



World History SOL 12

Late Medieval Period

European monarchies consolidated their power & began forming nation-states in the late medieval period.



England



- ★ William the Conqueror, leader of the Norman conquest, united most of England
- ★ Common law had its beginnings during the reign of Henry II
- ★ King John signed the Magna Carta, limiting the king's power
- ★ The Hundred Years' War between England & France helped define England as a nation
- ★ Evolution of Parliament



France

- ★ Hugh Capet established the French throne in Paris & his dynasty gradually expanded their control over most of France
- ★ The Hundred Years' War between England & France helped define France as nation
- ★ Joan of Arc was a unifying factor





Spain

- ★ Ferdinand & Isabella unified the country & expelled Jews & Moors
- ★ Spanish Empire in the Western Hemisphere expanded under Charles V





Russia

- ★ Ivan the Great threw off the rule of the Mongols, centralized power in Moscow & expanded the Russian nation
- ★ Power was centralized in the hands of the tsar
- ★ The Orthodox Church influenced unification



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- ★ Crusades were carried out by Christian political & religious leaders to take control of the Holy Land from the Muslims.
 - ★ Mongol armies invaded Russia, Southwest Asia & China creating an empire.
 - ★ Ottoman Turks conquered the Byzantine Empire.



Key Events of Crusades



- ★ Pope Urban's speech
- ★ The capture of Jerusalem
- ★ Founding of Crusader states
- ★ Loss of Jerusalem to Saladin
- ★ Sack of Constantinople by western Crusaders





Effects of the Crusades

- ★ Weakened the Pope & nobles; strengthened monarchs
- ★ Stimulated trade throughout the Mediterranean area & the Middle East
- ★ Left a legacy of bitterness among Christians, Jews & Muslims
- ★ Weakened the Byzantine Empire





The Crusades





Mongol Armies

- ★ Invaded Russia, China & Muslim states in Southwest Asia destroying cities & countryside
- ★ Created an empire





Constantinople

- ★ Fell to the Ottoman Turks in 1453, ending the Byzantine Empire
- ★ Became capital of the Ottoman Empire





★ In the fourteenth century, the Black Death (bubonic plague) decimated the population of much of Asia & then the population of much of Europe.



The Black Death





Impact of the Black Death (Bubonic plague)



★ Decline in population

★ Scarcity of labor



★ Towns freed from feudal obligations

★ Decline of Church influence

★ Disruption of trade





★ Education was largely confined to the clergy during the Middle Ages. The masses were uneducated, while the nobility was concerned with feudal obligations. Church scholars preserved ancient literature in monasteries in the East & West.



Church Scholars

- ★ Were among the very few who could read & write
- ★ Worked in monasteries
- ★ Translated Greek & Arabic works into Latin
- ★ Made new knowledge in philosophy, medicine & science available in Europe
- ★ Laid the foundation for the rise of universities in Europe