**Standard 3 (Middle Ages) Notes**

I. Middle Ages

a. 500 AD-1500 AD

b. Also known as:

i. The Age of Faith (domination of the church)

ii. The Dark Ages (Black Death/Crusades/etc.)

II. Religion and Political Power

a. Christianity

i. Holy Roman Empire

1. Term for an area of states in France and Germany (Western Europe) ruled directly by nobles/princes and indirectly by a central leader, the “Holy Roman Emperor.”

2. The problem with this term and this area is that the princes had different ideas and wanted to have their own autonomy (independence) to rule.

3. The Holy Roman Emperor also struggled against the control of the pope.

4. Famous Holy Roman Emperors:

Charlemagne

i. Crowned “Emperor of the Romans” after saving the pope from a rebellion.

ii. Created a unified Christian empire

iii. Appointed local nobles to rule regions

iv. Appointed *missi dominici* to keep tabs on the nobles

v. Pushed for local schools and a revival of Latin learning

Otto I

i. First official Holy Roman Emperor (also crowned after defeating rebellious nobles in Rome)

Henry IV

i. Part of the investiture controversy with Gregory VII.

Frederick Barbarossa

i. Called “Red Beard”

ii. Attempted unsuccessfully to unify all of Europe under his control

ii. Christian Church Power

1. Church structure:

Priests reside in local communities

Bishops oversee priests

Pope oversees all as single leader

2. Local Community Ties

Church exercises and demonstrates local power in a variety of ways:

i. Sacraments – sacred church rites (rituals): communion, baptism, burial etc.

ii. Tithe – tax of a tenth of a person’s income that goes to the church

iii. Large cathedrals become signs of church power across Europe

3. Papal Supremacy

Pope claims authority over all secular leaders (princes, nobles, Holy Roman Emperor)

Church has its own laws (canon law) with its own courts.

Pope could excommunicate people (banish them from the church) or interdict whole kingdoms (forbid sacraments in the kingdom).

i. Interdict was a way to pressure rulers through their subjects.

Famous popes:

i. Innocent III

Height of papal supremacy

Believed the pope stands between God and man

Excommunicated and Interdicted the territories of two kings during his reign (King John, Philip II of France)

ii. Gregory VIII

Part of the investiture controversy

iii. Urban II

Issued the call for the Crusades

b. Islam

i. Birth and Growth of Islam

1. Islam is born in Mecca, in modern-day Saudi Arabia, on the Arabian Peninsula (Middle East)

2. Central figure: Muhammad, caravan trader who claims to hear the voice of God in a cave outside Mecca

3. Muhammad’s teachings (which he claims are divinely inspired by God) become the basis for the Qu’ran, the holy book of Islam, written by his followers.

4. Muhammad was not well-received in Mecca because it was a pilgrimage center for many faiths (because of the Ka’aba, a large worship area for over 360 gods) and his monotheistic preaching was bad for business.

5. He left because of threats against his life and went to Yathrib, which later became Medina (the city of the Prophet).

6. After gathering a lot of support and political power, Muhammad conquered Mecca and grew the religion’s power. The empire of Islam began with him and lasted well past his death.

ii. Divisions

1. After Muhammad’s death, there was heavy debate about who should take his place as the leader of Islam. They were divided:

Sunni: The leader should be a Muslim man with good character who follows Muhammad’s example (Sunna)

Shi’ite: The leader should be a blood relative of the Prophet.

Sufis: Didn’t really care, split off to worship their god in their own way. This group makes beautiful poetry and dances.

iii. Muslim Empires

1. Umayyads

Became affluent and wealthy and moved into more political arenas.

Capital at Damascus (modern-day Syria, Middle East)

Were accused of abandoning traditional Muslim piety and eventually overthrown.

In Umayyad empires, non-Muslims were taxed but otherwise protected and left alone as “Brothers of the Book” (due to their belief that the Bible and the Qu’ran are similar books).

2. Abbasids

Founded by descendant of Muhammad’s uncle, Abu al-Abbas

Greatest wealth and power of the Muslim empires

Moved capital to Baghdad (modern-day Iraq, Middle East)

Overrun by the Seljuk Turks in the 1000’s AD.

III. Struggles for Authority

a. Investiture Controversy (1076-1077)

i. Holy Roman Emperor Henry IV v. Pope Gregory VIII

ii. Lay investiture – the practice of secular rulers appointing church officials.

iii. Gregory outlawed it, and Henry continued to do it anyway.

iv. Gregory excommunicated Henry, which freed his subjects from his rule. Henry had to beg forgiveness, which he got.

v. After he was forgiven, Henry took an army to Rome and forced Gregory into exile.

vi. Controversy continued until Concordat of Worms settled the issue in favor of the church in 1122.

b. Schisms

i. East-West Schism (1054)

1. The two sides of the Christian Church disagreed over several things:

Church leadership (pope v. patriarch)

Use of icons (holy images)

2. Disagreement leads to a schism (split) in the church between the (Eastern) Orthodox Church and the (Western) Roman Catholic Church.

ii. Great Schism (1378)

1. Disagreement over leadership of church as Pope Clement V moves papal court to France from Rome.

2. Romans react by electing their own pope.

3. For decades after, two (and sometimes three) different people claimed to be the pope.

4. Schism ends in 1417 when all popes are removed and new one (Martin V) elected.

c. Crusades

i. Series of wars over control of the Holy Land (modern-day Jerusalem, Middle East) that lasted for over 200 years.

ii. First called for by Pope Urban II in 1096 response to a call for help from Eastern Church being attacked by Muslim Turks.

