

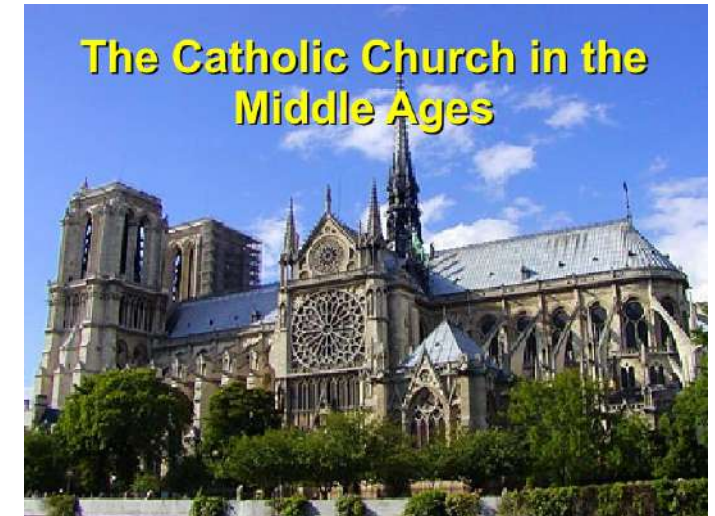
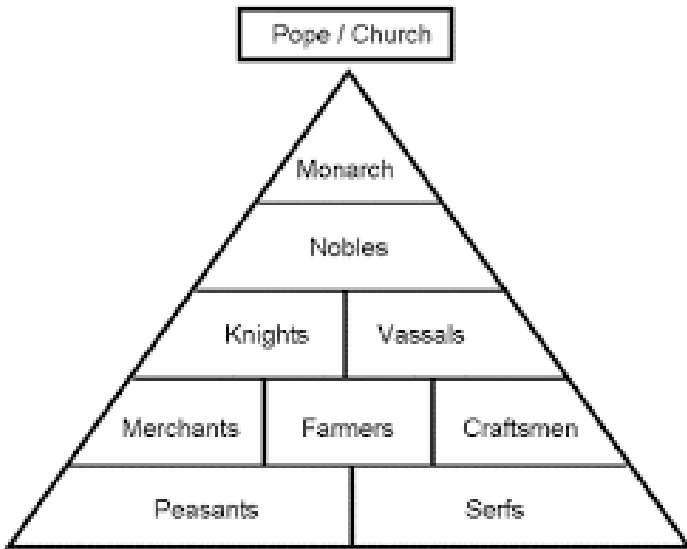
Ch. 11 The Late Middle Ages: Crisis & Disintegration in the 14th Century



FQ: What impact did the Black Death have on the society and economy of Europe?

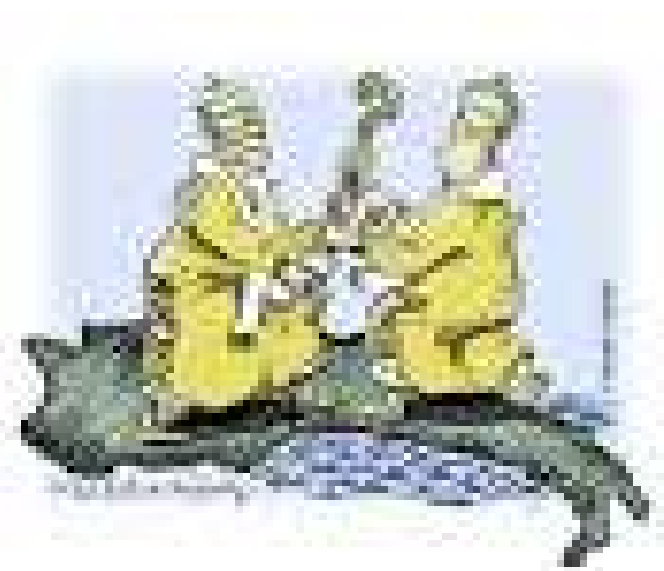
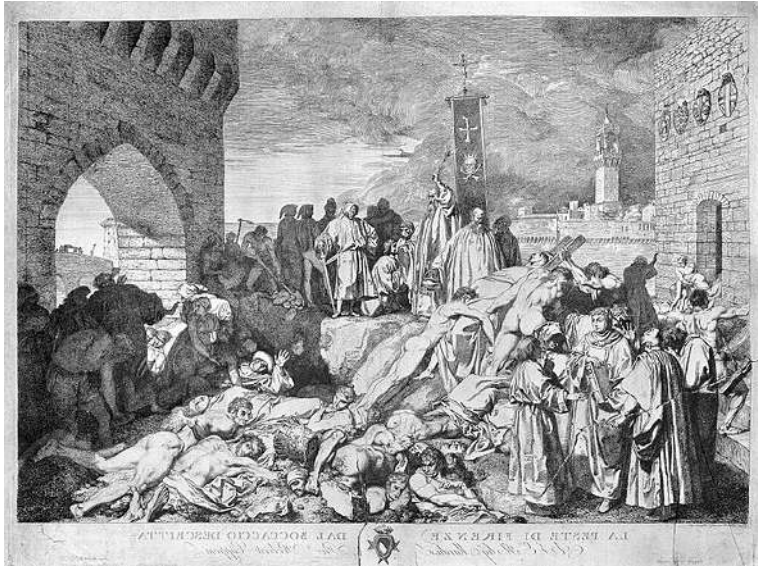
FQ: What major problems did European states face in the fourteenth century?

