Medicine
 - Classical Greek theory of the “four humors”
 - Physicians; surgeons; midwives, barber-surgeons; apothecaries
 - Growth of medical textbooks
 - In aftermath of the plague, new attention to public health and sanitation
- Inventions and New Patterns
 - The clock: new conception of time
 - Eyeglasses and paper
 - Gunpowder and cannon

Discussion Questions

- What impact did the Black Death have on medieval European society?
- What were the causes of the Hundred Years' War? What were the results of the war?
- Who was Joan of Arc, and what role did she play in the Hundred Years' War?
- Why did the stay at Avignon lead to a decline in papal prestige?
- How was the Great Schism finally ended?
- How did Dante, Chaucer, and Christine de Pisan reflect the values of their respective societies?
- What were some of the technical advances invented during this time period?