1. Motivations for the Crusades:

Urban II: Heal the split between Eastern/Western church, give Christians a common enemy so they stop fighting each other

Soldiers: See the world, become rich, attain salvation through conquest, religious zeal

iii. Four Major Crusades:

1. First: Christians capture Jerusalem

2. Second: Muslims re-take the city

3. Third: Saladin & Richard the Lionhearted reach a truce for both faiths to co-exist within city.

4. Fourth: Christians from the Western church attack Constantinople, home of the Eastern Orthodox Church.

iv. Effects of the Crusades

1. Religious hatred for centuries after

2. Economic expansion in Europe

3. Cultural interactions between Christianity and Islam

4. Kings see their power increase

d. Magna Carta (1215)

i. Response to power abuses by King John of England

ii. Document that forced the king to give some rights to nobles and other subjects:

1. King had to obey the law

2. Due process of law (can’t arrest people for no reason): habeas corpus

3. King can’t tax without approval from the Great Council

Great Council later becomes the British Parliament

Gives the Parliament “power of the purse.”

e. Hundred Years’ War (1337-1453)

i. Series of conflicts between England and France

ii. Began when English king claimed crown of France

iii. Driven by economic rivalry (control of English channel) and national pride

iv. English win first three major battles (Crecy, Poitiers, Agincourt) and look to take over France

v. France fights back with the inspiration of Joan of Arc, a 17-year old peasant who claimed God told her to fight with France.

1. Joan inspired and unified the troops of France to fight back and take back their original land.

2. She was captured by the English and burned as a witch.

vi. The Hundred Years’ War is considered to be the end of the Middle Ages.

IV. Economic and Social Development

a. Feudalism

i. Economic, social, political structure of loose local regulation.

ii. Decentralized so local people can protect themselves.

iii. Powerful local lords divide their lands into pieces, given to vassals (lesser lords) who pledge loyalty to the lord.

iv. Feudal contract: Lord gives land gift (fief) to vassal in exchange for loyalty.

v. Manor Economy

1. Economic system from feudalism

2. Lord dominates his manor, or estate.

3. Peasants (some called serfs because they’re bound to the land) lived & worked on the manor.

4. Peasants worked for the lord, farmed his land, paid him fees to marry and use facilities, etc. and in return they were guaranteed their own land and space.

b. Rise of Towns

i. Trading fairs across Europe soon evolve into towns protected by royal charters.

ii. As towns become popular and welcome in runaway serfs, the manor economy dwindles.

iii. Serfdom and peasant work on the manor becomes tenant farming, or farming an area while paying rent to be there.

c. Commercial Revolution

i. Money sees increased use as trade grows nationally

ii. The use of credit and the need for capital (money for investment) leads to new business methods:

1. Partnerships: Groups of merchants joining together to pool money and resources.

2. Insurance to reduce risks of shipping goods

3. Letters of credit and bills of exchange allow safe travel without carrying money.

4. Moneylending at interest forbidden by the Christian church, so Jews become moneylenders.

5. Sakks (checks) pioneered by Muslim merchants

d. Middle Class

i. A new social class of merchants, traders and artisans from towns.

ii. Despised by the clergy and nobles for their independence & practices of lending money with interest.

iii. They took over social, economic and political power through guilds:

1. Guilds: Associations of people with common professions (merchants, blacksmiths, etc.)

2. Guilds begin to compete with each other and control local economies.

3. Guilds also provide social services to members.

iv. Moving Through a Guild

1. Apprentice (around 7 or 8 years old): lived with the master and did tasks for him for 7-8 years.

2. Journeymen: salaried employees of the master.

3. Master: Usually only achieved by people related to a master.

e. Black Death (1200’s-1300’s)

i. Bubonic plague that spread throughout Europe from Asia

ii. Carried by fleas on rats from trade ships, and originated in Asia, likely by Mongol conquest in the 1200’s

iii. Killed over 1/3rd of Europe’s population

iv. Led to a breakdown in lifestyle, paranoia, political unrest, and religious unrest.

V. Farmable Land

a. European Agricultural Revolution

i. Innovations in plows (iron over wood) and harnesses for animals.

ii. Three-field system allows peasant farmers to produce more food