Three Main Pillars of Medieval Life



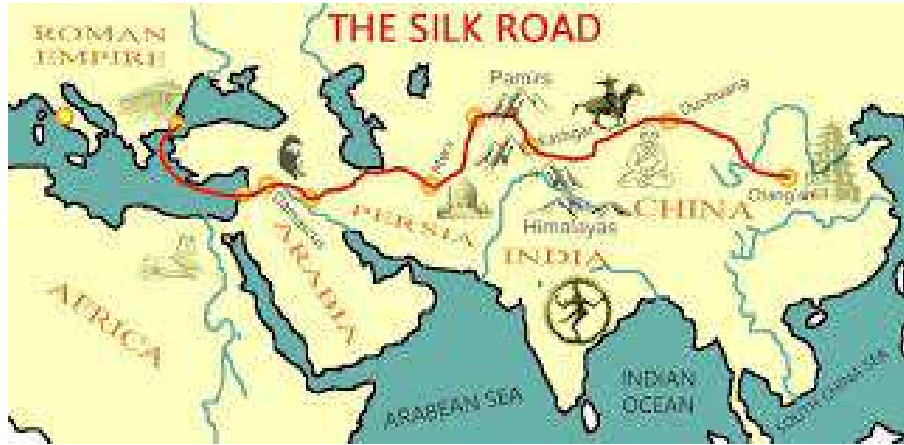
- **feudal system** (political/military) -a peasant or worker known as a vassal received a piece of land in return for serving a lord or king, especially during times of war.
- **manor system** - economic and social system by which the peasants of medieval Europe were rendered dependent on their land and on their lord.
- **Roman Catholic Church**

Disintegration of Medieval Life



- Black Death led to social and economic upheaval.
- Hundred Years' War broke feudal ties and helped create nation-states (England & France)
- Cannon and longbow changed military tactics.
- Great Schism and French Papacy weakened the Catholic Church.

Cause and Impact of the Black Death



Causes

- Mongols increased trade between Asia and Europe leading to flea infested rats traveling on the Silk Road.
- Movement from rural to urban areas increased.
- Famine in early 1300s led to chronic malnutrition, infant mortality increasing, lower birth rates and higher risk of disease.

Impacts

- Labor shortage leads to wages going up (when there was work)
- Aristocrats respond by passing Statute of Laborers to limit wages which led to the Peasant Revolt of 1358.
- Art became preoccupied with death and mortality
- Anti-Semitic feelings grew as Jews were blamed for the Black Death.

Peasant Revolts



- 1358 – *Jacquerie* (peasant revolt in northern France). Class tensions were high. Landed nobles wanted to hold onto their political privileges.
- 1381 – English Peasant Revolt was more a product of rising expectations. King Richard II promised to give in to the peasant demands only to go back on his word and arrested hundreds.
- Peasant and urban revolts sometimes resulted in short-term gains but were mostly quickly crushed by the ruling class.

Causes of the Hundred Years' War (1337-1453)



- Dispute over the territory of Gascony
- Dispute over the right of succession to the French throne

Conduct and Course of the War



- French army of 1337 relied heavily on armed noble cavalry and considered foot soldiers and crossbowmen as socially inferior.
- English army included peasants as paid foot soldiers armed with pikes and the long bow.
- Fighting went back and forth until a twenty year truce was signed in 1396.
- War was renewed by English King, Henry V when the French were in the middle of civil war.

Joan of Arc



- Born in 1412 to peasants from a village in Champagne.
- Deeply religious, Joan experienced visions and believed her favorite saints had commanded her to free France and have the dauphin crowned king.
- Captured and condemned to death as a heretic and burned at the stake in 1431.
- Christine de Pizan, *The Poem of Joan of Arc* (July 31, 1429) A Feminist Heroine.

End of the War



- Defeats of English armies in Normandy and Aquitaine ultimately led to French victory.
- French success was attributed to the use of the cannon (a new weapon made possible by the invention of gunpowder).
- 1453 – only part of France that was left in English control was the coastal town of Calais.

